

of the final letter, but we have continued to write a great many letters in English which we do not pronounce. In Hebrew doubtless something similar occurred. They continued to write these letters which they did not pronounce. Instead of saying "roash" they said "rosh" but they still wrote the other. Instead of saying "barash" they would say "bosh" and still ~~the~~ write the "waw" and the result would be that in the course of time it would come to think of the vowel in some cases not as "lu" but as an indication of a long vowel, a long "o" or "oo". Then they began to put in these vowels in other places in their writing where they belonged as "o" or "oo". They put in the "waw" or the "oo" to indicate this long vowel. So of the cases in the Bible in which we have a long vowel represented by a "waw" or a "o" at least one-third of them have some manuscripts that put it in and some that leave it out. It was more or less optional whether you put in those vowels to indicate the long vowel or not. The same applies to the vowel on the end of a word. It is not a part of the original writing.

Then after the time of Christ probably three or four centuries after, we don't know just when, some Jews indicated the custom of the Assyrians who had adopted the ~~the~~ habit of putting dots above and below their letters in Syriac to indicate vowels. The Hebrew did not indicate vowels, only consonants. They had these marks only to show long vowels. But they began putting in these dots above and below to indicate particular vowels. This is a late development. When they did this they didn't get rid of all the vowel letters which were no longer necessary now. They simply kept them and as you know you can write "bosh" that way or you can write it this way. Whether you put the vowel letter in or not is immaterial. ~~Both ways~~ It occurs both ways in the Scripture. It may be left out or it may be put in. The ~~letters~~ dots above and below as you read this late edition show us how the vowels were pronounced at perhaps about 500 A. D. Well, our earliest manuscripts are from 900 A. D. There aren't many that old except for the new manuscript of Isaiah which comes from before the time of Christ. It has just recently been discovered. This being the situation our knowledge of ancient