

As the NEB translates the passage, it describes a very different supernatural event. There is to be a court scene at which Job will see, standing beside him, a "vindicator," who will rise to speak in court. As Job looks at this "defending counsel" he will see that it is God Himself who is standing beside him, to witness on his behalf.

Thus the NEB, like the KJV, represents Job as declaring his belief in a supernatural event, but here it is a supernatural event that has no parallel anywhere in either Testament. It is quite a jump of imagination to assume that such an idea was in the mind of Job.

In order to secure a basis for this picture, the NEB has had to abandon the normal meaning of many of the Hebrew words in the passage. In a number of cases it has twisted the letters of a Hebrew word around, or has substituted other letters. The translation is so completely unlike the original Hebrew that it can hardly be called a translation at all. Let us observe a few instances:

1. The phrase "in my heart" is inserted without any warrant in the Hebrew Bible.

2. Where the KJV says "redeemer," the NEB substitutes "vindicator." The Hebrew word is a participle that occurs rather frequently in the Old Testament. It describes a kinsman-redeemer who buys back the land that has been lost through poor management or misfortune, or who avenges the death of a relative. The NEB usually translates it and the verb from which it is derived by some form of the verbs "redeem" or "ransom." Occasionally it translates it as "next-of-kin." Three times it uses a form of "deliver." Aside from this verse, the NEB never translates it by the word "vindicator" or by any similar word. Thus there would seem to be no escape from the conclusion that so far as this word is concerned the NEB translators have chosen to insert into this passage an idea of their own, and to discard completely the meaning of the original Hebrew.