

really wanted was for me to say, this is a grand book, and that I would give him a good recommendation for it. It would perhaps help the publication. But I read it very carefully and I wrote back to him, and I said to him, "You have based your evidence here, almost entirely on one Hebrew word, the word **לְעֹלָם**." He said, it says that the wicked will suffer for **לְעֹלָם**. Now he says this is the word for eternity. There is no other word for this idea, so this must be the word, for eternity. And that means they will suffer forever and he devoted page after page after page to the most beautiful strong clear argument from the fact that since the word **לְעֹלָם** is used of eternal punishment, ~~and~~ of punishment repeatedly, and it means eternity since there is no other word, why, therefore, punishment is eternal. Well, I think you can prove the eternal punishment of the lost. But I don't think you prove it by this word. I think there are other statements in the Scripture. But as far as the word is concerned, I pointed out to him, that if you go through the Scripture and see how this word is used, you read of the men in Genesis, the great heroes of Genesis, that these are the men of **לְעֹלָם**, the men of an age. ~~And~~ that doesn't mean they were men who lived forever. It doesn't mean they were eternal men who had no start. It means These are the men who were away, way back. Way back, before antiquity, the men of **לְעֹלָם**. And then when you find it used of - in Proverbs it says, remove not the landmark of **לְעֹלָם**. And the English translates it remove not the ancient landmark. The mark there that's been there away far back as you can remember. Don't go and take that out. You've ~~known~~ always been told, this is the landmark. Now don't go up some night and take it away, because you don't know what the mark is. If you can prove it is wrong, let the thing that is established, stand, until it can be proven that it is wrong. So that **לְעֹלָם** is definitely used, of matter which occurred at - not without ~~hands~~^{end}, but had a specified limit, but it is way back, or else they would have had it. ~~And~~ that being the case, as far as this word is concerned, it expresses long, long duration, but not necessarily eternity.

Now how would men, carrying on ordinary life, activity, what word would they use for eternity. You take automobile mechanics. Do they say this car is going to last forever? They shouldn't say that. They're dishonest. They should say this will last a long time. These ~~mill~~ roads will last three or four centuries. Some of the roads the Romans made are