Unleashing the Old Testament

with Alan Gilman
Bible Teacher

Session 13

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A Taste of Hebrew

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A Taste of Hebrew

Session Objectives

- ***Not*** be able to read and write biblical Hebrew
- Increase familiarity of & appreciation for biblical Hebrew
- Increase respect for the work of translators and scholars
- Able to use online biblical Hebrew tools
- That some would pursue the study of biblical Hebrew

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Paleo-Hebrew

א	𐤀	ח	𐤇	ס	𐤎
ב	𐤁	ט	𐤈	ע	𐤏
ג	𐤂	י	𐤉	פ/ף	𐤐
ד	𐤃	כ/ך	𐤊	צ/ץ	𐤑
ה	𐤄	ל	𐤋	ק	𐤒
ו	𐤅	מ/ם	𐤌	ר	𐤓
ז	𐤆	נ/ן	𐤍	ש	𐤔
				ת	𐤕

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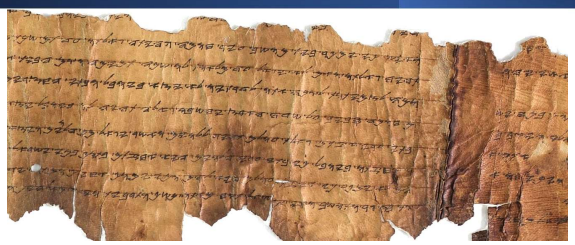
Paleo-Hebrew



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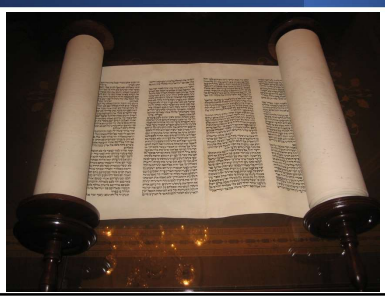
Scroll Text



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Scroll Text

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Printed Text

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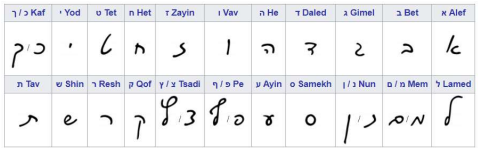
Hebrew Script (cursive)

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursive_Hebrew

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Hebrew/English Differences

Reads right to left

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

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Hebrew/English Differences

Consonantal alphabet

th dg chsd th ct

The dog chased the cat.

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Hebrew/English Differences

Consonantal alphabet

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ׃

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

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Hebrew/English Differences

Heavily conjugated

He kept (watched over)	שָׁמַר
She kept	שָׁמְרָה
You (m) kept	שָׁמַרְתָּ
You (f) kept	שָׁמַרְתְּ
I kept	שָׁמַרְתִּי
They (m or f) kept	שָׁמְרוּ
Y'all (m) kept	שְׁמַרְתֶּם
Y'all (f) kept	שְׁמַרְתֶּן
We kept	שָׁמַרְנוּ

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Hebrew/English Differences

Heavy use of prefixes and suffixes

וַאֲבָרֲכָה מְבָרְכֶיךָ וּמְקַלֶּלְךָ אָאֹר
וְנִבְרְכוּ בְךָ כֹּל מִשְׁפְּחֹת הָאֲדָמָה׃

Genesis 12:3

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Hebrew/English Differences

Pronouns tend to be implied

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־קֹלְךָ שָׁמַעְתִּי בַגָּן
וָאִירָא כִּי־עֵירֹם אָנֹכִי וָאֵחָבֵא׃

Genesis 3:10

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Hebrew/English Differences

No indefinite article

כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מְבִיאֲךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה

Deuteronomy 8:7a

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Hebrew/English Differences

Stresses ultimate or penultimate syllable

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

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Hebrew/English Differences

Time is derived from context

19

Hebrew/English Differences

Often leaves out present "to be"

וַיֹּאמֶר־לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵיפֹה הוּא
וַיֹּאמֶר צִיבָא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ הִנֵּה־הוּא בֵּית מָכִיר
בֶּן־עַמִּיאֵל בְּלוֹ דְבָר׃

2 Samuel 9:4

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Hebrew/English Differences

Different word order
(e.g. verb most often at the beginning)

וַיֹּאמֶר־לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵיפֹה הוּא
וַיֹּאמֶר צִיבָא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ הִנֵּה־הוּא בֵּית מָכִיר
בֶּן־עַמִּיאֵל בְּלוֹ דְבָר׃

2 Samuel 9:4

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Hebrew/English Differences

- Reads right to left
- Consonantal alphabet
- Heavily conjugated
- Heavy use of prefixes and suffixes
- Pronouns tend to be implied
- No indefinite article
- Stresses ultimate or penultimate syllable
- Time is derived from context
- Often leaves out present "to be"
- Different word order (e.g. verb most often at the beginning)

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Hebrew/English Differences

But…

God, in his providence, revealed himself through this language

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Hebrew Alefbeit

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	as in…	Final Form
א	Alef	<<silent>>		
ב/בּ	Beit/Veit	b/v	boy/vine	
ג	Gimel	g	good	
ד	Dalet	d	day	
ה	Hey	h	hot	

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Hebrew Alefbeit

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	as in…	Final Form
ו	Vav	v	vine	
ז	Zayin	z	Zion	
ח	Chet	ch	Bach	
ט	Tet	t	toy	
י	Yod	y	yes	
כ/כּ	Kaf/Chaf	k/ch	king/Bach	ך

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Hebrew Alefbeit

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	as in...	Final Form
ל	Lamed	l	lion	
מ	Mem	m	mom	ם
נ	Nun	n	now	ן
ס	Samek	s	sit	
ע	Ayin	<<silent>>		
פ/פּ	Pay/Fay	p/ph	pop/photo	ף

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Hebrew Alefbeit

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	as in...	Final Form
צ	Tsade	Ts	hits	ץ
ק	Qof	k	king	
ר	Reish	r	run	
שׁ/שׂ	Shin/Sin	sh/s	ship/sit	
ת	Tav	toy	t	

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Vowels

בְּי	בָּ	בַּ
aye ī	bat ă	bat ă

בֵּי	בֶּ	בֶּ
eh? ā	bet ĕ	bet ĕ

בִּי	בִּ
beet ē	bit ĭ

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Vowels

בֹו	בֹ
boat ō	boat ō

בּוּ	בֻּ
boo oo	boo oo

בְּ
uh half vowel

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Vowels

Using vowels with silent letters

עַם אָב

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Biblical Hebrew Names

יְהוָה

YHVH/Yahweh/LORD

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Biblical Hebrew Names

אָדָם

Adam

דָּם אָדֹם אֲדָמָה

Blood **Red** **Ground**

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Biblical Hebrew Names

חַוָּה

Eve

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Biblical Hebrew Names

אַבְרָם

Abram

34

Biblical Hebrew Names

אַבְרָהָם

Abraham

35

Biblical Hebrew Names

שָׂרַי

Sarai

36

Biblical Hebrew Names

שָׂרָה

Sarah

37

Biblical Hebrew Names

יִצְחָק

Isaac

38

Biblical Hebrew Names

רִבְקָה

Rebecca

39

Biblical Hebrew Names

יַעֲקֹב

Jacob

40

Biblical Hebrew Names

יִשְׂרָאֵל

Israel

41

Biblical Hebrew Names

רָחֵל

Rachel

42

Biblical Hebrew Names

לֵאָה

Leah

43

Biblical Hebrew Names

יוֹסֵף

Joseph

44

Biblical Hebrew Names

מֹשֶׁה

Moses

45

Biblical Hebrew Names

אַהֲרֹן

Aaron

46

Biblical Hebrew Names

יְהוֹשׁוּעַ

Joshua

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Biblical Hebrew Names

יְשׁוּעַ

Yeshua

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Cantillation

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ׃

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Cantillation

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

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Cantillation

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ׃

51

Cantillation

בראשׁית ברא אלֹהִים אֵת השמַים ואֵת הארץ׃

52

Cantillation

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

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Cantillation

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

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A Taste of Hebrew

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
יְהוָה אֶחָד׃

Deuteronomy 6:4

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A Taste of Hebrew

הִנֵּה לֹא־יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן
שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל׃

Psalm 121:4

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A Taste of Hebrew

Hinei lo yanum v'lo yishan
Lo yanum v'lo yishan

Hinei lo yanum v'lo yishan
Lo yanum v'lo yishan

Shomer yisrael

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A Taste of Hebrew

הִנֵּה מַה־טּוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים
שֶׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יָחַד׃

Psalm 133:1

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A Taste of Hebrew

הִנֵּה מַה־טּוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים
na-eem ooma tov ma hinei
שֶׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יָחַד׃
yachad gam achim shevet

Psalm 133:1

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Psalm 133 – Version One

Hinei ma tov u-ma na-im
Shevet achim gam yachad
Shevet achim gam yachad

Hinei ma tov, shevet achim gam yachad
Hinei ma tov, shevet achim gam yachad

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Psalm 133 – Version Two

Hinei ma tov u-ma na-im
Shevet achim gam yachad (repeat)

Hinei ma tov, hinei ma tov
Li li li li li li li li li li (repeat)

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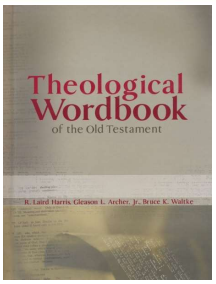
Further Study



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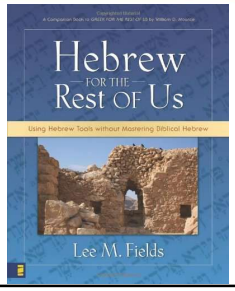
Further Study



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A Taste of Hebrew

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ׃
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וִיחֻנֶּךָּ׃
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם׃

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

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