

with absolute accuracy. When it comes to the vowels of the Heb. text we must say that a word without vowels is not a word. I remember seeing a word in German that had 6 consonants to begin the word, but there is not a word in any language that has not at least one vowel in and usually you have to have good many vowels. In Heb. and Arabic you cannot even have two consonants in a row--you have to have a vowel between them or at least before and after--never three in a row. But it is not necessary to write vowels to show what the word is. You can write English and leave out the vowels and be able to tell what the word is. It is possible to read a whole about the same if vowels were put in or left out. Each of our vowels are pronounced so many different ways that they don't tell you much anyway. A word does have vowels in it though they weren't written. When it became a dead language the Massorites decided to put vowels therein to make it easier to read it. They represent the tradition that the Massorites as to how these words were to be pronounced. Each heard it read over and over they naturally remember how the words were pronounced and thus they represent a very well preserved tradition so the vowels of our Heb. Bible are worthy of careful attention but they are after all only a tradition which has come by word of mouth and consequently it is not to be expected to be preserved over something that was copied and recopied. The original vowels are inspired but these which we have are not inspired. You have a right to change the vowels but only up to the limit of your knowledge and not to do them just at random and generally they are reliable and correct. The consonants have vowel letters though they don't seem to affect the sense very much. Get exactly what a long and short vowel letter is--writing on the board. (Min. 10-11). You can write the word either way, with a vowel letter or not. They do not have the same authority as the consonantal text and we have no reason to even think that the original had a vowel. It is a part of the vowel tradition. Sometimes there are consonants which are easy to confuse.  $\aleph$ ,  $\beth$ ,--they are almost non-existent where these two letters are mixed up. Note  $\daleth$ ,  $\resh$  - the resh and daleth are ~~xxxx~~ mixed up and are confused more than any other two letters in the Hebrew Bible. There are some words that are confused in writing but never in speaking.