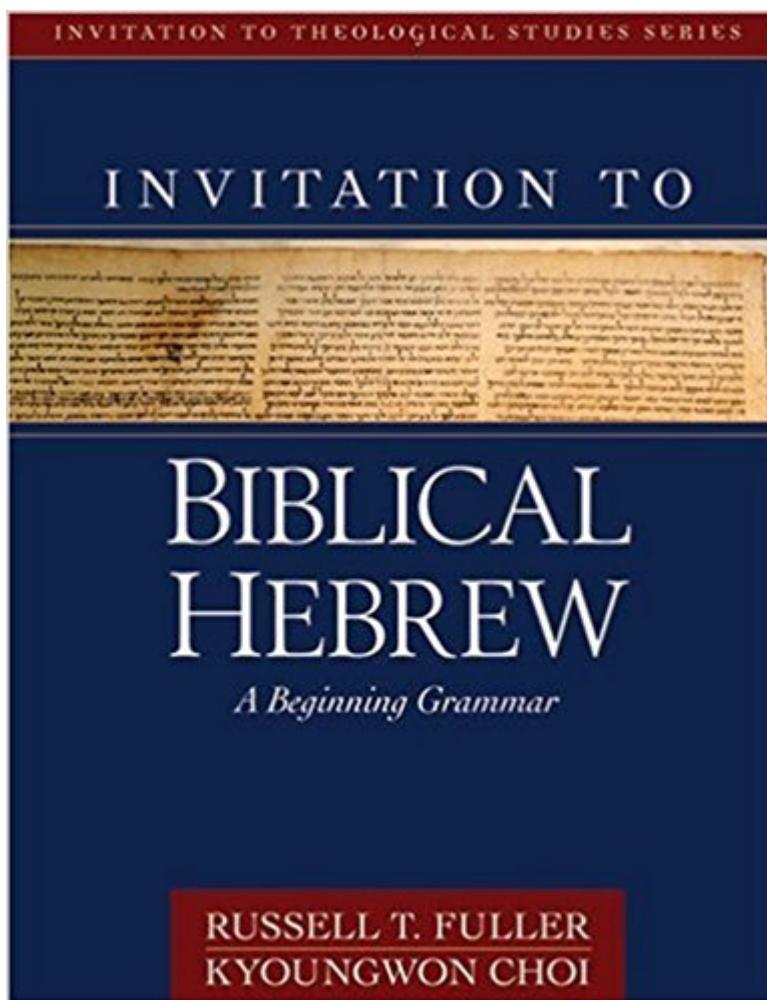


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# Invitation To Biblical Hebrew: A Beginning Grammar (Invitation To Theological Studies Series)



## **Synopsis**

A tested approach to learning biblical Hebrew in an ideal package for the first-year Hebrew student. This clear, accurate, and pedagogically sound textbook emphasizes the basics: Hebrew phonology (sounds) and morphology (forms). This grammar does not use jargon or technical language, but uses terms easily understood and remembered so biblical Hebrew can be used with regularity and authority.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"In my opinion this is the best grammar available if it teaches the fundamentals of morphology better than any other grammar that I have seen. He goes back to a reconstructed proto-Hebrew and then gives the strong verb and the "weak" verbs and shows the derivational patterns that stem from proto-Hebrew. Very pedagogically focused as well." (Charles Halton [blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com) 2006-08-01)

"Fuller's method is the best there is. He combines reading a chapter, watching someone explain the concept on DVD, and physically doing exercises out of a workbook (or on a whiteboard in a classroom). If you want to learn Hebrew and you don't have access to a school, buy the book, workbook, DVDs and get studying. If you're teaching a class, integrate this into your semester, your students will thank you. You might ask how I know this works. Well, I was one of Fuller's students and now I'm doing a PhD in Semitic languages so it must have worked for me. (P.S. And no, he hasn't paid me to say these things. I say it because I want to help you learn Hebrew and/or be the best teacher possible.)" (Charles Halton [awilum.com](http://awilum.com) 2006-08-01)"If you have

a desire to learn Hebrew, let me encourage you to purchase this grammar, along with the workbook and DVDs. Utilizing the deductive approach, the authors instruct you in a concept and then turn you loose to practice it through pages of drills and exercises. As long as you master each chapter before going onto the next, you can work your way into a solid understanding of the grammar and syntax of biblical Hebrew." (Scott Lamb The Pathway 2006-08-01)

The Invitation to Theological Studies Series (ITS) provides primary textbooks for core seminary courses, including biblical Hebrew and Greek, Old and New Testament introduction, biblical interpretation, and preaching. ITS provides foundational works that are both intellectually stimulating and spiritually nourishing. Based on years of success in the classroom, Invitation to Biblical Hebrew: A Beginning Grammar provides a clear and accurate textbook for the beginning Hebrew student. It focuses on the basics of phonology (sounds) and morphology (forms) so that the student is able to learn the language by reason and rule rather than rote memorization. The textbook also includes helpful discussions of syntax with the ultimate goal of using Hebrew in ministry. Special features of Invitation to Biblical Hebrew include a sixteen-page color insert outlining morphological principles. Also available are a companion workbook with drills, assignments, and answer keys, and a companion set of six DVDs of Dr. Fuller's classroom presentations. "I had taken eight semesters of Hebrew courses in the standard way that Hebrew is taught, and in two semesters of studying Hebrew on Dr. Fuller's method I finally learned the language! . . . This is the best way to learn the language, bar none!" • James M. Hamilton Jr., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "The textbook stands out on several levels. First, it is a truly elementary Hebrew grammar. It focuses on only what the student needs to know. Second, the grammar utilizes a totally deductive approach. While some modern grammars promote the inductive approach or some mixture of approaches, these authors deftly take students back to the tried and true basics. Third, the true beauty of the authors' method is in how after the students have truly mastered the basic rules, they can then tear apart any Hebrew word and give the reasons why every dot and dash is there, why it is not there, or why the vowel has lengthened, reduced, etc. With this mastery, the student's fear and trepidation about Hebrew melt away." • Eric A. Mitchell, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Russell T. Fuller (Ph.D., Hebrew Union College) is associate professor of Old Testament interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Kyoungwon Choi (M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Old Testament Department at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

I am a doctoral student in biblical studies who wanted to know Hebrew as well as one of my professors does. His name is Eric Mitchell and his blurb adorns the back of this book, so this was the logical place to start. There are two main schools of thought on how to learn a language. The inductive method argues for immersion in the text; hence you learn enough to read, say Genesis 1 and go for it. Then you pick up what you can as you go. The deductive method, alternatively, argues that the fine details of a foreign language are too significant to be learned in an ad hoc manner. The down side is that it seems to take forever before you can use your skills. I used the inductive approach for Koine Greek, Latin, German and French, but it just wasn't cutting it when it came to Hebrew. I am grateful that Dr. Fuller has provided all three parts of this set (grammar, workbook and DVDs) for people like me who needed the help. Language acquisition is not a one-size-fits-all phenomenon. This may not be the place to start for you. But if you really are inquisitive and like puzzles and remembering SKNMLVI rules like me, this is a good fit. I cannot wait to complete the course and know everything in it.

I just finished two semesters of Biblical Hebrew being taught by a former student of Dr. Fuller's and using his book, and I cannot say enough of how wonderful it is. I had learned some Hebrew before, but that was nothing compared to this book. One thing that makes Dr. Fuller's Hebrew grammar so great is that he explains the process of how things became what they are now. Not only is it great to know, but that also makes the information so much easier to remember because you are not just memorizing random facts. Also, Dr. Fuller uses a different method in teaching Hebrew verbs. Instead of making you memorize verb form after verb form that you then have to remember the right one out of the hundreds that you have memorized when you are parsing, Dr. Fuller just has you memorize one chart for the strong verbs so that you can then follow a logical process in parsing it. And for the weak verbs, he shows you how to figure out what happened to it so that you can then parse it. This is so much more effective that my teacher told how he and another student that had learned this way could parse so much faster than all the other students who had not learned this way, and he also told how he was about to take a final in a doctoral class and how everyone was groaning over the parsing that they were going to have to do, but he and another student who had learned this way were not concerned in the least and hardly had to study. Not only should you get this book, however, but you should also get the accompanying DVD and workbook because the DVD makes it easier to understand the material, and the workbook contains pages of drills and an answer key, and you cannot learn a language without practice. Now that I have gone through this

book, I can read some sections of the Old Testament in Hebrew with little or no help from concordances and the like. All this being said, do not start Hebrew unless you are willing to spend hours on it; however, it is worth every minute of it.

If you want learning a new language to feel like math then this is the book for you. In all seriousness, like some other reviewers have noted, you need to know your learning style. I took the first half of this book in my Elementary Hebrew class from a former student of Dr Fullers and after a semester of studying with this method I felt little more competent in my translations than when I started. The whole process really did feel like doing math. You spend so much time putting together details and deconstructing and reconstructing morphology that its hard to grasp the whole. I'm not good at math and so this approach doesn't seem to work well for me.

Apparently this is a great rendition of the deductive method of learning Hebrew. Apparently I do not learn deductively. If you don't know how you learn ask yourself if you need to understand the big picture before the details start to make sense. If your answer is yes than this book is not for you. Use the inductive method. My teacher is Eric Mitchell who wrote the blurb on the back for the book, so if anybody could teach this course it should be him... and I'm simply not learning anything. I learned Greek inductively and it was great for me. Summation: find out what type of learner you are before investing in this book and purchase accordingly.

Excellent!!

Very in-depth. This book answers a lot of my questions. It is obviously a college level resource so beginners beware. I am sure I am going to love it.

I've read the first few chapters, done some of the exercises, but don't have the time I would like to devote to it. It has helped me with understanding my Torah reading better, even still.

The DVD with the lectures that go with the manual and workbook by the same author are just excellent. The professor speaks clearly and has a way of "verbally marking" concepts to help with memory. The lectures do not "tire" the student even with several viewings.

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