

**A MANUAL HEBREW
GRAMMAR FOR THE
USE OF BEGINNERS**

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A Manual Hebrew Grammar for the Use of Beginners by J. Seixas

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FOR THE USE OF BEGINNERS.

BY JOSEIXAS.

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1833.

P R E F A C E .

THE following pages are intended for those only who have read or may hereafter read Hebrew with the author. The lessons and rules, though comparatively few and brief, are, I know, sufficient to give an easy and rapid insight into the general formation of the language. Some years' experience in teaching, and the favorable opinions of those whom I have had the pleasure of teaching, convince me that with proper attention to the following rules *under my instruction*, (or the *instruction of any of my pupils*), any one desirous to become acquainted with this language may be enabled in a short time and with little trouble, to read with much pleasure and satisfaction; and to use advantageously a larger work on Hebrew Grammar.*

As trifling as these lessons may appear to many, they have cost me several years' labor in collecting and arranging them. From a careful and frequent reading of the Bible with Professor Stuart's Heb. Grammar (2d edition) before me, I have obtained what these sheets contain. I have adopted some of the forms and technical expressions used by Prof. S., but not without advertising him of my intention. The Tabular View of the Conjugations which accompanies this, has been made out from the Paradigms in the 4th edition of the above-named Grammar. These Paradigms are the *fullest* and *best* that have come under my observation.

Those who read this work will doubtless wonder at, or find fault with, the singular arrangements of the rules; but although I do not follow the order of philosophy, yet I follow, as it seems to me, the order of nature; or perhaps I should say, the order which I prefer for my pupils. Besides, the several hundreds whom I have instructed, and some conversant with Hebrew whom I have not instructed, have expressed their entire approbation of the plan which I pursue.

It has been often asked, whether my lessons are calculated to impart any good knowledge of Hebrew without an instructor. My answer to this is, that I am not aware that any individual has made the trial; and candour demands that I should state, that it is doubtful whether any one

* The best Grammar ever published in English is that of Professor Stuart, published at Andover, which has gone through four editions.

can obtain any satisfactory knowledge from these pages without some one to explain them.

As this Manual then is made for my pupils alone, I hope no one will condemn it, without witnessing an application of its rules to those whom I may instruct. Indeed, I did not intend to affix to it a Title, Preface, or Index, that it might not appear to be what in reality it is not,—a regular Grammar; but have consented to add them at the suggestion of many of my respected and dear friends; some of whom “desire to instruct those of their acquaintance who may not have an opportunity of reading with the author.” And, finally, I hope the time required in accomplishing this little work, has not been spent in vain. No other motive than that of benefiting others and promoting the best of all studies—the study of the Bible, has induced me to undertake it.

J. SEIXAS.

MAY, 1833.

☞ The time required in a course of Hebrew instruction as given by me, is six weeks, one lesson of about an hour being given each day.

* I have in Manuscript, Chaldee, Syriac and Arabic Manuals, which I hope to have printed when there is a sufficient demand for them.

HEBREW ALPHABET.

	1 א (<i>auleph</i>) not sounded; if it have a <i>vowel</i> , sound the vowel.				
	2 ב <i>baith</i>		VOWELS.		
	3 ג <i>gee'mel</i>		<i>Long.</i>		
	4 ד <i>dau'leth</i>		א Kau'mets	au	in <i>cause</i> .
	5 ה <i>ha</i>		ב Tsa'ree	a	" <i>ale</i> .
	6 ו <i>vauw</i>		ג or ד Kho'lem	o	" <i>bone</i> .
	7 ז <i>za'yin</i>		ה Shoo'rek	oo	" <i>boot</i> .
	8 ח <i>kheth</i>		ו Khee'rek	ee	" <i>meet</i> .
	9 ט <i>tait</i>		<i>Short.</i>		
	10 י <i>yod</i>		א Pat'takh	a	in <i>father</i> .
<i>Finals.</i>	† ק 20 כ <i>kaf</i>		ב Seghol	e	" <i>met</i> .*
	ל 30 ל <i>lau'med</i>		א Kau'mets <i>short</i>	o	" <i>note</i> .
	מ 40 מ <i>maim</i>		ב Kibboots	u	" <i>full</i> .
	נ 50 נ <i>noon</i>		ו Khee'rek <i>short</i>	i	" <i>bit</i> .
	ס 60 ס <i>sau'mekh</i>				
	ע 70 ע <i>gná'yin</i>		<i>Composite (compound) Shevau.</i>		
	פ 80 פ <i>pa</i>		By means of these two dots (:), called <i>simple Shevau</i> , three <i>composite Shevaus</i> are made, viz.		
	צ 90 צ <i>tsau'da</i>		א Shevau Pattakh, †	a	in <i>hat</i> .
	ק 100 ק <i>kofe</i>		ב " Seghol	e	" <i>met</i> .
	ר 200 ר <i>raish</i>		ו " Kau'mets	o	" <i>not</i> .
	ש <i>seen</i>				
	ש 300 ש <i>sheen</i>				
	ת 400 ת <i>taw</i>				

* Seghol is sounded like *a* in *ale*,

1. When it stands in a *simple* (unmixed) syllable; as אָבִיב *ka-seph*;
2. Before the quiescents י א נ; as מִיכָנָה *mik-na*, מָוֶה, מָוֶי, אָפֶ.
3. Before a guttural in which there is an *implied Dagesh*; as אֶרֶץ (for אֶרֶץ), הֶרְרִים (for הֶרְרִים). The gutturals and the letter ר (with a very few exceptions) do not receive a Dagesh. See § 4.

† א stands for 500, ב 600, ג 700, ד 800, ע 900, פ 1000, צ 2000, etc. § 57.5.
 † or Khau-teph Pattakh, Khau-teph Seghol, etc.

thus, בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרֵאשִׁית where the first ב begins a sentence, and the second ב follows a shevau implied under ה; וַיִּבְנֶה, וַיִּבְנֶה, with silent shevau under ל and ב. Some sound these letters, *bh, gh, dh, kh, ph, th*, i. e. when they are *without* Dagesh. This Dagesh is called *Dagesh lene*. See § 56.

DIVISION OF THE ALPHABET.

§ 9. The Hebrew Alphabet is divided into *Radicals* and *Serviles*. אֵיתָן מִשָּׁה וְכֵלֵב are called *serviles*, because they are used for many purposes in the language. The rest of the letters are called *radicals*, because they form the roots of words.

A radical can never become a servile, but a servile may become a radical when found in the *Root*. - *Seven* of the above serviles are called *Prefixes*, because they are often *prefixed* to words; they follow, with their respective significations.

מ	“	From, on account of, out of, by means of, in comparison of, of, at, to. (מ is a contraction of מִן). See § 60. § 71.
ש	“	Who, which, because, that. (contraction of אֲשֶׁר). § 64. § 68.
ה	“	The, this, that, who, which, O.
ו	“	And, but, yet, then, that, or, nor, now, so.
כ	“	As, like, according to, when, in, through.
ל	“	To, as to, for, of, from, near, at, upon, by, through, in.
ב	“	In, with, by, over, among, when, throughout, for, through, against, on, to, under.

NOTE. The Article (ה) is frequently supplied after some of the above Prefixes; as בְּרֵאשִׁית in the beginning; וְיָרִיחַ and the life giving power,

* When א ה ו follows this prefix, it (מ) usually takes - (Tsaree) under it; as מִמֶּנּוּ from above מֵאִישׁ from man, מִמֶּנּוּ, מִמֶּנּוּ. See § 60.

† Contraction of לֵאלֹ to, unto, against, etc. See § 71.