

predictions we shall examine both ancient Greek versions to see how their translators understood important words and phrases.

An interesting example is found in Daniel 8:9 where the KJV renders a certain Hebrew phrase as "a little horn," but both ancient Greek versions translate it as "a strong horn." This appears to be a contradiction, but when the Hebrew is examined we find that it literally reads "a horn from littleness" or "a horn more than littleness." The Hebrew preposition *min* generally conveys the idea of spatial separation, but may also express other kinds of difference, and frequently carries the sense of our English phrase "more than." Thus this Hebrew phrase could mean a horn that had begun from littleness but had subsequently become large (as rendered in the New International Version), or it could mean a horn that had always been characterized by the words "more than littleness." The phrase "a little horn" obviously fails to express the meaning of the original. The Greek rendering, "a strong horn," may not be correct, but it is at least worthy of careful consideration. It should not be confused with the expression "another little horn" in the KJV of Daniel 7:8, which is more literally rendered in the NIV as "another horn, a little one."

3. Attention to Problems of Transmission

In studying any ancient writing the question of transmission deserves attention. Since printing was unknown in the western world until the middle of the 15th century, all previous copies of books were made by hand. Every time a manuscript was thus copied mistakes could creep in. In some parts of the Bible problems of transmission are very important.

For many centuries only Hebrew consonants were written. Indications of long vowels were sometimes inserted. There is much agreement among Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament as to consonants, but there is great diversity regarding these "vowel letters," which were some times inserted and sometimes omitted, often depending