

MANUAL OF HEBREW SYNTAX

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Manual of Hebrew syntax by Josephus David Wijnkoop & C. Van Den Biesen

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JOSEPHUS DAVID WIJNKOOP & C. VAN DEN BIESEN

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HEBREW SYNTAX

BY

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TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH

BY

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LETTER OF COMMENDATION

FROM

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VAUGHAN

Archbishop of Westminster.

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MY DEAR DR. VAN DEN BIESEN.

You have followed the example of the great St. Jerome who acquired his knowledge of the Hebrew tongue by becoming a learner under Jewish doctors, and now you are about to render assistance to others by translating the work on Hebrew Syntax drawn up by your Hebrew master the Rev. J. D. WIJNKOOP, Rabbi at Amsterdam.

You tell me that this Syntax promises great linguistic merits. I much regret that upon this point I can myself form no opinion. But I have confidence in your judgment on such a matter. And of this I am certain that you will be rendering a great public service to the Church in England if you help to promote the study of the Bible languages, especially the Hebrew. One of the pressing needs of the Church in England is a Catholic school abreast of the times and of the



latest researches in all that concerns Biblical science. This I have a strong hope to see established. There are many growing up like yourself, enamoured of these studies. It is for you who possess knowledge to do all that you can to promote the formation of such a Catholic school.

Believe me

Your faithful & devoted servant,

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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By publishing a Dutch Manual of Hebrew Syntax I believe I am corresponding with the wish of many of my countrymen. At least I have heard several complaints of the want of such a book. I had moreover in my Manual of Hebrew Grammar (Edition Joachims-thal, Amsterdam 1888) promised to undertake the composing of a Syntax.

As regards the plan I have adopted in my Manual of Syntax I should like to draw attention to the following points. I need scarcely remark that I have consulted and utilised existing works bearing on the subject. Yet in the treatment of certain chapters I have thought it necessary to work independently for reasons which on comparison would be obvious.

This applies in the first place to my treatment of the infinitive and participle of the verb. As I could not accept the existing opinions concerning them, I have preferred to adopt a simpler theory arising from their unique twofold character of *verbum* and *nomen*.

Further, the connecting of two verbs into one idea

appeared to me to require a more or less original treatment, while in the manner of dealing with the *status constructus* and ה' סרררר certain alterations seemed to me desirable.

The terminology, moreover, for naming the cases, such as we find in the classic and modern languages, has in so far it was possible been intentionally avoided. This plan I adopted, because in Hebrew scarcely any trace can be found of the so called flexion of the *nomina*, by which the various cases are expressed. The *status constructus* which most of all would remind us of them, on the one hand differs from them because of the alteration of vowels, and the abbreviation instead of prolongation of words, and on the other hand it is capable of expressing so many cases, that it cannot well be identified with one or more of them.

Finally, it should be observed that I have ventured to divide this Manual in a manner different to that usually adopted, by first considering the different parts of the sentence, and then its construction.

J. D. WIJNKOOP.

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