



Biblical Hebrew as a Living Language

Level 1

Speaking, Reading, and Writing

BHLL 101 • 4 Credits*

Using the unique and cutting-edge immersion method for Biblical Hebrew instruction, this course will sharpen and greatly expand the student's ability to engage with the original Hebrew texts of the Bible. Taught by native Hebrew-speaking Israelis that have graduated from Jerusalem Seminary's School of Hebrew: Hebrew for the Nations teacher's course, students will receive a holistic method, exposing them to language and culture simultaneously. These methods dramatically improve flow in the reading and translation of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Instructors:

Certified [Hebrew for the Nations: JS School of Hebrew](#) Israeli teachers.

Course description:

This Beginner's Biblical Hebrew class is immersive and contextual: serious about learning the language but in an enjoyable way. Learn to speak, read, and write Biblical Hebrew! Key verses and phrases from the Hebrew Bible will be our guide.

Learning Outcomes:

- **Reading comprehension:** Learn to read and understand short, simplified passages, and some simple Bible verses.
- **Listening comprehension:** Understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary in the Hebrew Bible related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, geographical features). Catch the main point in short, clear, simplified stories and dialogues.

- **Spoken & written Hebrew:** Produce written and spoken phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms familiar subjects such as biblical characters, family, household, geographical features. Describe scenes, and ask comprehension questions, all in basic spoken Biblical Hebrew.

[Expected Proficiency: A2](#)

How we will learn:

- Using Hebrew in speech, writing, and action
- Praying in Hebrew
- Small group activities and games
- Listening to and reading 20 chapters of the Hebrew Bible
- Memorizing over 20 Scripture verses in Hebrew
- Learning and singing 7 songs of Scripture
- Understanding the context of Biblical Hebrew: geography and culture (basic regions, cities, land features, Biblical feasts – appointed times)
- Acquiring and applying the tools of Hebrew word study

What we will learn:

- About 400 of the most commonly used words in the Hebrew Scriptures, all learned in context
- Basic grammar / linguistic structures, and more
- Letters (alphabet) and vowel marks
- Basic nominal morphology and syntax
- Basic nominal phrases
- Basic verbal sentences
- Existential clauses
- Parts of speech
- Intro to the root system in Hebrew
- Possessive suffixes
- Conjugations of basic prepositions
- Vocalization of formative letters
- Construct forms and phrases
- Intro to the cantillation marks

Requirements:

- Good internet connection and a computer or device with updated operating system, camera and microphone, and the Zoom app.
- Attendance: students must notify the instructors in advance if they know they're going to miss a session, and make up every missed session by watching the recorded lesson by the next session.
- Completion of all homework assignments on time to keep up with the pace of the class (occasional late submissions will be accepted). About 30-60 minutes a day.

Examination:

To assess one's comprehension of the course material there will be written and oral:

- Graded assignments
- Quizzes
- Periodic Exams

*Jerusalem Seminary (JS) courses are engagingly academic and taught by experts in their field living in Israel. While JS' courses are not externally accredited, they can be taken for internal JS credit. Any internal JS credit will accrue and at a later time would hopefully, through articulation agreements and accreditation bodies, receive official accreditation; a process that JS has begun. Auditing of JS language classes is not possible as it demands full student participation and thus is the same amount of work for the instructors, but most School of the Bible courses can be audited.