

Translation: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come to me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old.

Observation: Think through the translation of the word "origins."
You will not find a footnote on it in the NIV saying "goings forth."
If you are pressed on it, with what sort of theology does "origins" go with?
It is a good example where your ability to use Hebrew, small though it may seem, is of vital importance in fully explaining the text.

3. The RSV gives this translation to Psalm 2:11-12

Text: עֲבַדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה בִּירְאָה׃¹¹ וְיִלְדוּ בְרֵעָה׃¹² וְשָׁקוּ־בָרִי
פֶּן־יִצְאָנְךָ וְחָאֲבָדוּ דָרְךָ׃ כִּי־יִבְעַר כַּמְעַט אַפּוֹ
אֲשֶׁר־יִקְלַח־חַוְסֵי׃ בּוֹ׃

Translation: Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling kiss his feet,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his
wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take
refuge in him.

Observation: You will see that the translators have done a couple
of interesting things. They have omitted the verse break
at verse 12 and taken the verb (kiss) to modify a noun
in the previous verse. They have done this by taking the
resh from "bar" and placing it before the gimel on gylu.
They have returned the beth from "bar" and made it an action
proposition on the word regel (feet) (foot), etc.
Can you determine what they have accomplished in this
action and can you see any particular reason for the
text rearrangement?

It again points out that a little Hebrew is a big help
when one is at the mercy of the scholars and academicians.

4. Isaac Leeser, eminent Hebraist of the last century and a very committed
Judaean, offered this translation of Isaiah 7:14 in his translation of the
Old Testament.

Text:

לֵךְ לְכֵן יִסֵּן אֲדָנִי הוּא לְכֵם
אֵת הַנְּהַי הַעֲלָמָה הַזֶּה וְיִלְדֶת בֵּן וְקָרָאתִי שְׁמוֹ עִמָּנוּ אֵל׃