

Course Syllabus: Reading the Bible Together – 1 Kings 17

Course Overview

This course introduces students to close reading and analysis of 1 Kings 17, with a focus on linguistic, grammatical, and exegetical issues. Through guided study, students will explore key aspects of Biblical Hebrew grammar, prophetic language, and narrative theology.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Eliyahu (vv. 1–4)

- Brief introduction to Eliyahu
 - Conditional & relative aspects of the prepositions
 - The identity of the Tishbite
 - Analysis of key roots (כ.ת.ר, ע.ר.ב, ז.ב)
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Lesson 2: Grammar & Syntax (vv. 5–9)

- The participle and its meaning
 - לֶחֶם וּבָשָׂר (bread and meat) as a syntactic unit
 - The habitual *Yiqtol*
 - The function of the connecting word
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Lesson 3: Narrative & Colloquial Usage (vv. 10–13)

- The kinds of food items and their significance
 - Analysis of the verb לָקַח (“to take”)
 - Example of the colloquial use of אִם, הֵן, הֵלֵא
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Lesson 4: Prophetic Formulae (vv. 14–16)

- Prophetic formulae and their significance
 - Infinitives used as nouns
 - Inconsistency in gendered nouns
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Lesson 5: Lexical and Theological Links (vv. 17–19)

- Analysis of וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
 - Meaning of the phrase מָה לִּי וְלָךְ
 - Lexical connections to Elisha's account
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Lesson 6: Prayer and Theological Themes (vv. 20–22)

- וַיִּתְמַד (he stretched himself) and its meaning
 - The repetition of וַיִּשְׁמַע
 - Theology of prayer and divine response
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Lesson 7: Conclusion of the Narrative (vv. 23–24)

- Pronominal suffixes and their function
- The expression דָּבָר
- Speech and its theological significance