

can be shown to have hundreds of verb forms, and those who speak them, though they may seem primitive in many ways, have no difficulty in differentiating these hundreds of various forms of each particular verb. As languages develop they tend to become less complex rather than more, and to become less systematic and more lacking in reasonable coherence than in the earlier forms in which they are known to us, as, for instance, in English.

Man was created by God with a language potentiality which animals do not have. We do not know how individual languages have been developed among particular groups. The potentiality of language is clearly a gift of God, rather than a human achievement....

## LETTER 2

1959

### **EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS**

I do not like the term "hieroglyphics" or "sacred letters." Hieroglyphics is a term used to indicate the earlier form of Egyptian writing. In the later days it was still used by the priests on monuments and consequently the Greeks thought it was some sort of priestly writing and therefore called it hieroglyphics. Actually it is simply a form of picture writing.

The statement "the hieroglyphics or sacred letters which the LORD gave to man as a medium of writing, and which are preserved as far as the letter names are concerned in the modern Hebrew alphabet," is again pure speculation. I find no such teaching anywhere in the Bible. Archaeologists have uncovered considerable new material in recent years about the alphabet, but there is no suggestion in this material that it was a revelation of