

**Bible Translation Comparison – 2 Kings 3:16** גַּבִּים גַּבִּים זֶהָה נַחֲלָה עֲשֵׂה יְהוָה אָמַר כֹּה יֹאמְרוּ (words transposed when copied to read left to right)

| Translation |                                   | Date | Category   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| NKJV        | New King James Version            | 1982 | Traditional – Revised King James Version – “Received Text” (“Textus Receptus”) |
| ESV         | English Standard Version          | 2007 | Traditional – Current scholarship  |
| HCSB        | Holman Christian Standard Version | 2009 | Traditional – Current scholarship  |
| NIV – 1984  | New International Version         | 1984 | Contemporary – 1984  |
| NIV – 2011  | New International Version         | 2011 | Contemporary – 2011  |
| NLT         | New Living Translation            | 2007 | Readable - closer to spoken English  |

**2 Kings 3:15-17**

| v. | NKJV   | ESV   | HCSB  | NIV - 1984   | NIV - 2011   | NLT  |
|----|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 15 | Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.   | And when the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon him.   | While the musician played, the LORD’s hand came on Elisha.  | While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha   | While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha   | While the harp was being played, the power of the LORD came upon Elisha,   |
| 16 | And he said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’”   | And he said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will make this dry streambed full of pools.’”  | Then he said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Dig ditch after ditch in this wadi.’”   | and he said, “This is what the LORD says: Make this valley full of ditches.”   | and he said, “This is what the LORD says: I will fill this valley with pools of water.”  | and he said, “This is what the LORD says: This dry valley will be filled with pools of water!”   |
| 17 | For thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.’” | For thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not see wind or rain, but that streambed shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your livestock, and your animals.’” | For the LORD says, ‘You will not see wind or rain, but the wadi will be filled with water, and you will drink—you and your cattle and your animals.’” | For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. | For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. | You will see neither wind nor rain, says the LORD, but this valley will be filled with water. You will have plenty for yourselves and your cattle and other animals. |

The New English Translation (NET) includes the following translation note on v.16. *Heb* “making this valley cisterns, cisterns.” The Hebrew noun צֶבַי (gev) means “cistern” in Jer 14:3 (cf. Jer. 39:10). The repetition of the noun is for emphasis. See GKC 396 §123.e. The verb (“making”) is an infinitive absolute, which has to be interpreted in light of the context. The NET translation (*This is what the Lord says, ‘Make many cisterns in this valley*) takes it in an imperatival sense. The command need not be understood as literal, but as hyperbolic. Telling them to build cisterns is a dramatic way of leading into the announcement that he would miraculously provide water in the desert. Some prefer to translate the infinitive as an imperfect with the Lord as the understood subject, “I will turn this valley [into] many pools.”