

MANUAL OF HEBREW SYNTAX

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Manual of Hebrew syntax by J.D. Wijnkoop

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HEBREW SYNTAX

BY
Isaak Joseph
REV. (J. D.) WIJNKOOP

Litt. Hum. Cand. in the University of Leyden,
Rabbi of the Jewish Congregation in
Amsterdam.

TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH

BY

REV. DR. C. VAN DEN BIESEN

Prof. of Theology at St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary College,
MIL-HILL.

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LETTER OF COMMENDATION

FROM

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VAUGHAN
Archbishop of Westminster.

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.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

This volume, as the title indicates, is not intended to be a complete or exhaustive work on Hebrew Syntax. By treating of its primary principles, its aim is to initiate students into its more difficult problems and to prepare them for more profound and comprehensive works.

The Manual is based upon the Hebrew text as determined by the Massorah, irrespective of the demands of textual criticism.

The translation of this Manual has been undertaken from motives of gratitude for the valuable instruction received from the author in time past, and from a desire to introduce to English students a Hebrew Syntax, the work of one so eminently qualified for the task, the author having been Professor of Hebrew at the Israelitish Seminary in Amsterdam for upwards of 25 years, besides giving proof of his Hebrew scholarship in his three essays "The signification of the word עֵתָה" "The signification of the adverb אֵן" and "דרכי הנסיגה" sive *Leges de accentus Hebraicae linguae*

ascensione", the latter of which was published both in Latin and Hebrew.

For the defects in translation and any errors that may have crept into this little work, the translator trusts to the kind indulgence of the reader, and will be grateful for corrections.

C. VAN DEN BIESEN.
