

will be to have a full and correct meaning.

Occasionally men are disappointed when they discover that many of the makers of the Lexicons, etc., were/are liberal in theological pursuit. But the determination of the meaning of a word is a science quite apart from theological ideals. In stating that the broad meaning of a word is thus and so, one merely follows linguistic principles that are well established. The difficulty with the lexicographers is when they begin assigning a particular meaning to a term and then telling you that this is the way "J" uses the term in contradistinction to "E".

#### 4. Etymology

This is the art of determining word meaning by reducing a term to an original stem describing a single action. Component parts of the term are then analyzed for their place in the expression and a total meaning expressed. It is rather easy to see how such words as "ice-cube", "blackberry", etc., are given meanings through etymology.

The chief difficulty is that etymology tends to be extremely deductive and somewhat subjective. The final results are rarely subjected to a fully scientific analysis and the lack of timed data in previous steps and ages is a factor somewhat responsible for this. Jumping to conclusions is the key fatality of etymology and it is usually helped by a sheer display of dogmatism that more than makes up for the limited evidence. Etymology is much used in the study of proper names, and while that is more of a subject of controversy than we can take up in these pages, it is also an area where the present writer has some strong doubts on the value of etymological pursuits

#### 5. Some Bibliographic notes

Girdlestone: Synonyms in the Old Testament

Vine: Dictionary of Old Testament words

Harris, Archer, Waltke: Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Botterweck, Ringgren: Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament

and, of course, our old friends BDB, etc.

### B. HEBREW NOUNS

our nomenclature in this section is that of Gesenius: paragraph 81-82

#### 1. Primitive nouns

These are nouns having no apparent derivation from another Hebrew stem. They are therefore independent of any etymological source. There is not a great list since noun/verb derivation is more common. But the primitive nouns stand alone and depend on no other verbal root. Unproved assertions are used to suggest origin for some of these and in BDB primitive nouns are listed with suggested roots and no parent form.