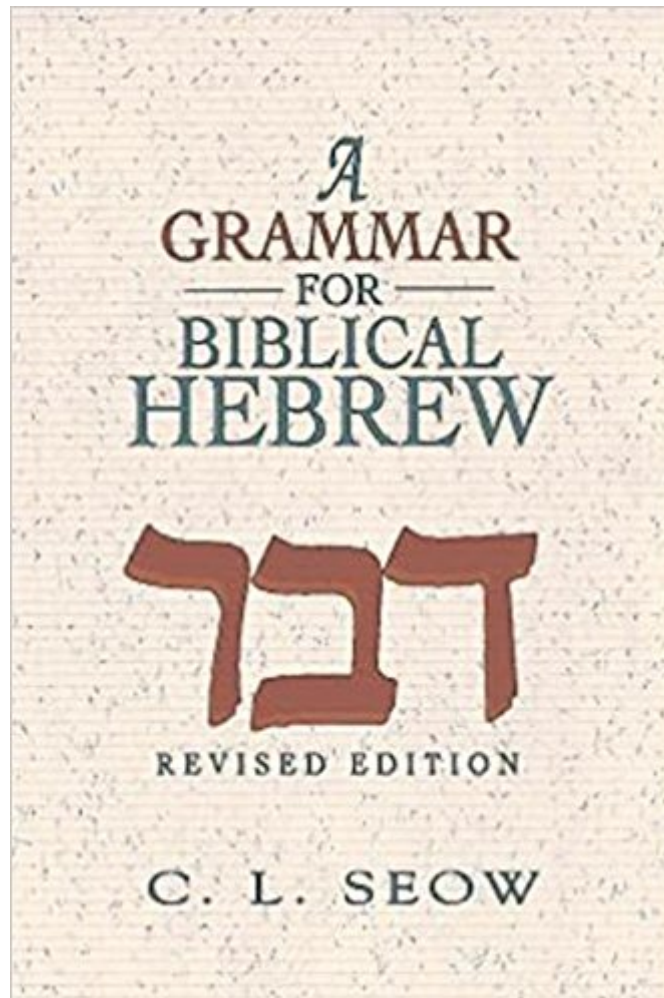




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A Grammar For Biblical Hebrew (Revised Edition)



Synopsis

This is a comprehensive revision of our popular Hebrew grammar textbook. Key Features:

*Revision of a proven textbookÂ *Uses biblical text from the outsetÂ *Greater emphasis on understanding of accents and other critical details; new material on the study of the Hebrew language Key Benefits: *Helps the student use the biblical text itselfÂ *Make use of Hebrew dictionaries and other reference tools easier for the beginning studentÂ *Excurses provide a good general overview of the Hebrew language, as well as some in-depth understanding of grammatical rules

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Hebrew --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Princeton Seminary

I bought this as it was the required textbook for my beginning hebrew course, but I would definitely not recommend it. Seow makes a hard language harder by front-loading the lessons; way too many specifics and confusing charts are given, rather than looking to what is accessible/ doable for the student to memorize/ learn. For example, each lesson presents a new concept, with a majority of the lesson given to exceptions in the language and/or outliers. But instead of memorizing the extensive charts that Seow offers of hebrew words that behave abnormality, it is much better to present this outliers after the rule has been mastered.Finally, the list of vocab words at the end of each lesson is geared toward biblical translation. The exercises at the end of each lesson are all

from the Hebrew Bible, so Seow chose the vocab words based on these exercises. I applaud his desire to throw the student into the Hebrew Bible early, but in a way it feels as if one has been thrown to the wolves. Words in the Hebrew Bible (particularly poetry) are often the rare form or exceptions to the grammatical rules, which means students are asked to deal with exceptions without much practice in the basics. Moreover the vocab words chosen for each lesson are random with no unifying factor, and similar roots/ words are spread throughout multiple chapters (the basic form, the plural, and verbal form) are not together (and not typically linked up with the lesson on that particular form). While Seow is comprehensive in his treatment of the language, in the end it is not accessible and not recommended for the beginning student. Instead, I would recommend Ryan Bonfiglio's "Re-thinking Biblical Hebrew" - much more attention is paid toward the student who would actually be using the book - i.e. accessible print/font with appropriate caveats and sidebar notes (essentially preferrencing the material - very important), mnemonic aids, and keys to learning the material.

If you are an accomplished language learner, or already familiar with Hebrew, this text may be an excellent tool to help you elevate your mastery to the next level. Embrace it. If you are instead seeking an introductory Hebrew text you should run screaming from Seow. If you are not a natural language learner and considering PhD studies, and you see that your professor has assigned this text, switch sections immediately. I am neither kidding nor exaggerating. I love academics. I am finishing up my second master's degree, and I have never suffered this much frustration with a text. Seow's fascination with introducing his reader to the complexities of "real" Hebrew and plumbing the depths of intricate Hebrew grammar certainly warrant admiration from language aficionados. However, for the novice learner, Seow borders on inaccessible due to his austere pedagogical approach. For me, it felt like climbing a mountain with an impatient, expert guide who would not be hindered by the cumbersome trappings or needs of the beginner. I felt like he would constantly clamber ahead along the most difficult possible route and shout: "Come on! You can do it!" from the next ledge far above my head.

Excellent

The textbook moves quickly, but offers copious examples. Very systematic and logical in its treatment of biblical Hebrew; my other textbook looks haphazard in comparison.

I have used several Hebrew grammar books, most grammar books teach similar principles of the science of the language. I have enjoyed this book because of the way these principles are organized. I found the organization friendly to understanding the workings of Hebrew grammar.

I wish I got a teacher with this book.

Despite some complicated descriptions, the book is very helpful to those with no Hebrew knowledge. its gentle introductions to vocabulary and grammar make the beginners task easier.

This book is a "must have" for biblical Hebrew! I still have this book and reference it often when I conduct a Hebrew word study.

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