

the beginning and end of the passage, which can make it seem merely to say that Daniel saw the beginning of a judicial meeting where attendants brought in thrones and put them in place and then the Lord entered and took His seat in order to preside at a court session.

Thus there are some who think that the rendering of lines 2 and 11 in recent versions radically changes the effect of the passage as a whole from that produced by the KJV translation.

In the second line the KJV reads "and the Ancient of days did sit." This rendering left it open whether the verse described God as taking a seat in order to begin a meeting or whether he was viewed as already sitting in majestic glory. An argument for a wording similar to that of the KJV could be based on the fact that a great many of the occurrences of the Aramaic verb *y^etib* and of its Hebrew cognate *yashab* do not refer to the beginning of sitting but to its continuance, and that the NIV often renders these verbs as "dwell," "remain," or "continue." Thus the NIV rendering "took his seat" might be said to introduce an idea that is not required by the context, while "sat" might equally well be interpreted as meaning that when Daniel turned his eyes to the heavenly scene he saw God sitting in indescribable glory and was assured that God remains on His throne and that His purposes are certain of accomplishment, even if earthly conditions should appear to be hopeless.

The difference in the impression made by the recent translations of the eleventh line of the passage may seem even more important. The KJV renders this line as "the judgment was set." Most of the recent translations say: "the court was seated." Here the question might be raised whether such a phrase as "the court sat" or "the court will sit" is really an anachronism, for there is no evidence of its use when the book of Daniel was written. In modern times they indicate the beginning or continuance of a meeting of a jury or other tribunal for carrying on judicial business. Except for these recent translations of Daniel 7:10 and 26, there is no Old Testament evidence for such an idea.

The English word "court" has had an interesting development