

The names that he pronounced it was very hard for most of us to tell who they were. When he got to my name he was absolutely stumped. He said Herr Mac Mac Alexander Mac. My middle name is Alexander and by the time he got that far I was up there getting it. But it brought home to me that in two languages so closely related as English and German, that it is difficult to get proper names. It is very easy to get them confused.

The OT has many names of ancient kings. Many of these king's names have been found on monuments put up at the time. The amazing thing is that these names as they have been preserved in MSS have become confused so it is often hard to tell what name is being referred to, and that the way the Hebrews gave it and the way it had been preserved as it has been copied and recopied dozens and dozens of times before the time of Christ and dozens of times since that until it comes down to our present time, that these names are very very similar to the names as we find them on the monument. Far more similar than what we find in a few ancient records that have been copied and recopied and preserved to our day. There is a marvelous evidence there of the care that scribes took in the days before the time of Christ and the days after the time of Christ.

I think one of the most remarkable proofs of the care taken of the OT is that the OT contains statement after statement criticizing the Jewish people for their departure from God's precepts, and for their wickedness and unfaithfulness along of course with many other statements telling of His wonderful love to them, telling of the goodness of many of them. But it contains statements such as we do not find ~~in~~ in the actual literature of probably any people on earth. Yet the Jews have copied ~~and~~ these statements exactly as they are through the years. And we have these statements today in the OT that I don't know of any other nation on ~~the~~ earth that would copy and recopy and carefully preserve the exact words of the sort of criticism of their people that the prophets made of the people of their day. But they preserved them as part of God's Word to them. We like to forget the evil things said about us and just remember the good things. But they preserved what God gave them as part of His word to them. We have found the Dead Sea Scrolls in recent years. I have seen a few statements ~~that~~ these discoveries from these Tells in N. Syria in recent years are apt to be more important than the DDS. I think such statements are absurd. I think it is very interesting that they were found. Doubtless their study as they are studied in the next ten years throw interesting light on ancient history. But I'd be surprised if from a Christian ~~view-~~point they are a tenth as important as the DDS, and a tenth as important from the Christian viewpoint.

In the DDS we have copies of OT books that are made hundreds of yrs. before the earliest copies ~~of~~ that were known before they were discovered, and they've agreed remarkably with the MSS that have been preserved. The Bible has been preserved in such a way as no other book in all history. There has not been the care taken in the preservation of other books comparable to it. This is a direct revelation that came from God.