

- (7) The Living Bible reads as follows: (again, it is worth reproducing in its entirety)

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of his craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God. Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world."

- (8) The New English Bible reads as follows:

"One day speaks to another,  
night after night shares its knowledge,  
and this without speech or language  
or sound of any voice."

- (9) The Jerusalem Bible reads as follows:

"No utterance at all, no speech, no sound that anyone can hear;"

- (10) The New World Translation (just for interest's sake) reads as follows:

"There is no speech, and there are no words;  
No voice on their part is being heard."

- (11) The Readers Digest Bible reads as follows:

"There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;"

- (12) The New American Standard Bible (NASB) reads as follows:

"There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard."

Why is there this contrast of opposites in these translations? In one group of versions the "voice" of the heavens is being heard; in the other group it is not being heard. On what does the difference turn?

Analyzing the passage in the translation from the Hebrew, we find that in verse 2 (Hebrew enumeration) the heavens are recounting and the sky is declaring God's glory in His handiwork. In verse 3 speech is being poured forth and knowledge is being declared. And in verse 5 their chord has gone out and their words have gone to the extremity of the world. But in verse 4 their voice is not being heard! Verse 4 seems to conflict with verses 2, 3, and 5.

Again, in verse 3 speech is being poured forth, and knowledge is being declared. And in verse 5 their words have gone out to the extremity of the world. But in verse 4 there is no speech and there are no words. Verse 4 seems to strongly conflict with, even contradict, verses 3 and 5.