

the word means, and the two cases which they give we had better look into before we put any stock in them. I like the BDB dictionary because of the thorough presentation of the factual material on which we can make our own conclusions as to the meaning of the word. And there has been nothing prepared since that is anywhere as good from this viewpoint.

Now Koehler-Baumgartner, I think, is doing more harm in OT study than any other publication in recent years, for this reason, that these two modernists simply give/^{us} what they think the words mean. They give us a definition. They do not give all of the instances. They give a definition very dogmatically, and worse yet, their definition in German has been translated into English, and there has even been an English book published listing in brief the meaning that Koehler-Baumgartner give for the different Hebrew words. And many people today are thinking that they are basing their understanding on the original Hebrew when they are using this English presentation of the view that these two modernists give as if it were authoritative! I think that whoever wrote this letter certainly did not get the idea at all what we are trying to do, when he speaks of BDB being the authoritative last word. I think BDB is an excellent presentation of the evidence that we can study, but I hope that nobody will take any Old or NT dictionary as an authoritative last word. Otherwise there would be no point in studying Greek or Hebrew! Just look in the dictionary! But if you look in a dictionary like BDB that gives you a comparatively full presentation of the material, you have something basic on which to build something worthwhile.

Now this letter goes on to complain among other things that we do no go thoroughly into the views of various people through the ages.