

II. CLASS ONE: The Alphabet on some pronouncing work!

A. The Problem we face:

Hebrew is not a difficult language for reading. It has a relatively uncomplicated grammar and is mere child's play compared with Greek. But it has a few features that strike terror to the heart of the student. Here is a mention of those features.

1. The Alphabet is not Latinized..
2. The teacher does not use a transliteration (but will include one in the notes)
3. The stuff reads the wrong way on the page.
4. The vowels are in the wrong places.
5. The matter of accent and stress..tough work.
6. And we never feel very sure of what we say..so, just imagine we are little children and try to say the Hebrew words as they come out. If you feel socially insecure, don't worry about it. Give everyone in the class a good laugh. I will say that some vocalization is absolutely needed for accomplishing our goals in this course. We will work on it together...using a more modern Hebrew pronunciation and understanding of some key letters and vowels.. My own experiences have been both humorous and frustrating and I continue to struggle...but I am not ashamed to blurt it out and the result is that I can read and be happy in my work. Hebrew is a great blessing in Bible study..but you will have to study it before it will study for you.

On the next page is the Hebrew alphabet in my own writing...if you can read this you will be successful in whatever you do! There are reasons for doing my own scripting and I will probably tell you when we get there. This is the basic alphabet...letters marked with an asterisk need further clarification and that will come after we pronounce and practice writing the basic forms. A magic slate is not a bad thing to have here!