

Syllabus: Reading the Bible Together – Genesis 1

Lesson 1: Introduction to Hebrew and Genesis

- • Brief Introduction: Overview of the course structure and goals.
- • Hebrew Alphabet: a brief overview and history.
- • Starting from Genesis 1:1–5: The opening verses of Genesis and their significance.
- • The Definite Article: How the Hebrew definite article functions in context.
- • The Object Marker (את): Its role in Hebrew grammar and how to recognize it in texts.

Lesson 2: Creation and Prepositions

- • Review: Recap of the key points from Lesson 1.
- • Genesis 1:6–8: Creation of the sky and the separation of waters.
- • Some Prepositions: Introduction to common Hebrew prepositions and their usage in Genesis.
- • רקיע? The BDB and other tools for handling hard words
- • שמים? The etymology of the word

Lesson 3: The Hebrew Root and Creation

- • Review: Revisiting the concepts from Lessons 1 and 2.
- • Genesis 1:9–13: Gathering of the waters, emergence of dry land, and vegetation.
- • The Hebrew Root System: Exploring the importance of roots in Hebrew vocabulary and grammar.

Lesson 4: Signs in the Sky and Vowel Usage

- • Review: Summarizing the material covered so far.
- • Genesis 1:14–19: Creation of lights and its relation to the light of the first day.
- • The Vowels under Prepositions: How vowels change when attached to prepositions in Hebrew.
- • Introduction to Sefaria.org

Lesson 5: Creation of Life and Grammatical Features

- • Review: Discussion and clarification of previous lessons.
- • Genesis 1:20–23: Creation of aquatic creatures and birds – a path to contemporary Mesopotamian myths.
- • Gender and Number in Hebrew: Recognizing masculine, feminine, singular, and plural forms.
- • The Adjective: How adjectives agree with nouns in gender and number.
- • Nominal Clauses: Understanding sentences without verbs in Hebrew.

Lessons 6–7: Humanity, Rest, and Key Hebrew Terms

- • Review: Comprehensive review of the course material.
- • Genesis 1:28–2:3: Creation of humans, the blessing, and the institution of rest.
- • כָּל (All / Every): How this term is used to convey inclusiveness in Hebrew.
- • הִנֵּה (Behold): Its function in emphasizing key points in narratives.
- • The Relative Clause (אֲשֶׁר): Connecting ideas and adding detail in Biblical Hebrew.