

A
MODERN GRAMMAR
FOR



BIBLICAL
HEBREW



DUANE A. GARRETT
AND
JASON S. DeROUCHIE



Nashville, Tennessee

A Modern Grammar for Biblical Hebrew

© Copyright 2009 by Duane A. Garrett and Jason S. DeRouchie

All rights reserved.

Published by B&H Publishing Group
Nashville, Tennessee

ISBN: 978-0-8054-4962-4

Dewey decimal classification: 492.4
Subject heading: HEBREW LANGUAGE—GRAMMAR

Hebrew Scripture quotations are from *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, edited by Karl Elliger and Wilhelm Rudolph, Fourth Revised Edition, edited by Hans Peter Rüger, © 1977 and 1990 Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, Stuttgart. Used by permission.

Printed in the United States of America
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 · 15 14 13 12 11 10 09
BP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Orthography and Phonology

1. The Hebrew Alphabet and Vowels	1
2. Pointed Vowel Letters and the Silent Shewa	12
3. Daghesh Forte, Mappiq, Metheg, and Rules for Gutturals	18
4. Accent Shift and Vowel Changes	23

B. Basic Morphology and Syntax

5. Gender and Number in Nouns	28
6. Hebrew Verbs	33
7. The Directive ה, Negative לֹא, and Interrogative ה	42
8. The Definite Article	45
9. Roots, Stems, and the Qal <i>Qatal</i>	50
10. The Conjunction and the Qal <i>Yiqtol</i> and <i>Weqatal</i>	58
11. The Qal Infinitive Construct and <i>Wayyiqtol</i>	68
12. The Construct Chain	74
13. Prepositions	83
14. Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions	89
15. Adjectives and the Qal Participles	99
16. Geminate and Segholate Nouns	106
17. Pronouns	116
18. More About וְ and וְיִשְׁׁ and the Qal Imperative	122
19. Numbers	127
20. Stems, Roots, and Principal Parts of Weak Roots with Gutturals in the Qal Stem	134
21. Principal Parts of Other Weak Roots in the Qal Stem	144
22. Characteristics of the Niphal, Piel, and Hiphil	150
23. Characteristics of the Pual, Hophal, and Hithpael	161
24. Principal Parts of Weak Roots in the Derived Stems	167
25. Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs	178
26. The Qal Infinitive Construct with Suffixes, the Qal Infinitive Absolute, and הִנֵּה	186

C. Detailed Study of the Qal Verb

27. The Qal <i>Yiqtol</i> and <i>Wayyiqtol</i> with Weak Roots	196
28. The Qal Imperative and Participle with Weak Roots	206
29. The Qal <i>Qatal</i> with Weak Roots, Qal Statives, and the Qal Passive Participle	212
30. The Qal Cohortative, Jussive, and <i>Wayiqtol</i>	220

D. Detailed Study of the Derived Stems

31. The Niphal	226
32. The Piel and Pual	235
33. The Hiphil and Hophal.....	246
34. The Hithpael.....	261
35. The Alternative Doubled Stems.....	267

E. The Masoretic Text, Detailed Study of Syntax, and Poetry

36. The Cantillation Marks and Other Masoretic Conventions.....	273
37. An Overview of Text Syntax and Literary Structure.....	283
38. More on Historical Discourse and Paragraphs, Connectors, and Subordination.....	296
39. More on Anticipatory and Descriptive Discourse	312
40. Discourse Markers and More on Directive Discourse.....	321
41. An Overview of Poetry	336

F. Appendixes

Appendix 1: Basics for Using Your Hebrew Bible	349
Appendix 2: Noun Types and Basics for Using Your Hebrew Lexicon.....	366
Appendix 3: Distinguishing Subject and Predicate in Nominal Clauses.....	371
Appendix 4: Connection, Offline Clauses, and Text Type Predicate Patterns	373
Appendix 5: Glossary for the Study of Hebrew Grammar	375
Appendix 6: Hebrew-English Vocabulary—By Chapter	385
Appendix 7: Hebrew-English Vocabulary—By Alphabet	398
Appendix 8: Principal Parts and Finite Verb Paradigms	411

Preface

A Modern Grammar for Biblical Hebrew and its accompanying materials are designed for a two-semester course of study. The textbook's structure, however, is intentionally set up to allow maximal use in both traditional and non-traditional academic settings. The format of the material gives instructors numerous options for customizing their syllabi.

1. Possible Tracks

Looking at the Table of Contents, you can see that the grammar is organized in the following manner:

- A. Orthography and Phonology (chapters 14)
- B. Basic Morphology and Syntax (chapters 5–26)
- C. Detailed Study of the Qal Verb (chapters 27–30)
- D. Detailed Study of the Derived Stems (chapters 31–35)
- E. The Masoretic Text, Detailed Study of Syntax, and Poetry (chapters 36–41)

It is important to realize that the student is introduced to all essential elements of biblical Hebrew grammar, including the derived stems, by the end of chapter 26. The grammar provides the following four options for a full course of study:

- (1) *Chapter 26:* Ending here enables professors to cover nearly all traditional first-year grammar, including an introduction to weak verbs and derived stems. Students will have studied the Qal strong verb and III-7 verb with full inflections, but they will have also become acquainted with weak verbs and derived stem verbs by means of inflected vocabulary, principal parts, and translation practice. Two extra topics on which first-year professors may want to comment are the jussive and cohortative forms in chapter 30 and the alternative doubled stems in chapter 35.
- (2) *Chapter 30:* This ending point allows professors to address all traditional first-year grammar, with all Qal weak forms being taught through full inflections and with the derived stems being taught through principal parts. The one additional topic that professors may want to address is the alternative doubled stems in chapter 35.
- (3) *Chapter 35:* By this point, all traditional first-year grammar has been thoroughly covered, with all stems being taught through full inflections along with full discussions of the derived stem verbs in weak roots.
- (4) *Chapter 41:* Completing the whole book allows instructors to cover all traditional first-year grammar, along with an introduction to essential intermediate issues like the Hebrew cantillation system, text syntax (as opposed to sentence syntax), literary structure, discourse markers, poetry, textual criticism, and lexicography. Students will have translated over 300 verses of actual biblical Hebrew (plus numerous practice sentences) and memorized nearly all words used 79 times or more in the Hebrew Bible (plus some extras), including 510 core vocabulary and 155 proper names.

Some instructors may choose to take their students through all 41 chapters in a three-semester program. There may also be those who do not have enough time to complete the book but who still desire to incorporate some intermediate-level material into a first-year course. For these, the grammar is very usable since, so long as students have learned to use their lexicons, professors can jump to specific textbook chapters and readings without in any way jeopardizing the students' mastery of the basics. Since most teachers of first-year Hebrew will want students to become acquainted with basic guidelines for using the Hebrew Bible and the lexicon, and also with noun types, information on these topics is provided in Appendixes 1 and 2.

2. A Note on Vocabulary

Accompanying this material are "Third Semester Hebrew Catch-up Lists" that will allow students to master vocabulary down to 100 uses, regardless of which of the four termination options were used in the first year. If you skip chapters, we encourage you to have students continue to work on vocabulary in the consecutive chapters, so as to enable the use of these catch-up lists.

3. Ancillary Materials

The CD in the back of this volume contains many helpful materials for the student, including audio files for the alphabet and vocabulary. Additional ancillary materials for students and teachers are available on the publisher's Web site at <http://www.bhacademic.com/A-Modern-Grammar-for-Biblical-Hebrew/>.

4. Acknowledgements

With profound appreciation, we here offer our thanks to those who toiled for hours in proofreading, evaluating, and correcting this work. Responsibility for any remaining errors is entirely ours. Special thanks are extended to Anna Strom, Jason Andersen, Sarah Lysaker, Dr. Rebekah Josberger, and Dr. David Stabnow. Their thoroughness, enthusiasm, and honesty are deeply appreciated. We also thank Dr. Kenneth Turner of Bryan College and Brian Tabb and Ryan Griffith of Bethlehem College and Seminary for trying early drafts of this material in the classroom. We must also voice the deepest gratitude to our own Hebrew students at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Northwestern College (MN), who patiently bore with the early manuscript versions of this grammar while kindly making suggestions for its improvement.

Finally and chiefly, we joyfully give praise to God, whose clear and sufficient disclosure of himself and his will through the Scripture makes such a grammar possible and necessary. Being confident in all God's past and future grace won for us through Messiah Jesus, we pray our grammar will help equip the next generation to study, practice, and teach all of God's Word in God's world for God's glory.

Duane A. Garrett and Jason S. DeRouchie
Easter Week 2009

CHAPTER 1

THE HEBREW ALPHABET AND VOWELS

The Hebrew alphabet consists entirely of consonants, the first being א (Aleph) and the last being ת (Taw). It has 23 letters, but ש (Sin) and שׁ (Shin) were originally counted as one letter, and thus it is sometimes said to have 22 letters. It is written from right to left, so that in the word written שׂא, the letter א is first and the letter ש is last. The standard script for biblical Hebrew is called the **square** or **Aramaic script**.

A. The Consonants

1. The Letters of the Alphabet

Table 1.1. The Hebrew Alphabet

1	א	Aleph	7	ז	Zayin	13	מ	Mem	19	ק	Qoph
2	ב	Beth	8	ח	Heth	14	נ	Nun	20	ר	Resh
3	ג	Gimel	9	ט	Teth	15	ס	Samek	21	שׁ	Sin
4	ד	Daleth	10	י	Yod	16	ע	Ayin	22	שׂ	Shin
5	ה	Hey	11	כ	Kaph	17	פ	Pe	23	ת	Taw
6	ו	Waw	12	ל	Lamed	18	צ	Tsade			

To master the Hebrew alphabet, first learn the signs, their names, and their alphabetical order. Do not be concerned with the phonetic values of the letters at this time.

2. Letters with Final Forms

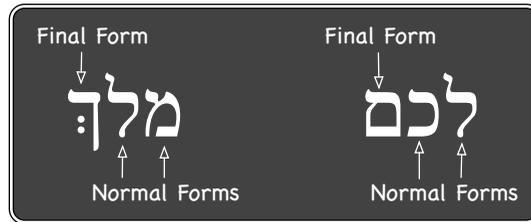
Five letters have **final forms**. Whenever one of these letters is the last letter in a word, it is written in its final form rather than its normal form. For example, the final form of Tsade is ץ (contrast צ). It is important to realize that the letter itself is the same; it is simply written differently if it is the last letter in the word. The five final forms are as follows.

Table 1.2. Consonants with Final Forms

<i>Normal Form</i>	כ	מ	נ	פ	צ
<i>Final Form</i>	ך	ם	ן	ף	ץ

- (1) In מלך (*mlk*), מ (the first letter, reading the Hebrew right to left) has the normal form, but the last letter in the word is כ in its final form (ך).
- (2) In לכּם (*lkm*), the כ has the normal form, but the מ has the final form (ם).

Blackboard 1.1. The Use of Final Forms of Letters



3. Confusing Letters

Hebrew can be difficult to read because many letters look very similar. Observe the letters in the following chart. In each box, you see a series of letters that look similar to one another. Be sure that you can distinguish which letter is which.

Table 1.3. Easily Confused Letters

עצ	סמטם	יוזן	דרך
ככפ	החת	נגו	

4. The Phonetic Value of the Alphabet

For learning the alphabet, Hebrew consonants can be divided conveniently into six groups: **begadkephat** letters, sibilants, ט and ק, gutturals, liquids, and nasals. These six groups are not built around phonetic definitions of the Hebrew consonant system, although some phonetic terminology is used. These groups simply provide a framework for learning to pronounce the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

a. Begadkephat Letters

Referred to as the begadkephat letters (from the artificial memory words כַּפֶּת בְּנֶדֶר), the letters ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, and ת are unique in that each has two distinct phonetic values. Each of these may be found with a dot called a **Daghesh Lene** (e.g., בּ) or without the Daghes Lene (e.g., ב).

- (1) If the Daghes Lene is present, the letter is a **plosive**, like the English *B*.
- (2) If there is no Daghes Lene, the sound is a **fricative** or **spirant** (there is a strong breathing sound, as with the English *V* sound).

Table 1.4. The “Begadkephat” Letters

With Daghes Lene	בּ <i>B</i> as in <i>boy</i>	גּ <i>G</i> as in <i>good</i>	דּ <i>D</i> as in <i>dot</i>	כּ <i>K</i> as in <i>kite</i>	פּ <i>P</i> as in <i>paste</i>	תּ <i>T</i> as in <i>tin</i>
Without Daghes Lene	ב <i>V</i> as in <i>very</i>	ג <i>GH</i> as in <i>dog house</i>	ד voiced <i>TH</i> as in <i>then</i>	כ <i>C</i> as in <i>cool</i>	פ <i>F</i> as in <i>fix</i>	ת unvoiced <i>TH</i> as in <i>thin</i>

Do not think of the begadkephat letters as twelve different letters. There are only six. In a given word the same begadkephat letter will be written sometimes with and sometimes without a Daghesh Lene, according to rules we will learn in the next chapter. The Daghesh Lene is used only with these six begadkephat letters.

b. The Gutturals

Hebrew has four guttural letters: א, ב, ג, and ד. The sounds of these letters are made at the back of the throat. For English speakers, the “sounds” of א and ב are especially odd. The letter א is a mild “glottal stop,” the tiny sound made by the tightening of the throat before the *oh* sound in *uh-oh*. But for all practical purposes, א has no sound at all. א was necessary, however, because originally Hebrew was written with no vowels. Writing without vowels obviously posed a problem if, for example, a word began with a vowel sound. Some letter had to be an “empty” consonant to show that there was a vowel there, and א had that role. The ב is a strong “glottal stop,” and it has a much stronger guttural sound. It is important to try to pronounce the letters distinctly. Today, people frequently treat א and ב as redundant (both having no sound) and also treat ג and ד as redundant (both having an H sound). Biblical Hebrew does not confuse these letters.

Table 1.5. The Gutturals

א	Almost no sound; a weak glottal stop. The tiny sound made by the tightening of the throat before the <i>oh</i> sound in <i>uh-oh</i> .
ב	A strong glottal stop. Exaggerate the sound made by the tightening of the throat before the <i>oh</i> sound in <i>uh-oh</i> , and add a slight but hard G sound. Somewhat similar to the final guttural sound of the English <i>-ING</i> ending.
ג	<i>H</i> as in <i>hot</i> .
ד	Like <i>H</i> but with friction at the back of throat; like the CH in Scottish <i>loch</i> .

c. The Sibilants

These are the S-type letters. They are created by passing air between the teeth. These letters differ from one another in several respects as described in the chart below.

- (1) **Voiced** refers to a consonant that is pronounced while using the voice (e.g., the sound of *Z*); **unvoiced** refers to a consonant pronounced without using the voice (e.g., the sound of *S*).
- (2) To English speakers, ט and צ appear to be redundant letters, but probably most speakers of biblical Hebrew could distinguish the two.

Table 1.6. The Sibilants

ז	<i>Z</i> as in <i>Zion</i> ; voiced
ס	<i>S</i> as in <i>sack</i> ; a sharp S made with teeth; unvoiced
צ	<i>TS</i> as in <i>hats</i> ; unvoiced but emphatic

שׁ	S as in <i>seen</i> ; a softer S than the Samek; unvoiced and slightly aspirated
שׂ	<i>SH</i> as in <i>sheen</i> ; unvoiced and strongly aspirated

d. Velar (Emphatic) T and K

The letter ט is a *T* sound that may have been pronounced more on the palate than was the case with its counterpart ט (the ט seems to have been pronounced with the tongue on the back of the teeth). The letter ק is a *K* that was probably pronounced further back in the throat, more in the back of the palate, than כ. These two consonants are pronounced more emphatically and are called **velars**. The צ is also a velar.

Table 1.7. ט and ק

ט	a <i>T</i> made more on the palate, as in <i>tot</i> ; may have had a glottal sound
ק	a <i>K</i> sound at the back of the throat; no English analogy

e. The Nasals

A **nasal** is a sound made by vibrating the vocal chords while obstructing the flow of air through the mouth with the lips or tongue with the result that air and its sound comes out the nose instead of the mouth. Hebrew has two nasals: מ (which obstructs airflow with the lips) and נ (which obstructs airflow with the tongue on the palate). These are like their English counterparts *M* and *N*.

Table 1.8. The Nasals

מ	<i>M</i> as in <i>miss</i>
נ	<i>N</i> as in <i>now</i>

f. The Linguals

A **lingual** is a consonant sound made by causing the airstream the flow over the sides of the tongue, as in the English *L* and *R*.

Table 1.9. The Liquids

ל	<i>L</i> as in <i>look</i>
ר	<i>R</i> as in <i>read</i>

g. The Glides (Semivowels)

A **semivowel** or **glide** is a consonant with a vowel-like sound; sometimes they are actually used as vowels. For example, English *Y* is a consonant in *yoke* but a vowel in *easy*. Hebrew has two semivowels: ו and י.

ו	<i>W</i> as in <i>wish</i> (modern pronunciation: like <i>V</i> in <i>very</i>)
---	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

י	Y as in yes
---	-------------

h. Phonetic Classification of the Letters

The velars ק and ט are also plosive like כּ, not fricative like כ. Notice also that the begad-kephat letters are in three classes: labials (made with the lips), palatals (made on the palate), and dentals (made with the front teeth). As you can see, the begadkephat letters are subdivided by whether they are voiced or unvoiced and whether they are fricative or plosive.

In the table below, unvoiced consonants are italicized, and voiced consonants are bold.

Table 1.10. Letters Phonetically Classified

Class	<i>Fricative</i>	<i>Plosive</i>	<i>Velars</i>	<i>Nasals</i>	<i>Glides</i>	<i>Other</i>
Labials	<i>בּ פּ</i>	בּ פּ		מּ	וּ	
Palatals	<i>גּ כּ</i>	גּ כּ	ק		י	
Dentals	<i>דּ תּ</i>	דּ תּ	ט	נּ		
Gutturals						א ה ח ע
Sibilants			צ			ז ס ש שׁ
Linguals						ל ר

i. Summary of the Pronunciation of the Hebrew Consonants

The following chart summarizes the phonetic values of the Hebrew alphabet.

Table 1.11. Pronunciation of the Hebrew Consonants

א almost silent	ח CH of <i>loch</i>	פּ P of <i>paste</i>
בּ B of <i>boy</i>	ט T of <i>tot</i>	פּ F of <i>fix</i>
בּ V of <i>very</i>	י Y of <i>yes</i>	צ TS of <i>hats</i>
גּ G of <i>good</i>	כּ K of <i>kite</i>	ק K at back of throat
גּ GH of <i>dog house</i>	כּ C of <i>cool</i>	ר R of <i>read</i>
דּ D of <i>dot</i>	ל L of <i>look</i>	שׁ S of <i>seen</i>
דּ TH of <i>the</i>	מּ M of <i>miss</i>	שׁ SH of <i>sheen</i>
הּ H of <i>hot</i>	נּ N of <i>now</i>	תּ T of <i>tin</i>
וּ W or V	ס S of <i>sack</i>	תּ TH of <i>thin</i>
ז Z of <i>zoo</i>	ע strong glottal stop	

5. Writing Hebrew Letters

You obviously will want to learn to write Hebrew letters. Everyone develops his or her particular style for writing Hebrew letters, but use the following guidelines.

- (1) Remember that Hebrew is written from right to left. Thus, the general motion of your hand should be right to left rather than left to right.
- (2) Be sure that your letters are standard and recognizable to all people who know Hebrew. Do not develop an eccentric style.
- (3) Make your writing clear by including the small marks that distinguish similar letters. Your **כ** should not look like **ק**. Final Nun (ן) should drop below the rule line; Waw (ו) should not.
- (4) On the other hand, you do not need to imitate the very formal style of the Hebrew letters found in a Hebrew Bible. Simple lines, as found in the letters below, suffice. The stroke order found in the letters below will help you write clear letters that move from right to left.



B. The Concept of Vowel Points

1. Background

Biblical Hebrew was originally written without vowels; the tradition of how to vocalize correctly the Hebrew text was passed down orally from one generation to the next. But

eventually, the scribes realized that some way of writing down the vowels had to be devised if the correct pronunciation was not to be lost or corrupted. They were not willing, however, to deface the sacred text by inserting large vowels (like the Roman letters A, E, or U) that would require moving aside the received letters. Instead, they created a system of dots and lines to represent vowels. They were able to insert these minute vowels around the Hebrew letters of the text without having to move the letters. The vowel signs are called **vowel points**. By about the seventh century A.D., the current system of vowel pointing was made the standard. The scribes who devised this system are commonly called the Masoretes, and thus the standard text they produced is called the **Masoretic Text (MT)**.

2. Simple Vowels and Their Classes

- (1) Hebrew vowel points are written below the consonants, or to the left of the consonants, or raised and to the left of the consonants, as in the examples below.
 - (a) The vowel Hiriq is a small dot written under a consonant. It is pronounced like the English *I* in *hit*. Thus, הִ is *MI* as in *miss*.
 - (b) The vowel Holem is a small, raised dot slightly to the left of its consonant. It is pronounced like the *O* in *hole*. הֹ would be pronounced *MO*.
- (2) A vowel is pronounced *after* the consonant that it is with. Thus, הִ is *MI* and not *IM*.
- (3) Hebrew vowels may be described in three categories: simple vowels, pointed vowel letters, and reduced vowels. All make use of vowel points (reduced vowels are described below; pointed vowel letters are described in chapter 2).
- (4) Hebrew has long and short vowels, but the quantity of a vowel in a given word can change depending on what happens to that word. If a word is altered (for example, by the addition of a suffix), a long vowel may be replaced by a short vowel, or a short vowel by a long one. A vowel that can undergo this kind of change can be called **changeable**. We learn how vowels change in chapter 4.
- (5) The Hebrew vowels are divided into three classes called a-class, i-class, and u-class. Generally, vowels change within their classes (this is not an invariable rule). A long a-class vowel (Qamets) might become a short a-class vowel (Pathach) but will not normally become a short u-class vowel (e.g., Qibbuts).

Table 1.12. The Simple Vowel Points

Class	Symbol	Name	Quantity	Sound
A	·	הִ	short	<i>A</i> of <i>cat</i>
A	ֿ	הֹ	long	<i>A</i> of <i>father</i>
I	·	הִ	short	<i>I</i> of <i>hit</i>
I	ֿ	הֹ	short	<i>E</i> of <i>set</i>
I	ֿֿ	הֵ	long	<i>E</i> of <i>hey</i>

U	◌ֻ	◌ֹ	Qibbuts	short	<i>U</i> of <i>cut</i>
U	◌ֹ	◌ֹ	Holem	long	<i>O</i> of <i>whole</i>
U	◌ֻ	◌ֹ	Qamets Hatuph	short	<i>O</i> of <i>tote</i>

Under the column “Symbol,” you can see both how the vowel looks when written with a consonant (in this case, כּ) and how it looks by itself. There are three ambiguities in the vowels listed above.

- (1) A single vowel symbol ◌ֻ is used for both the Qamets and Qamets Hatuph. In order to distinguish the two, you must know how to tell a short syllable from a long syllable. This is discussed in chapter 3.
- (2) The vowel Holem written with the letter Shin or Sin is confusing. A Shin with Holem looks like this: שׁ. A Sin with Holem looks like this: שׂ. Sometimes a single dot does double duty, so that Sin with Holem looks like this: שׂ.
- (3) Holem is in some words “unchangeable.” When unchangeable, it stays the same and will not be transformed into a different vowel. For example, in שׁוֹטֵף (“judge”) it is unchangeably long. In different words, however, Holem will change. The reason for this is described in the next lesson.

3. The Reduced Vowels

Sometimes a simple long or short vowel will become an extremely short or “reduced” vowel. Hebrew has four such “reduced” vowels. These are analogous to the very short sound for the *E* many people use when pronouncing “because” (as b^ecause).

Table 1.13. The Reduced Vowels

Name	Symbol	Sound	Transliteration
Shewa	◌ֵ	<i>E</i> of <i>because</i>	<i>ě</i>
Hateph Pathach	◌ֵֿ	<i>A</i> of <i>aside</i>	<i>ǎ</i>
Hateph Seghol	◌ֵֿֿ	<i>E</i> of <i>mechanic</i>	<i>ě</i>
Hateph Qamets	◌ֵֿֿֿ	first <i>O</i> of <i>tomato</i>	<i>ǒ</i>

The three vowels with the name Hateph are also called **composite Shewas**. They are almost always found with gutturals and not with the other letters.

C. Other Introductory Matters

1. Basic Transliteration

From time to time, you will see Hebrew words written in transliteration, that is, written with Roman characters. The following chart gives you standard transliterations for the consonants and vowels you have learned. By practicing transliterating Hebrew words in the early

stage of your learning, you can better associate the Hebrew letters with their phonetic values. At the same time, you should never rely on transliteration for reading and pronunciation. Learn to read and pronounce Hebrew letters. Using the following table, the word אָדָם would be transliterated as *ʾādām*, and שָׂר would be transliterated as *śar*.

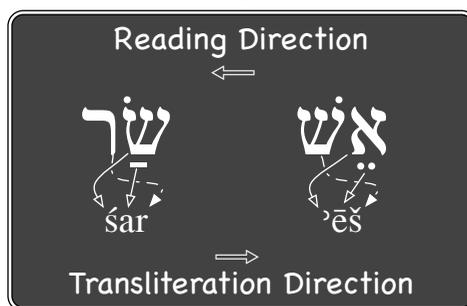
Table 1.14. Transliterations for Consonants and Basic Vowels

א	ʾ	ו	w	מ	m	ר	r	-	a
ב	b	ז	z	נ	n	ש	ś	ַ	ā
ב	<i>b̥</i>	ח	ḥ	ס	s	שׁ	š	ִ	i
ג	g	ט	ṭ	צ	ʿ	ת	t	ֵ	e
ג	<i>g̥</i>	י	y	פ	p	תּ	<i>t̥</i>	ֶ	ē
ד	d	כ	k	פּ	<i>p̥</i>			ֹ	u
ד	<i>d̥</i>	כּ	<i>k̥</i>	צ	ṣ			ֻ	ō
ה	h	ל	l	ק	q			ֺ	o

2. Reading a Hebrew Word

Read the word from right to left and pronounce the consonant before you pronounce a vowel that is below or to the left of that consonant.

Blackboard 1.2. Pronouncing Hebrew with Vowel Points



3. Basic Accentuation

In Hebrew, words are normally accented on the last syllable of the word (the ultima). Not infrequently, however, the accent is on the second to last syllable (the penult). In this textbook, words accented on the ultima have no special mark, but words accented on the penult are marked with the ˘ sign, as follows: מְלִיךָ.

4. Gender in Nouns

Every noun in Hebrew is masculine or feminine. There is no neuter gender. We will learn more about gender in nouns in chapter 5. Every noun in the vocabulary is marked with M

In this textbook, there are four categories of vocabulary.

- (1) *Core Vocabulary*: These are the essential words for memorization. Each of these words appears frequently in the Hebrew Bible, and some appear hundreds of times.
- (2) *Inflected Vocabulary*: In the early chapters, some words will be given in an inflected form (like the English *saw* from the verb *see*). These words will enable you to begin reading simple sentences and will serve as reference points as you progress in the grammar.
- (3) *Proper Names*: The names of people and places; these are easy to recognize.
- (4) *Reading Vocabulary*: These are words that you need in order to read a specific biblical passage in the lesson. These words either are inflected in a pattern that you have not yet studied or are relatively uncommon words and therefore not in the core vocabulary.

1. Core Vocabulary

אָדָם	human, Adam	מ	אָדָם
אָרֶץ	earth, land	פ	אָרֶץ
אֵשׁ	fire	פ	אֵשׁ
דָּבָר	word, thing	מ	דָּבָר
יָדַעַת	knowledge	פ	יָדַעַת
זָקֵן	old (adjective); elder, old man (noun)	מ	זָקֵן
חֲצֵר	village, courtyard	פ מ	חֲצֵר
מֶלֶךְ	king	מ	מֶלֶךְ
עֶבֶד	servant, slave	מ	עֶבֶד
צֹאן	flock (of sheep or goats) (s or p collective)	פ	צֹאן
שָׂר	ruler, leader, prince	מ	שָׂר
שֹׁפֵט	judge, leader	מ	שֹׁפֵט