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. To that end Hebrew Jeopardy is a part of the program,

especially in the second semester! Likewise, we will also establish parsing partners. 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. 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 Anna Sieges.

II. Required Textbooks


III. Recommended Textbooks

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)

IV. Course Requirements

1. **Daily quizzes (40%)**. Quizzes will be given every Thursday. Should you miss a Thursday evening class 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 Thursday quiz. No exceptions. This includes sickness or adverse weather.

2. **Final examination (40%)**. This will be a three hour exam written during exam week in December. **ATTENTION:** in order to pass Hebrew I you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) on the final exam. 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 of All 36 Exegetical Insights (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. Exegetical insights through chapter 22 are required for the fall semester.

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 7:30 p.m.

- 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 Schedule
Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook
Hebrew I (OL 501)
TTh 6:00-7:30 p.m.

How to use this schedule: All exercises are found in the accompanying Workbook. The assignments detailed for each day and date 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 only be tested from Hebrew to English for the required vocabulary on weekly quizzes. Only on rare occasions will there be adjustments. Keeping up with the vocabulary on a weekly basis is crucial. 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.

Week One
Tuesday: Sept 9
Course Introduction
Introduction to Hebrew Alphabet (Chapter 1)
Begin work on Introductory Handout

Thursday: Sept 11
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (Chapter 2)
Continued work on the Introductory handout

Week Two
Tuesday: Sept 16
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)
Completion of Introductory Handout

Thursday: Sept 18
First Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification with beginning syllabification
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises)
Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (Chapter 4)

Week Three
Tuesday: Sept 23
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)  
Introduction to the Definite Article (Chapter 5)  
Introduction to Prepositions (Chapter 6)  

Thursday: Sept 25  
Quiz: Syllabification, noun pluralization and vocabulary of chapters 3-4  
Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)  
Exercises in 5: pp. 21-23 (all exercises)  
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)  
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)  
Introduction to Adjectives (Chapter 7)  

Week Four  
Tuesday: Sept 30  
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)  
Introduction to Pronouns (Chapter 8)  

Thursday: Oct 2  
Quiz: Def. article, prepositions; Inflection, use, and translation of adjectives and vocabulary of chapters 3-6  
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)  

Week Five  
Tuesday: Oct 7  
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)  

Thursday: Oct 9  
Quiz: Pronouns, pronominal suffixes and vocab 3 - 8  
Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)  
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-24); Bible translations (1-20); Know the rules that govern Construct nouns in Part 1 & 2. See separate Hebrew helps handout for this.
FIRST READING WEEK OCTOBER 13-17th (prepare for mid-term)

Week Six  
*Tuesday: Oct 21*
Mid-term (double review quiz) 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 (not covered on last quiz so be mindful)
- Vocabulary 3-10

*Thursday: 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: Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; read this carefully)
Introduction to the Qal Perfect strong verb (Chapter 13)

Week Seven  
*Tuesday: Oct 28*
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)

*Thursday: Oct 30*
Quiz: Qal Perfect verb; vocabulary of chapters 3-12
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 Eight  
*Tuesday: Nov 4*
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)
Thursday: Nov 6
Quiz: Qal perfect strong and weak, Qal Imperfect strong and vocab 3-14
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)

SECOND READING WEEK: NOVEMBER 10-14th

Week Nine

Tuesday: Nov 18
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.12-16.24)
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)

Thursday: Nov 20
Quiz: Qal Imperfect strong and weak and vocab 3-16
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)
Introduction to Volitionals (Chapter 18)
Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs (Chapter 19)

Week Ten
Tuesday: Nov 25
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
Introduction to Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)
Introduction to Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)

Thursday: Nov 27
THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
Week Eleven

Tuesday: Dec 2
Quiz: Waw conversive, volitionals
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)
Introduction to Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)

Thursday: Dec 4
Quiz: Infinitive construct and absolute with vocab 3-20 (excluding 19)
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 and Preparation for Final

Final Exam: December 11th (TBC)
- Mastery of nouns and nominals: Emphasizing chapters 4-10 (mainly through translation)
- Mastery of Qal material: Emphasing 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