

A literal translation of the passage reads as follows:

- 1 To the overseer - a psalm of David
- 2 The heavens are recounting the glory of God,
And the sky is declaring the work of His hands;
- 3 Day to day is pouring forth speech,
And night to night is declaring knowledge.
- 4 There is no speech and there are no words;
Their voice is not being heard.
- 5 In all the earth their chord (or measuring line) has gone out,
And in the extremity of the world their words.

In this translation from the Hebrew, there is a difference from that of the A.V. Verse 3 of the A.V. reads: "There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." This translation asserts that their voice is being heard in every speech and language. But verse 4 of the literal translation from the Hebrew reads: "There is no speech and there are no words; Their voice is not being heard." This translation asserts that their voice is not being heard, and that the recounting and declaring of the heavens and the sky is being accomplished without speech and without words. Which translation is correct? And, does it matter?

It is extremely interesting to look at other versions and to see how they translate this verse. When we do this, we discover that some versions say that the "voice" of the heavens is being heard, and some say that it is not being heard.

Examples of the positive assertion (it is being heard) include the following:

- (1) The Septuagint (LXX) reads as follows:

4 οὐκ εἰσὶ λαλιαὶ οὐδὲ λόγοι,
ἧν οὐχὶ ἀκούονται αἱ φωναὶ αὐτῶν·

This may be translated: "There are no speeches or words,
in which their voices are not heard."

- (2) Martin Luther's translation reads as follows:

"Es ist keine Sprache noch Rede, da man nicht ihre
Stimme höre."

This may be translated: "There is no language or speech
in which one does not hear their voice."

- (3) The Douay Version (O. T., 1609) reads as follows:

"There are no speeches nor languages,
where their voices are not heard."