

Now if one of you is interested in studying Hebrew and learning more about it, of course the first thing that you approach is tradition. You pick Gesenius dictionary or grammar and see what he has to say and that is tradition and it is never authoratative but only suggestive. ILL. of little boy that was asked to give four evidences that this earth is round. He answered and said, "Well, first my teacher says so, then my father, then my brother and then the book says so." That is where most of us get our beliefs but that is not an authoratative way to get our beliefs. You have this idea and that one and that doesn't concern me very much. Rather I am tremendously interested in why you believe a certain thing. Of course you get a million noses counted that believe a certain thing but that wouldn't prove anything. The facts are what are vital. So you have to take tradition but the best people have made mistakes and the finest people have repeated things that others have said without bothering to investigate what was written. Don't take anything just because I say it but take the reasons I give and see if those reason are sufficient to maintain the points that I present. Tradition natuarlly is the first thing that gives you a step in Heb. and the first thing that you learn in Heb. are the forms. How do you recognize various forms--that is a very interesting field of study, and variations of types of forms. It is very interesting but it doesn't prove a great deal because with a little knowledge you can tell what form. If you concentrate on a year's study in Heb. you can have an absolute mastery of the forms ~~and~~ and that is necessary but that is not what makes it valuable. Syntax is the second field of important study. You will have to find out what the imperfect stands for and what does it mean. Some will tell you in school that the English present is, he goes, and that is a rough statement of grammar and as a matter of fact it is an utterly false statement and is not now the English form though it was a 100 years ago. It used to be all right to say, "I go a fishing"--that would not be said today if you meant to say that I am now on ly way to go fishing. Some might see you walking towards the Penna. station and someone might sak where ~~are you going~~ <sup>do you go</sup> and you might say I go to Faith Seminary and would just be opposite direction. You would not be using a present at all. That phrase means that I make it a habit of going. When you mention fishing you don't even mean that you are casting a line right now. The present in modern English is that I am fishing. "Where are you going" and ~~you~~ where do you go to school". and you would say that you are not going to school but going to town. "Where are you going to school" is what you would say. The English today is very different from the medieval English. Once you get the differences of syntax, you are far better qualified to interpret the language..Of course the one that has learned it in his home has a great advantage over