

Genesis 22.15-19

TNK is the 1985 JPS Tanakh. LXE is the translation of the LXX by Brenton originally done in 1851.

15

TNK The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁנִית מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם: WTT

BGT καὶ ἐκάλεσεν ἄγγελος κυρίου τὸν Ἀβραὰμ δεύτερον ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ

LXE And an angel of the Lord called Abraam the second time out of heaven, saying,

NET The LORD's angel called to Abraham a second time from heaven

NRS The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

- When was the first time the angel of the Lord called?

16

TNK and said, "By Myself I swear, the LORD declares: Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your favored one,

וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־דְּבַר הַזֶּה וְלֹא חָשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנִיךָ: WTT

BGT λέγων κατ' ἑμαυτοῦ ὥμοσα λέγει κύριος οὐ εἶνεκεν ἐποίησας τὸ ῥῆμα τοῦτο καὶ οὐκ ἐφείσω τοῦ υἱοῦ σου τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ δι' ἐμέ

LXE I have sworn by myself, says the Lord, because thou hast done this thing, and on my account hast not spared thy beloved son,

NET and said, "I solemnly swear by my own name,' decrees the LORD, 'that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

NRS and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

- What is the force of God saying, "By myself I swear..."
- What tense is ὥμοσα? What force does it appear to have?
- Note the use ῥῆμα of for the Hebrew דְּבַר.
- τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ - Cf. v 1
- δι' ἐμέ is added; cf. v12.

17

TNK

I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your descendants shall seize the gates of their foes.

כִּי-בֵרַךְ אֲבָרְכֶךָ וְהִרְבָּה אֲרַבְּךָ אֶת-זַרְעֶךָ כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֲסֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל-שֹׁפֶת הַיָּם וְיִרְשׁ זַרְעֶךָ אֶת שַׁעַר אֹיְבֹיךָ׃ WTT

BGT

ἢ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ τὸ σπέρμα σου ὡς τοὺς ἀστέρας τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ ὡς τὴν ἄμμον τὴν παρὰ τὸ χεῖλος τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ κληρονομήσει τὸ σπέρμα σου τὰς πόλεις τῶν ὑπεναντίων

LXE

surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is by the shore of the sea, and thy seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies.

NET

I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the strongholds of their enemies.

NRS

I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

- ἢ μὴν – cf BDAG: “indeed (for similar sounding εἰ μήν)”
- εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω... πληθύνων πληθυνῶ – Reflects the Hebrew idiom indicating surety
- τὰς πόλεις – the Hebrew is literally “the gates,” but the LXX is translating dynamically

18

TNK

All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, because you have obeyed My command."

וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְזַרְעֶךָ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ לְעִקֵּב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעַתָּ בְּקוֹלִי׃ WTT

BGT

καὶ ἐνευλογηθήσονται ἐν τῷ σπέρματί σου πάντα τὰ ἔθνη τῆς γῆς ἀνθ' ὧν ὑπήκουσας τῆς ἐμῆς φωνῆς

LXE

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast hearkened to my voice.

NET

Because you have obeyed me, all the nations of the earth will pronounce blessings on one another using the name of your descendants."

NRS

and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

- ἐνευλογηθήσονται – Note tense and voice:
Be sure to read the NET Bible notes on this verse to see how the underlying Hebrew is to be understood.

TNK Abraham then returned to his servants, and they departed together for Beer-sheba; and Abraham stayed in Beer-sheba.

וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נְעָרָיו וַיִּקְמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו אֶל־בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם בְּבֵאֵר שֶׁבַע: פ WTT

BGT ἀπεστράφη δὲ Ἀβραὰμ πρὸς τοὺς παῖδας αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναστάντες ἐπορεύθησαν ἅμα ἐπὶ τὸ φρέαρ τοῦ ὄρκου καὶ κατώκησεν Ἀβραὰμ ἐπὶ τῷ φρέατι τοῦ ὄρκου

LXE And Abraam returned to his servants, and they arose and went together to the well of the oath; and Abraam dwelt at the well of the oath.

NET Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set out together for Beer Sheba where Abraham stayed.

NRS So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham lived at Beer-sheba.

- Note how puzzling this verse was to the rabbinic scholars. Who exactly returned from the mountain?
And why did Abraham go to Beer-sheba rather than return home?
Who is not being mentioned?
- The Hebrew place name (בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע) is being translated rather than transliterated. (Depending on the vowels provided, it can mean either “well of seven” or “well of oath.”)