



HEBREW GRAMMAR I

OT 503

Prepared by William D. Barrick, Th.D.
The Master's Seminary
Sun Valley, California

Course Description

An introduction to biblical Hebrew designed to equip the student with a basic vocabulary and an understanding of the essential principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Course Rationale

It is essential that the student of biblical studies obtain the tools necessary for an accurate interpretation and a deeper appreciation of the text of the OT. The OT which we accept as the Word of God was written originally in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages of the ancient Near East. Any student of Scripture who wishes to heighten his expertise in the exposition of the literature of the OT must have some acquaintance with its original languages.

According to the historical declaration of our faith, the final authority for resolving questions of interpretation resides in the original languages of the Scriptures. Our historic faith also declares that we believe in providing translations of the Word of God in the heart languages of those who do not know the original languages of Scripture. Whether in the realm of preaching or teaching or translation, the student must obtain a certain degree of proficiency in the biblical languages if he is to be properly prepared for ministry.

Course Objectives

Having taken this course, the student should be able:

- to identify the basic grammatical elements of basic readings from the Hebrew Scriptures;
- to read aloud (pronounce) the Hebrew of any passage in the OT;
- to translate simple Hebrew sentences from the OT.

Required Textbooks

Barrick, William D., and Irvin A. Busenitz. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*, revised ed. Sun Valley, CA: Grace Books International, 2004.

Barrick, William D., and Irvin A. Busenitz. *A Workbook for A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*, revised ed. Sun Valley, CA: Grace Books International, 2004.

Recommended Textbooks

Elliger, Karl, and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, 5th ed. New York: American Bible Society, 1997.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Introduction The Alphabet — Consonants	Tues: Read Textbook “Introduction” and “The Identity & History of the Hebrew Language” Thurs: Read Chapter 1
2	The Alphabet — Vowels	Tues: Workbook Exercise 1 Read Chapter 2 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 2
3	The Alphabet — Special Letters, <i>Dagesh</i> , and <i>Raphe</i> The Alphabet — Half Vowels Syllables	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #1 Read Chapter 3 Workbook Exercise 3 Thurs: Read Chapter 4
4	Review Accents Review of Syllables	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #2 Workbook Exercise 4 Thurs: Exam #1 Read Chapter 5
5	The Article and Interrogation Prepositions	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #3 Workbook Exercise 5 Read Chapter 6 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 6 Read Chapter 7
6	Conjunctions and the Relative Pronoun Noun and Adjective: Their Gender and Number	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #4 Workbook Exercise 7 Read Chapter 8 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 8 Read Chapter 9
7	Noun and Adjective: Their Relationship The Construct State	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #5 Workbook Exercise 9 Read Chapter 10 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 10 Read Chapter 11

8	The Personal Pronouns Review	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #6 Workbook Exercise 11 Read Chapter 12 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 12
9	The Regular Verb — Perfect The Regular Verb — Perfect (cont.)	Tues: Exam #2 Read Chapter 13 Thurs: Vocabulary Quiz #7
10	Pronominal Suffixes for Nouns Pronominal Suffixes for Prepositions and לְ	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #8 Workbook Exercise 13 Read Chapter 14 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 14 Read Chapter 15
11	The Regular Verb — Imperfect and Imperative The Participle	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #9 Workbook Exercise 15 Read Chapter 16 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 16 Read Chapter 17
12	The Infinitive	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #10 Workbook Exercise 17 Read Chapter 18
13	Segholate Nouns and Stative Verbs The <i>Waw</i> -Correlative and <i>Waw</i> - Consecutive The Niphal Conjugation	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #11 Workbook Exercise 18 Read Chapter 19 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 19 Read Chapter 20
14	The Piel and Pual Conjugations Review	Tues: Vocabulary Quiz #12 Workbook Exercise 20 Read Chapter 21 Thurs: Workbook Exercise 21
15	Final Exam Week	Tues: Review Thurs: Final Exam

HEBREW GRAMMAR BIBLIOGRAPHY**Books**

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- Brown, Francis; S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Reprinted; Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, n.d.
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- Even-Shoshan, Abraham, ed. *A New Concordance of the Bible: Thesaurus of the Language of the Bible: Hebrew and Aramaic Roots, Words, Proper Names, Phrases and Synonyms*. Jerusalem: "Kiryat Sepher" Publishing House Ltd., 1983.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 2nd English ed. Trans. and ed. by A. E. Cowley. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, 1910.
- Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scriber's Sons, 1971.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2002.
- Piper, John. *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy: God's Triumphant Grace in the Lives of Augustine, Luther, and Calvin*. Book One, The Swans Are Not Silent. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000.
- Putnam, Frederic Clarke. *Hebrew Bible Insert: A Student's Guide*. Quakertown, PA: Stylus Publishing, 1996.
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- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings*, 3rd ed. N. Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 1995.
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1995.
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- Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- Weingreen, J. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, 1939.

Periodical Articles & Essays

- Andrews, Stephen J. "Some Knowledge of Hebrew Possible to All: Old Testament Exposition and the *Hebraica Veritas*." *Faith & Mission* 13/1 (1995): 98-114.

Cross, Frank Moore, Jr. "The Development of the Jewish Scripts." In *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*. Ed. by G. Ernest Wright, 133-202. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns 1979.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. "The Future Role of the Bible in Seminary Education." *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 60/4 (Oct 1996): 245-58.



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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Biblical Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament except for the Aramaic passages found in Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26, Daniel 2:4–7:28, Genesis 31:47 and Jeremiah 10:11.

When I saw Hebrew for the first time, I said, “This isn't even a language. Somebody cut up a bunch of worms, dropped them on the paper and pressed the pages together. That's what it looks like to me.”

Father John Naumann, Billings, Montana

The study of Biblical (or, classical) Hebrew is a joy to those who maintain a proper perspective on the enterprise. The purpose of study is to rightly understand the Hebrew Scriptures, the Word of God. Those who love the God of the Word will love His Word. Those who love the Word will love the languages of the Word. With such love the student will find his task made much easier — it will have become a labor of love.

Walter Kaiser very appropriately employed the words of a Jewish poet from Poland as a reminder of the importance of reading the OT in its original Hebrew. Hayim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934) said, “Reading the Bible in translation is like kissing your bride through a veil” (Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., “The Future Role of the Bible in Seminary Education,” *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 60/4 [1996]: 253). The expositor must be wedded to the biblical text and enjoy it without any unnecessary veil intervening to distort his clear view and enjoyment of its God-breathed beauty.

It is certain that unless the languages [of Greek and Hebrew] remain, the Gospel must finally perish.

- Martin Luther

cited in John Piper, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy: God's Triumphant Grace in the Lives of Augustine, Luther, and Calvin* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000), 96

Languages are the scabbard that contains the sword of the Spirit; they are the [case] which contains the priceless jewels of antique thought; they are the vessel that holds the wine; ...

... No sooner did men cease to cultivate the languages than Christendom declined ... in our days there are some who, like the Waldenses, do not think the languages of any use; but although their doctrine is good, they have often erred in the real meaning of the sacred text; they are without arms against error, and I fear much that their faith will not remain pure.

- Martin Luther

cited in Piper, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy*, 97

Determine to enter this program of study humbly and prayerfully, expecting God to richly bless your more intimate relationship to Him through a more intimate knowledge of His written revelation.

One who made it his life's work to interpret French literature, but who could only read it in an English translation, would not be taken seriously; yet it is remarkable how many ministers of religion week by week expound a literature that they are unable to read save in translation!

— H. H. Rowley, *Expository Times* 74/12 (Sept 1963): 383;
cited in Nigel Turner, *Grammatical Insights into the New Testament* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1965), 2-3

The Second London Confession (1677)

The Old Testament in *Hebrew* ... and the New Testament in *Greek* ... being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and Providence kept pure in all Ages, are therefore authentical; so as in all controversies of Religion, the Church is finally to appeal unto them.

— William L. Lumpkin, *Baptist Confessions of Faith*, rev. ed. (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1969), 251

The Hebrew Alphabet

1. Write the 22 Hebrew letters inside the following boxes. Make certain that each letter takes up only those parts of the boxes which show its proper size and form.

Example:



6	5	4	3	2	1
12	11	10	9	8	7
18	17	16	15	14	13
	22	21	21	20	19
			=		

2. Write in the boxes below the final forms of the 5 letters which have them:

--	--	--	--	--

3. Write in the boxes below the 6 letters that can take a dot (·) in the middle of their form.
Do not include ך.

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zechariah 2:14 (Eng 2:10)

רְנִי וְשִׂמְחֵי בַת־צִיּוֹן
כִּי הִנְנִי־בָא וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכָךְ

⌘ Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon

Ki hinneni ki hinneni va' vesakhanti vetokhekh
Ki hinneni ki hinneni va' vesakhanti vetokhekh

Ronni ronni vesimchi vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon

ב (Repeat ⌘)

⌘ Ki hinneni ki hinneni va' vesakhanti vetokhekh
Ki hinneni ki hinneni va' vesakhanti vetokhekh

Ronni ronni vesimchi vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi vesimchi bat Tsiyyon
Ronni ronni vesimchi bat Tsiyyon

Let's Rejoice and Be Glad*(Havah Negilah — Ps 118:24; 90:14; Isa 25:9)*

הָוֵה נְגִילָה הָוֵה נְגִילָה
הָוֵה נְגִילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה
הָוֵה נְגִילָה הָוֵה נְגִילָה
הָוֵה נְגִילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה

הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה
הָוֵה הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה
הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה
הָוֵה הָוֵה נְרַנְנָה

עִירוּ עִירוּ אֲחִים
עִירוּ אֲחִים וְנִשְׂמְחָה
עִירוּ אֲחִים וְנִשְׂמְחָה
עִירוּ אֲחִים וְנִשְׂמְחָה
עִירוּ אֲחִים וְנִשְׂמְחָה
עִירוּ אֲחִים
עִירוּ אֲחִים וְנִשְׂמְחָה

LO BAYOM VELO BALAYLA — NOT BY DAY AND NOT BY NIGHT

*Lo bayom velo balayla,
Cheresh etse li atayla.
Lo bahar velo babak'a,
Shita omda sham, atika.*

1 Not by day and not by night,
Quietly I'll go out for a stroll.
Not in the mountain and not in the
valley,
An old acacia tree is standing.

*Lo bahar velo babak'a,
Shita omda sham, atika.*

*Vehashita potra chidot
Umagida hi atidot.
Et hashita esh'al ani
Mi vami yehe chatani.*

2 And the acacia solves riddles
And tells fortunes.
I'll ask the acacia
Who will be my groom.

*Ume'ain yavo, shita?
HamiPolin o' miLita?
Hammerkava ya'avor shvilo
O' vemaklo uvtarmilo?*

3 And from where will he come, acacia?
From Poland or from Lithuania?
Will he go his way by carriage
Or with a staff and pack?

*Uma yavi li shilumim?
Charuzei pei-nim o' algumim?
Uma tore'o tsach o' shachor?
Alman hu imod-o bachur?*

4 And what will he bring me for a gift?
Strings of pearls or coral beads?
And what does he look like—fair or
dark?
Is he a widower or a bachelor?

*Shema zaken shita tova,
Az lo eshma' az lo oveh.
Omar le'avi "Hamiteini,
Uvyad zaken al titneni."
Leraglav epol veshaken,
Ach lo zaken, ach lo zaken!*

5 And perhaps an old man, good acacia,
Then I won't hear, and won't consent.
I'll tell my father, "Kill me,
But don't put me in the hands of an old
man."
I'll fall at his feet and kiss them,
But not an old man, but not an old
man!

Basic Israeli Hebrew Phrases

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	HEBREW
Greetings.	<i>Sha-lom a-ley-khem.</i>	שלום עליכם
(Response)	<i>A-ley-khem sha-lom.</i>	עליכם שלום
Good morning.	<i>Bo-ker tov.</i>	בוקר טוב
Good evening.	<i>E-rev tov.</i>	ערב טוב
Good night.	<i>Lai-la tov.</i>	לילה טוב
How do you do?	<i>Ma-shlom-kha?</i>	מה-שלומך
How do you do?	<i>Ma-shlo-mekh?</i>	מה-שלומך
I am very pleased to meet you.	<i>Na-eem me-od le-ha-keer-khah.</i>	נעים מאוד להכירך
How are you, sir?	<i>Eykh at-tah mar-gish, a-do-ni?</i>	איך אתה מרגיש אדוני
How are you, madam?	<i>Eykh att mar-gi-shah, gvir-ti?</i>	איך אתה מרגישה גבירתי
How are you, ladies and gentlemen?	<i>Eykh at-tem mar-gi-shim gvi-ro-tai ve-ra-bo-tai?</i>	איך אתם מרגישים גבירותי ורבותי
Well, thank you, and you?	<i>Tov, to-dah. Ve-att?</i>	טוב תודה ואת
Not bad, thank you.	<i>Lo ra. To-dah.</i>	לא רע תודה
Are you Mr. Cohen?	<i>Ha-eem at-tah a-don Co-hen?</i>	האם אתה אדון כהן
Yes, I am Mr. Cohen.	<i>Khen, a-ni a-don Co-hen.</i>	כן אני אדון כהן
Thank you.	<i>To-dah.</i>	תודה
Thank you very much.	<i>To-dah ra-bah.</i>	תודה רבה
Please./You're welcome.	<i>Be-va-ka-shah.</i>	בבקשה
Do you speak English?	<i>Ha-eem at-tah me-dab-ber An-gleet?</i>	האם אתה מדבר אנגלית
Yes, a little.	<i>Khen, me-at.</i>	כן מעט
Yes, I speak a little Hebrew.	<i>Khen, a-ni me-dab-ber Eev-reet me-at.</i>	כן אני מדבר עברית מעט
Please speak slowly.	<i>Be-va-ka-shah le-dab-ber le-at.</i>	בבקשה לדבר לאט
Please repeat.	<i>Be-va-ka-shah la-kha-zor shey-nit.</i>	בבקשה לחזור שנית
I beg your pardon.	<i>Slee-khah.</i>	סליחה
Goodbye. I had a delightful time.	<i>Ha-yah na-eem me-od. Sha-lom.</i>	היה נעים מאד שלום
Till we meet again.	<i>Le-hit-ra-ot.</i>	להתראות

Where is the toilet?	Ey-foh hash-shee-ru-teem?	איפה השירותים
Where is the toilet?	Ey-foh beyt-sheem-moosh?	איפה בית-שמוש
Where is the hotel?	Ey-foh ham-ma-lon?	איפה המלון
Straight ahead.	Ya-sar ya-sar.	ישר ישר
Where is the pharmacy?	Hey-khan beyt ham-mir-ka-khat?	היכן בית-המרקחת
Where is the food store?	Ey-foh kha-nut ham-mak-ko-let?	איפה חנות המכולת
I want to buy apples.	A-ni ro-tze likh-not ta-pu-khim.	אני רוצה לקנות תפוחים
soda	ga-zoz	גזוז
seltzer water	so-dah	סודה
bread	le-khem	לחם
cheese	gvee-nah	גבינה
dates	tma-rim	תמרים
milk	kha-lav	חלב
oranges	ta-pu-khey za-hav	תפוחי זהב
soup	ma-rak	מרק
What is the name of this street?	Mah shem ha-re-khov haz-zeh?	מה שם הרחוב הזה
I don't know.	Ey-nee yo-dey-a.	איני יודע
I think so.	Khosh-va-nee she-khen.	חושבני שכן
I don't think so.	A-ni kho-shev she-lo.	אני חושב שלא
What is this?	Mah zeh?	מה זה
What is that?	Mah zeh sham?	מה זה שם
I am in a hurry.	A-ni me-ma-her.	אני ממהר
Excuse me (to a man).	Tis-lakh lee.	תסלח לי
Excuse me (to a woman).	Tis-le-khi lee.	תסלחי לי
You're welcome (don't mention it).	Al lo da-var.	על לא דבר
I am sorry.	A-ni mitz-ta-er.	אני מצטער
What time is it?	Mah hash-sha-ah?	מה השעה
It is half past one.	Hash-sha-ah a-khat va-khey-tsee.	השעה אחת וחצי
Ten-thirty.	E-ser va-khey-tsee.	עשר וחצי
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.	A-khat, shta-yim, sha-losh, ar-ba, kha-meysh, sheysh, she-va, shmo-neh, tey-sha, e-ser.	אחת שתיים שלוש ארבע חמש שש שבע שמונה תשע עשר
Where are you from?	Mey-ey-foh at-tah?	מאיפה אתה
I am from Jerusalem.	A-ni mee-ru-sha-la-yeem.	אני מירושלים
I am from America.	A-ni mey-a-me-ree-kah.	אני מאמריקה
Is this the first time you	Zot hap-pa-am	זאת הפעם הראשונה

have been here?	ha-ree-sho-nah she-at-tah poh?	שאתה פה
I'll be in Israel 3 weeks.	Eh-yeh bi-yees-ra-el shi-lo-shah sha-vu-eem.	אהיה בישראל שלשה שבועים
I'm hungry now.	A-ni ra-eyv akh-shav.	אני רעב עכשו
Here's a restaurant. Let's go in and eat.	Hin-ney mees-a-dah. Neek-ka-neys ve-no-khal.	הנה מסעדה נכנס ונאכל
May I see a menu?	Ha-u-khal lee-rot et hat-taf-reet?	האוכל לראות את התפריט
Please bring me tea.	Eph-shar le-ka-bel tey.	אפשר לקבל תה
sugar	su-khar	סוכר
coffee	ka-fey	קפה
coffee and milk	ka-fey ha-fookh	קפה הפוך
black coffee	ka-fey sha-khor	קפה שחור
the bill	et hakh-khesh-bon	את החשבון
Will you accept credit cards?	At-tem me-kab-lim kre-dit card?	אתם מקבלים כרדיט כרד
Sunday	yom ree-shon	יום ראשון
Monday	yom shey-nee	יום שני
Tuesday	yom shlee-shee	יום שלישי
Wednesday	yom ri-vee-ee	יום רביעי
Thursday	yom kha-mee-shee	יום חמישי
Friday	yom shi-shee	יום ששי
Saturday	shab-bat	שבת
today	ha-yom	היום
tomorrow	ma-khar	מחר
yesterday	et-mol	אתמול
next week	ba-sha-vu-a ha-ba	בשבוע הבא
ten minutes	e-ser da-kot	עשר דקות
thirty minutes	shlo-sheem da-kot	שלוששים דקות
May I have stamps?	Ef-shar le-ka-bel bu-lim?	אפשר לקבל בולים
How much is this?	Ka-ma ze ya-a-leh?	כמה זה יעלה
Can you help me?	Ha-eem tu-khal la-a-zor lee?	האם תוכל לעזור לי