

The system of the Davidson Grammar which took a great many little details and you learn all these details - that's the system they used at Princeton - a great many details and then you begin to read and apply them, and the opposite extreme, the Harford system in which you just start reading and you don't learn the whole alphabet until you've read quite a few verses. And you go at it hodge-podge, hit and miss but it's not quite so dry but very, very unsystematic. Well now it seemed to me that the right approach would be somewhere between the two - and so I worked out an entirely new approach to the method of studying Hebrew twenty-seven years ago when I began teaching. And in my second year of teaching then, one of the students who had done a good deal of graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, came to me after the second month and he said, "I would like to tell you that I have never seen any course in an ancient or modern language in which students have made as much progress in two months as they are making in this class in ^{Hebrew} ~~xxxx~~." Well, we've made much improvement since and I think you will find that Faith is pretty well known among ~~xxxx~~ theological seminaries throughout the country, that our students learn Hebrew better than ^{perhaps} ~~at~~ any other place. And that they like it better than perhaps any other place too, because not only do they learn it well but they learn it in interesting ways. They learn it so they understand what they're doing. Well I felt as I looked at Hebrew then, I came to a conclusion which many would not have agreed with before but which I am sure is true and that is this: That Hebrew is not a difficult language. Greek is a far more difficult language than Hebrew. By that I mean Greek is more complex. There are more points hard to understand, more different features we have to bring together to make progress in Greek, than Hebrew. Hebrew is not a difficult language. But Hebrew is a language which may take more time and be harder to learn than Greek because it is a language that is more different from English. It's not a matter of difficulty but of difference. In Greek you have letters which have many similarities to English letters. And you don't spend many days with Greek before you just look at a word, you read it right off. You're used to English letters, have studied them for years, you look at this and you just read this word right off. But with Hebrew, every letter is a brand new problem. It looks like nothing you ever saw in your life. And it goes not from left to right