



## Teaching Hebrew in Class

### Teaching Hebrew Grammar

by dennis dickinson

Hebrew is normally presented with intricate rules of grammar, complicated vowel system(s) (which are not Hebrew!), and a complicated-grinding pace. This has proved to be more than a little problematic. It tends to derive men and women AWAY from Hebrew, rather than TO it. Any teaching that drives students away from learning deserves criticism. It creates distaste and sours the spirit on further lack-of-delight studies. The fallout of Hebrew Classes is notorious enough to need not further explanation!

Hebrew should be taught inductively. The technical should

be kept to a minimal. The goal must first be to simply read Hebrew with understand; and to read long passages, or whole books. I normally cover about 25 chapters of Genesis and the book of Ruth in the first 10 weeks.

How does one do this? Its really quite simple.

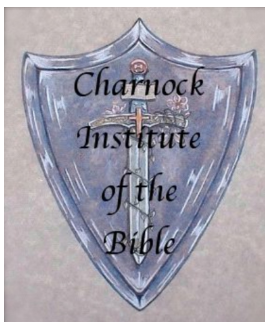
1. Drop the hour long going over assignments in class. Do NOT go over them piece by piece. If there is a question about a sentence or verse, quickly cover it and move on. They have done the work once, do NOT go over the assignments again!

*continued . . .*

### GREEK & HEBREW COURSES IN ONTARIO, PAYETTE & COURD'LANE!

There are Greek and Hebrew Courses in full swing in Ontario (regular pace), Payette (Hebrew Reading I), and Cour D'alene (Hebrew Grammar & Greek Grammar) at regular pace. These classes are Life Changing!

These are available with Credit to audit; depending on your needs. Either way, you will see what Jesus and the Apostles saw when they were reading their Bibles. You will also begin to see what they were not seeing! For



example, did you know that in most translations of the Bible the word "of" appears mote than thirty thousand times! However, the word NEVER occurs once in the Greek or Hebrew Bible. It is IMPLIED by several forms of Syntax (the order and relations of words in clauses and sentences). Come see the beauty of God as originally presented in the Greek and Hebrew text for yourself. You will never read your Bible in the same way again!

## White Stone Missions

[whitestonemissions.com](http://whitestonemissions.com)

The Annual Missions Banquet is October 6th. Please RSVP. If you would like to host a table please let us know.

Updates each year are presented at the Banquet; as well as presentations by those who have been to the Mission Field. We are always trying to make a better wheel as we seek God's way for His people. In fact, LESS IS MORE in may cases. Less materials with better quality; and more work on these quality materials!

A thorough mastery of the Bible is the most important thing once a Church Group is established in any community on earth. This has become our goal and our target.

Once the Bible is mastered in a Discipleship format, then other things can be added. Very little money should be expended. Again, LESS IS MORE if the quality is there! The Scriptures are adequate to accomplish all that needs to be accomplished in the life of the Church. Paul told Timothy this in 1 Timothy 3:16-17. The Pastoral Epistles must be absorbed by potential Church Leaders. It contains the pattern for all Churches and their leaders.

We hope to see you at the Banquet!



1. One-half to two-thirds of the class time should be spent Reading The Hebrew Bible in the format of a Bible Study. I.e. Teach the text!
2. Less Is More! Choose a grammar that will not try to cover every item of Hebrew known to man. Put those Grammars into the GEEK category for those who wish to be grammarians; and leave the rest of us to simply read the books of the Bible in Hebrew to our simple task. This way we can actually read the entire Hebrew Bible as one reads any other book!
3. Assignments over basic grammar should be kept to a minimal. As much as is needed to master the basics only. Some study on diagnostics rather than memorizing a Vowel system - which is not even Hebrew in the first place. Don't learn everything!
  - a. Memorize Basic Paradigms for the Noun, the Perfect and Imperfect.
  - b. Memorize Basic Vocabulary of ALL words occurring more than 100 times.
  - c. Reading several sentences from real and unaltered Hebrew regularly, or even daily, will be of great help.
4. Hebrew Reading should dominate the regular class time. Reading will include the explanations

of the Basic Grammar as the reading proceeds. I regularly present the Perfect and Imperfect basic paradigm as soon as possible in class and begin the students chanting. This is before they even see these lessons in the grammar. Then I start pointing out the pieces of the paradigms as we go. No lingering . . . just keep going!

5. Testing is limited to Grammar Basics, Vocabulary and Some basic Translation. The goal is to keep basic Hebrew classes focussed on the basics! Professors can get fancy and detailed at a later time. Loosing half to two-thirds of the class before one finishes the grammar is perhaps a sign of failure rather than of depth and quality of the course.

The format presented above should be used for Greek, and Aramaic as well. Bring the joy of the Biblical text to life FIRST and FOREMOST! After all, How Did You Learn Your Native Language!

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