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978-0-521-53369-0 - The Cambridge Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Introductory Level

Nava Bergman

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THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLICAL HEBREW WORKBOOK

This workbook can be used together with any elementary Biblical Hebrew grammar, by students at colleges, seminaries or universities.

- ◆ It applies many of the tools of modern language acquisition to make learning this classical language an active and inspiring process.
- ◆ It uses well-known Hebrew names as a pedagogical aid to memorizing grammar and vocabulary.
- ◆ It focuses on original biblical texts.
- ◆ The exercises are based on a stock of frequently used words which is gradually enlarged.
- ◆ Vocabulary and grammar learnt early on are regularly revised and reinforced in later exercises.
- ◆ The student is carefully guided through the exercises by means of boxed notes on key points.
- ◆ A key to the exercises is included.
- ◆ The translations provided follow the Hebrew text as closely as possible.
- ◆ It enables students to develop their understanding of the general systematic sound changes in Biblical Hebrew, progressively providing a stable foundation and deeper insight into the language.

NAVA BERGMAN teaches Biblical and Modern Hebrew at the Department of Oriental and African Languages, Göteborg University, Sweden. In 1999 she was awarded the Göteborg University Individual Pedagogical Prize for developing her popular study-kit in Biblical Hebrew for beginners.

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For my children

Miriam, Martha, Dan, Adam and Elinor

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PREFACE

This workbook for introductory level is based on *Bibelhebreiska för nybörjare: Övningsbok* (in Swedish), which is the first volume of a comprehensive study-kit of Biblical Hebrew. The study-kit includes, apart from this workbook, a workbook for intermediate level, a textbook and an audio-CD package with word lists, exercises, texts and biblical songs.

The present workbook can be used together with any elementary grammar of Biblical Hebrew, whether at university, college, seminary or high school. The student is carefully guided, step by step, towards a thorough knowledge of Hebrew.

THE PEDAGOGICAL FEATURES OF THE BOOK

- ◆ Many of the tools of modern language acquisition are employed in this book to make the learning of a classical language an active and inspiring process. A classical language can be assimilated in much the same way as a modern language, namely, by diligent many-sided practice based on a wide variety of exercises and a stock of frequently used words which is gradually enlarged and repeated.
- ◆ Well-known Hebrew names are integrated in word lists, exercises and summaries throughout the book as a pedagogical aid in imprinting grammatical forms and vocabulary items on the memory.
- ◆ The method of teaching used in the book is repetitive-instructive. Main points of grammar are continually repeated, primarily by means of ‘match together’ exercises and ‘remember and note’ boxes preceding many of the exercises. Each ‘remember and note’ box functions as a *Prepared Table* שְׁלֵתֵן עָרוֹן which actualizes relevant data and supplies the student with practical advice and complementary information necessary for carrying out the exercise in question. This repetitive-instructive contribution makes studying effective and even enjoyable since the student does not have to disturb the flow of learning by searching for missed or forgotten data.
- ◆ In order to familiarize the student with original biblical texts, the material in most of the exercises is drawn from the Hebrew Bible.
- ◆ In order to make the student aware of the complex of problems facing the Bible translator, the translations provided in the exercises and the Key follow the Hebrew text as closely as possible. This equips the student with the tools needed to understand why various Bible translations may offer different interpretations of primarily tenses and particles.
- ◆ Concise and easily accessible material is available for review in a series of so-called *Grammatical cornerstones* רֵאשׁ פְּנֵיהַ, in which the basic elements of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew are conveyed in a table or graphic form.

- ◆ In order to strengthen the feeling of coherence and continuity in the studies of the language, a holistic grammatical analysis is applied to parts of the material in the exercises.
- ◆ At times, simplified, somewhat transparent, grammatical terms are used to facilitate learning for students who are not at home with linguistic terminology.
- ◆ Last but not least, the studies are anchored in the common phenomena of the Hebrew language, that is, the general systematic vowel and consonant changes which occur when words are formed and inflected. Knowledge and understanding of the predictable sound changes of the language lead to a stable foundation and deeper insight in the course of the studies. It also minimizes the need to memorize grammatical forms by rote and enables the student to use a lexicon of Biblical Hebrew effectively.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

The book consists of 28 sections followed by coherent text samples illustrating the different genres of biblical prose, three appendices (Hebrew via Hebrew names with exercises based on Hebrew names, Regular sound changes in Hebrew and Guide to grammatical terms), a Hebrew–English vocabulary, an English–Hebrew vocabulary and a key to the exercises.

Sections 3–28 are organized as follows:

- ◆ main points of grammar.
- ◆ under the heading *Memorize* one can find the cornerstones of the basic grammatical structures. Eighteen units of *Grammatical cornerstones* ראש פנה are included in the book.
- ◆ under the heading *Hebrew via Hebrew names* עברית בְּעִזְרַת הַשֵּׁם the knowledge of Hebrew is strengthened through Hebrew names. Sixteen units of *Hebrew via Hebrew names* are included in the book.
- ◆ under the heading *Review and application of the rules* knowledge of, above all, the regular sound changes is applied to newly introduced forms and structures.
- ◆ Word list.
- ◆ Exercises: Morphological forms are drilled first, then syntactical structures are studied individually, followed by Hebrew-to-English translation exercises and then English-to-Hebrew translation. From Section 17 onward a broad-based grammatical analysis is applied to parts of the material in the exercises.

ON THE USE OF THE BOOK

As previously mentioned, this workbook can be used together with any textbook for beginners in Biblical Hebrew. However, several sections of the book (especially Sections 1–12) can be used more or less independently. Teachers are advised to concentrate on the workbook in teaching, using the textbook as a source for additional information and complete grammatical charts.

The material in each section of the book can be divided for use in multiple class sessions according to the needs of the class and the time at one's disposal. The wide variety and broad scope of the exercises give the teacher the advantage of choosing those which are suitable for his/her students, both as a group and individually.

The following types of exercises can easily be excluded or assigned only to certain students in the group: transliteration (Sections 1–7), review and application of the sound change rules (Sections 5–28, under the heading *Review and application of the rules*) and English-to-Hebrew translations (Sections 6–28).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Lena-Nogah Larson and my colleague Rosmari Lillas-Schuil for helpful suggestions and proof reading of this edition. Special thanks are due to Dr. Judith Josephson for revising my English.

Gothenburg 2004

NAVA BERGMAN

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ABBREVIATIONS: NAMES OF THE BOOKS IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Gen. – Genesis	בְּרֵאשִׁית
Ex. – Exodus	שְׁמוֹת
Lev. – Leviticus	וַיִּקְרָא
Num. – Numbers	בַּמִּדְבָּר
Dt. – Deuteronomy	דְּבָרִים
Jos. – Joshua	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
Judg. – Judges	שׁוֹפְטִים
1 Sam. – 1 Samuel	Áleph שְׁמוֹאֵל א'
2 Sam. – 2 Samuel	Bet שְׁמוֹאֵל ב'
1 Kings	Áleph מְלָכִים א'
2 Kings	Bet מְלָכִים ב'
Isa. – Isaiah	יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ
Jer. – Jeremiah	יֵרֵמְיָהוּ
Ezek. – Ezekiel	יְחִזְקֵאל
Hos. – Hosea	הוֹשֵׁעַ
Joel	יּוֹאֵל
Amos	עָמוֹס
Ob. – Obadiah	עוֹבַדְיָה
Jon. – Jonah	יוֹנָה
Mic. – Micah	מִיכָה
Nah. – Nahum	נַחֻם
Hab. – Habakkuk	חַבְּקוּק
Zeph. – Zephaniah	צְפַנְיָה
Hag. – Haggai	חַגִּי
Zech. – Zechariah	זְכַרְיָה
Mal. – Malachi	מְלָאכִי
Ps. – Psalms	תְּהִלִּים
Prov. – Proverbs	מִשְׁלֵי
Job	אִיּוֹב
Song – Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)	שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים
Ruth	רוּת
Lam. – Lamentations	אֵיכָה
Ecc. – Ecclesiastes	קֹהֶלֶת
Esther	אֶסְתֵּר
Dan. – Daniel	דָּנִיֵּאל
Ezra	עֶזְרָא
Neh. – Nehemiah	נְחֻמְיָה
1 Chron. – 1 Chronicles	Áleph דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים א'
2 Chron. – 2 Chronicles	Bet דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים ב'

ABBREVIATIONS: GRAMMATICAL TERMS

adj	adjective
c	common (gender)
conj	conjunction
defin art	definite article
f	feminine
gen	gender
hiph	hiphil (the H-stem)
hitp	hitpael (the HtD-stem)
huph	huphal/hophal (the Hp-stem)
imperf	imperfect
infin	infinitive
inver imperf	inverted imperfect
m	masculine
niph	niphal (the N-stem)
num	number
p, pl	plural
part	participle
perf	perfect
pers	person
pers pron	personal pronoun
pi	piel (the D-stem)
pu	pual (the Dp-stem)
suff	suffix