

Everyone recognizes that in some cases there is a difference in meaning. If you recognize a difference in some cases, you have sufficient reason for a change in many cases.

That is to say, we insist there is a difference in meaning far more often than the critics will admit. We say the first chapter of Genesis is describing the universe as a whole and so uses the name Elohim which describes God as power and majesty, God as the One dealing with all the universe as the natural name to use and it is used throughout that chapter, but when we are dealing with God in His relation with mankind, the name Jehovah is a more natural one to use. There is a difference in meaning which we say accounts for the change between Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, 3, and 4. But Driver says, "And they all say there are many cases where there is no reason in the meaning for them to be used and yet one or the other is used and in connection with that we must recognize the fact that it is true of us in life when we start using a certain term, we tend to keep on using it unless there is a reason for a change." You start using a certain term and the chances are that you will keep right on. You will not say in every case, "Is this the best term to use or should I change to a different one?" You will keep right on using it until there is a reason for a change. If there is a reason you will change, and then if there is a reason you may change back again. Sometimes in the Scripture the two are used in one verse in such a way as to stress the fact that they are the same, that Jehovah is Elohim. That would seem to be the purpose of the writer sometimes in definitely making a shift from one to the other. But when there is no reason for a change, one is apt to keep on using the same name unless he feels that it is too repetitious, and then he will just naturally make a change. I mean there are all kinds of reasons why you may use one or the other.

I ran onto a fellow up in Cornell last Sunday whom I had known a little bit a good many years ago, and I guess he thought we had known each other a lot better than I had realized. At any rate, he came up to me just before the meeting and greeted me by my first name, and I could not think who he was. I talked with him for a minute or two and asked what he was doing now, etc. Then I began to guess who he was and I remembered having known him slightly, about ten years ago. We