

the synogogue was destroyed or the people had moved away. The MSS from which we get most of the information for our Heb. Bible are from private MSS. These vary from rather cheap MSS which were written for use in their homes to ~~the~~ those which are very expensive; some of them the whole O.T. while some are just portions of the O.T. Some have vowels and vary some from those found in our Heb. Bible, but the vowels were a later invention.

b. The Age of Heb. MSS. It is much harder to tell their age than our Greek MSS. When the Greek MSS were written Greek was a living language and consequently people were writing a great deal of Greek and when a language is being written a great the style change and thus it is possible to tell when a certain thing was written and one can frequently tell within a half century when something was written just by the type of writing as to when it was written. But Heb. was a dead language long after and consequently there were very few people writing Heb. There was not a whole nation writing and gradually changing its form as our English, which differs a great deal from that which was written only 50 years ago. Take something that Geo. Washington wrote and you will have considerable difficulty understanding it. In the Heb. they had a few models which they tried to follow so that is why we can't tell much about the age of our Heb. MSS through the style of writing though occasionally that is helpful. Of course a few of the MSS had dates on them and of course that would be of great help. Unfortunately these dates followed different systems. ILL. of man who found an ancient building because it had on it 800 B.C. Neither can we expect the Jews who did not believe in Christ to mark their MSS so many years after the Lord. As a matter of fact even Christians didn't start that until around 500 A.D. That is why there was a mistake in figuring out the birth of Christ; it really is 1954 years since the birth of Christ. This was not adopted by the Jews and even today some of them are not particularly enthusiastic about putting A.D. If you go to Dropsie College you will notice the building was built in A.D. 1932 but they have another date on the other side of the building--the years of the world's history, 3729 or some such number. They figure the date of the creation quite differently from the way any Christians figure it. Christians figure it out to be 4004 B.C. so that it will be 4000 years before the birth of Christ and that is why we figure that is the time of the creation. After all we do not know and one guess is as good as another. The Jews guess around 3700 and that is as good a guess as we have made since the Bible doesn't tell us. They don't want to name their month after the~~ir~~ old Roman god Janus so they name it _____ and this happens to be the name of an old Babylonian god instead of a Roman god. When they wrote