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The Holy Bible: containing the Old and New Testaments
translated literally from the original tongues
Translation by Julia E. Smith
THE FIRST AND ONLY BIBLE TO EVER BE TRANSLATED COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY BY A WOMAN AND INDIVIDUALLY!!
What Is Unique About It?

• **Is the first and only** English Bible translated completely by a woman.

• **It was translated over the span of 8 years 1847 to 1855.**

• **By 1855, when the translation was complete, Julia Smith had translated the Bible twice each from Greek and Hebrew and once from Latin.**

• **The purpose of the translation work was not for publication, but in 1876, and due to the Smith sisters losing their property due to unjust tax collection laws, Smith decided to publish her translation of the Bible.**
Julia Evalina Smith
1972-1886

• Lived in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

• Daughter, one of five, of Zepheniah Smith - a congregational minister, graduate of Yale with a degree in theology, resigned from the church after adopting sectarian opinions.

• Started translating the bible from its native tongues after William Miller prediction failure that Christ would return in 1844.

• She learned Greek and Latin in school, but studied Hebrew on her own.

• Took her seven years to complete the work - translated the bible twice from both Greek and Hebrew and once from Latin.
Quotes from Julia’s Preface

It may seem presumptuous for an ordinary woman with no particular advantages of education to translate and publish alone, the most wonderful book that has ever appeared in the world, and thought to be the most difficult to translate. It has occupied the time and attention of the wisest and most learned of all ages, believing, as the world has believed, that such only could give the correct rendering of the Bible. I wrote to a learned friend about it, and he advised me to study Hebrew, saying, “it was a simple language, and easily learned, there being but one book in the world, of pure Hebrew, which was the Bible.” He added that, “then I could see with my own eyes, and not look through the glasses of my neighbors.” I soon gave my attention to the Hebrew, and studied it thoroughly, and wrote it out word for word, giving no ideas of my own, but endeavoring to put the same English word for the same Hebrew or Greek word, everywhere, while King James’s translators have wholly differed from this rule; but it appeared to us to give a much clearer understanding of the text.
in dark sayings, a knowledge of which is gained, as all other knowledge is gained, by the desire of the heart to learn it. It may be thought by the public in general, that I have great confidence in myself, in not conferring with the learned in so great a work, but as there is but one book in the Hebrew tongue, and I have defined it word for word, I do not see how anybody can know more about it than I do. It being a dead language no improvements can be made upon it. As for the Latin and Greek, I have no doubt many have searched deeper into the standard works than I have, but I think no one has given more time and attention to the literal meaning of the Bible text in these languages.

It is very possible that the readers of this book may think it strange that I have made such use of the tenses, going according to the Hebrew grammar. It
Differences/Issues with her translation

Because she was self taught, and because she wanted a literal translation:

- Her translation was literal i.e. word by word (interlinear format): leading to some verses making no meaning at all

- Used the same exact translation for every word throughout the whole Bible.

- Although she “in many respects a gifted linguist, she did not have a concept of translation theory or of interpretation (hermeneutics) to enable her to see the flaws in her woodenly literalist approach” –CBE International

ex: translated all waw-consecutives in story telling mode in Hebrew to future tense.
• “The books of the Old Testament are arranged in the Jewish order, with Chronicles at the end. She had no assistance from any source. Her translation is very literal, adhering closely to Hebrew and Greek idioms, often making quite unnatural English. Her name is not found on the title page, but is signed to the preface.”

(Simms - Michael Morgan's documentation)
Translation Examples

**Genesis 1:1–6**

In the beginning God formed the heavens and the earth.  
2 And the earth was desolation and emptiness, and darkness over the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the face of the waters.  
3 And God will say there shall be light, and there shall be light.  
4 And God will see the light that it is good, and God will separate between the light and between the darkness.  
5 And God will call to the light day, and to the darkness he called night; and the evening shall be, and the morning shall be one day.  
6 And God will say there shall be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and there shall be a separating between waters to waters.

**John 21:18–19**

And John answered and said, 
18 Mary Magdalene comes announcing to the disciples that she has seen the Lord, and he said these to her.  
19 Then it being evening, in that one day of the sabbaths, and the doors shut where the disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and says to them, Peace to you.

**Genesis 1:1–6**

13 And the evening and the morning shall be the first day.  
14 And God will say there shall be lights in the firmament to separate between the night and the day; signs and for seasons and for years.  
15 And they say the firmament of light upon the earth.  
16 And God will say the great lights; the great lights of the day, and the rule of the night.  
17 And God will say the firmament of the earth.  
18 And to rule the night, and to keep the order of the day, and of the seasons, and of the years.  
19 And the evening and the morning shall be the second day.
History of the Translation

• Started in 1847 and completed in 1855.
• Published in 1876 by the American Publishing Company of Hartford, Connecticut.
• Publication was on Julia’s expense ~4,000$ cost.
• 1000 copies were issued.
• Copies sold for $2.5 with the purpose of defraying their tax bills.
• Her translation was historically banned primarily because she was a woman therefore any copy is considered rare.

Source: Michael Morgan’s documentation
History of the this copy of the translation

• Was purchased by Dr. Donald Brake who lived in Texas and became the Dean of the Multnomah Seminary in Oregon.

• Dr. Brake, when found out about Michael Morgan’s endeavors to collect Bibles, offered Julia Smith and the Thomson Bibles to him.

• Michael Morgan had to sell some of the duplicates he had in his collection to get the funds to purchase Julia’s translation from Dr. Brake.
Uses of Julia Smith’s Translation - Historically

“When Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her committee undertook The Woman's Bible they relied primarily on two texts: the Revised Version of 1881 and Julia Smith’s translation. Stanton scholar Lois Banner has remarked that ‘Smith’s translation was not widely known, but she was legendary among feminists.’”

-NAW as documented by Michael Morgan
1 Peter 5

CHAPTER V.

The elders among you I beseech, as a fellow elder, and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a participator of the glory which is about to be revealed:

2 Tend the flock of God which among you, inspecting, not by force, but voluntarily; neither occupied in sordid gain, but of a ready will;

3 Neither as ruling over the portions obtained by lot, but being types of the flock.

4 And the chief Shepherd having been manifested, ye shall be attired with an unfading crown of glory.

5 Likewise, ye younger, be subjected to the elders. And all being subject to one another, be wrapped up in humility: for God opposes the proud, and gives grace to the humble.

6 Therefore be humbled under the strong hand of God, that he might lift you up in due measure:

7 Having cast all your care upon him; for to him is the care for you.

8 Be abstemious, watch; for your adversary the accuser, as a roaring lion, walks around, seeking whom he might swallow down:

9 Whom resist firm in the faith, knowing that the same of sufferings are completed by your brotherhood in the world.

10 And the God of all grace, having called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, may he put you in proper order, having suffered a little time, may he support you, make firm, lay the foundation.

11 To him the glory and the strength for the time of times, Amen.

12 By Silvanus, to you the faithful brother, as I reckon, I wrote briefly, beseecching, and bearing testimony this to be the true grace of God in which ye stand.

13 The chosen together in Babylon, greet you; also Marcus my son.

14 Greet one another in a kiss of love. Peace to all you which in Christ Jesus, Amen.

Genesis 4

CHAPTER IV.

And Adam knew Eve, his wife, and she conceived, and bore Cain, and said, I obtained a man of Jehovah.

2 And she will add to bear his brother Abel; and Abel shall be a feeder of sheep, and Cain was a laborer of the earth.

3 And it shall be at the end of days, and Cain shall bring in from the fruit of the earth an offering to Jehovah.

4 And Abel, he also brought in the first-born of his sheep, and their fat. And Jehovah will look to Abel and to his gift.

5 And to Cain and to his offering he looked not: and Cain will be very angry, and his countenance will fall.

6 And Jehovah will say to Cain, Why art thou angry, and why does thy countenance fall?

7 If thou shalt do well thou shalt be lifted up; and if thou shalt not do well, sin lies at the entrance; and to thee his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain will speak to Abel his brother; and it shall be in their being in the field, Cain will rise up against Abel his brother, and will kill him.

9 And Jehovah will say to Cain,
and disobedient, and to every good work not tried.

CHAPTER II.

And do thou speak what becomes sound doctrine:

2 The aged men to be sober, grave, of sound mind, sound in the faith, in love, in patience.

3 The aged women likewise, being holy in a serene state of mind, not accusers, not slaves to much wine, teachers of good;

4 That they render the young women discreet, to be lovers of the husband, lovers of the children,

5 Of sound mind chaste, remaining at home, good subordinates to their own husbands, that the word of God be not defamed.

6 The younger men likewise beseech to be of sound mind.

7 Concerning all things hold thyself a type of good works: in doctrine, integrity, gravity, incorruptibility,

8 The word sound, not to be condemned; that he from the opposite may be changed, having nothing bad to say of you.

1 Timothy 2: 8-15

I will therefore men shall pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without anger and reasoning.

9 And likewise the women in well-arranged simplicity, with modesty and discretion, arrange themselves; not in tresses, or gold, or pearls, or expensive clothing;

10 But (what becomes women professing religious worship) with good works.

11 Let the woman, in freedom from care, learn in all subjection.

12 And I trust not the woman to teach, neither to exercise authority over the man, but to be in freedom from care.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman, having been deceived, was in the transgression.

15 And she shall be saved through the bringing forth children, if they remain in faith and love and consecration with discretion.
Resources:

- **Michael Morgan Catalogue - Pitts Theology Library**
- **Encyclopedia Britannica. Sandemanian.** https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sandemanians
- **CBÉ International. A Tale of Two Translators: The Lives and Legacies of Julia E. Smith and Helen Barrett Montgomery.**