

interpretation that are brought out in this book. There are many points where either of two renderings would be equally accurate as far as an individual sentence is concerned. In such cases they sometimes use a rendering that does not clearly bring out the thought of the verse in relation to its context. Though some of these versions are doubtless superior, from a literary viewpoint, to the author's translation, he believes that in this section his own renderings give a more accurate presentation of the meaning of the verses in relation to their context.

A person who knows only one language is not likely to be aware of the complexity of problems involved in translation. Some of these, which relate to the meaning of verb forms and constructions, are briefly discussed in Appendix Note 2. Something should be said here about problems relating to the translation of individual words.

It is rare in any language for a word to represent a point; usually a word represents an area of meaning. In various languages these areas of meaning differ from each other, and even within one language they change over a period of time. Thus in the English of 300 years ago the word *meat* meant any kind of food. The statement in Ezekiel 47:12 that the fruit of the tree was for meat may impress a modern reader as ludicrous, since we now restrict the use of the word *meat* to what at that time would have been called "flesh." There are many places in the Bible where the word *meat*, as used by the King James Version, is entirely accurate. There are other cases where it is quite inaccurate, as far as modern English is concerned. Since the area covered by words differs from language to language, the area of meaning of an English word will often overlap but not exactly coincide with the area of meaning of a Hebrew word. As a result there will be certain contexts in which one translation would be correct but other contexts in which it would be incorrect; conversely, the English word may include ideas that are not in the Hebrew word.

A century ago it was common among students of language