Introduction

As a seminary we now find ourselves addressing two battles: “The Peril of Pastors without the Biblical Languages”¹ and the peril of pastors languishing with the languages. Many preachers in the pulpit make little to no use of the original languages EVEN AFTER seminary. The statistics are grim. This is why Zondervan has recently published both a Greek and Hebrew Readers of the bible.

Knowing the language DOES enhance your effectiveness in the call to communicate biblical truths. Knowing the language DOES provide a better comprehension of the Old Testament. But it is not without cost.

Admittedly, there is a high price tag attached to learning Hebrew. Without an aggressive investment of time, energy, and patience, you will not get the valuable and relevant skills needed to interpret the Word of God. Once you see the fruit of your labor (particularly through exegesis and time in the text) you will never become part of those grim statistics!

I. Course Description and Objectives

1. The main objective of this course is to furnish students with basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. Should you come to this challenge with due diligence in both sessions the results will be rewarding! You will be able to read your Hebrew Bible with the aid of a dictionary (lexicon).

2. Acquisition of vocabulary, pronunciation and reading proficiency will be emphasized in each break out session as we give attention to reading select biblical texts. You can also access the website (www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com) and accompanying CD for extra help with vocabulary and pronunciation.

3. Creative and helpful mnemonics are offered regularly so that the student might readily retain aspects of the grammar. Furthermore, a variety of learning strategies are employed

to aid the learning process. As time permits key grammatical insights in the original language are discussed in order to illumine the value of Old Testament exegesis, the step beyond language learning. Visit www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and password both bbh2), a website developed by a former GCTS student, John Beckman, for additional online help.

4. My TA is Mr. David Sobey.

II. Required Textbooks


III. Recommended Textbooks

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)
   ISBN 3-438-05218-0

IV. Course Requirements

1. **Weekly quizzes (40%).** Quizzes will be given every Wednesday. On occasion there will be a week or two where you will have a quiz on a Wed. and Fri. Quizzes will be taken in the library. They will be available on Monday morning @ 7:45 a.m., and must be written/completed NO LATER than class time on Wednesday @10:45 a.m. They are not take home quizzes but must be written in the library and returned to the librarian.

   Should you miss a quiz you will be required to write a make-up but at the END of the semester. One make-up quiz will be given at the end of each term just prior to the final exam. Rather than covering small sound bites of material, the make-up quiz will entail the semester’s work. It is to your advantage not to miss the quiz. No exceptions. This includes sickness or adverse weather. This is an exception and not the rule.
2. **Final examination (40%).** This will be a three hour exam written during exam week in December. **ATTENTION:** in order to pass Hebrew I and continue with Hebrew in the Spring semester, you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) for the course. Please keep this in mind as you configure your course load for the semester.

3. **In-class recitations (10%).** Each student will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared. Your responses will be graded. Accountability on a weekly basis with assignments is the foundation for a long term mastery of the language. **PLEASE** come to class prepared. If you are not prepared, however, DO NOT STAY HOME! It is far better to come to class unprepared so that you can benefit from hearing in-class discussions (auditory learning).

4. **Required Reading: Exegetical Insights through Chapter 17 (10%).** There is a “Table of Insights” (p. xii) that will convince you to stay the course with the language! Read these weekly as part of your devotions. I will give you a reading accountability sheet at the end of the course.

5. **Regular class attendance is required.** I will keep a record of your attendance. Should you fail to attend class regularly your grade will reflect this choice.

6. **Arriving on time.** I tend to give instructions regarding quizzes and assignments at the beginning of class times. It is to your benefit to be present for these matters when we first meet. My commitment to you is as follows: I will begin classes precisely as scheduled, with or without you! And I will never keep you beyond 12:15 p.m.

- A Suggestion: Perhaps you might want to form study groups. If anyone would like the assistance of a tutor, upon request I will supply you with names.
Daily Assignment Schedule
Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook
Hebrew I (OL 501)
Wed/Fri. 10:45a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

How to use this schedule: All exercises are found in the accompanying Workbook. The assignments detailed are DUE on the day and date indicated. Carefully read all explanatory comments with each assignment. Note also that this schedule tells you when each quiz is scheduled along with the expected content of that quiz. You will mainly be tested from Hebrew to English for the required vocabulary on weekly quizzes. However, with some nominals (chapters 4, 7, 10) and with the introduction of the verb (chapter 13ff) you will be required to produce forms in Hebrew. Keeping up with the vocabulary on a weekly basis is crucial since it will routinely appear on a quiz. Thus all formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the date that the chapter’s grammar content and exercises are due. Unless otherwise directed, all transliteration exercises found in the workbook are NOT required. Advanced Information sections will be assigned only on occasion and are NOT required.

Note: I do reserve the right to modify any quiz or homework content “midstream” should I deem it beneficial for the group.

Week One
Wednesday: Sept. 14
Course Introduction
Introduction to Hebrew Alphabet (Chapter 1)

Friday: Sept 16
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (Chapter 2)

Week Two
Wednesday: Sept 21
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)
Introduction to Syllabification (Chapter 3)

Friday: Sept 23
First Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification & Pronunciation
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises)
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (Chapter 4)
Week Three

Wednesday: Sept 28
Quiz: Syllabification
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises in 4: pp.15-16; On pg. 17 do only Segholate Nouns 1-10; Do Advanced Exercises: Part 1 (excluding 15-17). Do Advanced Exercise: Part 2 on pg. 19 and treat these as vocab
Introduction to the Definite Article (Chapter 5)

Friday: Sept 30
Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises in 5: pp. 21-23 (all exercises)
Introduction to Prepositions (Chapter 6)

Week Four

Wednesday: Oct 5
Quiz: Nouns and Definite Article; vocabulary of chapters 3-5
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)
Introduction to Adjectives (Chapter 7)

Friday: Oct 7
Quiz: Noun pluralization and
Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises in 7: Parsing (1-20); Translation (1-15); Inflecting (1-3, 7-9); Bible translations 1-14). Focus on identifying and producing the lexical form of an adjective
Introduction to Pronouns (Chapter 8)

Week Five

FIRST READING WEEK OCTOBER 10-14th
Prepare for quiz
TA review session

Week Six

Wednesday: Oct 19
Quiz: Prepositions, Inflection, use, and translation of adjectives, vocab through 7
Chapter 8 (Pronouns/Sections 8.1-8.12)
Exercises in 8: Translation, Part 1 (5-10 only); Part 2 (1-10); Part 3 (1-5); Bible Translations 1-11; do not do the composition exercise on p. 38
Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (Chapter 9)

Friday: Oct 21
Chapter 9 (Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes/Sections 9.1-9.19)
Exercises in 9: Part 1 (1-15); Part 2 (odd only); Part 3 (odd only); Bible translations (3,5) 
Introduction to the Hebrew Construct Chain (Chapter 10)

**Week Seven**  
**Wednesday: Oct 26**  
**Quiz:** Pronouns, Pronominal Suffixes and vocab through 9  
Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)  
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-25); Bible translations (1-12); Construct nouns, Part 1  
(even only)  
Introduction to Chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals)  
exercises from this chapter TBA; only selected vocabulary will be required (TBA in class)   

**Friday: Oct 28**  
Exercises in 11  
Review Session on nominals  
Introduction to Hebrew verbs (Chapter 12)

**Week Eight**  
**Wednesday: Nov 2**  
**Double Quiz (mid-term)** on chapters 1-10 emphasizing the following:  
Noun pluralization  
Translation of prepositions  
Inflection and use of adjectives  
Suffixes on nouns, prepositions, and the object marker  
Independent personal pronouns  
Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns  
Pronouns, Pronominal Suffixes  
Construct Chain  
Vocabulary 3-11

**Friday: Nov 4**  
Chapter 12 (Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)  
Exercises in 12: Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; read this carefully)  
Introduction to the Qal Perfect strong verb (Chapter 13)

**Week Nine**  
**SECOND READING WEEK: NOVEMBER 7-11th**  
Prepare for quiz on verbs and vocabulary  
Review Session with TA
**Week Ten**

**Wednesday: Nov 16**

**Quiz:** All vocabulary to date – chapters 3-13

Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect: Strong Verbs/Sections 13>1-13.15)

Exercises in 13: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (1-2, 4-6);
Inflecting (1-10)

Introduction to Qal Perfect weak verbs (Chapter 14)

**Friday: Nov 18**

**Quiz:** Qal Perfect strong verb paradigm and vocab

Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect: Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)

Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1-20); Translation (odd only); Bible translations 1,3,4,7

Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1,4,7)

Introduction to the Qal Imperfect strong verb (Chapter 15)

**Week Eleven**

**Wednesday: Nov 23**

**Quiz:** Inflecting, identifying, and translating Qal Perfect verbs (strong and weak) and vocabulary of 3-14

Chapter 15 (Imperfect Strong Verbs/Sections 15.1-15.11)

Exercises in 15: Parsing (1-15); Translation (odd only); Bible translation (1-5, 9);
Inflecting (1-15)

Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 1 (Chapter 16)

**Friday: Nov 25th THANKSGIVING NO CLASS**

**Week Twelve**

**Wednesday: Nov 30**

**Quiz:** Inflecting, identifying, and translating Qal Perfect verbs (strong and weak) and Imperfect verbs (strong) with vocab through 15

Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16:1-16.11)

Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (8-10)

Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-5); Bible translations (7,9,10)

Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 2 (Chapter 16)

**Friday: Dec 2**

Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1, 3-6)

Exercises in 16d: Bible translations (2, 5)

Exercises in 16e: Bible translations (1-5)

Introduction to Waw Conversive (Chapter 17)
Week Thirteen

**Wednesday: Dec 7**
*Quiz:* Inflecting, identifying, and translating Qal Perfect verbs (strong and weak) and Imperfect verbs (strong and weak) with vocab through 16
Chapter 17 (Waw Conversive/Sections 17.1-17.10)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translations (1-4, 7,10, 11, 13 on pp. 126-128); Parsing (1-10 on p. 130); Bible translations (2,3,9 on pp. 131-132)

**Friday: Dec 9**
Review and Preparation for Final

Week Fourteen
December 12-16
*Review Session with TA: TBS*
*Possible date for final exam: Wednesday, December 14*