Syllabus

Biblical Hebrew 101

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Course Description:
Beginning Biblical Hebrew emphasizing reading and grammar. This course assumes no prior knowledge of the Hebrew language.

Goals and Objective:
The goal and objective of this course is for the student to acquire a rudimentary skill in translating the Hebrew bible. This will be demonstrated by the student being able to use a lexicon and a grammar to successfully translate verses from the Hebrew bible.

Learning Outcomes:
Knowledge: A student should be able to:
1. Learn and understand the Hebrew alphabet.
2. Learn and understand the Hebrew system of vocalization (points).
3. Learn and understand the basic Hebrew verb forms.
4. Learn and understand the basics of Hebrew nouns, adjectives, definite article, prepositions, conjunctions, and pronouns.
5. Develop a minimal vocabulary in Biblical Hebrew.

Skills:
1. A student should be able to read vocally from the Hebrew Bible.
2. A student should be able to parse Hebrew verbs.
3. Using the Hebrew Bible and other helps (lexicon, verb charts) a student should be able to complete their own translations of various texts into English.

Values:
1. To adequately understand and defend Article of Faith No. 8 (i.e., “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly”)
2. To more clearly understand the doctrine found in the Old Testament.
3. By understanding the doctrine, to be able to better live in conformity with the ways of God.

Required Books:
1. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (Suggested version: A Reader’s Hebrew Bible by A. Philip Brown II and Bryan W. Smith[2008])

Grading:
Grading will be determined in three parts: (1) attendance; (2) class participation; and (3) academic assignments.

Attendance. Class discussions will be extremely helpful in learning Hebrew. The class discussions will center on the Hebrew language and the clarity it can give teachings found in the bible. Therefore, I require a minimum of 80% class attendance. There is no outside “homework” assignments that can make up for missing a class.

Class participation. Includes attitude displayed, adherence to honor code, preparation for each class by completing assignments due by class time, and participating in class experience. Inappropriate use of electronic devices is a grade killer. Grade for class participation is purely subjective on my part and is used in determining the final grade.

Academic assignments. Assignments fall into four categories with each assignment worth various amounts of points (total to be determined later):
(1) Quizzes
(2) Hebrew translation and parsing forms
(3) Readings from Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar, 2 Ed.
(4) Final exam