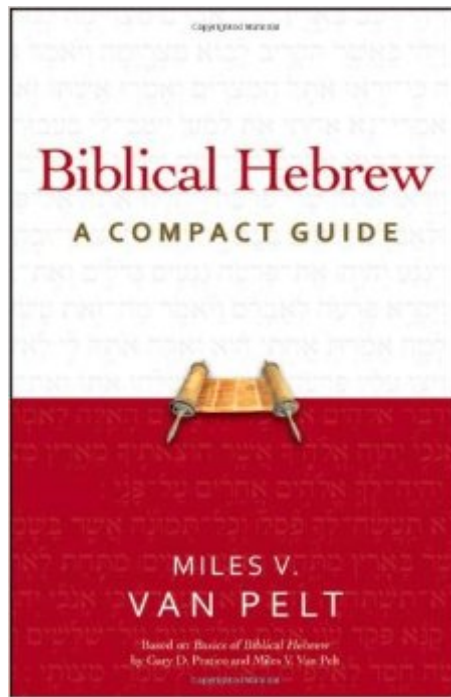


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Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide



Synopsis

Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide offers a one-stop guide for those who have taken first-year Hebrew to refresh the memory on language forms, grammar, and word meanings. Students who are in second-year Hebrew courses can use this reference resource to assist them in the identification of words in the biblical text and the way they are used in sentences. Ultimately, this inexpensive reference gives the most important information on biblical Hebrew grammar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are taking Hebrew using Miles Van Pelt and Gary Pratico's book Basics of Biblical Hebrew, then this is the book for you. If you took Hebrew and need a compressed summary of all the basics you need in order to do translation, this is the book for you. I am currently taking Hebrew under Miles Van Pelt, and my only disappointment is that this book came out at the end of my time in Hebrew rather than before. Each day after class, Miles gives a specific summary of everything he wants his students to remember when the test is taken the next day. I would write all of these things down and then end up printing out the chart containing all of the necessary information from the CD-Rom that is included with the BBH Grammar and Charts books. Then this book came out and I was embittered because each chapter in the Compact Guide contains all the essentials for each subject from the Grammar. What I would do during Van Pelt's lectures is highlight the most important things that I needed to remember in order to pass the quiz the next day. Then to review, I'd comb back through and read the things I underlined. This book contains all of it. And because it's pocket-sized, you can carry it around with you and review. This book will not help you learn Hebrew for the first

time, but it is perfect for those in the process of already learning, reviewing, and refreshing themselves on their Biblical Hebrew. It's biggest strength is the convenience of having all the unnecessary stuff burned off and the essential information distilled into its purest form.

20 years after graduating from seminary I was encouraged by a friend to get back to reading Greek and Hebrew. I still used it in my studies through commentaries but could no longer read it without the constant help of grammar aids like Logos. I'd forgotten all the declensions, parsing's and grammar from both biblical languages. So this year I broke out the grammars, bought a nice Readers Hebrews and Greek Bible and began to long slow process of relearning what I once knew. The problem was getting access to the information. I had many Hebrew grammars but digging through hundreds of pages in each one was becoming such a burden that I almost gave up. Then I started writing my own guide where I would take everything I could find on various aspects on phonology, morphology, vocabulary and grammar and put them into a concise organized form. This likewise turned out to be a very difficult task, even with the help of the internet and the many great resources it put at my fingertips. One of the problems was that my Hebrew grammars were somewhat dated. In seminary we used Seow's grammar but I was never happy with it and ended up selling, losing or giving it away some time ago. The ones I used the most were Weingree and Lambdins, both very good grammars but not organized well and very wordy. For a first time learner they were great, but for somebody needing to relearn Hebrew they were not the best. What I needed were not detailed descriptions with lots of examples but quick summaries of the pertinent information of the grammar. So I decided to purchase a new introductory Hebrew grammar to help me. As I was searching I came upon this book. I knew of Dr. Van Pelt, having listened to a number of his lessons on various OT books and greatly enjoyed his teaching.

At long last, a compact reference guide to Biblical Hebrew! Not long ago Zondervan released Biblical Greek: A Compact Guide, a helpful and portable distillation of Mounce's oft-used grammar. Many such little books already exist for easily reviewing Koine Greek: Dale Russell Bowne's Paradigms and Principal Parts for the Greek New Testament, Paul Fullmer and Robert H. Smith's Greek at a Glance, and even the back of Kubo's Reader's Lexicon has a good summary of Greek grammar with paradigm charts. There seem to be more resources available to students of Biblical Greek than to students of Biblical Hebrew. For example, while there is just one (excellent!) "Reader's" Hebrew Bible (uncommon vocabulary is glossed at the bottom of the page), I am aware of at least three Reader's Bibles that exist for the Greek New Testament. So Miles Van Pelt's

Compact Guide, based on his and Gary Pratico's Basics of Biblical Hebrew, is a welcome addition as far as this eager Hebrew student is concerned. The book is not terribly dissimilar from Pratico/Van Pelt's Charts of Biblical Hebrew, but unlike that work, A Compact Guide is more than just a collection of charts and paradigms. Each section includes a distillation of what is in the larger grammar textbook, followed by paradigms and charts for quick reference. Seeing Van Pelt's world-famous color-coded verbal diagnostics is a highlight. Oddly enough, at times there seems to be more precision and detail in this little book than in the larger grammar. Or perhaps it's just more nuance or smoother grouping of material that has come about with the passage of time since the publishing of the grammar's second edition.

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