

paragraph, to determine what it really means. Prejudgment, more than anything else, can keep us from finding the Scripture truths that God desires us to receive.

It is important that we realize that the Bible was given in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and that neither the words nor the constructions in these languages exactly correspond to those in English. The possible area of meaning of words can be determined by examining the contexts in which they are used in other parts of the Bible. Neither etymology nor cognates in related languages can determine the meaning of a Hebrew word, but both can suggest possible meanings. After examining every context in which the word is used in the Old Testament and looking at every place where a corresponding word occurs in the New Testament, we can outline the areas of thought contained in a word and can examine the passage under consideration to see how much of that area is involved in the particular reference. If a word is used with two or more unrelated meanings we should decide which fits in a particular place, but should always keep open to some extent the possibility that we have made the wrong selection. Thus we need to compare Scripture with Scripture.

The range of possibilities of a syntactical construction (at least in the Old Testament) can be determined sufficiently for our purpose on the basis of comparison of similar constructions elsewhere in the Bible. Actually we have no other valid evidence on which to determine these matters, as far as the Old Testament is concerned, for extremely little other ancient Hebrew is extant. Careful study of the possibilities can enable us to draw from the Bible as much information as God desires each passage to give us. Such study will bring to light much truth that has not yet been found. In the Bible God has provided information to enable His people to determine His will in all periods of time. Some passages that previously seemed obscure may give us God's answer in an