

Beginning Hebrew 1

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to teach the student to read Biblical Hebrew so that he/she is better able to understand God's Word. This course is designed to span two semesters, the first focusing on learning the basic grammar and vocabulary necessary to translate, and the second on translating through several passages in the Old Testament (including the whole book of Jonah), and in refining your knowledge of the language.

Philosophy

Learning a language takes blood and sweat, especially a dead language (one not spoken anymore). However, the rewards of learning Biblical Hebrew are worth all the effort. Reading the inspired Word of God in the original languages provides extra clarity and insight into the meaning that the author intended. The joy of coming to better understand God's Word far outweighs any pain in the process.

There will be confusion in the process of learning Hebrew. There will be times when you don't understand. This is normal. As we continue to walk through the language repeating and reinforcing what we have done, these concepts will become clear. The key is to keep persevering. At the end of the course, everyone who endures, continuing to study and learn through the process, will be able to read Biblical Hebrew! Feel free to ask questions: email, call, or visit. It takes blood and sweat, but what is lost in blood, sweat and tears will be gained in glory!

Self-Paced Course and Grading

This online course is going to be self-paced. It is designed to be a 3 unit, 15 week course. That would normally entail about 9-12 hours a week of work for 15 weeks. That translates to 135-180 hours total for the course. Some may be able to do well in the class with less time than others, but you shouldn't expect to be able to read Hebrew without putting in a lot of work! But you can spread that work over a longer period of time, or do it in less than 15 weeks if you cram in more time per week.

Although the course is self-paced with all the videos online, it is also a hybrid course because you can still meet with me in person for additional help and tutoring. Contact me for details.

You will be assessed for this course through the final. If you fail or don't do as well on the final as you would like, there still is a way to pass the course, but you will have to meet personally with me for an oral exam (which will be harder than the written one). So you should wait until you are prepared before taking the final. But if you don't do well, there are ways to make things up.

Don't worry about grades, they're not eternal anyway. The goal is to know Hebrew, not get an 'A'. I'm going to work hard at only giving assignments and tests that will be beneficial towards learning what is necessary to **read Hebrew**. Excessive memorization of paradigms will not be required, recognition will be emphasized instead. Work hard and trust me.

I'm looking forward to a great semester and year with you. I trust it will be one in which you grow into the likeness of our Lord. I intend to make the course devotional and not solely academic. Especially after we finish the first semester, we will spend a lot of time in the text! May we all be faithful to the stewardship that we have been given, glorifying our God with our lives.

Schedule

Here is the schedule for the class. The numbers are which chapters in Barrick and Busenitz (A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew) will be covered. Although we aren't using Barrick's Grammar directly and it isn't required, it is a good reference and one of the best 1st year grammars available. My workbook, handouts, and parsing program is all that is required for this course, but feel free to pick up Barrick if you want more detail in certain areas. I hope to cover the grammar quickly, so we can have more time second semester to practice what we have learned by translating more.

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
1	The Alphabet (BB 1-3)
2	Accents and Syllables (BB 4-5)
3	The Article, Prepositions, and Conjunctions (BB 6-8)
4	Nouns, Adjectives, and Construct (BB 9-11)
5	Pronouns (BB 12, 14, 15)
6	Review; <u>Test 1</u>
7	Perfect and Imperfect (BB 13, 16a)
8	Imperatives, Participles, and Infinitives (BB 16b, 17-18)
9	Niphal, Piel and Pual (BB 19-21)
10	Hiphil, Hophal, and Hithpael (BB 22-23)
11	Verbal Suffixes, Review; <u>Test 2</u> (BB 24-25)
12	1st Weak Verbs (BB 26)
13	2nd Weak Verbs (BB 27)
14	3rd Weak Verbs (BB 28)
15	Review; <u>Final</u> (BB 29)

Cheating

Do not study off other tests/quizzes! This is cheating. Hopefully you are taking Hebrew because you want to know the Lord better, not get a grade in a class!

Videos & Software

All the videos are online. I'm also providing you with a software program to practice parsing Hebrew words that you will need to use frequently.

<http://vimeo.com/channels/hebrew1>
<http://scrolltag.com/trainer.html>

All the videos are here
For more info about the program

Class Materials

All of the course material for this class is copyrighted. This means that you can't copy or give the materials to others. As part of signing up for the class, you are receiving materials that are normally charged for. If others are interested in the material, you can direct them to email me at josh@scrolltag.com. You may keep the materials for yourself after the class is over though.

Contact Info

I can be contacted via email at any time, and I'll try to respond promptly. I usually check email multiple times per day. I can also be contacted via phone during the day.

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