

Syllabus for Beginning Hebrew I: Phonology/Morphology (OTL 501)

Front Range Bible Institute

Professor Jonathan Henderson (Fall 2017)

I. 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.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To give students a level of fluency in reading and understanding biblical Hebrew.
- B. To give students a working knowledge of the basics of Hebrew grammar (with an exegetical emphasis).
- C. To acquaint students with the tools required to do an effective word study.
- D. To give students experience working with the actual text of the Hebrew Scriptures. We will focus on a variety of key passages in the Old Testament and demonstrate how an understanding of Hebrew can enhance one's understanding of God's Word and impact one's walk with Christ.
- E. To grow in love for God and Christ-likeness by applying the magnificent spiritual lessons about God and His covenant purposes to our own personal, practical walk with Him.
- F. To lead learners to share with others in some setting an exegetical insight or biblical-theological reflection gleaned in the course.
- G. In summary:

Students will become familiar with:

1. The alphabet – consonants and vowels.
2. Hebrew pronunciation (emphasizing biblical Hebrew at this time).
3. Writing Hebrew in one's own handwriting.
4. The names (in Hebrew) of "famous" people and places in the Bible.
5. A basic understanding of the history and culture behind the Hebrew language.
6. A beginning vocabulary, including key biblical, theological, and cultural words and expressions.
7. The basic workings of the Hebrew language.
8. The entry-level study tools for doing studies with the Hebrew language.
9. Beginning Hebrew language skills.
10. Responding to the biblical Hebrew text in a way that is more than academic, but involves responding to God and what He said through the writers.

III. Course Requirements

A. Attendance

Each student should be faithful in attendance. If a student must miss a class, he must obtain a DVD copy and watch the lecture. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence. (Note DVD policy.)

B. Assignments

1. **Daily Work & Exercises:** The exercises in *BBHW* are to be completed for each lesson. You may self-grade them (based on the answers given on the *BBHG* cd), but *only after finishing your work*. The instructor will assign a grade and return your exercise sheet. It will be helpful to place the workbook in some kind of binder for this purpose.
2. **Quizzes** – Weekly quizzes are designed to keep you current.
3. **Tests** – There will be three tests, announced a week ahead each time. The forecasted dates may come earlier, when helpful.

4. Texts

a. Required Texts/Resources

- 1) *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar: Second Edition*, by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007). [Usually includes a reference cd.]
- 2) *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Second Edition*, by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007).
- 3) *Biblical Hebrew (Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides)*, by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007).

b. Recommended Texts/Resources

- 1) *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, by William L. Holladay (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988; 13th corrected ed. or more recent).
- 2) *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*, by William D. Barrick and Irvin A. Busenitz (Sun Valley, Calif.: The Master's Seminary, revised July 2004).
- 3) *The Workbook for A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*, by William D. Barrick and Irvin A. Busenitz (Sun Valley, Calif.: The Master's Seminary, revised July 2004).
- 4) *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings*, by William R. Scott (N. Richland Hills, Tex.: 1987; 3rd edition or more recent).
- 5) *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, edited by K. Elliger and Rudolph (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1976; 4th ed.).
- 6) *Hebrew Bible Insert: A Student's Guide to the Syntax of Biblical Hebrew*, by Frederic Clarke Putnam (Quakertown, PA: Stylus Publishing, 1996).

- 7) *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*, by Peter James Silzer and Thomas John Finley (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 2004).
- 8) *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*, by Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979).
- 9) *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*, by Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Note: Use well the library!

5. **Applied Ministry Project: Exegetical Insight**

- a. Prepare an exegetical insight (on the scale of a devotional lesson plan) based upon some portion of your studies in OTL 501 – and use it to teach others in some context.
- b. After preparing the material, you will teach it.
- c. After teaching the material, you will turn in a copy of the material. (This may be turned in any time during OTL 501, but may be submitted as late as December 18.)
- d. You are also to turn in a copy of the material (along with a note that explains where, when, and to whom you taught it). The note is to be signed by one person who was present. You may note this on your teaching outline.
- e. Aim for 5-10 minutes minimum teaching.
- f. Some suggestions for ministry context:
 - 1) Sunday School class
 - 2) Home Bible study
 - 3) Family devotions
 - 4) Convalescent home
 - 5) Hospital that permits this
 - 6) Shut-in from your church family or neighborhood
 - 7) Vacation Bible School / Backyard Bible Club
 - 8) Devotional for choir or prayer meeting
- g. The exegetical insight is to include the following:
 - 1) OT text chosen (anything from one chapter to one book of the Bible)
 - 2) The exegetical insight (either meaning of the word [lexical] or grammatical point [syntactical])
 - 3) (Further) Explanation of the insight
 - 4) Application of the insight
- h. The exegetical insight may include an outline, but most of the exegetical insight should be written in prose/paragraph format.
- i. Length – The project should be 1 page for Certificate and Bachelor students, and 2 pages for Masters level students. Masters level students may choose to write two insights rather than 2 pages.

IV. Course Grading

A. Daily Assignments & Exercises	10%
B. Quizzes	35%

C. Tests (10%, 15%, 20%)	45%
D. Project (Exegetical Insight)	10%

Any work turned in after the deadline loses 10% immediately per class week.

V. Course Schedule

OTL 501 - Class Schedule

	<u>FALL SESSION</u>		<u>Textbook</u> <u>Read</u>	<u>Workbook</u> <u>Done</u>	<u>Other</u>
1	07-Sep-17	Ch 1 - The Hebrew Alphabet			
2	14-Sep-17	Ch 2 - The Hebrew Vowels	Ch 2	Ch 1	
3	21-Sep-17	Ch 3 - Syllabification & Pronunciation	Ch 3	Ch 2	
4	28-Sep-17	Ch 4 - Hebrew Nouns	Ch 4	Ch 3	
5	05-Oct-17	Ch 5 - Definite Article & Conjunction Waw	Ch 5	Ch 4	Test #1
6	12-Oct-17	Ch 6 - Hebrew Prepositions	Ch 6	Ch 5	
7	19-Oct-17	Ch 7 - Hebrew Adjectives	Ch 7	Ch 6	
8	26-Oct-17 >> 5p Start Time	Ch 8 - Hebrew Pronouns Ch 11 - Hebrew Numbers	Ch 8	Ch 7	Test #2
9	02-Nov-17	Ch 9 - Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes	Ch 9	Ch 8	
10	09-Nov-17	Ch 10 - Hebrew Construct Chain Review for Test #3	Ch 10	Ch 9	
11	16-Nov-17	Ch 12 - Introduction to Hebrew Verbs Test #3	Ch 11 Ch 12	Ch 10 Ch 11	
12	23-Nov-17				Test #3 >> Project Due <<

OTL 502 - Class Schedule

1	11-Jan-18	Ch 13 - Qal Perfect - Strong Verbs	Ch 13	Ch 12	Quiz #1
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VI. Bibliography

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