

direction the result is far short of being a satisfactory translation.

In the King James Version the first two verses of Isaiah 55 read: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

In the light of the context a rather exact presentation in English of the meaning of these verses might read: "God invites all who have great spiritual need freely to receive indescribably valuable blessings, even if they have no resources of their own." In the light of context this is a very precise representation of the meaning; yet the impact of the King James Version is far greater.

A special difficulty in making a translation comes from recognition of the fact that languages constantly change. Thus the words in the King James Version "you hath he quickened" (Eph.2:1) are familiar to every regular attendant at Protestant church services. Yet he might fail to realize that the word "quicken" formerly possessed a meaning that it has completely lost, as far as present American speech is concerned. Its equivalent in today's language is "made alive." Thus it would seem that the statement could be represented in modern English by the words, "you hath he made alive." To a regular church attendant this would throw a flood of light on the meaning of the passage, but a man without any knowledge of the English of three hundred years ago would not understand the