

Instance after instance we find these names in the O.T. to be preserved with remarkable accuracy, and it is an evidence of the fact, as often some similar names in the N.T. are, of the fact that these manuscripts were not copied like ordinary ones, they copied them with great care,, they were the oracles of God, they copied and recopied and did as well as human beings could do to keep them accurate, and that doesn't mean they kept them a hundred per cent accurate. We have a few mistakes which have crept in in the course of time.

Now someone will tell you that in our present Hebrew manuscripts, you will find, say, fifty thousand variations between manuscripts. That's right, you will find a tremendous number but out of these that you find, at least 19 out of 20 of them, make just as difference to the sense as whether you spelled honour like the English do, honour, or like the American, honor. There are differences in the particular spelling of words where no one would have any doubt what the word is. That is 19/20th's of the variations found. It seems to have been the case on ^{the} particular letters that simply indicate ~~a~~ a long vowel, not to have been very particular whether they were put in or not. They merely put in where--there must be a little question whether it was long or short and they've put it in or leave it out, and that accounts for the great bulk of the variations in manuscript. Now you take the other variations which we find and some of them are of some importance but there is no one of them which in any way affect any vital doctrine of the church, and there are comparatively few of them of any real importance, and that applies both to Old and New Testaments. I think the situation is this, you take a verse in the Scripture and you look and see if there's a verb. Now there may be a verb. You may have evidence that perhaps he said, I'll go to my father, and perhaps he said, I go to my father, something like that, where two synonyms are used and maybe a slight change, there are a few like that, but comparatively few. There are a few that make a difference in the meaning