

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
OL 501 & OL 502 Hebrew I & II
Summer Session III
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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 (i.e. not using the biblical languages). Many preachers in the pulpit make little use of the original languages EVEN AFTER seminary. The statistics are grim. This is why Zondervan has recently published both a Greek and Hebrew Reader’s version 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 need 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. Likewise, visit www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and

¹ Dennis E. Johnson, “The Peril of Pastors Without the Biblical Languages,” *PJ* (1986): 23-24.

password both bbh2), a website developed by a former GCTS student, John Beckman, for additional online help.

4. Due to a large enrollment in both sessions of Hebrew, two TA's will be working with me to help meet the objectives of this course. Break-out sessions enable class participation and review of homework that is, otherwise, not possible with a large class.

II. Required Textbooks

1. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). 2nd Edition.
2. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). 2nd Edition
3. William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).

III. Recommended Textbooks

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)

IV. Course Requirements

1. Daily quizzes (40%). Quizzes will mostly be given every day during summer sessions of Hebrew. Should you miss a class (for ANY reason) you will be required to write a make-up quiz at the END of the session just prior to the final exam. Rather than covering small sound bites of material, the make-up quiz will entail more of the session's material. It is to your advantage not to miss a quiz. No exceptions.

2. Final examinations (40%). A final exam will be given on the last day of each summer session. ATTENTION: in order to pass Hebrew I and Hebrew II you must earn a grade of C (70% or higher) on each of the final exams. Note also that a total score of 59% or lower will not enable you to pass OL 501 or OL 502. Please keep this in mind as you embark in the summer format of learning Hebrew. If full-time devotion to summer Hebrew is not possible, you might consider options in the regular academic calendar.

3. In-class recitations (10%). Each student will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared. Your responses will be evaluated by the TA and recorded. Accountability on a daily 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! Furthermore, don't slip out after the quiz! It is far better to come to class unprepared so that you can benefit from hearing in-class

discussions (auditory learning). Failure to attend daily sessions with the TA's on a regular basis will result in a grade penalty.

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.

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.

5. Arriving on time This is crucial for two reasons. First, each class commences with a quiz and necessary instructions for that quiz. You do not want to be late for this. Second, I tend to give instructions regarding future quizzes and assignments at the beginning of class times as well. It is to your benefit to be present for these matters when we meet at 9:00 a.m. 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 12:00 p.m.

- A Suggestion: Our weekly schedule is such that two day's a week we have no classes. Perhaps you might want to form study groups. If anyone would like the assistance of tutor, upon request I will supply you with names.

Daily Assignment Schedule
Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook
Hebrew I & II (OL 501-502)

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. I reserve the right to modify course or quiz content should it serve our goals better. Only on rare occasions will there be adjustments. Keeping up with the vocabulary on a daily/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

Monday, July 19

No quiz!

Chapter 17 (Waw Conversive/Sections 17.1-17.10)

Exercises: Parsing 1-10 (p. 125); Bible trans. 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 13 (pp.126-128);

Parsing 1-10 (p. 130); Bible trans. 12 (p. 133)

Introduction to chapter 18 & 19

Wednesday, July 21

Quiz: Qal Perfect-Imperfect strong and weak parsing, inflecting, and translating these verbs with vocab

Chapter 18 (Qal Imperative, Jussive, Cohortative/Sections 18.1-18.19)

Exercises in 18a: Parsing 1-15 (pp.135-136); trans. 1-5 (p. 136); Bible trans. 3,5

Exercises in 18b: Parsing 1-15 (p. 141); trans. 1-5(p. 142); Bible trans. 2, 12 (pp. 143 and 145)

Chapter 19 (Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs/Sections 19.1-19.11)

Exercises in 19: Bible trans. 6, 8, 10 (p. 161)

Introduction to chapter 20

Friday, July 23

Quiz: Perfect, Imperfect and Imperative verbs to reproduce in Hebrew; or to parse; parsing Jussive and Cohortatives; Perfect and Imperfects with waw conversive with vocab

Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct/Sections 20.1-20.14)

Exercises in 20: Parsing 1-15 (pp. 163-164); trans. 1, 3-6, 9, 12, 13, 14 (pp. 165-166); Bible trans. 1, 5 (p. 167)

Introduction to chapters 21 & 22 & 23

WEEK TWO

Monday, July 26

**Quiz: Producing Imperative forms; parsing volitionals and infinitive const.
With vocab**

Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute/Sections 21.1-21.9)

Exercises in 21: Parsing 1-10 (p. 173); trans. 1-5 (p. 174); Bible trans. 1, 2, 3
(p. 175)

Chapter 22 (Qal Active and Passive Participle/Sections 22.1-22.13)

Exercises in 22: Parsing 1-25 (pp. 179-180); trans. 1-9 (pp. 180-181);
Bible trans. 1, 3, 9 (pp. 181-182)

Chapter 23 (Sentence Syntax/Sections 23.1-23.10)

No exercises in 23

Introduction to chapter 24 & 25

Wednesday, July 28

Quiz: All Qal material review quiz through participle with vocab

Chapter 24 (Niphal Strong/Sections 24.1-24.16)

Exercises in 24: Parsing 1-20 (pp. 189-190); trans. 1-12 (pp. 191-192); Bible
Trans. 8, 10 (p. 193)

Chapter 25 (Niphal Weak/Sectinos 25.1-25.14)

Excises in 25a: Parsing 1-13 (pp. 195-196); trans. 1-4, 8-13 (pp. 196-197)
Bible trans. 1, 3, 14 (pp. 198-199)

Exercises in 25b: Parsing 1-10 (pp. 203-204)

Introduction to chapters 26 & 27

Friday, July 30

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation of Qal through Niphal weak stem

Chapter 26 (Piel Strong/Sections 26.1-26.14)

Exercises in 26: Parsing 1-20 (pp. 209-210); trans. 6-15 (p. 211); Bible trans. 9,
12, 13

Chapter 27 (Piel Weak/Sections 27.1-27.13)

Exercises in 27a: Parsing 9-25 (pp.215-216); Bible trans. 5 (p. 217)

Exercises in 27b: Parsing 1-20 (pp.219-220); Bible trans. 3, 4, 5 (p. 221)

Introduction to chapter 28 & 29

WEEK THREE:

Monday, August 2

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation Qal through Piel weak stem

Chapter 28 (Pual Strong/Sections 28.1-28.10)

Exercises in 28: Parsing 1-15 (pp. 227-228); trans. 1-4 p. 228)

Chapter 29 (Pual Weak/Sections 29.1-29.11)

Exercises in 29a: Parsing 1-20 (pp. 231-232)

Translate Genesis 37:5-10 pp. 287-288

Introduction to chapter 30

Wednesday, August 4

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation Qal through Pual weak stem

Chapter 30 (Hiphil Strong/Sections 30.1-30.16)

Exercises in 30: Parsing 1-23 (pp. 239-240); trans. 1-10 (pp.241-242); Bible trans.
3, 8 (pp.243-244)

Complete trans. of Gen 37:5-10

Introduction to chapter 31

Friday, August 6

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation Qal through Hiphil strong

Chapter 31 (Hiphil Weak/Sections 31.1-31.17)

Exercises in 31: Parsing 1-17 (p. 248); Bible trans. 1, 6, 11, 12 (pp.251-252)

Introduction to chapters 32 & 33

WEEK FOUR:

Monday, August 9

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation Qal through Hiphil weak

Chapter 32 (Hophal Strong/Sections 32.1-32.10)

Exercises in 32: Parsing 1-18 (pp. 255-256); trans. of Genesis 22:1-7 p. 258

Chapter 33 (Hophal Weak/Sections 33.1-33.15)

No exercises in chapter 33

Introduction to chapters 34 & 35

Wednesday, August 11

Quiz: Diagnostics and translation Qal through Hophal weak

Chapter 34 (Hithpael Strong/Sections 34.1-34.15)
Exercises in 34: Parsing 1-15 (pp.267-268); trans. of Genesis 22:18-13 pp 270-271

Chapter 35 (Hithpael Weak/Sections 35.1-35.11)

Exercises in 35: Parsing 1-15 (pp.273-274)

Note: All Hithpael diagnostics will be covered on final exam

Friday, August 13

Final Exam (3 hrs)

Content includes:

- 1. Inflecting and parsing verbs Qal-Hithpael (strong and weak)**
- 2. Bible trans. already read in exercises during Hebrew II**
- 3. Bible trans. that you have not read before!**
- 4. Diagnostics**