

Biblical Theological Seminary
Hebrew Reading
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SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS IN GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX

I. SOME FRIENDS ON THE PATHWAY

Content: The Lexicon
 Character
 Arrangement of material
 Methodology
 Problems
 Word meaning
 Summary

 The Grammar
 Character
 Usage
 Cautionary note

 The Concordance

 Assorted helps

A. THE LEXICON

Learning to work in another language is never really easy...no matter what the learned scholars may say. It helps if you are uniquely gifted, but few of us are. If one can live in the total environment of another language, such as spending a year in a Kibbutz in Israel, proficiency is much more really attained. But few of us are so privileged and we are forced to come to the point of increased familiarity with the strange tongue through various contacts and bit-studies. A day's work here and another there, all put together will give us the needed facility. And in the accomplishment of the task there are a number of practical helps that will aid us.

Our first lesson in the second year of Hebrew is to survey some of the works that are most helpful to us in the pursuit of the language. Many students struggle in that they are not skilled in the use of the helps that are available. To know of the nature of these helps and how we may employ them is a giant step in the further knowledge needed of the Biblical language. This lesson is prepared to that end. It does not cover everything fully...but it tries to get you started in the direction of knowing and using your friends.

The recommended lexicon for this course is BDB..Brown, Driver and Briggs. Koehler and Baumgartner is a useful work and the rendition of the latter by William Holladay is very useful. The instructor frowns on analyticals, etc., for personal, pedantic, and practical reasons. The following discussion is geared to BDB but will not be lost on any of the better lexicons. BDB is costly but will last you a lifetime with a little care...mine is thirty years old and you would be surprised how new it looks for the use I have given it...well, maybe you would be surprised.