

Assessing New Grammars of Biblical Hebrew

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**23 new grammars of
Biblical Hebrew in the
last 15 years**




**Why so many new
grammars?**



- **Recognizing unmet needs**
 - **Integration of various dialects of Hebrew**
- **First Language Acquisition methods**



**The power of the human mind; according
to a research at Cambridge
University, it doesn't matter in what
order the letters in a word are, the only
important thing is that the first and last
letter be in the right place. The rest can
be a total mess and you can still read it
without a problem. This is because the
human mind does not read every letter
by itself, but the word as a whole.
Amazing huh? yeah and who always
thought spelling was important!
P.S. Disable your spell checker before
sending this on.....**



Second Language Acquisition methods (SLA)

New developments in technology



Additional reasons

- * Personal teaching philosophy**
 - * For tenure**
- * Accumulated teaching materials**



**To change or not to
change?**

That is the question!



Jennifer Quast's survey

1. “Which introductory grammar or textbook do you currently use for biblical Hebrew, if any? How long have you used this text? If you are not currently teaching introductory biblical Hebrew, what was the last textbook you used? For how long?”



- Seow - 1987 – 30%
- Ross - 2001 – 14%
- Simon, E., I. Resnikoff, and L. Motzkin - 1992 – 12%
- Kelley - 1992 – 9%
- Pratico G. D. & M. V. van Pelt - 2001 – 7%
- Lambdin - 1973 – 7%
- None – I use my own notes – 7%
- Kittel, B.P., V. Hoffer, and R.A. Wright - 1989 – 5%
- Hunter - 1988 – 2%
- Eickmann - 2002 – 2%
- Bartelt - 2004 – 2%
- Ellis - 2006 – 2%



2. What other introductory textbooks have you used in the past?



- **Weingreen, 1959 - 19%**
- **Seow, 1987 – 19%**
- **Lambdin, 1973 – 17%**
- **Kelley, 1992 – 13%**
- **Pratico & van Pelt, 2001 – 6%**
- **Ross, 2001 – 6%**
- **Kittel, Hoffer & Wright, 1989 – 6%**
- **Others 2% each**



Choosing a grammar of Biblical Hebrew

- 1. Know your audience**
- 2. Preferred teaching method**
- 3. Room for innovative ideas**
- 4. Technology component**
- 5. Uses 'authentic' language**



Choosing a grammar of Biblical Hebrew

**6. Clear and interesting
format**

7. User-friendly for students

8. Terminology

9. Verbal system

10. Assignments



Choosing a grammar of Biblical Hebrew

11. Paradigms and vocabulary

12. Basic syntax

13. Available & affordable

14. Resource for future use



Beyond the Textbook

List of ideas on Handout

THANK YOU!



Beyond the Textbook

- **Listening comprehension – Snunit website**
- **Compose dialogue in Hebrew**
- **Performative skills – read out loud**
- **Exercises from biblical text**



Beyond the Textbook

- **Jeopardy, Who wants to be a (Hebrew) millionaire?, Hebrew scrabble**
- **Students prepare a lesson**

