

- e. Overlooking significant dageshes...forte, lene, mappiq, etc.
- f. reading one letter and looking under another in the lexicon.
- g. forgetting the affirmatives and the changes they may make in the expression of the stem.

5. Regarding Word Meaning

BDB prints the suggested meanings in strong black type. The discussions that follow go with the suggested meanings. You must remember that the suggested meanings are minimal and you must keep your imagination high and your intellect alert in giving added meanings to word structure. Remember also that the lexicographers did not have a high view of inspiration and when you see a word meaning assigned with the notation..."always in P..."just yawn softly and be glad the Holy Spirit gave us the Scripture.

6. Summary

In conclusion with regard to the lexicon, you will want to remember that:

- the roots are alphabetically arranged
- the suggested meanings are in black letters
- useful etymological notes are given
- stems are enumerated and forms are demonstrated
- representative usages are always included
- added bibliographic material is given for research.

As your vocabulary grows, you will need the dictionary more for work on the *usus loquendi* and etymological insights and less for the simple meanings of words. But you will not be at that point tomorrow!

B. THE GRAMMAR

The major scholarly grammar is that of Gesenius in the Kautzsch-Cowley edition. It is about 160 years old and has been regularly revised to keep it as current as possible. It is a shelf tool, helpful to those who want to burrow into the linguistic side of the study, but not of much service to the casual reader or book collector.

1. The Character of the Grammar

The grammar attempts to present the language in a systematic form. It begins with the alphabet and accentuation and ends with a variety of sentences and alternate clauses. In the process it tends to try to put things in classifications of rules and orders...and when something does not fit, the grammar may chop it or stretch it or make a new category.

What one must remember is that grammars tend to make a language have artificial characteristics. The grammar is not infallible, has, in fact, a high degree of relativity to it, and may be downright misleading at times if it assumes what is expressed to be incorrect from a formal base. Remember that the text of correctness in language is understandability, not exactness of form.