

But they knew that once they started tampering with the MSS that came to them they would get that which might or might not be true and so they were determined to copy exactly what they found.

In 1 Sam. 1:24 we read that Hannah after Samuel ~~affix/whē~~ ~~boy~~ was weaned, took the boy with her along with 3 bulls, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When they had slaughtered the bull they brought the boy to Eli." Which bull did they slaughter? Why did she bring 3 bulls? It doesn't make much sense. Dr. Speiser points out that the plural of bull ends with the Hebrew letter mem. If that letter mem instead of coming at the end of the word "bulls" came at the beginning of the next word "three" you would have a 3 year old bull. And the NIV considers that to be the correct reading. It says "It brought him along with a 3 year old bull". There is a place where the space has simply been moved one letter and the scribes have copied it exactly as it was thought it didn't make much sense to them to bring three bulls and slaughter only one of them! And no idea of what happened to the other two!

There are little errors like this that have come in. Now in the NT we read that Jeremiah said so and so. When you look for it you find it in Zechariah. People have tried to explain how that comes about. Some have said that as the prophets were arranged at that time, Jeremiah was at the beginning. So when they said Jeremiah they meant the whole book of the prophets. I don't know of any evidence that they ever were arranged that way with Jeremiah at the beginning. And I don't think it would be customary to describe something in Zechariah as in Jeremiah that way any way.

My personal guess is that it is a very early error. Perhaps they used an abbreviation. We don't know just how it came about. Perhaps the scribe was rather sleepy when he copied. And something led him to write Zechariah. It reminds me of getting a bill recently, from the township. It said in great big letters on the bill of \$10 poll tax TAXES ARE NOT DUE AND PAYABLE. I wrote "Why NOT"? They meant taxes are NOW due and payable, of course. But how easy it is to make such a mistake. I think it extremely likely that early copiests of the NT found the statements Jeremiah where they knew it mean Zechariah, but they said if we start emending to what we think would be right we don't know where it will end up. We must copy what we find. I believe a few such errors as that which we find in the Scripture as it was handed down are a wonderful proof of the remarkable accuracy that was taken in copying the Scripture.

One of the hardest things to preserve accurately is foreign names. When I became a student at the U. of Berlin they had a marvellous habit there. When you matriculate they give you a diploma! So you're sure to get one. So they gave us all diplomas saying we'd been received as students at the U. of Berlin. The day came when we were to receive our diplomas and the rector of