



THE JPS TANAKH

A CUSTOMER GUIDE TO
CHOOSING YOUR BIBLE

JPS

“Turns Holy Writ into
fresh, understandable,
contemporary language.
A landmark of Jewish
religious scholarship.”

— *Time*

Overview

The **TANAKH** is the canon of the Jewish Bible (also known as the Hebrew Bible, the Holy Scriptures, or the Old Testament). “**TANAKH**” is an acronym for the text’s three sections: the Torah (the Five Books of Moses), Nevi’im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings).

The **JPS TANAKH** is widely recognized as the most authoritative and preferred English translation of the Hebrew Bible in the Jewish world and beyond.

Editions

The **JPS TANAKH** is available in print in various sizes, colors, and styles in both a Hebrew-English edition and an English-only edition. The English-only version is also available through most e-book vendors. Print editions of portions of the **TANAKH** are also available, such as *The Torah*, *The Book of Psalms*, and *The Five Megilloth and Jonah*. The **JPS Audio Bible** is an audio version of the English-only edition available through audible.com and iTunes.com.

About the Translation

Regarded throughout the English-speaking world as a landmark English translation of the Holy Scriptures, the **JPS TANAKH** has been acclaimed by scholars, rabbis, lay leaders, Jews, and Christians alike. The **JPS TANAKH** is an entirely original translation of the Holy Scriptures into contemporary English, based on the original masoretic (traditional Hebrew) text. The **JPS TANAKH** emerged from the collaborative efforts of an interdenominational team of Jewish scholars and rabbis working together over a twenty-year period. The translators made use of the entire range of biblical interpretation, ancient and modern, Jewish and non-Jewish. The resulting text is a triumph of literary style and biblical scholarship, unsurpassed in accuracy and clarity.

About the Hebrew Text

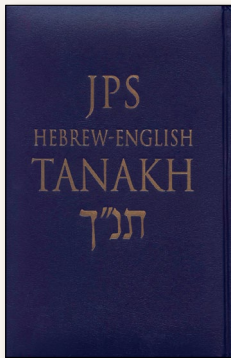
The Hebrew text of the **JPS TANAKH** is based on the famed Leningrad Codex, the masoretic text traceable to Aaron ben Moses ben Asher, ca. 930. Ben Asher researched all available texts to compile an authoritative Bible manuscript. In 1010 his work was revised by Samuel ben Jacob, a scribe in Egypt. Lost for centuries, the manuscript was eventually discovered in the mid-nineteenth century and became known as the Leningrad Codex. JPS has adapted the latest BHS edition of the Leningrad text by correcting errors and providing modern paragraphing.

Editions

HEBREW-ENGLISH

JPS Hebrew-English TANAKH

The *JPS Hebrew-English TANAKH* features the oldest-known complete Hebrew version of the Holy Scriptures, side by side with JPS's renowned English translation. Its well-designed format allows for ease of reading and features clear type, an engaging and efficient two-column format that enables readers to move quickly from one language to another, and an organization that contemporary readers will find familiar. It opens as a Hebrew-language book (from left to right).



Deluxe Edition – Hardcover, navy leatherette padded binding, gilded edges, navy satin ribbon

Pages: 2,040

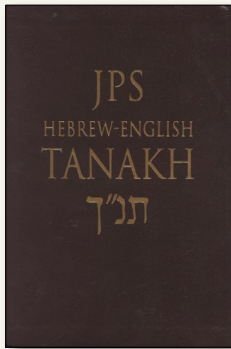
Size: 6 x 9

Font size: 9 pt

Weight: 2 lbs

Price: \$65.00 US/\$75.00 Canadian/£51.00 UK

978-0-8276-0656-2



Student Edition – Brown leatherette, flex binding

Our most popular Hebrew-English Bible edition

Pages: 2,040

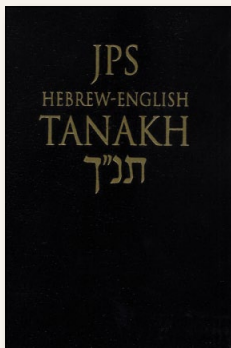
Size: 6 x 9

Font size: 9 pt

Weight: 1 lb 2 oz

Price: \$45.00 US/\$51.95 Canadian/£35.00 UK

978-0-8276-0697-5



Pocket Edition – Black leatherette binding

Pages: 2,030

Size: 4 x 6

Font size: 6 pt

Weight: 1 lb 5 oz

Price: \$22.00 US/\$22.00 Canadian/£16.99 UK

978-0-8276-0766-8

the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶²Isaac had just come back from the vicinity of Beer-lahai-roi, for he was settled in the region of the Negeb. ⁶³And Isaac went out walking^e in the field toward evening and, looking up, he saw camels approaching. ⁶⁴Raising her eyes, Rebekah saw Isaac. She alighted from the camel ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field toward us?” And the servant said, “That is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Isaac then brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he took Rebekah as his wife. Isaac loved her, and thus found comfort after his mother’s death.

25 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ²She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. The descendants of Dedan were the Asshurim, the Letushim, and the Leummim. ⁴The descendants of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Enoch,^a Abida, and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah. ⁵Abraham willed all that he owned to Isaac; ⁶but to Abraham’s sons by concubines Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and he sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the East.

⁷This was the total span of Abraham’s life: one hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸And Abraham breathed his last, dying at a good ripe age, old and contented; and he was gathered to his kin. ⁹His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre, ¹⁰the field

⁶²וַיִּצְחָק בָּא מִבְּוֹא בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי וְהוּא יוֹשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ הַנֶּגֶב: ⁶³וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לָשׂוּחַ בְּשָׂדֵה לַפְּנוֹת עֶרֶב וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה גַמְלִים בָּאִים: ⁶⁴וַתִּשָּׂא רֵבְקָה אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרֶא אֶת-יִצְחָק וַתִּפֹּל מֵעַל הַגָּמֶל: ⁶⁵וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל-הָעֶבֶד מִי-הָאִישׁ הַלֹּזֵה הַהֵלֶךְ בְּשָׂדֵה לְקִרְאֹתֵנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הָעֶבֶד הוּא אֲדֹנָי וַתִּקַּח הַצִּעִיף וַתִּתְכַס: ⁶⁶וַיְסַפֵּר הָעֶבֶד לְיִצְחָק אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: ⁶⁷וַיְבִיאָהּ יִצְחָק הָאֵהָלָה שָׂרָה אִמּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-רֵבְקָה וַתְּהִי-לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּאֱהָבָהּ וַיִּנַּחֵם יִצְחָק אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ: פ

כה וַיִּסְּף אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה וַשְׁמָהּ קֵטוּרָה: ²וַתֵּלֶד לוֹ אֶת-זִמְרָן וְאֶת-יִקְשָׁן וְאֶת-מִדְיָן וְאֶת-יִשְׂבָּק וְאֶת-שׁוּחַ: ³וַיִּקְשָׁן יָלַד אֶת-שֶׁבָא וְאֶת-דָּדָן וּבְנֵי דָדָן הֵיוּ אֲשׁוּרִים וְלִטְוּשִׁים וְלִלְאָמִים: ⁴וּבְנֵי מִדְיָן עֵיפָה וְעַפְרָי וְחִנֹּף וְאַבִּידָע וְאַלְדָּעָה כָּל-אֵלֶּה בְנֵי קֵטוּרָה: ⁵וַיִּתֵּן אַבְרָהָם אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ לְיִצְחָק: ⁶וְלִבְנֵי הַפְּיִלְגָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר לְאַבְרָהָם נָתַן אַבְרָהָם מִתְּנֹת וַיִּשְׁלָחֵם מֵעַל יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בְּעוֹדָנוּ חַי קְדָמָה אֶל-אֶרֶץ קְדָם: ⁷וְאֵלֶּה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי-חַיֵּי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר-חַי מֵאֵת שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וְחָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים: ⁸וַיַּגֹּעַ וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה זָקֵן וְשָׂבַע וַיֵּאֶסֶף אֶל-עַמּוּיוֹ: ⁹וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ יִצְחָק וַיִּשְׁמַעֵאל בְּנָיו אֶל-מַעְרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֶל-שְׂדֵה עֶפְרָן בֶּן-צֹחַר הַחִתִּי אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי מַמְרָא: ¹⁰הַשְּׂדֵה אֲשֶׁר-קָנָה

^e Others “to meditate”; meaning of Heb. uncertain.

^a Or “Hanoch.”

JPS Hebrew-English TANAKH
Pocket Edition
(actual size)

erty. ²¹What remains on either side of the sacred reserve and the city property shall belong to the prince. The prince shall own [the land] from the border of the 25,000 ^e of the reserve ^e up to the eastern boundary, and from the border of the 25,000 on the west up to the western boundary, corresponding to the [tribal] portions. The sacred reserve, with the Temple Sanctuary in the middle of it ²²and the property of the Levites and the city property as well, shall be in the middle of the [area belonging] to the prince; [the rest of the land] between the territory of Judah and the territory of Benjamin shall belong to the prince.

²³As for the remaining tribes: ^fFrom the eastern border to the western border: Benjamin—one.

²⁴Adjoining the territory of Benjamin, from the eastern border to the western border: Simeon—one.

²⁵Adjoining the territory of Simeon, from the eastern border to the western border: Issachar—one.

²⁶Adjoining the territory of Issachar, from the eastern border to the western border: Zebulun—one.

²⁷Adjoining the territory of Zebulun, from the eastern border to the western border: Gad—one.

²⁸The other border of Gad shall be the southern boundary. This boundary shall run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the Wadi [of Egypt], and to the Great Sea.

²⁹That is the land which you shall allot as a heritage to the tribes of Israel, and those are their portions—declares the Lord God.

³⁰And these are the exits from the city: On its northern side, measuring 4,500 cubits, ³¹the gates of the city shall be—three gates on the north—named for the tribes of Israel: the Reu-

יעבדוהו מכל שבטי ישראל: ²⁰ כל-
התרומה חמשה ועשרים אלה בחמשה
ועשרים אלה רביעית תרימו את-
תרומת הקדש אל-אחוזת העיר:
²¹ והותר לנשיא מנה ומנה לתרומת-
הקדש ולאחוזת העיר אל-פני חמשה
ועשרים אלה תרומה עד-גבול קדימה
והמה על-פני חמשה ועשרים אלה על-
גבול ומה לעמדת הלקים לנשיא והיתה
תרומת הקדש ומקדש הבית בתוכה
בתוך: ²² ומאחזות הלויים ומאחזות העיר
בתוך אשר לנשיא יהיה בין גבול יהודה
ובין גבול בנימן לנשיא יהודה:

²³ והותר השבטים מפאת קדימה עד-
פאת ימה בנימן אחר:

²⁴ ועל גבול בנימן מפאת קדימה
עד-פאת ימה שמעון אחר:

²⁵ ועל גבול שמעון מפאת קדימה
עד-פאת ימה יששכר אחר:

²⁶ ועל גבול יששכר מפאת קדימה
עד-פאת ימה זבולן אחר:

²⁷ ועל גבול זבולן מפאת קדימה עד-
פאת ימה גד אחר:

²⁸ ועל גבול גד אל-פאת נגב תימנה והיה
גבול מתמר מי מריבת קדש נחלה
על-הים הגדול:

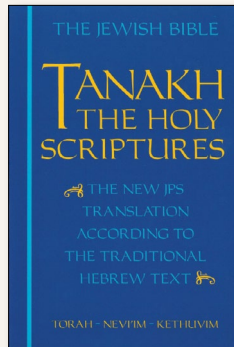
²⁹ זאת הארץ אשר תפילו מנחלה
לשבטי ישראל ואלה מחלקותם נאם
אדני יהוה: פ

³⁰ ואלה תוצאת העיר מפאת צפון חמש
מאות וארבעת אלפים מדה: ³¹ ושערי
העיר על-שמות שבטי ישראל שערים

ENGLISH-ONLY

JPS TANAKH: The Holy Scriptures

This is the classic, standard English-only TANAKH. All editions contain the same one-column format of English text. Each biblical book and weekly reading is marked with the corresponding name in Hebrew.



Hardcover Edition – Blue with dust jacket

This is the most popular English-only Bible. Beneath the glossy blue dust jacket is a classic dark blue hardcover binding with gold lettering. It is an attractive shelf book with an easy-to-read typeface.

Pages: 1,622

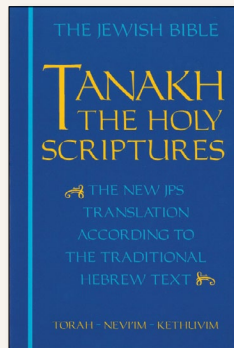
Size: 6 x 9

Font size: 10 pt

Weight: 2 lbs 15 oz

Price: \$35.00 US/\$39.95 Canadian/£22.99 UK

978-0-8276-0252-6



Paperback Edition

This Bible is a smaller and lighter-weight version of the hardcover edition.

Pages: 1,622

Size: 5 x 7

Font size: 8 pt

Weight: 1 lb 11 oz

Price: \$25.50 US/\$22.50 Canadian/£16.99 UK

978-0-8276-0366-0

JPS TANAKH: The Holy Scriptures

Hardcover Edition

(actual size)

ישעיה

ISAIAH

I The prophecies of Isaiah son of Amoz, who prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

²Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth,
For the LORD has spoken:
“I reared children and brought them up—
And they have rebelled against Me!
³An ox knows its owner,
An ass its master’s crib:
Israel does not know,
My people takes no thought.”

⁴Ah, sinful nation!
People laden with iniquity!
Brood of evildoers!
Depraved children!
They have forsaken the LORD,
Spurned the Holy One of Israel,
Turned their backs [on Him].

⁵Why do you seek further beatings,
That you continue to offend?
Every head is ailing,
And every heart is sick.
⁶From head to foot
No spot is sound:
All bruises, and welts,
And festering sores—

JPS TANAKH: The Holy Scriptures
Paperback Edition
(actual size)

NEVI'IM II KINGS 9.36

the hands. ³⁶They came back and reported to him; and he said, "It is just as the LORD spoke through His servant Elijah the Tishbite: The dogs shall devour the flesh of Jezebel in the field of Jezreel; ³⁷and the carcass of Jezebel shall be like dung on the ground, in the field of Jezreel, so that none will be able to say: 'This was Jezebel.'"

10 Ahab had seventy descendants in Samaria. Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the elders and officials of Jezreel^a and to the guardians of [the children] of Ahab, as follows: ²"Now, when this letter reaches you—since your master's sons are with you and you also have chariots and horses, and a fortified city and weapons—³select the best and the most suitable of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house." ⁴But they were overcome by fear, for they thought, "If the two kings could not stand up to him, how can we?" ⁵The steward of the palace and the governor of the city and the elders and the guardians sent this message to Jehu: "We are your subjects, and we shall do whatever you tell us to. We shall not proclaim anyone king; do whatever you like."

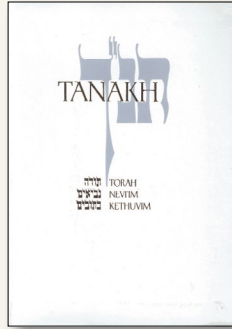
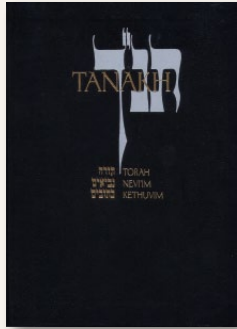
⁶He wrote them a second time: "If you are on my side and are ready to obey me, take the heads of the attendants of your master's sons and come^b to me in Jezreel tomorrow at this time." Now the princes, seventy in number, were with the notables of the town, who were rearing them. ⁷But when the letter reached them, they took the princes and slaughtered all seventy of them; they put their heads in baskets and sent them to him in Jezreel. ⁸A messenger came and reported to him: "They have brought the heads of the princes." He said, "Pile them up in two heaps at the entrance of the gate before morning." ⁹In the morning he went out and stood there; and he said to all the people, "Are you blameless?^c True, I conspired against my master and killed him; but who struck down all of these? ¹⁰Know, then, that nothing that the LORD has spoken concerning the House of Ahab shall remain unfulfilled, for the LORD has done what he announced through His servant Elijah." ¹¹And Jehu struck down all that were left of the House of Ahab in Jezreel—and all his notables, intimates, and priests—till he left him no survivor.

¹²He then set out for Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the shepherds, ¹³Jehu came upon the kinsmen of King Ahaziah of Judah. "Who are you?" he asked. They replied, "We are the kinsmen of

^a *Emendation yields "of the city."*

^b *Targum and Septuagint read "and bring them."*

^c *Or "You are blameless."*



Gift Edition – Leatherette

This is the ideal gift Bible for a bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, confirmation, or graduation. The inside text is identical to the other editions but the cover looks and feels like leather and is more formal than the others. It comes in a black box, suitable for giftwrapping or giving as is.

Available in black and white

Pages: 1,622

Size: 5 x 7

Font size: 8 pt

Weight: 1 lb 13 oz

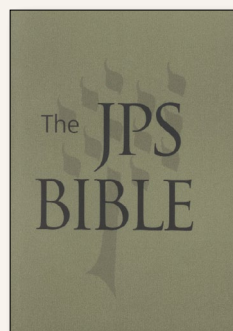
Price: \$42.00 US/\$48.50 Canadian/£33.00 UK

Black: 978-0-8276-0365-3

White: 978-0-8276-0364-6

The JPS Bible, Pocket Edition

This pocket-sized TANAKH is the most portable version of the JPS Jewish Bible. Easy to hold and carry, the text is identical to the full-sized English-only editions, set much smaller, in two columns. It fits easily into a handbag, briefcase, backpack, or jacket pocket. The sturdy coated paper cover will stand up well to heavy use and is available in rose and moss colors.



Available in rose and moss

Pages: 1,104

Size: 4 x 6

Font size: 6 pt

Weight: 11 oz

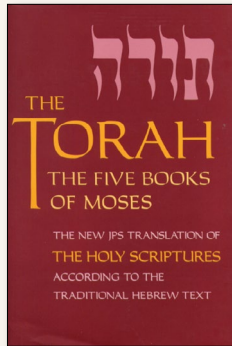
Price: \$18.00 US/\$16.95 Canadian/£11.99 UK

Moss: 978-0-8276-0877-1

The Torah: The Five Books of Moses

The Torah is the essence of Jewish tradition; it inspires each successive generation. The current JPS translation, based on classical and modern sources, is acclaimed for its fidelity to the ancient Hebrew. The Torah includes these five biblical books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

All editions have brick red covers and contain the same English-only, one-column text.



Hardcover Edition with dust jacket

Pages: 394

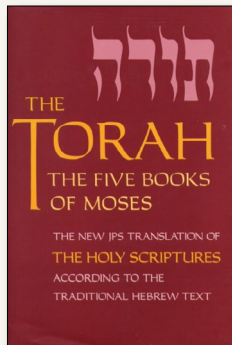
Size: 6 x 9

Font size: 11 pt

Weight: 1 lb 5 oz

Price: \$30.00 US/\$34.95 Canadian/£19.99 UK

978-0-8276-0015-7



Pocket Edition

Paperback

Pages: 620

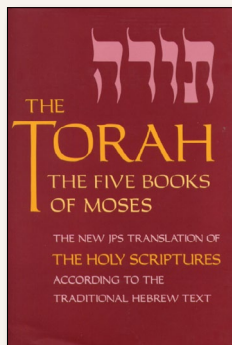
Size: 4 x 6

Font size: 10 pt

Weight: 14 oz

Price: \$18.00 US/\$20.95 Canadian/£13.99 UK

978-0-8276-0680-7



Large Print Edition

Paperback

Pages: 620

Size: 7 x 10

Font Size: 18 pt

Weight: 2 lb 8 oz

Price: \$35 US/\$38.95 Canadian/£26.99 UK

978-0-8276-0683-8

JPS Audio Bible

The *JPS Audio Bible* is the English audio version of the *JPS TANAKH*, produced and recorded for JPS by the Jewish Braille Institute. It features thirteen narrators who together have created sixty-one hours of listening. The readers include stage and television actors, radio personalities, teachers, and voiceover talents, including Theodore Bikel, Tovah Feldshuh, Bruce Feiler, and Harold Kushner.

The *JPS Audio Bible* is an audio version of the English-only edition available through audible.com and iTunes.com, and soon other online sellers, as the entire Tanakh, the Torah, the Five Megilloth, and Jonah, and as individual biblical books. The weekly reading (the parasha) can be listened to for free from the home page of the JPS website.

The JPS TANAKH-FAQs

1. What is the TANAKH?

The TANAKH is the canon of the Jewish Bible, also known as the Hebrew Bible, the Holy Scriptures, or what Christians refer to as the Old Testament. “TANAKH” is an acronym for the text’s three sections: the Torah (the Five Books of Moses), Nevi’im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings).

2. What is the difference between the Torah and the TANAKH?

The TANAKH consists of all three sections of the Jewish Bible. The Torah is the first of these sections. It is also known as the Pentateuch, the Law of Moses, or the Five Books of Moses. The Torah contains these five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

3. What is the JPS TANAKH?

The *JPS TANAKH* is available in both English-only and Hebrew-English editions. The Hebrew text of the Hebrew-English version is based on the famed Leningrad Codex, the masoretic text. Both versions include an entirely original translation of the Holy Scriptures into contemporary English, based on this traditional Hebrew text. The translation used is a slightly updated version of the 1985 JPS translation, commonly referred to as “the New JPS Translation.”

4. What is the difference between the new and old JPS translations?

The old JPS translation (OJPS) of the TANAKH was published in 1917. This translation is based on the Protestant Revised Version with the “un-Jewish and anti-Jewish” phrases replaced with traditional Jewish interpretation to reflect Jewish feeling, law, faith, and tradition. The OJPS translation uses some archaic language, such as “shalt,” “thee,” and “thou,” because it borrowed heavily from the King James Version. Several passages in the 1917 version are much more poetic in tone than the later translation. The 1917 edition, now in the public domain, is not available from JPS in print form. It is available as a free downloadable PDF from the [JPS website](#).

The new JPS translation (NJPS) of the TANAKH’s three parts (Torah, Prophets, Writings) were published over a twenty-year period. The JPS Torah was published first in 1962. The Prophets (Nevi’im) was published in 1978 and the Writings (Ketuvim) in 1980. The three parts were then combined into the *JPS TANAKH* in 1985. See this article written in 2012 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the “[New JPS Translation](#)” of the Torah.

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