

"last time at the end of the hour. It is not in my opinion particularly germane at this present point of the discussion because it does not impress me that the particular instance at which we were looking is an extremely difficult problem. There are a number of ways in which it's rather superficial implications could be quite easily evaded. Nevertheless it does raise a matter which is of importance in connection with various aspects of the Old Testament history and which of course is extremely vital in connection with the whole matter of moral life and attitude of the Christian and consequently although I have never discussed at this point before I have usually taken it up in connection with another place or anyone of two or three other places. I think it would be perhaps a good idea to say a few words on it right here.

First, the matter of words in general. I think that there is perhaps as much error made in Biblical interpretation ^{than} and in understanding ^{of} any field whatever from the failure to recognize what words are as from any other cause. There has developed with in the last fifteen years a group of people advocating what they called the Science of Semantics, and they give a great deal of attention to this as if it were a brand new discovery. Actually they have a very important truth. From that truth they are drawing certain things that are true and certain things which are not true. But the truth which they see which is very vital is that a word is only a symbol. It is very easy for us to begin to laugh about the question as to what is deception or what is murder or what is a cow or what is any particular other word as if the word in itself represented a reality. Thereby we become tremendously confused particularly when we get into abstractions. We have people today declaring that democracy is absolutely essential and we have other people calling undemocratic because they don't fit into their particular ideas and often their ideas are the very antithesis of what has always been thought democracy. Democracy is not something that exists. What is democracy? Let's find out. Democracy is a symbol just as our deception and motive and power and cow and nay other word. It is a symbol by which the mind