

Hebrew II



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Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

God chose Hebrew as the language of His first revelation of His works, promises and first covenants with His people. Gods choice of Hebrew and some Aramaic for his First Covenant Scriptures is highly appropriate for their content and His eternal purposes as is Greek for the New Covenant scriptures (בְּרִית הַדָּוִד, *bə-rîṭ ḥă-dā-šāh* Jeremiah 31:31; καινή διαθήκη, *kainē diathēkē*, Luke 22:20). This course is part 1 of the introduction to the hearing, speaking, reading and understanding of the spiritually rich Hebrew language of God's First Covenant Scriptures.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. Know God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and *hear His voice* in the language He first spoke to men and women and which records His speaking the universe into existence.
2. Increase our faith in God and the truth, power, beauty, wonder, accuracy and detail of His living, abiding, inspired Word.
3. Enjoy Hebrew at every stage of our learning which is a rewarding life-long experience in seeing how appropriate and effective it is for God's eternal purposes and as a foundation for everything He accomplishes through Jesus' coming into His world and giving us His New Covenant.
4. Experience the thought world, thought process and flow of individual thought units of God's inspired writers in the close hearing, speaking and reading of their Hebrew texts.
5. Increase our awareness of the power of God's literary brilliance and features of Hebrew Scripture and their important implications in exegesis, interpretation, preaching, teaching, evangelism, apologetics and the growth and flourishing of our relationship with God.

Bible & Ministry

6. Prepare provisional and refined translations for exegesis, interpretation and preparation of sermons, Bible lessons, worship, evangelism, apologetics, etc.

7. Enhance our devotion to God in daily living and practical ministry.
8. Answer questions from seekers and members of the body of Christ.
9. Use our understanding of the Hebrew text in expressing the essence in English to those whom we serve.
10. Along with 5 and 6 above, apply our learning in the growth and flourishing of our relationship with God and His people.

Worldview

11. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by better understanding God's revelations of Himself, His eternal purposes, His works, and His world through Hebrew Scripture, articulating answers to these twelve questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
12. Increase our understanding of Israel as God's First Covenant people, their Biblical history and their present language and culture.

Language Learning

God designed us to learn language through a sequential process of stages from infancy to adulthood: listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar acquisition. Interestingly, throughout history and even today, many people lead productive and rewarding lives only speaking their native language without being able to read or write.

Native Speakers

Native language speakers take about 15 to 25 years to learn and master their mother tongues in many stages:

Listening Children spend about 1.5 to 2.5 years, sometimes more, listening to their native language before speaking it. During this time children gradually learn to associate sounds with people, objects and events and may use signs (e.g. pointing) and vocal exclamations to communicate.

Speaking From ages 2 to 5 children continue to listen and learn to speak while expanding their vocabulary and ability to express themselves. Association and imitation through interaction with parents and others are important dimensions of language learning. Interestingly, children may learn the alphabet at about 2 years of age, about 3 to 4 years before they learn to spell. Daily speaking of a language begins and continues without attention to how we spell words. How often have you asked or heard someone ask of a commonly spoken word, “How do you spell...?”

Reading Children begin to read at about 5 to 7 years. Reading acuity and vocabulary building can take another 10 to 15 years and continues throughout life. Interestingly, reading earlier at younger ages apparently does not necessarily improve life-long acuity.

Writing Writing follows the development of reading skills. Learning to write well and express deep abstract and spiritual thoughts takes many years and continues throughout life. Many vocations and lifestyles involve extensive writing skills while others require little to none.

Grammar The general and minute details of grammar usually come with reading and writing. For most people, grammar knowledge may remain basic not requiring consideration on a daily basis. For those studying the meaning of Biblical texts and doing technical writing grammar is fundamental and enlightening.

Traditional Biblical Languages Learning

Most traditional learning of Biblical languages is done only partially in reverse order to the way God designed our brains to learn languages summarized in the stages above. The traditional method focuses on grammar and reading/decoding/translating and some writing without much attention to listening, thinking and speaking in the languages. Many people have advanced degrees in Hebrew and Greek without the ability to formulate thoughts and speech, to ask for a glass of water in Israel or Greece. This is how I first learned Biblical languages. It is somewhat like learning about the 30,000 parts of a car without seeing a car or learning to drive.

Research shows that language uptake is greatly enhanced by following methods akin to the way native speakers learn.

Method of This Course

Ideally, this course would take 15 to 25 years full-time. We would spend 2 years listening to elementary Hebrew and associating sounds with God, people, objects, places and events. Then we would spend 3 years learning to speak very basic Hebrew with one another. We would then spend 5 years learning to read and write elementary Hebrew while continuing to

build our vocabulary and skills of spoken expression. In the 10th year of our course we would begin to learn elementary grammar. Finally, we would take about 10 years to acquire mature reading, writing and grammar skills while speaking only Hebrew to one another that would in turn form the foundation of our life-long pursuit of knowing God and His Word which is what serious Jewish students of God's Word do.

Since we only have 1 ⅓ years limited part-time together for all 4 terms, we will do our best to follow an abbreviated form of God's way of language learning:

- We will begin by listening to Hebrew spoken by a native Hebrew speaker.
- We will associate the sounds of Hebrew words and verses we hear with the realities of person, thought, objects and events they represent, notably God, His works, promises, covenants, etc.
- We will practice speaking the words and verses we hear.
- We will learn some basic words, phrases and sentences we can use in very basic dialogue.
- As we begin listening early we will begin reading early.
- As we go, we will learn fundamentals of grammar first in relation to what we are hearing and then in general as they inform Scripture.
- We will notice and try to keep in mind that most of the written grammatical details of the Masoretic pointed text have to do with the sounds of spoken Hebrew and how they form thought units, the fundamental building blocks of Hebrew Scripture.
 - Native readers of Scripture and native modern Hebrew speakers don't use pointing. The consonantal text is enough.
 - We will see how familiarity with the language enables one to speak basic Hebrew words and sentences without thinking about letters or spelling.
- Though this is a foundational introductory course the basic Hebrew we learn will greatly enrich our understanding of God and His Word and how they inspire us, build our faith and guide our lives of service and prove useful in preaching, teaching, etc.

Primary Source Text and Resources

Hebrew Bible, *Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia*

Thorium audio reader available at:

<https://www.edrlab.org/software/thorium-reader/>

* Please download Thorium to your computer.

Audio Bible books for Thorium available at:

<https://ebible.org/multimedia/hbo/>

* Download Genesis and Deuteronomy "Slowly Spoken" versions and any other Hebrew Bible books of interest to you and with which you are already very familiar in English.

Secondary Resources

Required:

Bartlet, Andrew and Andrew E. Steinmann. *Fundamental Biblical Hebrew and Fundamental Biblical Aramaic*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2004.

Suggested:

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *Charts of Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

———. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Please see Bibliography for other helpful resources.

Credit Work

- Genesis 1:16–31 Verse(s) of the Week 30%
 - Spoken and Written with One Highlight
- Brief Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes 30%
- Exercises (Drills) 15%
- Workbook of Observations and Resources 25%

Genesis 1:1–15 Verse of the Week 30%
Spoken and written with one highlight

You will find our verse of the week in the schedule below. We will listen to it together spoken by a native Hebrew speaker in the first part of our class and make some interesting observations about its sounds, meaning, pronunciation, vocabulary and other features. Listening to a native Hebrew speaker is important because even second language learners who can recite or speak the language well will usually have remnants of their mother tongue accent.

Listen closely to the native speaker's pronunciation of the verse of the week several times during the week using the Thorium reader or online site as you wish. It often helps to listen to a word or phrase several times slowly to catch the nuances of sound in pronunciation. If you can, memorize the verse from your hearing of it and speak it in the first part of our next class.

I realize some people have difficulty memorizing. So, if you do, practice reading your verse aloud so that you are pronouncing it as closely to the native speaker as possible for our class. By the end of lesson 2 you will know enough about the consonants and vowels to read your verse of the week. We will be learning about accents throughout the course and you should be able to get a sense of Hebrew accents, end stress, etc. from hearing our native Hebrew speaker pronounce all the words in every verse.

Brief Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes 30%

A brief weekly online quiz reviewing our vocabulary and selected features of grammar from each lesson.

Complete the quiz on Populi by 11:59 p.m. the day before the next lesson.

Due to the limitations of the pandemic and online learning, please complete the quiz on the honour system. God is your proctor.

Exercises (Drills) 15%

Complete the exercises of each chapter as they occur in our schedule.

You may complete your exercises in your hardcopy or digital copy of your textbook and/or on separate paper as appropriate (e.g. practicing your consonant and vowel writing in lesson 1).

Affirm on Populi you have completed your exercises by 11:59 p.m. the day before the next lesson.

Due to the challenges of scanning and uploading, you don't have to submit your exercises.

Workbook of Observations and Resources 25%

Keep a workbook of notes, observations of interest and helpful resources you accumulate over the 15 weeks of our course.

Submit your notebook by 11:59 p.m. on the day before lesson 14.

Schedule

Weekly for Lessons 16 to 30

- Hebrew you may know: familiar names, places, actions, etc.
- Useful terms, phrases, greetings, etc. in dialogue.

Weekly for Lessons 17 to 30

- Genesis 1:16–31 verse of the week, listening, speaking, writing, one highlight of personal interest
- Review previous lesson
- Brief vocabulary and grammar quiz online (see credit work above)
- Exercises (Drills)

Lesson 16

- Genesis 1:16 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Nominal Sentences of Existence; Possession; Interrogatives**
 - Textbook chapter 13
 - Exercises

Lesson 17

- Genesis 1:16 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:17 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Imperative, Jussive, and Cohortative**
 - Textbook chapter 14
 - Exercises

Lesson 18

- Genesis 1:17 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:18 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Infinitives**
 - Textbook chapter 15
 - Exercises

Lesson 19

- Genesis 1:18 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:19 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Object Suffixes and Review of Qal**
 - Textbook chapter 16, pages
 - Exercises

Lesson 20

- Genesis 1:19 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:20 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Verb *Binyanim* Introduction**

Lesson 21

- Genesis 1:21 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:22 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Nif'al**
 - Textbook chapter 19
 - Exercises

Lesson 22

- Genesis 1:21 speaking, highlights
- Genesis 1:22 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Pi'el**
 - Textbook Chapter 17
 - Exercises

Lesson 23

- Genesis 1:22 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:23 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Pu'al**
 - Textbook chapter 20 (Pu'al only)
 - Exercises (Pu'al only)

Lesson 24

- Genesis 1:23 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:24 listening, observations, vocabulary
- **Hif'il**
 - Textbook chapter 18
 - Exercises

Lesson 25

- Genesis 1:24 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:25 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Huf'al**
 - Textbook chapter 21 (Huf'al only)
 - Exercises

Lesson 26

- Genesis 1:25 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:26 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Hitpa'el**
 - Textbook chapter 20 (Hitpa'el only)
 - Exercises (Hitpa'el)

Lesson 27

- Genesis 1:26 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:27 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Geminate Verbs; Polel, Polal, Hithpolel; and Verbal Hendiadys**
 - Textbook chapter 22
 - Exercises

Lesson 28

- Genesis 1:27 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:28 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Numerals**
 - Textbook chapter 23
 - Exercises

Lesson 29

- Genesis 1:28 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:29 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Masoretic Accents and Spelling, Sentence Syntax**
 - Textbook chapter 24
 - Exercises

Lesson 30

- Genesis 1:29 speaking, highlight
- Genesis 1:30–31 listening, observations, vocabulary

- **Review**
- **Looking Ahead**

Bibliography

Introductions / Introductory Grammars

Bartlet, Andrew and Andrew E. Steinmann. *Fundamental Biblical Hebrew and Fundamental Biblical Aramaic*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2004.
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Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introduction*. Second edition revised by Timothy G. Crawford. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.

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———. *Learning Biblical Hebrew Workbook: A Graded Reader*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019.

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Green, J. S., G. B. Lester and J. F. Scrivner. *Handbook to a Grammar For Biblical Hebrew*. Revised edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2005.

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———. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Weingreen, J. *A Practical Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Second edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1963.
Available in your online files folder on Populi.

Lexicons, Dictionaries and Analytical Tools

Botterweck, G. Johannes et al. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Seventeen volumes. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974-2021.
GLBC Library 221.3 BOT v. 1... REF (aka TDOT)

Brown, Francis, Samuel Rolles Driver and Charles Augustus Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic: Coded with Strong's Concordance Numbers*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005. (aka BDB)
Available digitally with Bible programs and biblehub.org interlinear.

Clines, David J. A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Nine volumes. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993—2016.

———. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew Revised*. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2018– (Includes new information available from Dead Sea Scrolls publications ongoing).

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Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Three volumes. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Five volumes. Revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johann Jakob Stamm. Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden, NL: Brill, 1994–2000. (aka HALOT)
Guide for use available at: <http://hebrewbiblescholar.com/halot/>

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Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*. Four volumes. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1989–1990.

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Annotated list of some of the above available at

<https://hst.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HEBREW-LANGUAGE-TOOLS.pdf>

Intermediate and Advanced Grammars

Ben Zvi, Ehud and Maxine Hancock. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993.

Chisholm, Robert B. *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2016.

Cook, John and Robert D. Holmstedt. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: An Illustrated Grammar*. Illustrated by Philip Williams. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Fuller, Russell. *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew Syntax: An Intermediate Grammar*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2017.

Genesius, Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Edited and enlarged by E. Kautzsch. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2006.

Other editions available on Kindle economically and at

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Gesenius%27_Hebrew_Grammar

<http://archive.org/details/geseniushebrewgr00geseuoft>

Guide for use available at: <http://hebrewbiblescholar.com/gesenius/>

Jouon, Paul and Muraoka A *Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Second edition. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 2011. (aka J-M)

Guide for use available at: <http://hebrewbiblescholar.com/jouon-muraoka/>

Reymond, Eric D. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Grammar: A Student's Guide to Phonology and Morphology*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2018.

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Modern Hebrew Elementary Readers

Second language learners find elementary readers can be helpful. These are examples.

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Hoffman, Joel M. *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2004.

Chapter 10 on Modern Hebrew and the work of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda is interesting and helpful for your research paper section on modern Hebrew.