

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BIB 539 Language Tools for English Bible Study

Benny C. Aker PhD

Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce the student to a basic knowledge of the grammar and syntax of the Bible languages, without memorizing vocabulary and forms. It will teach the use of Hebrew and Greek tools, especially current software, to locate and identify Hebrew and Greek words and determine their significance in interpreting the Bible.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. With the help of a software program identify various parts of speech and grammatical constructions;
2. Arrive at the interpretative significance of these elements for Bible study derived from the knowledge of such elements as grammar, forms, and syntax;
3. Use more effectively and efficiently a software program for Bible study;
4. Make use of a different level of reference resources (some of which are noted in the bibliography, and etc.);
5. Interpret the Bible more profoundly for personal Bible study, teaching, and preaching;
6. Consistently grow spiritually because of the increased ability to understand and apply biblical truths.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Required:

A Bible software program that provides the Greek and Hebrew texts along with an English translation. It must also contain the capability to identify a particular form (in English) of a word in the original language (Hebrew and Greek). It will also be important to have lexicons in this software. If the student has one such program, that is acceptable. The knowledge given in class will be applicable to that one.

Bible Works 5.0 is otherwise required (it will be the one used by the professor). This program does so much with little ease and practice--it is difficult if not impossible to find one that supercedes it. We have been able to secure a significant discount for this class.

Recommended:

MacDonald, W.G. *Greek Enchiridion*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Inc., 1986.

This handbook gives an excellent, concise view of Greek grammar, forms, and etc.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1996. *This Greek grammar is the latest and best out for its level—advanced yet useable--The one to consider as a first line of attack. It is more than adequate for personal study.*

Waltke, Bruce K. and O'Connor, Michael Patrick. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*.
Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: PLEASE BRING COMPUTERS TO CLASS.

Session one, September 6-7, 2002 (Friday 2:00-5:00/6:00-10:00p.m.; Saturday 8:00a.m.-12:00 noon/1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Introduction to class

Introduction to Hebrew and Greek alphabets and basic pronunciation

Introduction and overview of the elements of English interfacing this knowledge with Hebrew and Greek

Introduction to the software program

Beginning lab work and practice

Session two, October 4-5, 2002 (Friday 2:00-5:00/6:00-10:00p.m.; Saturday 8:00a.m.-12:00 noon/1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Class lab work: demonstration, practice, and application

Session three, November 1-2, 2002 (Friday 2:00-5:00/6:00-10:00p.m.; Saturday 8:00a.m.-12:00 noon/1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Advanced lab work and practice; exam

Projects due:

- 1. Notebook**
- 2. Class project**

METHODOLOGY

1. Class preparation: Review of grammar and other information given in class.
2. Small group participation.
3. Lectures and computer presentations.
4. Much lab work in class; faculty-student interaction and personal attention to help acquire the desired skills.
5. A laboratory examination the last class session.
6. Class project involving the dissection of a select biblical paragraph [hardcopy].
7. Outside class practice using the software program.
8. Development of a notebook of grammatical, syntactical details, and etc. [hardcopy].

REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance (see the Student Handbook for policy) and participation. Because of the class scheduling, attendance is very important.
NOTE: Students are expected to prepare in advance for the next class.
2. Develop and maintain a notebook of appropriate English, Hebrew, and Greek information for use in the software program (for future personal use).

3. Take the lab exam the last part of the third session.
4. Choose a paragraph (not a large one—make it manageable), apply the skills learned in class to it, and format the paper in such a way so as to be organized yet clear and thorough in presentation. A formal interpretation is not necessary—what will be expected to be demonstrated is the skill to use the software, identify and explain in context the word, phrase, or other construction.
5. Participation in a small group.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 350.
2. Exam 100 points
3. Class project [notebook and paragraph project] 50+ 100 points
4. Class preparation and participation 100 points
5. Averaged number of points and appropriate percentage:
 - 95-100%=A
 - 90- 94%=A-
 - 87- 89%=B+
 - 83- 86%=B
 - 80- 82%=B-
 - 77-79%=C+
 - 73-76%=C
 - 70-72%=C-
 - 65-69%=D

NOTE: Late assignments will be penalized.

SELECT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Greek Lexicons

Bauer, W., F. W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. Third Edition. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. [BDAG] Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000. Revised and edited by Frederick William Danker based on the Walter Bauer's Griechisch-deutsches Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments un fer frühchristlichen Literatur, sixth edition, ed. Kurt Aland and Barbara Aland, with Viktor Reichmann and on previous English Editions by W.F.Arndt, F.W.Gingrich, and F.W.Danker. ***Newly revised and the best that exists; available in hardcopy as well as available to be added to Bible Works 5. Focuses on New Testament and Primitive Church eras.***

Liddell, H. G., and R. Scott. *A Greek-English Lexicon With a Supplement*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1968. ***This lexicon is the ONE to have for all classical and koine Greek. It is standard fare on Bible Works and Logos.***

Louw, J. P., and E. A. Nida, eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Society, 1988. ***This lexicon is arranged according***

to semantic domains—it is essential also. Comes as standard fare on Bible Works.

Hebrew Lexicons

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and Charles Briggs. *Hebrew-Aramaic and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Complete and Unabridged.* Electronic Edition copyright 2002 by IBT and Scribe. (Also known as *BDB*) Significant Hebrew formatting modifications and improvements by **Michael S. Bushnell, 2001. (Bible Works information) This is an old Hebrew lexicon, updated [see below] a bit but still useful. Found also in Bible Works.**

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament.* Based upon the Lexical Work of Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.

Whitaker's Revised BDB Hebrew-English Lexicon. Copyright 1995 by Richard Whitaker. [Bible Works 5]

Beginning and Advanced Greek Grammars

Black, David Alan. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek.* Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and R. W. Funk. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Dana, H. E., and Julius R. Mantey. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament.* New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1957.

Moulton, J. H. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek.* Vol. 1. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, reprint 1967.

Moulton, J. H., and W. Francis. *A Grammar of New Testament* *Greek.* Vol. 2. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, reprint, 1968.

Moulton, J. H., and N. Turner. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek.* Vol. 3. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1963.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

Robertson, A. T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research.* Nashville: Broadman, 1934.

Wenham, J.W. *The Elements of New Testament Greek.* Cambridge: At the University Press, 1970. ***This has come out very recently with added CD and workbook but with a substantial price.***

Beginning and Advanced Hebrew Grammars

Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar as Edited and Enlarged by the Late E. Kautzch. Second English Edition. Revised with 28th German Edition by A.E. Cowley. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1910.

Goodrick, Edward W. *Do It Yourself Hebrew and Greek : Everyboby's Guide to the Language Tools.* Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan Publishing House; Portland, Or. Multnomah Press, 1980. 2d ed.

Pratico, Gary Davis and Van Pelt, Miles. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar : Workbook.* Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew : An Introductory Grammar.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.

Yates, Kyle M. *The Essentials of Biblical Hebrew.* Rev. Ed by John Joseph Owens. New York: Harper & Row, nd.

Old Testament Word Study Sources

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren, Eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament.* 10 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974--. Has several translators—1st 3 vols. redone. Appears in one volume abridged—in hardcopy and on Logos CD.

Clines, David J.A. Ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew.* Vols 1-8. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993---. ***In process still—the last few volumes remain.***

Harris, R. Laird, et. al., Eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.* 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980. [TWOT] ***Standard in Bible Works.***

Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament.* 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997. Translated by Publisher.

VanGemeren, Willem A. Gen. Ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.* Vols. 1-5. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House: 1997.

New Testament Word Study Sources

Balz, Horst and Gerhard Schneider, Eds. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament.* Vols. 1-3. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990-1993.

Brown, Colin, Gen Ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology.* 3 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House: 1975-1978. ***Also there is a later edition in one volume.***

Kittel, Gerhard, Ed. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament.* 10 Vols. Translated

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and edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Raids: Eerdmans Publishing Co.:
1964-1976. *Also exists in one volume abridged edition: hardcopy and on Logos.*

Spicq, Ceslas. *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. 3 Vols. Translated by James
D. Ernest. Peabody: MA: 1994.

Verbrugge, Verlyn, Ed. *The NIV Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words: An
Abridgment of New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand
Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Bible Dictionaries

Buttrick, George Arthur, Dictionary Editor. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible: An
Illustrated Encyclopedia*. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 1962. *Supplementary
Volume*: 1976.

Evans, Craig A. & Stanley E. Porter, Eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, & I. Howard Marshall, Eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the
Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Freedman, David Noel, Editor-in-chief. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 Vols. NY, et. al.:
Doubleday: 1992.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, & Daniel G. Reid. *Dictionary of Paul and His
Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Martin, Ralph P. & Peter H. Davids. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments*.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

***CDs: Bible Works 5 and Logos Scholar's Library edition have the Older Version of ISBE. The
newer one is available in hardcopy. Logos also has a good dictionary in its Scholar's Library.***

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Benny C. Aker, Ph.D., June, 2002.