

DETAILS



First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs *An Indigenous Bible Translation*

August 5, 2025 | \$18.99, 192 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0727-3

Discover the rich tapestry of human emotion and divine wisdom with the *First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs*. The latest volume from the critically acclaimed *First Nations Version* translation brings the ancient Sacred Songs and Wise Sayings of the Hebrew Scriptures to life through the vibrant, poetic imagery of Native American oral storytelling.

Translating Psalms and Proverbs

Welcome to the First Nations Version (FNV) translation of Psalms and Proverbs. This translation is part of the ongoing First Nations Version Project, born out of a desire to provide an English Bible that connects, in a culturally relevant way, to the traditional heart languages of an estimated eight million English-speaking First Nations people of North America.

The FNV New Testament, published by InterVarsity Press in August 2021, has been widely welcomed by many of the Indigenous Peoples of North America and by a number of those in the majority culture. The positive feedback and warm welcome the FNV New Testament has received have been beyond our expectations. We have had reports of the FNV New Testament being used in other countries, including Mexico, Brazil, England, Ireland, Iran, Africa, and India. The FNV has also been welcomed into the academic world and used in several universities and seminaries, including some PhD programs. It can be found in the syllabus of several university classes in their course studies, as well as Bible studies on college campuses and in jails and prisons. Chaplains for US veterans have told us they are using the FNV in their ministry to Native veterans.

In response, the First Nations Version Translation Council for Psalms and Proverbs humbly presents this translation as our gift to all English-speaking First Nations people and to the worldwide sacred family, the body of the Chosen One.

The FNV Psalms and Proverbs was built on what was learned from all who participated in the FNV New Testament. The tribal heritages that participated in the FNV New Testament project included Apache, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Cayuga, Cherokee, Choctaw, Desert Cahuilla, Diné (Navajo), Hopi, Kalispel, Kiowa, Klickitat, Lakota, Métis, Miami, Mohawk, Muscogee (Creek), Nez Perce, Northern Cree, Odawa, Ojibwe, Pawnee, Plains Cree, Potawatomi, Spokane, Tlingit, Tohono O'odham, Western Cree, Wasco, Yakama, Yankton Sioux, and Yaqui.

For Psalms and Proverbs, a new translation council was formed, including members from the first council and some new faces. Our council served as Indigenous consultants and reviewers, providing feedback on wording and cultural relevancy.

The following served on the council for the entire Psalms and Proverbs project:

- Alvin Deer—Kiowa/Creek
- Bryan Jon—Anishinaabe/Ojibwe
- Amy Nichole Allan—Choctaw/Cherokee/Tuscarora
- Courtland Hopkins—Lakota/Diné
- Renee Kylestewa Begay—Zuni
- Christian Orlando Locklear—Lumbee
- Kimberlee Medicine Horn Jackson—Yankton Sioux
- Tim Webster—Oneida
- Zelma Wind—Muscogee/Cherokee
- Terry M. Wildman—Ojibwe/Yaqui

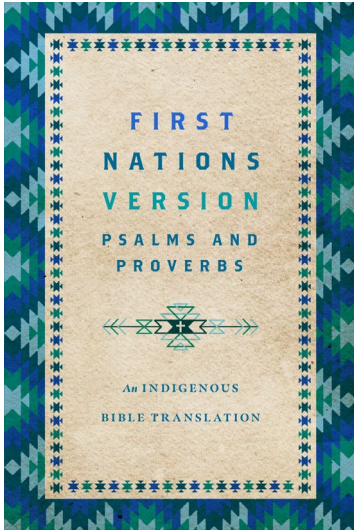


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The following also served in a temporary role on the council:

- Dale and Charlotte Tsosie—Diné
- Shárdíin Church—Diné/Pokagon Band Potawatomi

The FNV is a retelling of Creator's story from the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, attempting to follow the tradition of the storytellers of our oral cultures. Many of our Native tribes still resonate with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in their original tongues. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of Native people.

The FNV considers contextual word choices, idiomatic expressions, and some modifications in paragraph and sentence structure that clarify and facilitate understanding of the Scriptures. Our priority has been maintaining the translation's accuracy and faithfulness to the biblical writers' intended meaning within a First Nations context. It is not a word-for-word translation but rather a thought-for-thought translation, sometimes referred to as dynamic equivalence.

In the FNV of Psalms and Proverbs, an additional consideration is the repetition of words within a chapter or small section, where the attempt has been made to render the same Hebrew word with the same English word or phrase so that careful readers can gain insight by the repetition of specific terms. This is an important element in Hebrew poetry.

It is conservatively estimated that over 90 percent of First Nations people do not speak their tribal language with any fluency, and even fewer can read it. This results from several generations of governmental assimilation policies that attempted to eradicate the over 250 distinct languages spoken in North America.

This translation is not intended to be tribally specific but to present the Scriptures intertribally, attempting to represent some of the simple yet beautiful ways our languages can be expressed in English.

We aimed for a style that is easy to read, with an attempt to present in writing the cadence and feel of an oral storyteller. We adhered to a contextual approach, using English word choices and idiomatic phrases that are culturally relevant, with a sincere effort to refrain from a stereotypical or culturally degrading simplicity.

For more information, visit www.firstnationsversion.com.

—Adapted from the introduction

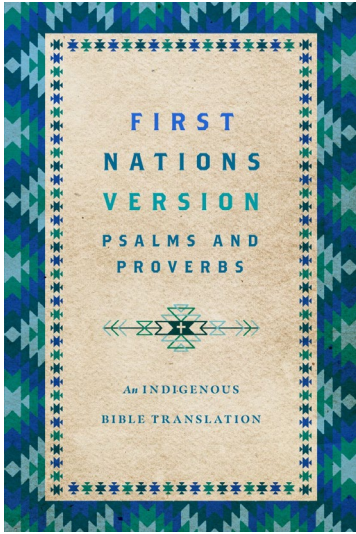


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Sacred Songs Psalm 73

A sacred song of Gathers the People (Asaph).

¹Truly the Great Spirit is good to the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel), to those whose hearts are pure.

²For my part, I have to tell you, my feet nearly slipped and stumbled away from Creator's path.

³For I was jealous of the arrogant ones when I saw that even evildoers lived in comfort and well-being.

⁴They have fat bellies, and their lives are free from pain and suffering until they cross over to death.

⁵They do not face hard times or suffer like the rest of humankind.

⁶They wear arrogance like a braided neckpiece and violence like a chief's blanket.

⁷Their eyes are bigger than their bellies. Their minds are full of wild ideas.

⁸They laugh with scorn and boast about their cruel ways as they look down with contempt on others.

⁹With their mouths, they speak as if they rule from the world above, and with their tongues, they roam about as if the land were theirs.

¹⁰This is why, in their thirst, Creator's people turn to them and completely swallow their lies.

¹¹These arrogant ones say, "Does Creator know everything? Is the One Above Us All even aware of all that happens?"

¹²Take a good long look at these evildoers. They live soft lives with no worries as their possessions pile higher and higher.

¹³*Full of doubt, I asked myself, "Have I kept my hands clean for no good reason and my heart pure for nothing?"*

¹⁴"Why am I punished every morning and made to suffer all day long?"

¹⁵If I had made these thoughts known, I would have betrayed this generation and led them down the wrong path.

¹⁶As I thought deeply about these things, I could not make sense of them, and my mind was filled with troubled thoughts.

¹⁷But when I went into Creator's sacred place to seek him, my mind cleared, and I could see where their path would end.

¹⁸*Now my doubts are gone, for you will make sure they stumble over their lies with no way to stand again.*

¹⁹Suddenly, they will be swept away in terror as they stare death in the face.

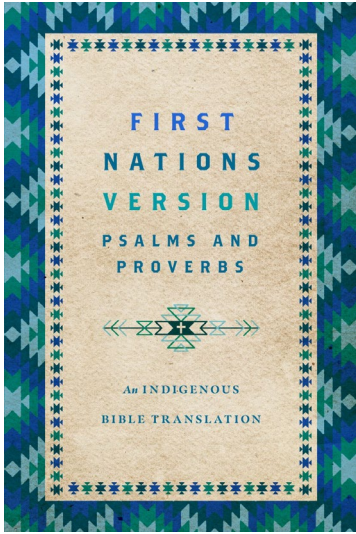


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²⁰O Great Spirit Chief, their lives are like the dim memory of a dream after awakening. When you arise, they will fade away like the morning mist.

²¹I now see that my heart was bitter. I had been pierced through to my innermost being.

²²I was the one who was unaware, an empty-headed fool, inhuman, like a brute beast toward you.

²³Even so, I remain close to you. You have taken hold of my right hand.

²⁴You guide me with your wise counsel, and you will welcome me with honor at the end of the trail.

²⁵O Maker of Life, who do I have in the world above but you? On the earth below, I desire no one but you.

²⁶My mind and body may grow weak and fail me, but Creator will always be the land on which my heart rests. He is the highly honored one of my sacred family.

²⁷The ones who wander far from your good road will come to ruin. You will put an end to all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸For my part, I know that good comes from drawing near to the Great Spirit. Grandfather, my Creator, I have taken shelter under your care to tell the story of your good deeds.

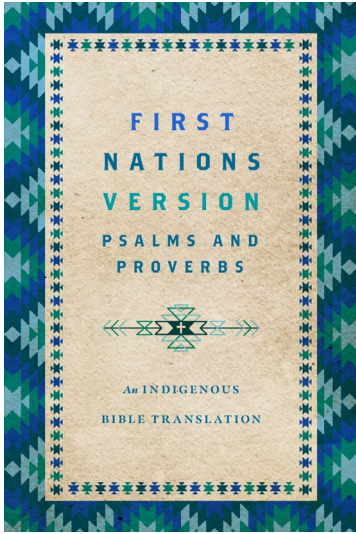


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Wise Sayings Proverbs 3

THE PATH TO A GOOD REPUTATION

- ¹My child, remember the lessons I have taught you. Hold my instructions close to your heart.
- ²For they will add many sunrises and winters with harmony and well-being to your journey on the road of life.
- ³Brother Kindness and Sister Faithfulness will never fail you. Bind their wisdom around your neck like a beaded choker and hide their counsel in the medicine pouch of your heart.
- ⁴Then you will gain a good reputation and find respect in the eyes of the people and the Great Spirit.
- ⁵From the strength of your heart, put all your trust in Grandfather, and do not hold yourself up with weak human thinking.
- ⁶As you walk the road of life, make every step a prayer. Grandfather will then make your eyes straight and your paths safe.
- ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes. Treat Grandfather with great respect and turn your back on evil ways.
- ⁸Doing these things will be good medicine for your body and healing water for your bones.

- ⁹Honor Grandfather with your possessions and with the first pick of your harvest.
- ¹⁰Then your storehouses will be filled to the full, and your skins will bulge with freshly harvested herbal medicines.
- ¹¹My child, do not turn away from Grandfather's wise counsel or resent him when he shows where you have gone wrong.
- ¹²For he brings correction to the ones he loves, and like a good father, he firmly guides every child that makes his heart sing.

THE VALUE OF GRANDMOTHER WISDOM

- ¹³Harmony and balance rest on those who seek for and find Grandmother Wisdom and on the ones who grow strong in their understanding of her ways.
- ¹⁴For her value is worth more than the feather of a red-tailed hawk, and what you can learn from her is better than a golden eagle feather.
- ¹⁵Grandmother Wisdom is more precious than costly gemstones. There is nothing you could desire that compares to her.
- ¹⁶In her right hand, she offers a long life. In her left hand, she holds abundance and honor.

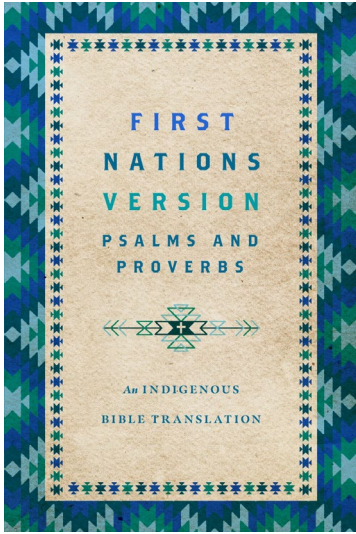


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¹⁷Every step of her way is a path of beauty. All her roads lead to harmony and well-being.

¹⁸She is a life-giving tree for those who take hold of her hand to walk with her. They will be smiled on for the harmony they bring.

¹⁹Through Grandmother Wisdom, Grandfather set Mother Earth firmly in place. With great skill and understanding, he set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky above us.

²⁰By his knowledge, Creator divided the ancient deep waters and then set clouds in the sky to cover the land with dew.

WISE DECISIONS ON THE ROAD OF LIFE

²¹My child, make wise decisions and well-thought-out plans. Keep looking straight ahead, and do not lose track of them.

²²For these things will give life to your whole being. You will wear them as a beautifully beaded yoke around your neck.

²³Then you will walk the road of life without fear, and your foot will not stumble and make you fall.

²⁴You will lie down at night with no fear, and your sleep will be deep and peaceful.

²⁵Do not live in fear of sudden disaster or the storm that will come on evildoers.

²⁶For Grandfather will be your courage. He will not let your foot stumble onto an enemy's trap.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

²⁷When it is in your power, do not hold back good from those in need, for this is what Creator has instructed you to do.

²⁸Do not say to your fellow human beings, "Go, come back tomorrow, and I will help you," when you already have what they need today.

²⁹Do not set your heart to harm a fellow human being who has pitched his tent in trust nearby.

³⁰Do not pick a fight for no good reason with someone who has done you no harm.

³¹Do not look up to people of violence and do not pick up any of their ways,

³²For their crooked ways are a foul smell to Grandfather. But he includes the upright in heart among his trusted council members.

³³Grandfather will punish the family of those who walk in evil ways. But his blessing rests on the homes of those who walk with good hearts.

³⁴He returns only scorn to the scornful at the top of the heap, but he gives honor to the poor at the bottom.

³⁵Wisdomkeepers will receive lasting honor. But scornful fools will be lifted up in shame and dishonor for all to see.



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