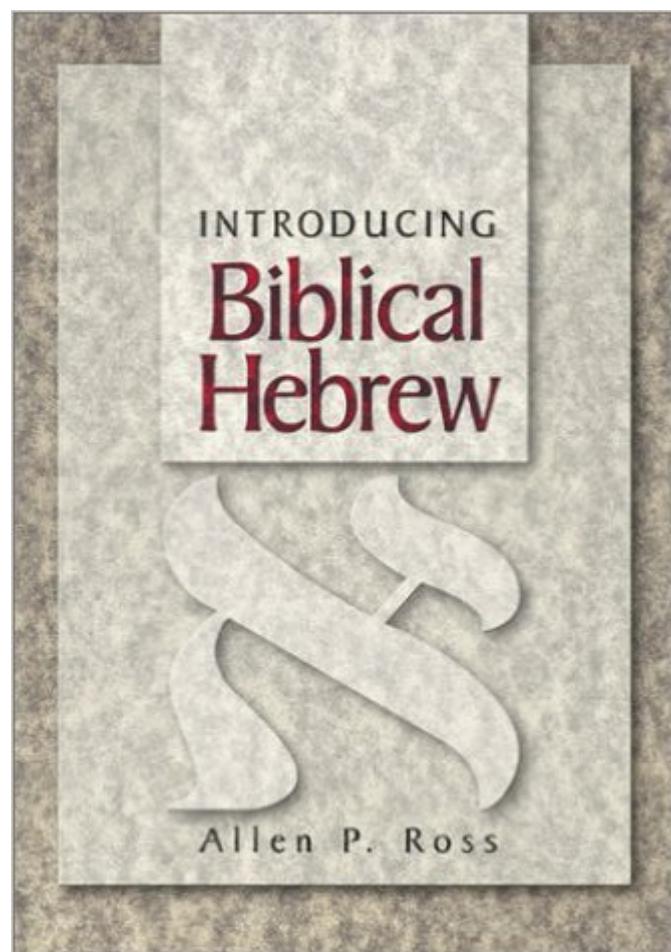


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Introducing Biblical Hebrew



Synopsis

The best of both deductive and inductive approaches introducing students to the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ross' book is definitely one of the better books on the market. There are books that promise to teach BH quick and easy or "as you go", but the truth is that there isn't an easy way to do this. BH is a very different language and for most folks with an Indo-European native language is pretty tough to learn. Moreover, it is important to remember that each BH book is written for a specific purpose, either self-study, in-class instruction or as a reference grammar. Most books, including this one, fall into the second category of being written for in-class instruction, although many of these can be used for self-study as well. But with the focus on the in-class instruction these books are formatted to fit a two semester course in first year BH. And you can only fit so much into the first year or you can only learn so much in two semesters. So they are not comprehensive as a reference grammar might be. So there will be things that the author simply doesn't have room to cover and will be left out. This one is no exception, but that is not a bad thing. Reference grammars are intended to be comprehensive and thorough, but on the other hand they're not very useful as a textbook for a first year student. On the contrary, they can be pretty overwhelming -- try showing Jouon's three volume grammar, Gesenius' Hebrew grammar or even

I didn't undertake any of my language requirements until my third year in seminary. Now in my fourth year, I can look back on my first-year Hebrew experience fondly, thanks in large part to Ross's excellent text. My Hebrew professor was a student of Ross's, which I think was helpful, as he was able to shed the light of firsthand experience with Ross in class; that may be why I think better of this text than some of the other reviewers here. Regardless, I am convinced that this text can greatly aid anyone looking to master the nuances of ancient Hebrew quickly. Ross takes a somewhat immersive approach, challenging the student to quickly begin translating Hebrew phrases, and even to translate English words and phrases back into Hebrew. While some cite this as one of the curriculum's weaknesses, I found it to be very helpful in getting myself to 'think Hebraically,' so to speak. This, combined with the quick pace and thorough explanations of how the different parts of the language work, made me feel so comfortable with the material that by the end of my first semester, I greatly favored my Hebrew studies to my Greek ones (an experience I'm told is somewhat unusual). One of my favorite features of Ross's book is the way he presents paradigms, which comprise a large part of first-year memorization. They're set up in such a way that if one wants to memorize and review all the principal parts, he can do so, but if he wants to dig deeper and quiz himself on the different conjugations of various principal parts of various stems, he can do that, too.

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