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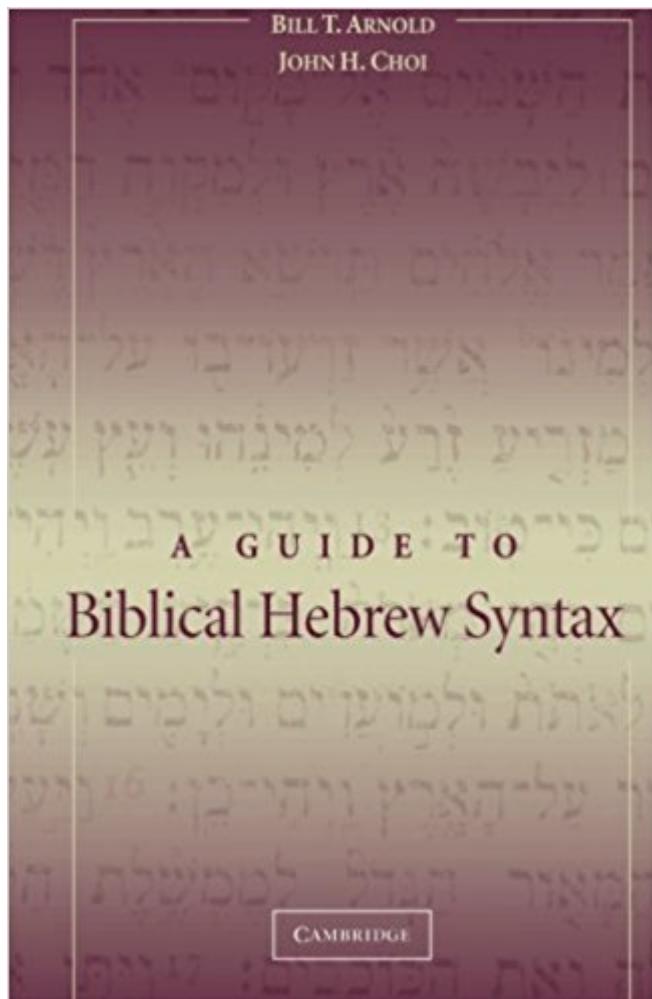# A Guide To Biblical Hebrew Syntax

BILL T. ARNOLD

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A GUIDE TO
Biblical Hebrew Syntax

CAMBRIDGE

Synopsis

At the heart of biblical interpretation is the need to read the Bible's "syntax" (the way words, clauses, and sentences relate to each other). The growing demands on theological education have made it difficult for students of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) to master the intermediate-level skills required to interpret the syntax of the Bible's original language. A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax defines the fundamental syntactical features of the Hebrew Bible, and illustrates each feature with at least one example, extracted from the Bible itself and accompanied with English translation.

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Customer Reviews

"Arnold and Choi have given to all who love the Hebrew Scriptures a clear, concise, correct and carefully prepared guide to Biblical Hebrew syntax, helping its students to interpret scripture accurately." Bruce K. Waltke, author of An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax"This is a highly useful book. It is brief and concise, yet is long enough to provide helpful and detailed descriptions (along with copious examples) that condense and distill the best of recent developments in Hebrew grammar and syntax... Students and instructors of Biblical Hebrew will want and need this volume on their shelves." Brent A. Strawn, Candler School of Theology, Emory University"What a joy to read!...The concept of having something to put into students' hands after a year of grammatical study that attempts to lead them further into making sense of the Hebrew text is a wonderful and commendable goal....This is a long-overdue book." Roy L. Heller, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

At the heart of biblical interpretation is the need to read the Bible's "syntax" (the way words, clauses, and sentences relate to each other). The growing demands on theological education have made it difficult for students of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) to master the intermediate-level skills required to interpret the syntax of the Bible's original language. A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax defines the fundamental syntactical features of the Hebrew Bible, and illustrates each feature with at least one example, extracted from the Bible itself and accompanied with English translation.

I am using this book in my Hebrew classe in seminary and have to say it really is a wonderful resource! It strives for and achieves great clarity on grammatical and syntactical ideas and consistently presents excellent examples, underlining how Hebrew constructions can be rendered into English.The content covered includes the nominative case, the genitive, the accusative, apposition, adjectives, numerals, verbs and their nuances, particles (prepositions and adverbs; really strong on these), and clauses and sentences. At the end there is also a much appreciated glossary of terms, subject and Scripture index, and bibliography.Overall I really like how well organized and presented this book is, and I can tell the authors put a great amount of effort into getting the best syntactical information, distilling it down, explaining it clearly, and giving superb examples. I find myself referencing this book quite frequently even for my first year translations, and I'm sure it will provide great help in future exegesis.

Really, all you need to know to read and exegete the Hebrew Scriptures. Anything more, and you're entering the domain of comparative Semitics, linguistics theory, etc. A great supplement to a beginner Biblical Hebrew grammar. The table of contents is broken down nicely which allows for a quick reference and explanation of verb stems, particles, clauses, etc. and their uses in almost any situation. Great go-to guide that should be kept close at hand.

I have just started this book, but as a self-study learner who is always looking for some fresh insight into mastering this Biblical language, I have been helped immediately. Having already self-studied my way to second year Greek student level, this is helping me progress from 1st semester level to late second semester level in Biblical Hebrew. This was the perfect tool at the perfect time, as our God of perfect timing is always doing.

A fantastic bridge from beginning to more advanced Hebrew studies. Keeps abreast of linguistic

developments without being obscure or pedantic. I did not detect any theological liberalism.

Arnold and Choi state in the beginning of the books that their work is to be an "intermediate reference grammar for biblical Hebrew", and I would say that it succeeds wonderfully at that. The work does very well at being concise while at the same time not leaving a great deal of ambiguity (though at time intentionally stating the ambiguity where it persists even for scholars). I teach Biblical Hebrew at the college level but am restricted to a 2semester program which limits me to introductory Hebrew, yet the readability of this book has been very helpful I brining up basic syntax to my students. I would very much recommend this book.For practicality, the table of contents is very thorough and serves as nearly a summary for the basic categories of syntax if you area already familiar with the terminology, otherwise it makes it very easy to navigate. Each syntactical idea is introduced with a brief (sometimes longer) prose explanation. This is a huge advantage over other syntax works with jump right into examples, which can be difficult to distinguish.One thing I whicho they would have included was pronominal suffixes and pronouns in a section of their own. Pronouns are so pervasive sometimes knowing how to analyze their antecedent would be helpful, but then again, Waltke O'Connor does alright :)

This book is a must have with a basic Biblical Hebrew grammar book. It's will done as in update information and organization. It goes further in depth that an average grammar book doesn't with out a lot boring reading.

excellent

This guide, is exactly what it claims to be - a guide. For that reason, it is very concise and compact and that is it's strength. If your purpose is to have comprehensive explanations and examples, then Walter & O' Conner is much more fitted. However, this guide is a very good supplement if you are already using Walter & O' Conner for any project. In other words, the guide alone is lacking simply because it is only a guide, but used in conjunction with a more comprehensive Syntax resource, it is very valuable. It saves time sifting through voluminous works (such as Walter & O' Conner) for a syntactical category that you are probably already aware of, but not sure (whether in nuance or general), and yet seek a quick jolt in memory for the understanding of that syntactical category and the abstractions it entails. If you use it for that purpose, then it is perfect and extremely helpful.I am assuming the reviewer who gave it a low rating did not understand this, because that is the only

reason for giving this guide a low rating.

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