

# Hebrew 7

Hebrew College  
Fall 2010

## Instructor

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Office hours by appointment

## Prerequisites

Hebrew 6 or equivalent

## Course Description

The focus of this course will be the grammar of Biblical Hebrew, building on the students' prior knowledge of general Hebrew grammar. To the extent possible, the texts from which we will draw our illustrations will be coordinated with the Rabbinical School's Shanah Aleph Tanakh Core curriculum

Classes will consist of "frontal" presentation of grammatical concepts and of reading biblical texts and applying those concepts. Homework will include exercises and text preparation. The language of instruction will generally be English, although Hebrew will be used where appropriate.

Because of its critical importance for Hebrew mastery, particular emphasis will be placed on study of the Hebrew verb system, including the features that are particularly characteristic of Biblical Hebrew.

Although the focus of the course will be Biblical Hebrew, connections will be made to the grammar and vocabulary of later periods of Hebrew, including Modern Hebrew.

## Course Materials

A Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*), such as one published by Koren Publishers, that repeats pre- and post-positive cantillation marks on the stressed syllable

Bock, H.N., *Hebrew Grammar: Topics in the Grammar of Classical Hebrew for Students of Modern Hebrew* (instructor-supplied)

F. Brown, S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic* (any edition)

## **Syllabus**

Week 1: Introduction to the study of Biblical Hebrew; reference works; use of biblical lexica; overview of Biblical Hebrew

Week 2: Introduction to *vayyiqtol/qatal* and *veqatal/yiqtol*; the *binyanim*

Week 3: Introduction to volitive verb forms; *binyan qal*; stative verbs

Week 4: The infinitives (construct and absolute); the function of the participle in Biblical Hebrew; *dagesh qal*; *binyan hif'il*

Week 5: Masoretic notation system; consonants; *dagesh haqazaq*; *binyan pi'el* and *binyan hitpa'el*

Week 6: The vowel system; syllable structure; the *sheva'im*; *binyan nif'al*

Week 7: The vowel system: the effect of changes of stress; segolate nouns; hollow roots; *polet* and *hitpolet*

Week 8: Vocalization of proclitic particles; *nasog achor*; *vayyiqtol/qatal* and *veqatal/yiqtol*—a deeper look; final *heh* roots

Week 9: Object pronouns; adverbs; hendiadys; initial *yod* roots

Week 10: The cantillation system; final *aleph* and initial *aleph* roots

Week 11–12: Review

There will be frequent quizzes and a final examination

## **Reference Materials**

### **Dictionaries**

- F. Brown, S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic* (corrected ed.; Clarendon Press, 1952; also available in printings by other publishers)
- L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (2-volume “student edition”; Brill, 2001)

### **Grammars**

- W. Gesenius, E. Kautsch, and A. E. Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (2nd ed.; Clarendon Press, 1910).

- P. Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (trans. and rev. T. Muraoka; Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1996).
- C.H.J. van der Merwe, J.A. Naudé, and J.H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1999).
- M. O'Connor and B.K. Waltke, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1990)
- F.C. Putnam (ed.), *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 1996)
- R. J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline* (2nd ed.; University of Toronto Press, 1976)

## **Tables**

Verbs:

- S. Barkaly, S., *לוח הפעלים השלם* (Reuben Mass, 1970)
- Y. Tzedakah, *לוחות הפועל* (Kiryat Sefer, 1971)

Nouns:

- S. Barkaly, *לוח השמות השלם* (Reuben Mass, 1969)