Introduction

After finishing an introductory Hebrew course, the intermediate reader often finds that there is still a gap between his or her reading ability and the demands of the biblical texts. This book has been designed to help bridge this gap between reader and text. By helping the reader continue to develop an ability to read Hebrew biblical texts, this book leads the student beyond a rudimentary knowledge of biblical Hebrew through direct interaction with the text. As the student gains confidence and experience in dealing with progressively more difficult Hebrew biblical texts, she or he is enabled to move toward competent reading of a wider range of Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible (OT/HB) texts.

This book is intended for use by the individual student, whether as part of a university or seminary class or on her or his own. It therefore has been developed in a text-plus-workbook format, with space in the textbook for student responses. Since the intention is to help the student towards competent reading of the OT/HB, the student will grapple with text by translating directly from the Bible. But his or her own efforts will be conducted in dialogue with the notes and supported by references to familiar textbooks. This book presupposes that the student has completed an entry-level biblical Hebrew course. It will be most comfortable for the student who has used as an introductory textbook B. P. Kittel, V. Hoffer, and R. A. Wright, *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989), since it follows its terminology and pedagogical approach. Other introductory textbooks and grammars to which the book is cross-referenced throughout are (in alphabetical order): Moshe Greenberg, *Introduction to Hebrew* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1965); Page H. Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1992); Thomas O. Lambdin, *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (New York: Scribner, 1971); C. L. Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987); Jacob Weingreen, *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (2d ed.; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959). Students who have been introduced to biblical Hebrew through some textbook other than these will be able to make use of this book, but may wish to provide themselves with one of these texts for reference purposes. Translation work will require constant use of *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1979), still the most commonly used biblical Hebrew-English dictionary. Students will be directed for more detailed analysis of grammatical points to Willhelm Gesenius-Emil Kautzch, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (trans. A. E. Cowley; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910); Paul Joüon-Takamitsu Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (2 vols., Subsidia Biblica 14/1, 14/2; Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991); and Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990).

Throughout the textbook, the focus is on reading selected biblical texts, with references offered to the grammars and textbooks listed to review matters of grammar which the student will have learned at the elementary level but may have forgotten. These references are marked with the symbol ? throughout the book. Other references to the grammars and textbooks, as well as to other books and articles, which are designed to carry the reader's knowledge forward are marked with the symbol → and include references which expand the topic, offer more detailed analysis, or supply a source for ideas in the discussion.

This book is designed to offer a number of different levels of use to the intermediate reader. The reader may focus entirely on the main text, and will be led by it into translation and understanding of the biblical Hebrew text under discussion. Or, the reader may go beyond the main text to read the "Notes" as well. These notes offer further information, most often concerning structure, genre, literary devices, and accents. In addition, the reader is invited to consider the discussions "For Further Thought," which are placed at strategic points in the text to open avenues of thought concerning reading and interpreting biblical texts. Moreover, from time to time, the reader is encouraged to expand her or his knowledge of biblical Hebrew and of biblical Hebrew texts, and to be introduced to the ongoing critical discussion of these texts, by the suggestions under "For Further Reading." The student is also invited to follow the references marked by the → symbol for detailed information on specific issues. Often, these references point to several sources. In such cases, the reader may choose to follow one of these sources, a combination of them, or all of them. The reader may also decide that, for the time being, it would be better to concentrate on the main text and skip all these references. In sum, this textbook can be used at any of the mentioned levels or, at various times or for various readings, in any combination of these levels.

There is no attempt in this book to provide a full or systematic treatment of grammar. Furthermore, since this is primarily a textbook, there has been no attempt whatsoever made to present an exhaustive bibliography on any topic. Our listings are intended only to provide a selection of entry points for the student.

Because the book is organized by readings of passages of widely varying lengths and difficulty, the discussions are also of varying length. We have not artificially divided these discussions into "lessons," but the student or instructor will find it easy to divide the work into relatively even sections if that is desirable.

In order to create a truly dialogic book, the process of authorship has been collaborative, involving an ongoing interaction between Dr. Ehud Ben Zvi, who teaches Hebrew at the University of Alberta, and two intermediate Hebrew readers and former students of his, Richard Beinert, an undergraduate linguistics and Semitic languages student, and Dr. Maxine Hancock, a doctoral fellow in English during the composition of the book. By working as a team, the authors have endeavored to capture and re-create for the user of this book the experience of a warm and vigorous interaction with the text and with other readers of the text. In this regard, we are of course indebted to every work mentioned either by the cross-referencing system or in other parts of the discussion. The work of these other scholars is embedded in ours. Because of the nature of this work, comprehensive documentation by way of footnotes has not been sup-

plied. We have, however, identified seminal works which have influenced the discussion as we present it, and we suggest that our readers follow our steps into other readings.

If, through the use of this textbook, the intermediate biblical Hebrew reader begins to feel a part of the long conversation about the OT/HB text, drawn into discussion and debate, our work will have been well done.

Note on the Text

1. Symbols and Sub-headings in Text

? For Help, see . . .

References marked with this symbol are designed to help you refresh your memory of grammatical points learned in introductory biblical Hebrew courses.

→ For Additional Information, You May Consult . . .

References marked with this symbol are designed to help you expand your knowledge of biblical Hebrew and biblical Hebrew texts. These references encompass what, in a different kind of book, might be included in footnote documentation. They expand a topic under discussion, offer a more detailed analysis, or document sources referred to within the discussion or embedded in it.

Note

These sub-sections offer notes additional to the main discussion of the biblical text, including insights on various matters of literary or contextual interest.

For Further Thought

These sub-sections are designed to open avenues of thought concerning reading and interpreting biblical texts and to prompt consideration of aspects of interpretation and offer additional readings.

For Further Reading

At the end of some sections, references for further reading are offered to provide entrance points for more advanced studies of the text discussed in the section, as well as related matters.

Works Cited in This Section

All works other than those used regularly for cross-reference will be given full bibliographic reference at the end of each section in which mention is made of them.

2. Cross-references

Cross-references are supplied from this textbook to several others, one or more of which the student is expected to consult as a reference on a regular basis. The abbreviations of the books

which are cross-referenced are listed below in alphabetical order. As a rule, references to these books that follow the **?** symbol will be in parentheses throughout the textbook. The reference to Kittel (K.) will be given first mention, followed by the other works according to the alphabetical order of their abbreviations. References following the → symbol will also be arranged in alphabetical order by abbreviation. (See List of Abbreviations.)

All scriptural references follow the system accepted by the Society of Biblical Literature and published in *JBL* 107 (1988): 579–96 and in *SBL Membership Directory and Handbook* (Decatur, Ga.: Society of Biblical Literature, 1991), 193–210.

Please also note that 'ה, the short form for the divine name YHWH (the Tetragrammaton), will be used throughout this text (e.g., כִּי־סָנַר ה' בְּעַד רַחְמָהּ in 1 Sam 1:6).

3. Alternative Terms

In the first unit (1.1), where two grammatical terms are offered, they will be shown with Kittel's term followed by an alternative term written inside parentheses. Alternative terms are offered only if they differ very significantly from Kittel's terms.

4. Verb Analysis Grid

We will ask you to "analyze the verb" frequently, since the verb holds so much of the grammatical information you need for translating the sentence and keeps you on your toes, grammatically speaking. We invite you to do your analysis by means of a grid that looks like this:

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	SF	OS	BRM

This verb analysis chart is adapted from the one used in Kittel et al., *Biblical Hebrew.* **Stem** here is equivalent to "binyan," and **form** to "inflection" in other textbooks. **PGN** stands for "person, gender, and number" of the subject of the verb; **SF** stands for "Special Features." The SF column will be useful to students who have learned Hebrew grammar through Kittel. **OS** stands for (pronominal) object suffixes attached to the verb (**?** K. 215, 385; Gr. 71–72; Ke. 153–59; S. 131–36, 179–81; W. 123–33; → GKC §57–61; JM §61–66). **BRM** stands for the basic range of meaning(s) of the root in this stem.

5. A Practical Suggestion

Many new and intermediate readers of Hebrew find the fine print with so many vowel and accent markers quite difficult to follow or to locate their place in. You may find that study and translation of a passage is easier if you make an enlarged photocopy of the passage you are studying and work from that.

Abbreviations

1. Grammars and Lexicons

BDB = Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrikson, 1979; original edition of Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Oxford:Clarendon, 1907).

GKC = Willhelm Gesenius-Emil Kautzch, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (trans. A. E. Cowley; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910).

Gr. = Moshe Greenberg, *Introduction to Hebrew* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1965).

JM = Paul Joüon-Takamitsu Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (2 vols., Subsidia Biblica 14/1, 14/2; Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991).

K. = Bonnie P. Kittel, Vicki Hoffer, and Rebecca A. Wright, *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989).

Ke. = Page H. Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1992).

L. = Thomas O. Lambdin, *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (New York: Scribner, 1971).

S. = C. L. Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1987).

W. = Jacob Weingreen, *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (2d ed.; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959).

W.O'C. = Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990).

2. Bibles and Periodicals

AB	Anchor Bible
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ANET	J. B. Pritchard, ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*
BA	Biblical Archaeologist
Bib	Biblica
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
BSO(A)S	Bulletin of the School of Oriental (and African) Studies
BZAW	Beihefte zur ZAW
CBQ	Catholic Biblical Quarterly

ExpT	Expository Times
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
HUCA	Hebrew Union College Annual
ICC	International Critical Commentary
Int	Interpretation
JBL	Journal of Biblical Literature
JSOT	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament—Supplement Series
JSS	Journal of Semitic Studies
JThS	Journal of Theological Studies
KJV	King James Version
NCB	New Century Bible
NEB	New English Bible
NJPSV	New Jewish Publication Society Version
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTS	Oudtestamentische Studiën
REB	Revised English Bible
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature—Dissertation Series
SBLSCS	Society of Biblical Literature—Septuagint and Cognate Studies
VT	Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
ZAW	Zeitschrift für die altestamentische Wissenschaft