

last ten years than ever before. The usage is the only thing that proves it. If you have Arabic with thousands of documents, usage can absolutely prove a thing because you have plenty of evidence. If you have only one book of ancient Hebrew, usage is greatly limited but while it is greatly limited, it is only a limitation because if you take a word and find it used only three times in the OT, you can't prove anything by the usage--not a great deal. You can prove a thing positively but not negatively. Ill. of three uses of the word book in the OT and each time it is red doesn't prove book must be red as there are only three usages of it here. If three times it is used, and one book is red, one blue, one green, you have enough to say it is not the color that makes the book so even with three usages, you can learn quite a bit but not enough to prove anything but the number, if only three, used is a small fraction, perhaps. Many, many words used a hundred, fifty times, etc. and when a word used this much it gives you a great amount of valuable information. The ~~English~~ phrase, "in the last days," which is mistranslated in our English Bible or "in the later days". This phrase occurs in the Hebrew nine or ten times and this number of times is enough to prove a good deal since there are various instances and contents with which they are dealing. There is a great amount yet to be gotten in the usage.

#57 To study usage, all you have to have is the Hebrew language and it seems like such a simple that ⁹ ₁₀ of the investigators have spent their time on the other two approaches and have neglected this approach which is the only approach which really determines. Ques.--about the Bible written over such a long period of time and that has something to do with the usage? There is a limitation in this respect but usage is enough to be very, very helpful. I have been amazed in taking one word in the OT and going through and seeing how it is used, to see how it has opened up to the understanding of it--far more than any commentaries I have seen anywhere. It gives a clear idea of it that you can't get any other way. It has been greatly neglected and here is a field where great progress can be made but you must be sure you have enough evidence to prove your point. How much is enough? To prove that book means something that has a blue cover, you would have to have a great many instances --you might look at 90 cases where it had a red cover and the 91st would have a blue cover but to prove that the word book means something that doesn't have to have a red cover, you only have to have one case where book has a blue cover. You have to judge on the particular thing you are trying to prove .