

and great prophecies. The last six chs. of Daniel are made up almost entirely of prophecies, of predictions of the future. One might suggest dividing the book of Daniel into two parts: the first half history, the last ~~half~~ half prophecy. Roughly such a division can be made. But it is not altogether true because one of the greatest prophecies in the book of Daniel occurs right in the 2nd ch. And one of the chs. of the last six is composed almost entirely of a prayer that Daniel gave.

But the last six are composed almost entirely of prophecies. Those prophecies are very little known to the average Christian. They contain some marvelous illustrations, evidences of God's power, and knowledge of the future. There is much of tremendous value, and they are not easy to interpret. So I'm glad that in this course we have only about six chs. to cover instead of being like last year in our course in Ezekiel where we had nearly 50 chs. to cover. We are able to go into detail more on particular points of interest and of difficulty.

But another reason why you cannot strictly divide Daniel into two parts is the fact of the language. Daniel begins in Hebrew and ends in Hebrew. But from Dan. 2:4 to the end of ch. 7, it is in a different language-- in the Aramaic language. We try to give training in the languages of the Bible here. I am anxious that every one of you get a thorough training in Greek because the great central teachings of our Christian faith are brought out in that very complex and precise language in the NT. The OT is not nearly as precise. Its statements are often much more general in nature and possibly we cannot be as precise often in our conclusions in regard to many things in the OT as in the NT. So I feel it is of outstanding importance that you get a solid foundation in the Greek language.

If you are going to read the Bible in the original it is also important that you know the Hebrew. I only wish that we had Bibles, commentaries, grammars, dictionaries in which the Hebrew was written in the Latin letters--like the letters we use for our English language. If somebody wants to donate a million dollars for the purpose I will be glad to direct people in translating the Hebrew Bible into Latin letters. It would require a little revision of the alphabet, but not much and it would make ~~it~~ a good representation, but I'm sure you would learn as ~~many~~ much Hebrew in one year that way as you learn in two or three now! Because a tremendous amount of what is involved in learning Hebrew is simply a matter of getting your ~~x~~ eyes used to those letters. You've all had 20-25 years of getting your eyes used to Latin letters, and you can't make up for that with an entirely different sort of letter in a year or two. That is a great part of the effort in learning Hebrew.

That is as far as is usually gone in most seminary courses in learning the languages of OT. But there is a portion of the OT written in Aramaic. That includes these chs. I mentioned in the book of Daniel. It includes certain sections--about a half-- of the book of Ezra, and portions of the book of Jeremiah. These are in Aramaic. Since it is a comparatively small part, we don't think in a seminary course we can expect most students to learn Aramaic.