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 Greek and Hebrew Reader’s 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 as we give attention to reading select biblical texts. You can also access the website (www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com) and the 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 reading Biblical Hebrew.

4. My Byington and assistant is Erik Lundeen.

II. Required Textbooks/Readings


III. Recommended Textbooks/Optional Resource

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

IV. Approved Study Helps (based on our textbook)

The first item is by Miles Van Pelt, one of the authors of our textbook. He has a video series to accompany the textbook, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Video Lectures: A Complete Course for the Beginner.* The second item is a website developed by John Beckman, a former GCTS student. Visit www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and password both bbh2) for additional online help. The third item is the current Semlink materials developed by Gary Pratico, *Biblical Hebrew* Semlink CD-ROM ($20). Order from Semlink office. Semlink.office@gcts.edu or 1-877-736-5465 toll free.

IV. Course Requirements

1. **Weekly quizzes (45%).** Quizzes will be offered weekly. In the first few weeks, however, you will see an extra quiz or two! This is the exception and not the rule;
something that will help early on. Quizzes and tests will be taken in the library unless otherwise noted. The library staff possesses the necessary documents. When you give them your name and associate yourself with my section of Hebrew (for better or worse!), they will bless you with the expected quiz! Upon completion you will return it to the librarian. I will then collect and grade the quizzes in a timely fashion. Please note these are not take home quizzes. See below for quiz and test schedule.

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 more. It is to your advantage not to miss the quiz. No exceptions. This includes sickness or adverse weather.

2. **Final examination (45%).** This will be a three-hour exam written during exam week in December. **ATTENTION:** in order to pass Hebrew I and continue with Hebrew II in the spring semester you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) in the class. Please keep this in mind as you configure your course load for the semester.

3. **In-class recitations:** Each student will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared. Accountability on a weekly basis with assignments is the foundation for a long-term mastery of the language. For this reason your homework and in-class responses will be noted with a basic grading system of a check mark or check minus. Failure to do all the homework will award you an automatic check minus. If you receive three or more check minuses, consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, 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 22 (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 devotions and 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 11:00 a.m. so as not to be late for our exciting chapel services!
A Suggestion: Perhaps you might want to form study groups. If anyone would like the assistance of a personal tutor, upon request, I will supply you with names and contact information.

Daily Assignment Expectations and Schedule
Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook
Hebrew I (OL 501)
Wed/Fri 9:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Assignment Expectations

Assignment Mechanics:

❖ Read each chapter’s summary **FIRST**

❖ Review any class notes and read my introductory comments handout (Hebrew Helps Handout on CAMS/Sakai) **SECOND**. The latter document outlines the irreducible minimum elements in the chapter that you must master. It puts a zoom lens on where you should spend most of your time and energy relative to that chapter’s material. Too often students spin their wheels wondering what is most important in a given chapter and lose valuable time trying to figure it all out. While it is true that all of it is important, the document I created alleviates this guesswork and allows you to focus and be efficient in language learning.

❖ Read the entire chapter in the grammar **THIRD**

❖ **FOURTH.** IF necessary, desired, or as time permits, listen to Sakai lectures/sound bites on a given chapter.

❖ Do workbook exercises **LAST.** Remember that the exercises in the workbook include new vocabulary from the chapter. In an ideal world it is best to get mastery over the vocabulary before beginning the exercises. However, if this is not possible you will have to apply the hunt and search method in order to complete your exercises. If you have to resort to the latter method
memorizing vocab after doing the exercises) at least be certain you comprehend the chapter’s grammar.

- In summation you are required to complete the workbook exercises, get comfortable with the chapter’s main grammatical content, and memorize the vocabulary of each chapter BEFORE we meet.

Please note the important order outlined above for the mechanics of working through each week’s assignments. You will find your groove in the course of the semester. However, please try to follow my suggestions as closely as possible in order to get the most out of this course.

The CD-ROM accompanying the textbook gives answers to all workbook exercises. Visit www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and password both bbh2), a website developed by John Beckman, for additional online help. With these resources your language learning will be reinforced utilizing several learning strategies.

**Assigned Vocabulary:**

- Vocabulary is from Hebrew to English **AND** English to Hebrew until otherwise noted on the syllabus. This means you must reproduce/compose Hebrew for some lessons. Full expectations for each chapter’s vocabulary are given on the accompanying Hebrew Helps Handout (HHH). Keeping up with the vocabulary on a weekly basis is crucial. All the formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the day and date that the chapter’s grammar content and exercises are due.

- Review old words first, make flashcards for new words (or use pre-made vocab cards – not the best option, however) commence memorization of new words for the chapter(s). Review the whole batch and start process all over again. Flashworks and other on-line vocabulary aides are readily available and recommended.

- **Daily NOT** weekly review is the key to long-term mastery of vocabulary. Small sound bites work best rather than massive review sessions. The latter is appropriate but only after establishing a daily routine.

- Write and recite for great delight! Let this be your motto for Hebrew vocabulary. In terms of **writing**, I am convinced that pre-made vocab cards
short circuit the learning process because the tactile side of learning is neglected. In terms of reciting vocab words, both auditory and visual learning is taking place. Three of the five senses are, therefore, utilized! Indeed, you should write and recite for great delight!

Assignment Basics:

- Transliteration NOT required regardless of what the textbook says.
- Advanced Information sections NOT required unless otherwise noted by the professor. Please look for instructions on this weekly.

Assignment Schedule

REQUICKED/NOT OPTIONAL PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT

We will commence our first day of classes in chapter 3 after a review of the first two chapters. You MUST BE prepared in advance. NO excuses or exceptions.

THEREFORE…

Make sure you have READ the SYLLABUS and ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS in FULL (pgs. 1-5 above). BEFORE getting started on this required pre-class assignment. Everything you need to know is noted above.

Read: Chapter 1 summary on pg. 5
Read: My introductory comments for the chapter (Hebrew Helps Handout on Sakai)
Read: Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10) READ Advanced Information pg.7
Listen: to my sound bite on Chapter 1 in Sakai
Do: Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)

REVIEW and start Chapter two!

Read: Chapter 2 summary on pgs. 14-16
Read: My introductory comments handout for the chapter (HHH)
Read: Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Listen: to Chapter 2 in Sakai
Do: Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)
**Your Primary Goal:** to know how to recite and write the Hebrew alphabet in order from right to left. You must also be able to identify each character out of order. You must know how to recite (with a consonant), write, and identify all the Hebrew vowels summarized by the charts on pg. 15, chapter 2.

**Your Secondary Goal:** to reproduce this information for your first quiz. Your first quiz will be after our initial class period. It will be taken in the library BUT BEFORE closing time on Wed, September 11.

AGAIN … PLEASE READ the SYLLABUS in FULL (pgs. 1-5) above BEFORE starting any assignments.

Note: I do reserve the right to modify anything on this document including quiz or homework content at any time should I deem it beneficial for the group and the goals of this course.
WEEK ONE

Wed: Sept 11

Course Overview
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises in 2: pp. 7-9 (do only 1-15 of the second exercise on p. 8)
Lecture: Syllabification (Chapter 3)
Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification (anytime after class today but BEFORE the library closes today, Wed. September 11).

Friday: Sept 13

Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises)
Lecture: Hebrew Nouns (Chapter 4)
Quiz: Syllabification (anytime after class today but BEFORE Wed’s class)

WEEK TWO

Wednesday: Sept 18
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises in 4: Revised instructions. Follow THIS NOT the workbook
1. Do numbers 1-25 on pgs. 15-16 give the following information for each noun listed:
   Gender number lexical form translation
   Please note that the lexical form is the form without the plural endings or the singular form found in your vocab list /lexicon. You must be able to reproduce the lexical form in Hebrew with all consonants and vowels.

2. For #’s 1, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 of that same list on pgs. 15-16 look at the plural form. Try to determine if the plural is exhibiting: no change in spelling, proprontic reduction spelling change, segholate pattern spelling change, or just an irregular spelling change.

3. Do #’s 1-10 (feminine nouns on pg. 16)4. Do #’s 1-10 (segholate nouns on pg. 17)

5. Do #’s 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 24 (advanced exercise part 1 on pgs. 17-18) according to the following instructions NOT those in workbook:
   ✓ start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   ✓ determine/write out the lexical form
   ✓ determine the spelling change

6. Do #’s 1-8 (advanced exercise part 2 on pg. 19)
   ✓ start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   ✓ translate the plural
   ✓ translate the singular
Lecture: Definite Article (Chapter 5)
Lecture: Prepositions (Chapter 6)
**Quiz: Nouns and noun pluralization rules and vocab 3-4** (anytime after Wed.’s class but BEFORE Friday).

*Friday: Sept 20*
Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises in 5: p. 23 only (carefully translate)
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)
Lecture: Adjectives (Chapter 7)
**Quiz: nouns, article, prepositions and vocab 3-6** (anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)

**WEEK THREE**

*Wednesday: Sept 25*
Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises in 7: Parsing (1-20); Translation (1-15); Bible translations 1-14). Focus on identifying and producing the lexical form of an adjective
Lecture: Pronouns (Chapter 8)

*Friday: Sept 27*
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
Lecture: Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (Chapter 9)
**Quiz: Inflection, use, and translation of adjectives, pronouns and vocabulary chapters 3-8** (anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)

**WEEK FOUR**

*Wednesday: Oct 2*
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)
Lecture: Hebrew Construct Chain (Chapter 10)

*Friday: Oct 4*
Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-24); Bible translations (1-20); Construct nouns: Part 1-2 (know the rules that govern construct nouns so you can identify a construct noun when you see one (see HHH). For all exercises in Part 1 start with the answer key. Look at the construct form (answer) and compare it to the absolute form given, determine the rule that was applied (either… ending change +vowel reduction or just vowel reduction). For
Part 2 start with the answer key. All you have to do is make vocab. cards for these irregular constructs that do not follow the standard rules (make cards for #’s 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 14).
No new materials

**Quiz:** pronominal suffixes and construct chain and vocab 3-10 (anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)

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**WEEK FIVE**

*Wednesday: Oct 9*
Nominal review session

*Friday: Oct 11*
Nominal review session

**TEST (in library)** on chapters 1-10 emphasizing the following:
Translation (reading) of plural nouns
Translation of prepositions
Inflection (to reproduce in Hebrew) and translation of adjectives
Translating suffixes on nouns, prepositions, and the object marker
Translating the independent personal pronouns
Translating demonstrative adjectives and pronouns
Translating construct chains
Vocabulary 3-10

The test is to be written in the library any time after class today but NO LATER then Friday, Oct 18th by 5:00 p.m. of reading week.

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**WEEK SIX**

**FIRST READING WEEK OCTOBER 14th-18th**

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**WEEK SEVEN**

*Wednesday: Oct 23*
Chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals) Read only: No exercises from this chapter; only selected vocabulary will be required (TBA in class)
Chapter 12 (Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18) Read carefully
Exercises in 12: 12a 1-15; Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; read this carefully)
Lecture: Qal Perfect strong verb (Chapter 13)

*Friday: Oct 25*

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)
Lecture: Qal Perfect weak verbs (Chapter 14)

**Quiz:** Qal Perfect strong verb; vocabulary of chapters 3-13 (anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)
WEEK EIGHT
Wednesday:  Oct 30
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)
Lecture: Qal Imperfect strong verb (Chapter 15)

Friday:  Nov 1
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)
Lecture: Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 1 = (Chapter 16.1-16.11 ONLY) This equals 16a, b, c in workbook (II Gut, III j, u, III a, h, I Gut, I a)
Quiz: Qal perfect strong and weak, Qal Imperfect strong and vocab 3-15 (anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)

WEEK NINE
Wednesday:  Nov 6
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)
Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1, 3-6)
Lecture: Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 2 = (Chapter 16.12 – 16.23) This equals 16 d, e, f in workbook (Gems, Bi-Cons, I n, I y and double weak)

Friday:  Nov 8
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.12-16.23)
Exercises in 16d: Page 111 all the parsing
Page 112-113 parse and find the verb, Bible translations (2, 5)
Exercises in 16e: Page 115 all the parsing; Bible translations (1-5)
Lecture: Waw Conversive (Chapter 17)
Quiz: Qal Perfect Strong through Imperfect weak and vocab 3-15 (anytime after Friday’s class but NOT LATER then Wed. Nov 13th)

WEEK TEN
SECOND READING WEEK:  NOVEMBER 11th-15th

WEEK ELEVEN
Wednesday:  Nov 20
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)
Lecture: Volitionals (Chapter 18)
Lecture: Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs (Chapter 19)

Friday: Nov 22
Chapter 18, (Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive/18.1-18.8)
Exercises in 18a: Parsing (1-19 on pp. 135-1360):
Translations (1-9 on p. 136); Bible trans. (4, 5, 10 on pp. 137-139).
Exercises in 18b: Parsing (1-10 on p. 141); trans 1-3, 5, 6, on p. 142
Bible trans (2, 6, 12)
Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 149-150); Bible trans (2, 3, 7 on pp. 152-153)
No exercises in 19
Lecture: Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)
Lecture: Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)
Quiz: Qal Imperfect strong and weak (esp), conversives, volitionals and vocab 3-18
(anytime after Friday’s class but BEFORE Wed.)

WEEK TWELVE

Wednesday: Nov 27
Exercises in 20: Parsing (1-30 on pp. 163-164); trans (3-6, 13, 14 on pp. 165-166); Bible trans (5, 8, 15 on pp. 167-169)
Exercises in 21: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 173-174); Trans (1-5 on p. 174); Bible trans (1, 2, 3, on p. 175)
Lecture: Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)

Friday: Nov 30: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK THIRTEEN

Wednesday: Dec 4
Exercises in 22: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 179-180); trans (1-6 on pp. 180-181); Bible trans (1, 3, 6 on pp. 181-182).
Review of Qal materials
Quiz: Infinitives, participles and vocab 3-22 (anytime after class but BEFORE Friday’s class)

Friday Dec 6
Review of Qal materials

WEEK FOURTEEN
Wednesday Dec 11
Review of Qal materials

Friday, December 14th: **Final exam (TBD)**

- Mastery of nouns and nominals: Emphasizing chapters 4-10 (mainly through translation)
- Mastery of Qal material: Emphasizing chapters 12-22 (Parsing, reproducing select items in Hebrew, and translation and identification of ALL Qal material).
- Vocabulary: chapters 3 through and including chapter 22