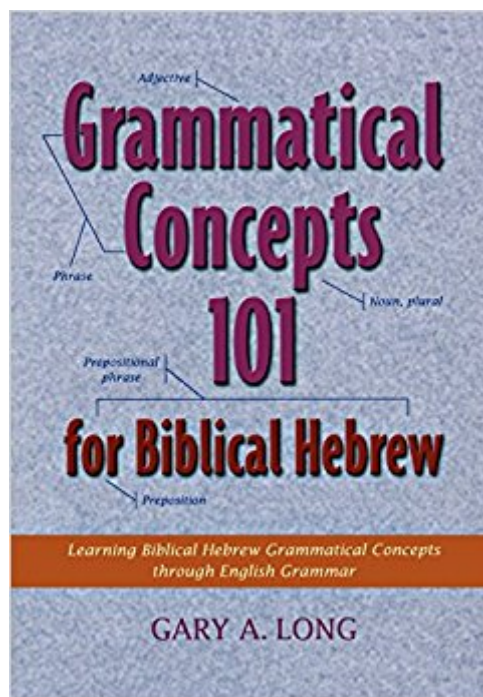




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Grammatical Concepts 101 For Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts Through English Grammar



Synopsis

Many students have forgotten, or never learned, the basic grammatical concepts needed for studying Biblical Hebrew. Explanations of these concepts in Hebrew grammar textbooks are either too skimpy or too complex. Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew fills this gap. In this complement to standard classroom grammars, veteran language instructor and Hebrew scholar Gary Long revisits English grammar in order to teach more effectively concepts that are specific to Hebrew. Arranged to supplement teaching grammars, each chapter takes up individual concepts, first explaining how the concept works in English, then illustrating its use in Biblical Hebrew. Long explains, for example, voice, tense, aspect, mood, participles, independent and dependent clauses, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, even discourse analysis and translation theory in easy to understand language. Abundant English and Hebrew examples illustrate each concept, most of them visually analyzed. Glosses and translations help students grasp the Hebrew examples.

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Customer Reviews

"In the real world of language pedagogy, where students' knowledge of English grammar is patchy at best, this volume is a crucial counterpart to textbooks of Biblical Hebrew. Lucid and accessible explanations of grammatical concepts and terms provide students with the framework they need to understand language structures. Armed with this deeper appreciation of English grammar, students will be better prepared to think about the structures of Biblical Hebrew."--Cynthia L. Miller, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison -- Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gary A. Long is professor of Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

This book is for those who understand English grammar and want to learn Biblical Hebrew... and for those who don't understand English grammar and who want to learn Hebrew anyway. For the former, it will help introduce you to a new system (a new language, Hebrew) through a system you already understand (i.e., English); for the latter, it will teach you how English works in order to then demonstrate how Hebrew works.

This is an extremely valuable work that goes in depth into issues of grammar, syntax, semantics, linguistics, and discourse analysis of Biblical Hebrew. The approach is comparative; the author compares a variety of concepts, illustrating how each separate issue of grammar, syntax, etc., is treated in the English language, and then illustrating the treatment of the same issue in Biblical Hebrew. Illustrative phrases, clauses, and sentences all use names from the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible), and almost all of the Hebrew examples are actually taken straight out of the TaNaKh. I had been reviewing English grammar and also had been studying linguistics in order better to clarify concepts that I was covering in my course in Biblical Hebrew, but I found that Dr. Long's excellent text included everything that I had either already studied or intended to study from the grammatical standpoint. I expect to continue studying linguistics elsewhere; the coverage of that particular subject in this book is inadequate for my needs. This latter point is stated as a matter of fact, and is not intended as a criticism of the work, which is excellent in what the author chose to cover in detail. Why did I rate this book as only a four (would have been four-and-a-half, if that rating were supported by .com)? The book has two faults, one highly significant and the other merely marginal. The significant fault is that the book includes a great many forward references. The substantive text begins on page three (page one is a section header, and page 2 is blank). As early as page four (the second page of text), there is a forward reference to page 36. Thus, I had to leave one finger holding my place in page four while paging forward to page 36 to read the section beginning there. On page five (the third page of text), there are TWO forward references, one to page 127 and the other to page 123. Sprinkled liberally throughout the book are other forward references. Thus, I found myself going back and forth many times, which makes the book a frustrating read. I wonder whether the author might have taken a little more trouble organizing his material so that forward references would be greatly reduced in number or perhaps eliminated entirely. I don't mind

backward references. Often, I will remember what I have already read, so that a backward reference might not require that I actually detour to re-read it. The other fault that I find with this book is that in, I think, two places the author declines to cover a subject altogether, referring the reader to his/her regular text on Biblical Hebrew. This I consider to be a minor defect. Overall, I have found this book to be a very valuable work, and I am grateful to Dr. Long for giving me, in a short but very clearly written exposition, several new insights into the intricacies of Biblical Hebrew. I feel that this book would probably overwhelm a beginning class in Biblical Hebrew, but it is certainly appropriate to an intermediate course (third and fourth semesters); with a very bright class, perhaps it could be used in the second semester. Certainly, this is a "must read" for everyone who teaches a course in Biblical Hebrew!

A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew
An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Semitic languages are much unlike Indo-European ones such as English. The "concepts" book bridges the gap quite effectively by teaching Hebrew syntax as it relates to that of English. This will not work in every occasion, but Gary Long seems to have been able to ferret out those instances where it will.

Grammar is an absolute necessity!! To study Languages without knowledge of Grammar is like climbing up the ever-climbing mountain!! Gary Lang has done all Non-Grammar people a favour. His book is well organised and set-out very clearly. I am still using it even though I know and have the necessary Grammatical background. Words and Phrases are gathered together and so easy of access. Languages are full of rules. They develop in a logical and an orderly manner. The human mind loves acting according to Rules- that is, Grammar. If you are lacking in knowledge of Grammar, this is the book for you to set you on the right track. You won't get it any cheaper- buy it from ! Ignoyus.

Long's Grammatical Concepts 101 is a good accompaniment to any first year Hebrew course, particularly where students do not have experience with learning another language, as it helps explain some of the fundamental grammar concepts in a clear, concise way (such as what a participles, objects, direct objects, pronouns, modifiers, adverbs, mood, person, and other basic concepts are). If you're looking for something more indepth or specific to Hebrew, I have to recommend Jouon-Muraoka or Gesenius' grammars.

i find it explains the grammar of BH clearly and easily to understand especially it relate how it

matches up with English grammar. It help to demystified terminology that one encounters when you try to read other BH grammars books. Thanks to the author.

You will be glad you got this book for you library and as a quick reference study.

Very good basic information to help in understanding and learning the Hebrew language. Good student reference book or for use in review.

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