

Learning Hebrew with Roots of Faith

I wanted to take this opportunity and send this note to those of you that have elected to learn Hebrew with Roots of Faith. The study of Hebrew will prove to be a most rewarding investment of your time, but let there be no doubt, it does require effort. We all have the same amount of time to invest each day, and it becomes our choice as to how we prioritize that time.

As with anything else, the student must put time towards the thing that they desire to learn. As the famous Puritan minister and scholar, Cotton Mather (1663-1728) said; *“I promise that those who spend as much time morning and evening in Hebrew studies as they do in smoking tobacco, would quickly make excellent progress in the language.”* (Quoted by Bea Stadler in “Hebrew’s Influence on English,” *Jewish Advocate*, October 22, 1987, p. 19)¹

Every day contains 1440 minutes and I will be asking you to commit some of that time to learning the Hebrew Language. Think of it as a sort of tithe of your valuable time, only this will not even require a tenth.

People often need someone to lead and encourage them to accomplish things that are well within their grasps. I am reminded of a leadership quote that I once read. It said, “A Leader is one that you will follow to a place you will not go on your own.” My prayer is that you will join me on this most fascinating journey to learn Biblical Hebrew. Years ago I wrote the following paragraph about the Hebrew Language.

*“The **Hebrew Language** has served as the vehicle for divine communication. Through this tongue, God spoke to the prophets of old. It was the language of Moses, Isaiah, and Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 26:14), to name a few. No other language can make such exalted claims for itself. It has been called Edenspeak, the ‘language of God’, and the ‘tongue of angels’. Even though our oldest surviving New Testament manuscripts are in Greek, Church historians record that at least Matthew was originally penned in Hebrew.”*

For me, these lines were enough to convince me that I should invest the required time to study Hebrew. I have never regretted that initial decision and to this day I desire to share the reward by helping others to advance towards the coming realization of a day in which all people will be converted to a pure language (Hebrew) so that all may call upon the name of the LORD to serve Him with one consent (Zephaniah 3:9).

We will be working through the incredible course, *Living Biblical Hebrew*, published by Dr. Randall Buth of the Biblical Language Center in Jerusalem, Israel. In order to participate in the course, you must purchase the program (2 text books and accompanying CDs). The course is designed to be self-paced, but for those that need that extra “nudge”

¹ Our Father Abraham, *Jewish Roots to the Christian Faith*, by Marvin Wilson, p. 128

I will be setting a steady pace for learning that will provide some structure and accountability. I have seen all too many times, good and dedicated people with good intentions to learn, fall by the wayside and give up.

For those that persevere, I will be giving a Certificate in Hebrew Language Studies from Roots of Faith Biblical Research Center.

If you have not yet purchased “Living Biblical Hebrew” from Dr. Buth, contact me at RNDAVAR@AOL.com. I have worked out a special rate for bulk orders with Dr. Buth that can save you a substantial amount on the course. If you have not already done so, please read about this course on his web site (www.biblicalulpan.org). There is no need to feel that you have missed out by not starting with the initial group. As we work through the course, I will be recording classes and publishing teaching aids so that they are available for future classes.

I am attaching a lesson plan to assist you in mastering the course. In the spirit of “leaving no student behind”, I am available for questions by email and plan on setting up a forum on my web site for discussion and encouragement. I will personally ensure that every student makes suitable proficiency at each stage in the learning process.

Part one contains 3 CDs. I am attaching Lesson Plan #1 which takes the student through the content on CD #1. I will do the same for subsequent lessons. I encourage you to read the introductory pages in your Book One before getting started. You do not need to know any Hebrew to take this course, and I assure you that if you dedicate the time to this endeavor, you will be well on your way to an exciting journey in *Living Biblical Hebrew*.

Look closely at the chart below. I made this from the book that you will be using. I encourage you to listen to each audio lesson 3 times. Even with the repetition you will have only invested two and one-half hours when you are 1/3 through Book 1. Most of us can commit to this much time each week for something that we put high enough on our priority list. Remember, this is the language of God!

CD	Track	Time	Subject / Content	Book	Pages	# times	Total Time Required
1	1	00:45	Introduction	1		1	0:00:45
1	2	0:03:15	Numbers 1-10	1		3	0:09:45
1	3	0:09:07	Picture Lesson 1	1	3 thru 11	3	0:27:21
			Extra Help	1	12	1	0:00:00
1	4	0:12:13	Picture Lesson 2	1	13 thru 21	3	0:36:39
1	4		QUIZ	1	22 thru 24		0:00:00
1	5	0:12:10	Picture Lesson 3	1	25 thru 33	3	0:36:30
			Extra Help	1	34		0:00:00
1	6	0:13:53	Picture Lesson 4	1	35 thru 44	3	0:41:39
1	6		QUIZ	1	44 thru 46		0:00:00

2:32:39

I close with the words of Ernest Renan in 1887.

“A quiver of steel arrows, a cable with strong coils, a trumpet of brass crashing through the air with two or three sharp notes – such is the Hebrew Language. The letters of its books are not to be many, but they are to be letters of fire. A language of this sort is not destined to say much, but what it does is beaten out upon an anvil. It is to pour floods of anger and utter cries of rage against the abuses of the world, calling the four winds of heaven to the assault of the citadels of evils. Like the Jubilee horn of the sanctuary it will be put to no profane use; but it will sound the notes of the holy war against injustice and the call of the great assemblies; it will have accents of rejoicing, and accents of terror; it will become the trumpet of Judgment.”

Ross K. Nichols
February 8th, 2007