

The Septuagint Translation – Genesis Chapters 1 and 2

The following English translation of the Septuagint is from *The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English* by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton originally published in 1851 by Samuel Bagster & Sons Ltd., London, England. The Brenton translation can be compared with *A New English Translation of the Septuagint* by Albert Pietersma and Benjamin J. Wright published in 2007 or to the Orthodox Study Bible published in 2008 (all three English translations of the Septuagint are available on the Internet).

The first five books of the Septuagint, the Pentateuch, were translated from Hebrew to Greek around 275 BC by Hebrew scribes. This translation established the interpretative paradigm for the Genesis creation story which has continued unchallenged until the present. The Septuagint translation has numerous errors as the following illustrates. Significant words that are mistranslated or poorly translated are underlined in the text below. Significant words added to the original text are highlighted in **bold**. Significant words that were left out and not translated in any manner have been added to the text and are enclosed in [brackets].

Chapter 1

1. In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth.
2. But the earth was unsightly and unfurnished, and darkness was over [the surface] the deep, and the Spirit of God moved over [the surface] the water.
3. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.
4. And God saw the light that it was good, and God divided between the light and [between] the darkness.
5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night, and there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
6. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it be a division between water and water, **and it was so**.
7. And God made the firmament, and God divided between the water which was under the firmament and the water which was above the firmament. [And it was so.]
8. And God called the firmament Heaven, **and God saw that it was good**, and there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
9. And God said, Let the water which is under the heaven be collected into one place, and let the dry land appear, and it was so. **And the water which was under the heaven was collected into its places, and the dry land appeared.**
10. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gatherings of the waters he called Seas, and God saw that it was good.
11. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass bearing seed **according to its kind and according to its likeness**, and the fruit-tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind on the earth, and it was so.
12. And the earth brought forth the herb of grass bearing seed according to its kind **and according to its likeness**, and the fruit tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind **on the earth**, and God saw that it was good.
13. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to **give light upon the earth**, to divide between day and [between] night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years.
15. And let them [luminaries] be for light in the firmament of the heaven, **so as** to shine upon the earth, and it was so.
16. And God made the two great lights, the greater light for regulating the day and the lesser light for regulating the night, the stars also.
17. And God placed them in the firmament of the heaven, **so as** to shine upon the earth,
18. and to regulate day and night, and to divide between the light and [between] the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
19. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
20. And God said, Let the waters bring forth reptiles having life, and **winged creatures** flying above the earth in the firmament of heaven, and it was so.
21. And God made great whales, and every living reptile, which the waters brought forth according to their kinds, and every **creature** that flies with wings according to its kind, and God saw that they were good.
22. And God blessed them saying, Increase and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the creatures that fly be multiplied on the earth.
23. And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.
24. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind, quadrupeds and reptiles and wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and it was so.
25. And God made the wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and cattle according to their kind, and all the reptiles of the earth according to their kind, and God saw that they were good.
26. And God said, Let us make man according to our image and likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the flying creatures of heaven, and over the cattle and all the earth, and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth.
27. And God made man, according to the image of God he made him, male and female he made them.
28. And God blessed them, [and God] saying, Increase and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the seas and flying **creatures** of heaven, **and all the cattle and all the earth**, and all the reptiles that creep on the earth.
29. And God said, Behold I have given to you every seed-bearing herb sowing seed which is upon [the surface of] all the earth, and every tree which has in itself the fruit of seed that is sown, to you it shall be for food.
30. And to all the wild beasts of the earth, and to all the flying creatures of heaven, and to every reptile creeping on the earth, which has in itself the breath of life, even every green plant for food; and it was so.
31. And God saw all the things that he had made, and, behold, they were very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Chapter 2

1. And the heavens and the earth were finished, and the whole world of them.
2. And God finished on the sixth day his works which he made, and he ceased on the seventh day from all his works which he made.
3. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it he ceased from all his [creative] works which God **began to do**.

4. This is the book of the generation of heaven and earth, when they were made, in the day in which the Lord God made the heaven and the earth,
 5. and every herb of the field before it was on the earth, and all the grass of the field before it sprang up, for [the Lord] God had not rained on the earth, and there was not a man to cultivate [the ground] it.
 6. But there rose a fountain out of the earth, and watered the whole face of the earth.
 7. And [the Lord] God formed the man of dust of the earth, and breathed upon his face the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.
 8. And [the Lord] God planted a garden eastward in Edem, and placed there the man whom he had formed.
 9. And [the Lord] God made to spring up also out of the earth every tree beautiful to the eye and good for food, and the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and the tree of **learning** the knowledge of good and evil.
 10. And a river proceeds out of Edem to water the garden, thence it divides itself into four heads.
 11. The name of the one, Phisom, this it is which encircles the whole land of Evilat, where there is gold.
 12. And the gold of that land is good, there also is carbuncle and emerald.
 13. And the name of the second river is Geon, this it is which encircles the whole land of Ethiopia.
 14. And the third river is Tigris, this is that which flows forth over against the Assyrians. And the fourth river is Euphrates.
 15. And the Lord God took the man **whom he had formed**, and placed him in the garden of Delight, to cultivate and keep it.
 16. And the Lord God gave a charge to Adam, saying, Of every tree which is in the garden thou mayest freely eat,
 17. but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—of it ye shall not eat, but in whatsoever day ye eat of it, ye shall surely die.
 18. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone, let us make for him a help suitable to him.
 19. And [the Lord] God formed **yet farther** out of the earth all the wild beasts of the field, and all the birds of the sky, and he brought them to Adam, to see what he would call them, and whatever Adam called any living creature, that was the name of it.
 20. And Adam gave names to all the cattle and to all the birds of the sky, and to all the wild beasts of the field, but for Adam there was not found a help like to himself.
 21. And [the Lord] God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept, and he took [from] one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh instead thereof.
 22. And [the Lord] God formed the rib which he took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to Adam.
 23. And Adam said, This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of her husband.
 24. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they **two** shall be one flesh.
- 3:1. (2:25) And the two were naked **both** Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.