

kingdom at this time might very well have included only the Penteteuch and possibly parts of the book of Samuel, for example. These people desiring to know the manner of the God of the land would certainly find far more in the Penteteuch than in the later books which were available but were a comparatively small part of the Bible as a whole. It would seem to me that if they got their Scriptures at a later time it was very strange that they did not get more of it. But if they got it at this time it would be quite easy to see why ~~most of it~~ ~~would~~ their emphasis would ~~then~~ turn almost exclusively to the Penteteuch.

(Question--Mr. Christopherson) The difficulty there is that from this period up to a few years ago we had practically nothing. I think that question of Mr. Christopherson is one which sometime during this year we ought to say a little about and it wouldn't be out of place to say it right at this point. The language of the Bible up until a few years ago was known to us only from the Old Testament. We had no other evidence. We had no other way of knowing how the people of Israel talked at different times. We just had what was in the Old Testament. Now as you go through the Old Testament you will find a remarkable uniformity through the book. It seems likely that there were changes in spelling in the early days. As you know the writing of the Hebrew developed in ~~xx~~ stages. Originally they simply wrote consonants and if they had a word which had three consonants in it--we don't know how they pronounced in the early days--they simply wrote the consonants. rash, alla, shien. The same thing would be true when they had one which had a "wow" in the middle, the "wow" was pronounced in the early days. In the earliest days they simply wrote letters which were pronounced. For instance, this word might perhaps have been "barash" in the earliest days. We don't know. However, as the language developed, some of those letters came not to be pronounced just as has happened in English. In English we write "come" and in early English it would have been "coma" or some such ~~pronunciation~~ pronunciation. The "e" was pronounced. Then the time came when instead of saying "coma", they said "come", putting an emphasis on the first syllable and dropping the pronunciation