



**MCMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2016**

**HEBREW EXEGESIS: JUDGES (OT 2103)
INSTRUCTOR: MARY L. CONWAY, PH.D.**

Email: conwam2@mcmaster.ca

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am–12:20 pm

See the course website on [Avenue to Learn](#) (A2L)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A reading course in classical (biblical) Hebrew. Sample texts will be read from the book of Judges. **AL: Advanced Languages.**



This course follows Introductory Biblical Hebrew. Its goal is to improve students' ability to read and interpret texts beyond the level of introductory grammar. Building on previous course work, students will deepen their understanding of the language of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in the areas of lexis, syntax, and discourse. This in turn will enhance students' understanding of the text in its historical, canonical, and theological context, as well as their ability to interpret and apply the text for people today. The primary emphasis will be on reading, translating, and interpreting biblical texts, although further lessons in more advanced grammar will be included.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES



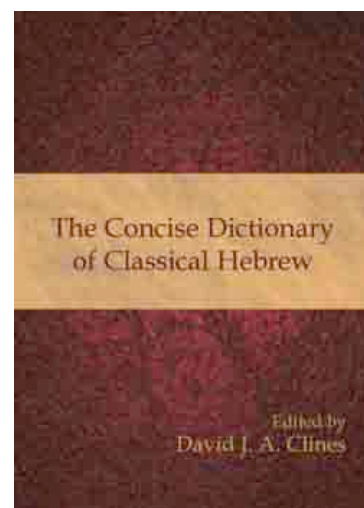
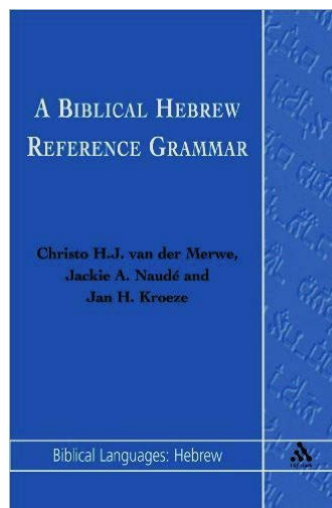
a.  Knowing

- To expand knowledge of Hebrew, beyond the basic vocabulary acquired in Introductory Hebrew, to include all words occurring more than 50 times
- To understand contemporary issues in Hebrew language study which affect translation and interpretation
- To understand intermediate level issues related to the history, morphology, syntax and discourse of Biblical Hebrew
- To understand basic issues in the text critical analysis of the Hebrew Bible

- b.  Being
- To embrace the value of understanding the original language in exegeting the biblical text
 - To grow in appreciation of the aesthetic value of Hebrew literature
 - To deepen one's relationship with God through interacting with Scripture
 - To enrich one's understanding of another culture through knowledge of that culture's language
- c.  **Doing**
- To refine one's ability to read Biblical Hebrew following the Massoretic accentuation
 - To further develop skill in translating texts from the Hebrew Scriptures with attention to key features that influence interpretation
 - To become proficient in rudimentary text critical analysis of the biblical text.
 - To engage with the Scriptures in their original language and context
 - To develop expertise in the use of intermediate and advanced grammars and lexicons in translating Hebrew texts
 - To exegete a narrative passage of biblical Hebrew with attention to translation and the meaning of the passage.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS/REAOURCES



Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS). There are various editions of this such as ISBN 978-3438052193 and ISBN 978-1598561623. Be sure your edition contains the Critical Apparatus, especially if it is an electronic version.

van der Merwe, Christo H. J. , J. A. Naudé, and J. H. Kroeze. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Biblical Languages: Hebrew 3. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1999. ISBN: 978-1850758563.

One of:

Clines, David J. A., David M. Stec, and Jacqueline C. R. De Roo, eds. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009. ISBN: 978-1906055790.

or

Clines, David J. A., David M. Stec, and Jacqueline C. R. De Roo, eds. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993-2011. (**Note:** You are not expected to purchase this 8 volume series in hardback form since it is prohibitively expensive. However, electronic versions are now available for Logos and Accordance at a much more reasonable price. If you intend to continue your Hebrew studies this may be a good option for you.)

Note: *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* is preferred and recommended as the best one volume lexicon. The older lexicons (Brown, Driver, Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, and Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, for example) are often available both in print and on Bible Software and may be used as secondary resources; however, be aware that they are dated and have some significant shortcomings in content or ease of use. The five volume *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT) is still very useful and is available on Bible software and in libraries. For important issues of translation in your paper, you are encouraged to access a library for the full 8 volume *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. It is also available for Bible software.

At least one resource for learning Hebrew vocabulary, such as:

- The “Memrise” App for Android (available from Google Play) and iOS (available from the App Store) (Free)
- Pennington, Jonathan T. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary*. Audio CD: This set includes all the words in the Hebrew Bible that occur 20 times or more by frequency, and a 40 page booklet with English glosses (ISBN: 978-0310254928). It is also available as an Audible Audio edition for Kindle Fire or with the free Audible app on Apple, Android, and Windows devices (ASIN: B00029DI44). (**Note:** This is not the same set as used in BBH Introductory Hebrew, but a more complete vocabulary resource arranged by frequency.)
- FlashWorks for Hebrew, available from <https://billmounce.com/flashworks> (Free)
- Penner, Ken. Flash! Pro XP Computer Memory Program (obtain at a reasonable cost by emailing: Ken Penner at: penner@stfx.ca)
- Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Van Pelt, Miles. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*. ISBN: 978-0310259862.

Note: All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

B. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

These grammars are not required but may be very useful. See also the extensive bibliography below.

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

Joüon, Paul, and T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Subsidia Biblica 14/1-14/2. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblio, 1991; corrected edition 2003.

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Note: It is extremely important that you do not become overly dependent on Bible software programs as a substitute for learning. These programs cannot be used on tests and exams. You are strongly advised to develop your own translation skills, including mastery of vocabulary and parsing ability. These programs may be very useful, however, in searching and accessing the Hebrew text, lexicons, and grammars. Use them, but use them wisely.

C. COURSE WEBSITE

A course website has been established on *Avenue to Learn* (<http://Avenue.mcmaster.ca/>) that contains learning resources, rubrics that will be used for evaluation and feedback, and complete instructions. There are also dropboxes for uploading assignments. Access to this website will be given on registering in the course.

D. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Weekly Translations	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Translation and Exegesis Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total Grade	100%

Policy for Missed Tests, and Assignments:

Marks will be deducted for late assignments (translation exercises and paper) if there is no valid reason, such as serious illness (a doctor's note may be required) or serious family crisis. The deduction will be 5% per day, including weekends. It is essential in a language course that students keep up with their work if they are to be successful. Extensions must be requested from the professor before the due date.

There will be no make up for the midterm except in the case of serious illness (a doctor's note may be required) or major family crisis. If you must miss the midterm due to a compelling reason, you must email the professor at conwam2@mcmaster.ca as soon as possible. You must make arrangements to make up the midterm at the first possible opportunity.

1. Weekly Translations: 25%.

Students will translate a portion of Scripture each week. These translations will be submitted for evaluation twice during the semester. “Wooden” translations that communicate the nature of the Hebrew text are preferred over “loose” or “fluent” translations that obscure features of the Hebrew text; however, you are encouraged to put more fluent translations in brackets after a wooden translation where appropriate. Annotations on parsing and syntax should be given. References to grammars are expected as well as comments and questions on the translation and interpretation. Sample pages are available on the Avenue to Learn website so you understand the expectations. **Do not** give in to the temptation to simply copy from an English translation; this is plagiarism. The only way to learn is by doing the translations yourself. **The rubric by which you will be evaluated is on the Avenue to Learn website.** Please check it before completing your assignments. These translations will be submitted for evaluation on two occasions (see the dates in the schedule) in one of two ways:

(1) The actual translation pages can be submitted, or printed/photocopied and submitted, as hard copies to the professor in person. If I am not available you may leave them at the Student Records Office (be sure the pages are date stamped by staff). At the top of the first page please be sure to write your name. **It is recommended that you keep a copy of your work!**

(2) The pages may be scanned or clearly photographed and uploaded—one per page and right side up—as a PDF file (not other file formats please) to the appropriate dropbox on Avenue to Learn. Please upload one file only, with your name in the title, NOT individual files for each page. If you do not have access to a scanner, you can photograph the pages clearly and convert them to PDFs, or paste them into a Word document, then make them into a PDF. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Pro to make PDFs, from most recent word processing programs you can either “Save as PDF,” or “Print” and then choose PDF as your printer.

Detailed Instructions:

- Hebrew Biblical Texts: You should (1) translate in “wooden” ways (and if appropriate provide a more colloquial/smooth English sense in brackets), (2) parse and analyze all the key morphemes (providing their root or lexical form, that is, the form they would be listed at in the dictionary), (3) identify the grammatical/syntactical/discourse function of various words, phrases, and clauses, (4) identify any awkward phrases or forms that you need to follow up, (5) make a note of any questions that you are unable to answer and will need to follow up on, (6) note interesting features such as an unusual word order, a literary device, or rare or controversial lexis, and (7) **note any interesting interpretive issues.**
- BHRG: Each week will focus on different issues raised in the textbook by Van der Merwe et al. Identify places in the translation for that week which relate to those issues (as well as others within BHRG). To attain “A” levels, there must be evidence in your translations that you are consulting advanced grammars, especially BHRG, with insights drawn from BHRG evident in your translations. You may also draw material from other intermediate/advanced grammars if you have access to them in a library or on Bible software.

2. Midterm Exam: 20%.

This will cover all content, grammar, and translations up to and including the class before the exam, and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, translations, and interpretive issues. It will focus primarily on texts translated for class, but will include a sight passage also. **Note that Bible software and the internet may not be used for the term test, nor may texts or notes.**

3. Translation and Exegetical Paper: 25%.

Near the end of the semester students will complete a minimum ten **page translation and exegesis research paper** demonstrating proficiency in translating a passage in Judges that has not been covered in class and dealing with interpretive issues. The passage must be narrative, approximately 20 verses in length, consist of a self-contained pericope, and must be approved in advance by the instructor. The translation paper will be written in essay format, providing an English translation of each verse/clause/clause complex in your passage followed by discussion of text critical, lexical, grammatical, syntactical, discourse, and interpretive issues related to your text and translation.

Note: Those taking this course as HEB 6A06 will complete a second paper of 7500 words on a biblical passage—which may be outside of Judges if it is relevant to your research topic—with extra reading, on topics related to Intermediate Hebrew.

The focus of the paper will be on your own personal engagement with the ancient text and advanced Hebrew grammars. You must have a clear thesis that reflects the main interpretive/translation issues with which you are dealing. Reference to resources such as monographs, journal articles, advanced grammars, and exegetical commentaries are required; a minimum of 10 secondary sources must be used and quoted.

Aspects that should be discussed include but are not limited to: textual variances between the ancient textual witnesses, debates over lexical aspects, odd or obscure morphology (don't comment on every Qal verb, but do so for a Pilpel, for example), grammatical/syntactical/discourse issues (e.g., what role does the preposition **א** play in this or that phrase, what are the implications of the word order, what role do circumstantial clauses and phrases play, what are the implications of the discourse structure), and, importantly, **ways in which the translation influences interpretation.**

The paper must be submitted to the *Avenue to Learn* dropbox by the due date in PDF format; hard copies are not accepted. Be sure that your paper corresponds to the MDC Assignment Guide available from <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Please be sure to use a Unicode Hebrew font such as SBL Hebrew. Include your name in the file name.

4. Final Exam: 30%.

This will require an understanding of the material in the lectures, translations, and grammar text and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, translations, and interpretive issues. It will focus on texts translated for class but will also include a sight passage. **Note that Bible software and the internet may not be used for the exam, nor may texts or notes.**

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates a date when weekly translation assignments are due.

Wk	Date	Translation	BHRG Chapter	Topic
1	Sept 14	--	§15-18	Orientation; Verb Diagnostics: Conjugations, Stems; Lexicography
2	Sept 21	Judg 2:11-23	§1-3; 10-13	Syntax and Grammars; Word, Clause, and Text
3	Sept 28	Judg 3:15-26	§4-9	Intro to BHS; Accents
4	Oct 5	Judg 4:1-11	§19-20	Finite Verb Forms; Non-finite Verb Forms
5	Oct 12	--	--	Reading Week
6	Oct 19	Judg 4:12-22	§21-25	Verb Chains, Sequences, Valency; Nouns: Congruency, Declension
*7	*Oct 26	Midterm	--	Midterm Exam, *Weekly Translations due
8	Nov 2	Judg 8:1-11	§26-30	Nouns: Suffixes; Nouns: Apposition, Adjectives
9	Nov 9	Judg 8:17-28	§31-33	Nouns: Coordination; Nouns: Complement of Prep/Verb
10	Nov 16	Judg 9:7-21	§34-37	Nouns: Subject, Predicative, Vocative; Nouns: Pronouns/Numerals
11	Nov 23	Judg 10:6-17	§38-40	Prepositions; Conjunctions
12	Nov 30	Judg 14:11-20	§41-44	Adverbs; Predicators of Existence; Interrogatives; Discourse Markers *Translation and Exegesis Paper due
13	Dec 7	Judg 19:22-30	§45-47	Interjections; Word Order
*14	*Dec 14	Exam	--	Final Exam, *Weekly Translations due

V. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR, ATTENDANCE, AND PARTICIPATION

- Students are expected to be on time for class. Admittedly, unavoidable delays do occasionally happen. If you arrive late, please enter as quietly as possible and give an explanation to the professor after class.
- Students are also expected to stay for the entire class session.
- Computers and tablets should only be used for class related purposes, not for social networking and the like. Students may not have cell phones out during tests.

- All thoughtful student participation is welcome. There are no “dumb questions” or “stupid answers.” Students will respect the contributions of other students and respond to them without ridicule or scorn.
- Students may eat or drink in class as long as they do so quietly and unobtrusively and clean up afterwards.

VI. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdc_styleguide_june_2015_0.pdf. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one’s academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Resources that may be helpful to you in your continued study of Hebrew.

Elementary Hebrew Grammars

Bartelt, Andrew H., and Andrew Steinmann. *Fundamental Biblical Hebrew*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Academic Press, 2004.

Bornemann, Robert. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998.

Doukhan, Jacques. *Hebrew for Theologians: A Textbook for the Study of Biblical Hebrew in Relation to Hebrew Thinking*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1993.

Garrett, Duane A., and Jason Shane DeRouchie. *A Modern Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*.

- Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2009.
- Gibson, J. C. L. *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar—Syntax*. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.
- Gogel, Sandra Landis. *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew*. Resources for Biblical Study 23. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Greenberg, M. *Introduction to Hebrew*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1965.
- Harper, William Rainey, and J. M. Powis Smith. *Elements of Hebrew by an Inductive Method*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959.
- Harper, William Rainey, and J. M. Powis Smith. *William R. Harper's Elements of Hebrew by an Inductive Method*. Rev. by J. M. Powis Smith, ed. Midway Reprints. Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 1974.
- Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1992.
- Kittel, Bonnie P., Vicki Hoffer, and Rebecca A. Wright. *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1971.
- Mansoor, Menahem. *Biblical Hebrew Step by Step*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981.
- Pérez Fernández, Miguel. *An Introductory Grammar of Rabbinic Hebrew*. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. Second ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Segal, M. H. *A Grammar of Mishnaic Hebrew*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2001.
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Weingreen, J. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Second ed. Oxford/New York: Clarendon/Oxford University Press, 1959.

Intermediate Hebrew Grammars

- Blau, Joshua. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd, amended ed. Porta Linguarum Orientalium. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1993.
- Chisholm, Robert B. *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006.
- Chisholm, Robert B. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.
- Davidson, A. B. *Introductory Hebrew Grammar: Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1901.
- Gesenius, W., E. Kautzsch. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar as Edited and Enlarged by the Late E. Kautzsch*. Trans. A. E. Cowley. Second English ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1910.
- Horsnell, Malcolm J. A. *A Review and Reference Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Hamilton, Ontario: McMaster University Press, 1998.
- Joüon, Paul, and T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. English ed. Subsidia Biblica; 27. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 2006.
- Meyer, Rudolf, and Udo Rütterswörden. *Hebräische Grammatik. 3., neubearbeitete Aufl.* ed. De Gruyter Studienbuch. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1992.
- Schneider, Wolfgang. *Grammatik Des Biblischen Hebräiscen: Ein Lehrbuch*. München:

Claudius, 1994.

Van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudeé, and Jan H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1989.

More Specialized Grammatical/Syntactical Resources

Andersen, Francis I. *The Sentence in Biblical Hebrew*. Vol. 231 of *Janua Linguarum, Series Practica*. The Hague: Mouton, 1974.

Barr, James. *Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1968.

Barr, James. *Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament: With Additions and Corrections*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1987.

Barr, James. *Language and Meaning, Studies in Hebrew Language and Biblical Exegesis: Papers Read at the Joint British-Dutch Old Testament Conference Held at London, 1973*. *Oudtestamentische Studiën* 19. Leiden: Brill, 1974.

Barr, James. *The Semantics of Biblical Language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1961.

Bartelmus, Rüdiger. *Hyh, Bedeutung Und Funktion Eines Althebräischen "Allerweltswortes": Zugleich Ein Beitrag Zur Frage Des Hebräischen Tempussystems*. *Arbeiten Zu Text Und Sprache Im Alten Testament*. St. Ottilien: EOS-Verlag, 1982.

Bennett, Patrick R. *Comparative Semitic Linguistics: A Manual*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1998.

Ber, Viktor. *Hebrew verb hyh as a macrosyntactic signal: the case study of wayhy and the infinitive with prepositions Bet and Kaf in narrative texts*. *Studies in Biblical Hebrew*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2008.

Bergen, R. D., ed., *Biblical Hebrew and Discourse Linguistics*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

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Blau, Joshua. *Phonology and Morphology of Biblical Hebrew: An Introduction*. *Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2010.

Bodine, W. R. *Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1992.

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Cook, John A. *Time and the Biblical Hebrew Verb: The Expression of Tense, Aspect, and Modality in Biblical Hebrew*. *Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.

Dawson, D. A., *Text-Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. JSOTSup 177. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1994.

Driver, S. R. *A Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew: And Some Other Syntactical*

- Questions*. 3rd ed. Clarendon Press Series. Oxford: Clarendon, 1892.
- Endo, Yoshinobu. *The Verbal System of Classical Hebrew in the Joseph Story: An Approach from Discourse Analysis*. Studia Semitica Neerlandica. Assen, Netherlands: Van Gorcum, 1996.
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- Ewald, Heinrich, and James Kennedy. *Syntax of the Hebrew Language of the Old Testament*. Edinburgh: Clark, 1891.
- Exter Blokland, A. F. den. *In Search of Text Syntax: Towards a Syntactic Text Segmentation Model for Biblical Hebrew*. Applicatio. Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1995.
- Garr, W. Randall. *Dialect Geography of Syria-Palestine, Ca. 1000-500 BCE*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2004.
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