

Brief History of Earliest Translations for Elohim in Exodus 21:6; 22:8-9 (English, German, Latin)

EXODUS 21:6

VUL Ex 21:6 offeret eum dominus diis et adplicabitur ad ostium et postes perforabitque aurem eius subula et
shall present him the master to Gods and bring him to the door and the posts and shall pierce the ear of his with an awl and
erit ei servus in saeculum
and he shall serve for life (forever)

(Jerome Vulgate Latin Bible- 405 A.D.)

WYC Ex 21:6 the lord brynge hym to **goddis**, **that is, iugis**; and he schal be set to the dore, and postis; and the lord schal perse his eere with a nal, and he schal be seruauant to hym til in to the world.

(latest is 1395 A.D.) **Wycliffe Version** from the Latin Vulgate. Notice that the **RED** text above is not in the original Latin version above. John Wycliffe ADDED this in to his English text as an interpretation.

TYN Ex 21:6 Then let his master bringe him vnto the **Goddess** ad set him to the doore or the dorepost, ad bore his eare thorow with a naule, ad let him be his servaunte for euer.

(ca. 1530 A.D.) **Tyndale Version** from some Hebrew text for OT Pentateuch: Genesis-Deuteronomy. Rest of OT not certain of source.

COV Ex 21:6 then let his master brynge him before the **Goddess**, and holde him to the dore or post, and bore him thorow the eare with a botkin, and let him be his seruauant for euer.

(1535 A.D.) **Coverdale Version** from Tyndale version of Pentateuch, Other OT from Luther's German.

LUT Ex 21:6 So bringe ihn sein HERR vor die **Götter** (*plural of God*) und halte ihn an die Tür oder Pfosten und bohre ihm mit einem Pfiemen durch sein Ohr; und er sei sein Knecht ewig.

(1534-1545 **Luther German edition**)

MB Ex 21:6 Then let his master bring him vnto the **Goddess** and sette hym to the doore or the dorepost & bore his eare thorow with a naule and let hym be his seruauant for euer.

(1537 A.D.) **Matthew Bible**- NT done by John Rogers. He was martyred. Myles Coverdale finished the OT. He used Tyndale Pentateuch and translated rest of OT from Latin and German sources.

GB Ex 21:6 Hys master shall brynge hym vnto the **judges**, and sett hym to the doore or the dorepost and hys master shall bore hys eare thorowe with a nawle, and he shalbe hys seruauant for euer.

(1539 A.D.) **Great Bible** – First authorized edition in England by King Henry VIII. This was done by Myles Coverdale; used Tyndale Pentateuch and translated rest of OT from Latin and German sources; removed material thought objectionable by local bishops.

Notice that Myles Coverdale DID NOT follow Tyndale's English translation of this passage, but changed the Hebrew translation of *elohim* from Tyndale's **Goddess** to **judges**. Besides John Wycliffe's English translation from the Latin Vulgate, this is the **FIRST** time "judges" was brought into the English translation tradition. For translations after the Geneva Bible and King James Version, this tradition of translation in the English translations never left. It wasn't until the ESV that they returned to the more literal reading of *elohim* "God".

TAV Ex 21:6 Then let his mafter brynge hym to the **Goddess** and fet hym to the doore or the doore pofte, and hore his ear troughe with a naule, and let hym be his fervaunte for euer.

(1539 A.D.) **Taverner's Bible**- Richard Taverner. Well known Greek scholar.

GNV Ex 21:6 Then his master shall bring him vnto the **Judges**, and set him to the dore, or to the poste, and his master shall bore his eare through with a nawle, and he shall serue him for euer.

(1560 A.D.) **Geneva Bible**- Done by the reformers in Switzerland (Myles Coverdale was a collaborator);

Translated from Hebrew/Greek directly. The marginal notes says “Hebrew ‘gods’” for the word “Iudges” (“judges”).

BB Ex 21:6 His maister shall bryng hym vnto the **iudges**, and set hym to the doore or the doorepost, and his maister shal bore his eare through with a naule, and he shalbe his seruauant for euer.

(1568 A.D.) **Bishop’s Bible**- It was recognized that the Great Bible was the first authorized edition, but this edition was well known to have great portions of the OT translated from Latin or German sources. The desire was for a new authorized edition from the original languages. The Geneva Bible was too Calvinistic for the high-church party of the church of England which precipitated this version being sought. The last edition of 1602 was the base text for the King James Version of 1611.

DRB Ex 21:6 his Lord fhall prefent him to (b) the **Gods**, and he fhall be fet to the dore and the poftes, and he fhall bore his eare through with an awle: and he fhall be his bond man for euer.

(1609/1610 A.D.) **Douay-Rheims Bible**- the note (b) points to the margin which reads, “the Iudges authorized by God.” This is the Catholic English translation for England and was from the Latin Vulgate.

KJV Ex 21:6 Then his mafter fhall bring him unto the **Judges**, hee fhall alfo bring him to the doore, or unto the doore poft, and his mafter fhall boare his eare through with an aule, and he fhall ferue him for euer.

(1611 A.D.) – King James Version

NKJ Ex 21:6 "then his master shall bring him to the **judges**. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

(1982 A.D.)

NIV Ex 21:6 then his master must take him before the **judges**. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

(1984 A.D.)

EXODUS 22:8-9

VUL Ex 22:8-9 si latet dominus domus adplicabitur ad **deos** et iurabit quod non extenderit manum in rem proximi sui ⁹ ad perpetranda fraudem tam in bove quam in asino et ove ac vestimento et quicquid damnum inferre potest ad **deos** utriusque causa perveniet et si illi iudicaverint duplum restituet proximo suo.

WYC Ex 22:8-9 If the thief is hid, the lord of the hows schal be brouyt to **goddis**, **that is, iugis**, and he schal swere, that he helde not forth the hond in to `the thing of his neiybore,

⁹ to `do fraude; as wel in oxe, as in asse, and in sheep, and in clooth; and what euer thing may brynge in harm, the cause of euer eithir schal come to **goddis**, and if thei demen, he schal restore the double to his neiybore.

Notice that the **RED** text above is not in the original Latin version above. John Wycliffe ADDED this in to his English text as an interpretation.

TYN Ex 22:8-9 Yf the thefe be not founde, then the goodma of the housse shalbe brought vnto the **goddess** and swere, whether he haue put his hande vnto his neighbours good.

⁹ And in all maner of trespace, whether it be oxe, asse, shepe, rayment or ony maner lost thyng which another chalegeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the **goddess**. And whom the **goddess** condene: the same shall paye double vnto his neyhboure.

COV Ex 22:8-9 But yf the thefe be not founde, then shal the good man of the house be brought before the **Goddess** (and shal swere) that he hath not put his hande vnto his neighbours good.

⁹ Yf one accuse another in eny maner of trespace, whether it be for oxe, or Asse, or shepe, or rayment, what

so euer it be that is lost: then shall both their causes come before the **Goddess**: Loke whom the **Goddess** condemne, the same shal restore dubble vnto his neyghboure.

LUT Ex 22:8-9 Findet man aber den Dieb nicht, so soll man den Hauswirt vor die **Götter** bringen, ob er nicht seine Hand habe an seines Nächsten Habe gelegt. ⁹ Wo einer den andern schuldiget um einigerlei Unrecht, es sei um Ochsen oder Esel oder Schaf oder Kleider oder allerlei, das verloren ist, so sollen beider Sachen vor die **Götter** kommen. Welchen die **Götter** verdammen, der soll's zwiefältig seinem Nächsten wiedergeben.

TAV 22:8-9 if the thefe be not founde/ then the goodma of the houfe fhall be brought unto the **goddess** and fwere, whether he have put his hande unto his neyghboures good. ⁹ And in all manre of trefpace, whether it be oxe, affe, fhepe, raymente, or any maner lofte thyng which an other chalengeth to be his, the caufe of both partys thqt come before the **Goddess**. An whom the **Goddess** condemne, the fame fhall paye double unto his neyghbour.

GNV Ex 22:8-9 If the thiefe be not founde, then the master of the house shalbe brought vnto the **Judges** to sweare, whether he hath put his hande vnto his neighbours good, or no. ⁹ In all maner of trespasse, whether it bee for oxen, for asse, for sheepe, for raiment, or for any maner of lost thing, which an other chalengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the **judges**, and whom the **Judges** condemne, he shall pay the double vnto his neyghbour.

BB Ex 22:8-9 And if the theefe be not founde, then the good man of ye house shalbe brought vnto the **Judges**, that it may be knowen whether he haue put his hande vnto his neyghbours good. ⁹ And in al maner of trespasse, whether it be for oxe, asse, or sheepe, rayment, or any maner of lost thing, which another chalengeth to be his: the cause of both parties shall come before the **Judges**, and whom the **Judges** condemne, let him pay double vnto his neyghbour

DRB Ex 22:8-9 If the theefe be not knowen, the Mafter of the houfe shal be brough to (b) the **Gods**, and shal fwere that he did not extend his hand vpon his neighbours good. ⁹ to doe any fraud, as wel in oxe as in affe, and sheep and raymen, and whatfoeuer may bring damage; the caufe of both parties shal come to the **Gods**: and if they giue iudgement, he shal reftore double to his neighbor.

(note (b) says, "Iudges called Gods for their eminent authoritie. Ex 7:1)

KJV Ex 22:8-9 If the thiefe be not found, then the mafter of the houfe fhall be brought unto the **Judges**, to fee whether he haue put his hande unto his neighbours goods. ⁹ For all maner of trefpaffe, whether it be for oxe, for affe, for fheepe, for raiment, or for any maner of loft thing, which another chalengeth to be his: the caufe of both parties fhall come before the **Judges**, and whome the **Judges** fhall condemne, he fhall pay doubl unto his neyghbour.

Early English Versions (from Wikipedia)

Wycliffe's Bible (1388)	WYC	Middle English	1388	Latin Vulgate	
Tyndale Bible	TYN	Early Modern English	1526, revised 1534 (New Testament) 1530 (Pentateuch)	Masoretic Text, Erasmus' third NT edition (1522), Martin Luther's 1522 German Bible.	Incomplete translation. Tyndale's other Old Testament work went into the Matthew's Bible (1537). OT most likely from Hebrew or possibly consulted LXX. When translating the New Testament, he referred to the third edition (1522) of Erasmus's Greek New Testament, often referred to as the Received Text . Tyndale also used Erasmus' Latin New Testament, as well as Luther's German version and the Vulgate .
Coverdale Bible	COV	Early Modern English	1535	Masoretic Text, the Greek New Testament of Erasmus , Vulgate, and German and Swiss-German Bibles (Luther Bible , Zürich Bible and Leo Jud's Bible)	First complete Bible printed in English (Early Modern English) Pentateuch was Tyndale's translation. Coverdale translated Psalms from German and Latin sources.
Matthew's Bible	MB	Early Modern English	1537	Masoretic Text, the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, the Vulgate, the Luther Bible, and a 1535 bible from France.	Pentateuch was Tyndale Psalms was done by Coverdale which is why it matches Coverdale Bible in Psalm 82
Great Bible	GB	Early Modern English	1539	Masoretic Text, Greek New Testament of Erasmus, the Vulgate, and the Luther Bible .	
Taverner's Bible	TAV	Early Modern English	1539		Minor revision of Matthew's Bible
Geneva Bible	GEN	Early Modern English	1557 (New Testament) 1560 (complete Bible)	Masoretic Text , Textus Receptus	First English Bible with whole of Old Testament translated direct from Hebrew texts
Bishops' Bible	BB	Early Modern English	1568	Masoretic Text , Textus Receptus	
Douay–Rheims Bible	DRB	Early Modern English	1582 (New Testament) 1609–1610 (Old Testament)	Latin, Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.	This work is now Public Domain.
King James Bible	KJB	Early Modern English	1611	Masoretic Text , Textus Receptus , Tyndale 1526 NT, some Erasmus manuscripts, and Bezae 1598 TR.	This Bible version is now Public Domain worldwide due to copyright expiration except in the United Kingdom due to crown letters patent until 2039.