

every part of it without consulting the dictionaries of the Elizabethan language, and that sort of thing. And most people have a little difficulty themselves. We Christians are so used to it, it sounds perfectly natural, but we don't talk that way any of us today. Consequently we can be sure that we don't exactly _____ in a great many places.

In that situation it is absolutely necessary that the people of today have the Bible in their own language, that they can understand today. Naturally, as in the days of King James there were a dozen different versions competing for attention. There will be versions competing for attention today. Though I don't believe many intelligent Christians are going to stay long in a situation where one particular English version seems to be so exactly right that you cannot differ from it. I think that's a problem that won't stay with us very long.

People will recognize that getting an exact translation is impossible, and yet we have a good approximation in a number of recent versions. The NIV has just come out. It is, as far as I can see the best translation that has yet been made. It ought to be with the tremendous number of hours, thousands of hours, that have been spent by literally hundreds of translators in working on it. It ought to be the best that has yet come out. But it is a very good version that has just come out, in fact this is to be presented tomorrow to people in Philadelphia. There will be two or three pastors there, a press release and I have been asked to go and participate in the presentation of it.

I wish that the time would come again when we would have one English version that most of us would use. I don't if that will come for a number of years. But ordinarily, I don't think in preaching you want to enter into problems of translation. But I do believe there will have to be times when if you give the Word of God sincerely, you will have to say, This English word, this Hebrew word, this Greek word cannot be translated exactly into English. Here is a good approximation. Here is a good attempt at it.

You have to do that. But in a matter where there is such a difference of meaning as to whether this is a judgment scene or whether it is a presentation of God's omnipotent power as he carries out the judgments he has already made, in a situation like that I would say that ordinarily it would be wise to take the great truths of the passage that are vital and of which there is no doubt and stress them, and only lightly touch on the possibility of a difference of opinion there. I would think that in the ordinary group that would be the wise thing to do. But there will be, if you have an intelligent audience, when it is wise to enter into a problem like that and show the reasons on each side and how it fits in with other passages.

That is so important I thought it was worth taking a bit of time on that particular question.

In our discussion we spoke about how in ch. 7 (of Daniel) we have the new kingdom which _____ we looked at. We noticed the different factors there.