

Hebrew was based upon the Old Testament exclusively until comparatively recently. In the Old Testament there is a great uniformity of language. Doubtless during the long period of years small changes in spelling came in which would unify different signs of the developing language. There is not a great deal of evidence in the Scripture to show the difference in speaking between the days of Abraham and the days of Ezra although they must have spoken a very different way. They say if George Washington were to come here today and give us a lecture we wouldn't understand a single word he said. The pronunciation of English has so completely changed since his time and yet we take his fairwell address and we read it and we pronounce it the way we pronounce it and he wouldn't understand a word we are saying if he heard us talking and yet we know what he ~~meant~~ meant. The language has just been changed. Now, of course, we have various ways to make pretty good guesses as to how English was pronounced at different times. On the ancient Hebrew we have nothing else to throw light upon it until these very recent times. Before these recent discoveries which are not great in extent but are sufficient to throw quite a bit of light here and there before they were obtained the ~~higher criticism~~ criticism came along and the higher criticism said that the book of Genesis is made up of doctrines all of which were written in the time of the later Israelite kingdom. The book of Deuteronomy was written about the time of Jeremiah. A member of the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania about ten years ago published a study with a particular dialect in use in Jerusalem in the time of Jeremiah and he based it on a study of certain portions of the book of Jeremiah and on the book of Deuteronomy. Now from our viewpoint that is positively ridiculous. We believe the book of Deuteronomy comes hundreds of years before. But what studies that have been made have rested to quite an extent on these higher critical theories, and consequently those are used and ~~the new evidences~~ and the new evidences used and you see how the two confuse one another, Now if we had just the new evidence without the other we might be in a position to tell a good deal about the Hebrew language but not a