

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Abbreviations	xiii
I. Introduction	1
A. The Need for a Study of the Old Testament Concept of Time	1
B. Previous Investigations relevant to the Subject . . .	2
EXCURSE 1. The Concept of Eternity	17
C. The Procedure of the Study	19
II. The Basic Use of <i>'ēth</i> : A Definite Occasion in the Natural and Social Orders	21
A. An Occasion in the Order of Nature	21
1. Time of Day or Year	21
2. Time of Natural Event	23
a. Augmentation of the Temporal Reference	23
b. Direct Reference to the Occasion	26
B. An Occasion in the Order of Social Life	28
1. An Appropriate Activity	28
2. An Appointed Situation	29
Summary	32
III. The Use of <i>'ēth</i> with an Occasion of Singular Character .	34
A. The Relationship of Singular Occasions	34
1. Comparison	34
2. Direct Relationship	40
B. An Occasion of Singular Historical Character	47
1. The Relationship of Occasions in a Complex Situa- tion	47
2. <i>'ēth</i> , <i>yōm</i> , <i>'āz</i> and Historical Causal Relationship . .	52
3. The Relationship of Occasions in the Historical Setting	59
4. Deuteronomy: Substantiation of Occasions as Histo- rical Reality	64
5. Objectivization and Generalization of the Historical Reference	76

C. Intervention by a Single Occasion	78
1. An Intervening Experience	78
2. An Intervening Activity	80
3. An Intervening Event	84
4. Other Expressions with Intervening Occasions	88
5. The Prophetic "Day"	90
Summary	102
IV. The Use of <i>'eth</i> with an Occasion of Final Destiny or Given Possibility	105
A. The Concept of a Final Destiny	105
1. The Destiny of a People	105
2. The Final Destiny of History (Daniel)	111
B. Death as Man's Natural Destiny	115
C. Occasion as Given Opportunity (Koheleth)	117
Summary	129
V. <i>'eth</i> and Texts other than Biblical Hebrew	131
A. Early Hebrew Letters	131
1. The Murrabba'at Letter	131
2. The Lachish Letters	132
B. Early Aramaic Texts	134
1. Empire Aramaic	134
2. Egyptian Aramaic	134
3. Old Testament Aramaic	135
4. Palestinian Aramaic	136
5. Babylonian Aramaic	137
C. Intertestamental Hebrew	138
1. Jesus ben Sira	138
2. The Damascus Codex and the Dead Sea Scrolls	143
D. The Septuagint Translation	151
Summary	154
EXCURSE 2. Etymology of <i>'eth</i>	155
a. The Various Proposals for Derivation	155
b. The Possibility of an " <i>n</i> -Family"	158
VI. Conclusion	161
A. The Uses of <i>'eth</i> : Grammatical Considerations	161
B. The Uses of <i>'eth</i> : Semantical Considerations	163

C. The Comparison of Other Temporal Expressions with <i>'eth</i>	165
D. Considerations toward a Concept of Time in the Old Testament	167
1. Event and Time	167
2. Definiteness and Historical Perspective	168
3. Historical Relationship	169
4. Historical Singularity	169
5. Temporal Distinction	170
6. The Time and Content of Event	170
7. Event as Decisive Encounter with God	171
Bibliography	172