

3. While the phrase translated in the KJV 'he will stand at the last' could equally well be rendered 'he will rise last,' as in the NEB, this is not true of its following words, 'to speak in court,' which have no foundation in the original Hebrew.

At this point the KJV is not as literal as in the rest of its translation. The Hebrew literally is 'he will stand (or arise) upon dust.' It is rather natural to assume that this phrase, 'upon dust,' is a reference to the dust and ashes upon which Job is sitting, and that therefore the KJV translation, 'he will stand upon the earth,' expresses the idea that is intended. To get 'speak in court' out of the phrase 'upon dust' requires a great effort of imagination. There is no word in the Hebrew at this point that ever is translated elsewhere as 'to speak,' or that has anything to do with a court. The whole idea of a court room scene is based entirely upon the imagination of the NEB translators.

4. The words in the KJV, 'after my skin,' are translated in the NEB, 'I shall discern my witness.' There is no Hebrew basis for changing 'after' into 'I shall discern.' By changing one vowel and one consonant of the word 'my skin' we can obtain a Hebrew word that means 'my witness.' Such a change can hardly be called a translation. It is as if one were to change the 'w' in the English word 'now' into a 't' without even a footnote to explain what had been done!

5. Where the KJV literally translates the Hebrew words that mean 'they destroy this,' the NEB writes 'standing at my side.' In order to do this it is necessary to remove the first consonant of the second Hebrew word and place it in the middle of the first word, and then to change the vowels all around. It is somewhat as if the words 'the book' were to be changed into 'he baked.' Even after this is done, the NEB translation is still unwarranted. The verb produced by this juggling is one that occurs only twice in the Old Testament, in Psalm 145:14 and in Psalm 146:8. In both instances it is translated 'raiseth' in the KJV and 'straightens' in the NEB, and has as its object those who are bowed down. The text emendation referred to