

you have--and then when Jeremiah--10 or 12, I forget which--he says to the people thus shall ye say to them, the gods of wood and stone have not--are not the gods that made heaven and earth, and here, all of a sudden, you have one sentence in Aramaic, Jeremiah tells the people who are going to exile what to say, in Aramaic so they'll be able to talk (2)

So there is evidence of the Aramaic coming in probably just as a trade language, it is one of the few instances in history where a language was taught a whole nation purely through (2 1/4) not through commerce, but Aramaic conquered that whole nation, and became the language of the whole area and the Jews spoke it after the exile. (2 1/2.stu) What do you mean radical? Oh, as far as the writing is concerned, the Hebrew used the old characters, which we sometimes call Phoenician characters, up to the time of the exile. We know that because in Gesenius' grammar you have in the front a picture of a Siloam inscription which tells how Hezekiah's men dug a tunnel underneath the water into the city, during the Assyrian attack, and the writing is in these rounded characters which we find in Phoenician inscriptions, we used to call them Phoenician, but they are the old Hebrew characters. And then the Arameans had developed out of these round characters, a set of square characters, which are related to them, doubtless derived from them, but of different shape, they're squared off, and after the exile, they put the Hebrew into the square characters. Now the characters correspond, character for character, so that's no problem, but are really Aramaic characters in which our present Hebrew Bible is written. (stu.) Well, the thing is that all the Hebrew from ancient times that we have is what's in the Bible, and it was preserved without any vowels. Now we know there were dialects, because when in Judges we read how there was between the southern and northern people of Israel, there was a war and one side defeated the other and they wanted to catch the fugitives, so they said, "pronounce shibboleth," and they'd say sibboleth, and they couldn't say the (4) shibboleth. (4 1/4)

seems to represent two original sounds

which eventually fell