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# OT 501 Concise and Comprehensive Hebrew 1

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Asbury Theological Seminary  
OT 501  
Concise and Comprehensive I Hebrew  
July 2000

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## OVERVIEW

An introduction to OT Hebrew and tools for its study with a view towards increased competence in reading the OT.

## LEARNING GOALS

1. Phonology: Students will know the Hebrew alphabet and vowel points. Students will be able to syllabify, transliterate and pronounce any Hebrew word.
2. Morphology: Students will be familiar with the forms of the Hebrew noun. Students will know the forms of the Hebrew Qal perfect and imperfect. Students will be familiar with other Hebrew verbs forms. Students will be able to identify and parse any Hebrew word with the use of tools.
3. Lexicology: Students will understand how to use the *BDB* Hebrew-English lexicon. Students will know a few selected Hebrew vocabulary words.
4. Syntax: Students will understand how words fit together to form Hebrew phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs.
5. Semantics: Students will understand how morphology, lexicology and syntax merge together into semantics. In other words, students will understand how Hebrew word forms, the meaning of individual words and interrelationships between words combine to yield meaning in Hebrew sentences and paragraphs.
6. Hermeneutics/Exegesis: This is not a course in hermeneutics or exegesis, the science and art of interpreting texts. However, this course does seek to provide tools invaluable to interpreting the Hebrew OT text. Therefore, student will be aware of the possible interpretative significance of Hebrew morphological, lexicological, syntactical and semantic analysis. Students will be confident enough in their Hebrew skills to use them in other interpretative courses and/or preparation for preaching and teaching.
7. Homiletics: This is not a course in homiletics, the art of preaching and teaching. However, this course does seek to provide tools invaluable in preaching and teaching the Hebrew OT. Therefore, students will be aware of ways to incorporate the interpretative insights gleaned from Hebrew analysis into preaching and teaching intended for those without a knowledge of Hebrew. Student be confident enough in their Hebrew skills to use them in preaching and teaching.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, CA: BIBAL, 1987.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Braun, Frank X. *English Grammar for Language Students*. Ann Arbor: Ulrich, 1947.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

*BibleWorks 4.0*. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT.

Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Rev. A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon, 1909.

Joüon, Paul, S.J. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Edited and translated by T. Muraoka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.

Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

Kohlenberger, John III. *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids Baker, 1989-1992.

Bauer, David R. *Biblical Resources for Ministry*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nappanee: Evangel, 1995.

## SEQUENCE OF UNITS

July 5	Introduction
July 5-6	Unit 1: Hebrew Phonology
July 7	Unit 2: Orientation to <i>BHS</i> , Hebrew roots and <i>BDB</i>
July 10-13	Unit 3: Morphology, Syntax and Semantics of Nouns
July 14, 18-20	Unit 4: Morphology, Syntax and Semantics of Verbs
July 21, 25-26	Unit 5: Clauses and Sentences
July 27	Unit 6: Lexical/Word Study
July 27-28	Unit 7: Bridges to Interpretation

## SEQUENCE OF LECTURES

Date	Unit	Lecture	Reading
7-5	1. Hebrew Phonology	1. Introduction 2. Consonants 3. Vowels	Braun, 1-23. Seow, 1-14.
7-6		4. Syllables & Accents 5. On to Syllabification	Seow, 58-9, 64-66. Scott, 25-36.
7-7	2. Orientation to <i>BHS</i> , Hebrew roots and <i>BDB</i>	6. <i>BHS</i> , Roots & <i>BDB</i>	Scott, 1-24, Skim 37-87. Seow, 23-5, 90-1, 170-2.
7-10*	3. Morphology, Syntax & Semantics of Nouns	7. Basics 8. Articles & Prepositions	Seow, 17-20, 40-3. Seow, 54-8; Chisholm, 72-5.
7-11		9. Personal Pronouns 10. Construct State & Chain	Seow, 92-99, 132-5, 137-9. Chisholm, 70-72. Seow, 116-21.
7-12		11. Verbless Clauses & Case 12. Prepositional phrases	Seow, 59, 107-8, 152-3. Chisholm, 57-66. Williams, 44-63.
7-13		13. Adjectives & Other Pronouns	Seow, 70-4, 104-5.

\*We will have a class session on Monday 7-10 in order to make for the Fourth holiday.

Date      Unit                                      Lecture                                      Reading

7-14	4. Morphology, Syntax & Semantics of Verbs	14. Basics 15. Perfect	Seow, 78, 89-90; Chisholm, 78. Seow, 145-7, 152, 193-9.
7-18		16. Imperfect 17. Perfect & Imperfect Continued	Seow, 205-7. Seow, 147-9, 207-8. Chisholm, 85-94.
7-19		18. Volitional forms 19. Participle & Infinitive	Seow, 208-210, 237, 242-3. Chisholm, 103-7. Seow, 78-85, 249-52, 255-6, 258-9. Chisholm, 66-70, 76-8.
7-20		20. Stem 21. Stem Continued	Seow, 173-5, 181-3, 288-9, 298-9. Chisholm, 79-85.
7-21	5. Clauses & Sentences	22. Verb Sequences	Seow, 225-7, 243-4; Kelley, 210-16; Chisholm, 94-103, 108-12.
7-25		23. Types of Clauses 24. Hebrew Narrative	Seow, 106-7, 109-12, 149-51, 232, 284-6, 324-5; Chisholm, 113-17. Seow, 231-2; Chisholm, 119-42.
7-26	6. Word Study	25. Hebrew Poetry 26. Word Study	Seow, 157-9; Chisholm, 142-47. Chisholm, 31-56.
7-27	7. Bridges to Interpretation	27. Bridges to Interpretation	
7-28		Wrap-up	

#### PREPARATION FOR CLASSTIME

In addition to completing any reading and assignment for a given class day, please bring any book from which you had an assigned reading that day with you to class. In the cases of the readings from Williams and Kelley, photocopy the appropriate portion and bring it with you to class. Further, always bring *BHS* and *BDB* with you everyday.

#### EVALUATION

Your grade be calculated using the following factors:

Worksheets & Exercises	15%
Quizzes	25%
Examinations	60%

Grades will be calculated according to the official seminary grading scale.

#### WORKSHEETS & EXERCISES

You will be assigned a number of worksheets and exercises throughout the term. The purpose of these is to give you an opportunity to practice your skills in preparation for the examinations.

#### QUIZZES

You will have four quizzes:

7-6	Hebrew Alphabet
7-7	Hebrew Vowel Points
7-18	Hebrew Qal Perfect
7-19	Hebrew Qal Imperfect

Additionally, you will have approximately eight vocabulary quizzes as announced throughout the term.

#### EXAMINATIONS

You will have four take home examinations:

Examination	DATE DUE
Syllabification and Transliteration	Monday 7-10 9am
Nouns	Monday 7-17 noon
Verbs	Monday 7-14 noon
Final	Friday 7-28 9am

#### READINGS

You must complete all the assigned readings prior to coming to class each day. You will indicate at the beginning of each class on an attendance sheet what percentage of the assigned reading you completed for that day. You will not be allowed to amend the percentage from previous days. Failure to complete the assigned reading for each day will result in grade deduction.

#### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected at each and every class session. You will indicate your attendance at the beginning of each class on an attendance sheet. Any unexcused absence will result in grade deduction of one grade increment (e.g., B to B-) per class hour. (Note: One class session equals three class hours.) Students will be permitted one excused absence. Any student absent during six class hours for any reason will not be eligible for a passing grade.

#### FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN HEBREW

1. OT501 Concise and Comprehensive I Hebrew is the prerequisite for OT502 Comprehensive II Hebrew. OT502 provides students with an even stronger foundation in Hebrew. OT502 is the prerequisite for any Hebrew exegesis course or any other Semitic language (e.g., Biblical Aramaic).
2. OT501 is a prerequisite for 700 level OT IBS courses.
3. Asbury Seminary has a Hebrew Honor Society, Eta Beta Rho. Students who earn a 3.0 or higher average in OT501 and 502 and intend to complete either a Hebrew exegesis or 700 level OT IBS course are eligible for membership.
4. Hebrew reading groups meet regularly during the fall, spring and sometimes summer terms. All skill levels are welcome.
5. Anyone completing this course may read daily from the Hebrew Scriptures.

## ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Bauer, David R. *Biblical Resources for Ministry*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Napanee: Evangel, 1995.

### Hebrew Text

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, CA: BIBAL, 1987.

### Hebrew-English Lexicons

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Clines, David J. A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 3 Vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993-. (3 vols. To date - more coming!)

Holladay, William. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, eds. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 4 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-. (3 vols. published thus far.)

### Hebrew Concordances

Even-Shoshan, Abraham. *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

Lisowsky, Gerhard. *Konkordanz zum Hebraischen Alten Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Wurttembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958.

Mandelkern, Solomon. *Veteris Testamenti Concordantiae: Hebraica atqua Chaldaicae*. Tel Aviv: Sumptibus Shocken Hierosolymis, 1971.

Wigram, George. *The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance*. Revised ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

### Bible Software

*Accordance 3.0*. Altamonte Springs, FL: Oaktree.

*BibleWorks 4.0*. Big Fork, MT: Hermenuetika.

*Gramcord 2.1*. Vancouver, WA: GRAMCORD Institute.

### Beginning Hebrew Grammars

Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Kittel, Bonnie. *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook*. New Haven: Yale, 1989.

Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner, 1971.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

### Advanced Hebrew Grammars

Gibson, J. C. L. *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar-Syntax*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.

Joüon, Paul, S.J. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Edited and translated by T. Muraoka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.

Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Rev. A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon, 1909.

Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

### Hebrew Exegesis

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.

### Hebrew Theological Wordbooks

Botterweck, Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 9 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-1998. (9 vols. to date - more coming!)

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 9 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1981.

Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann, eds. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *The New International Dictionary of the Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

### Vocabulary Helps

*Hebrew Tutor*. Hiawatha, IA: Parsons Technology.

Landes, George M. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner, 1961.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Watts, John D. W. *Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (Out of print)

### Translation Helps

Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

Kohlenberger, John III. *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

### Parsing Helps

Beall, Todd, William Banks, and Colin Smith. *Old Testament Parsing Guide*. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1990. (Out of print)

Davidson, Benjamin. *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992.

Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids Baker, 1989-1992.