

Notes about the Hebrew Study Guide
(for the 10/01/06 revision)

PRINTING AND COLLATING

1. Print pages front to back (1 with 2, 3 with 4) – the correct front-to-back print setting (flipping the page *on the long edge*) will typically be the default.
2. Allow the printer to auto-correct margins ("shrink to fit page" or "reduce and center"). Otherwise, page numbers and perhaps text will be lost in the gutter.
 - Choosing "shrink to fit page" will throw off the formatting a bit – everything should still look correct, but the page will not be divided into perfect eighths. This may affect your cutting (step 4).
 - On some printers, if you use "shrink to fit," the formatting may be thrown off so badly that you can't cut the pages into fourths. You should print either on a laser jet or at Bellis.
3. Fold each page in half *height-wise* (so that the folded page is now 4.25" x 11"). Fold back and forth to get a good crease. Unfold back to the full sheet size.
4. Cut each page *into equal fourths* (so that each fourth is 8.5" x 2.75"). After it has been cut, each quarter page should have a crease down the middle from the previous step.
 - Be careful when cutting: because you printed using the "shrink to fit page" option, you may clip page numbers or charts by cutting into perfect fourths.
5. Find pages 1 (cover), 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15. Stack in that order, and fold down the center. (If you followed step 3, you already have a nice crease.)
6. Put one or two staples in the crease. A standard office stapler should be large enough to reach to the center. (If you can't find a large enough stapler, go to Bellis.)
7. If you want to flip the pages easily, have Bellis trim the edge so that the inner-most pages don't stick out beyond the top pages. It's well worth the quarters.

STUDYING WITH THE STUDY GUIDE

- ◆ Compare every chart or list in the Study Guide (SG) to the equivalent pages in the Hebrew Handbook (HH).
 - The rules are *greatly compressed* in the SG to fit them onto the page. Compare items point by point to ensure that you understand the abbreviations.
 - Some charts are arranged differently in the SG from their arrangement in the HH. These differences represent an attempt to bring a higher degree of consistency to the visual arrangement of forms so as to aid memory (e.g., SG p. 18 "Strong Qal Active Participles").
 - Some lists in the SG contain *additional items* – you may wish to put these items in parentheses or cross them out so as not to waste effort memorizing them. Most of these additional items are so rare in the BHS that they can be safely ignored (e.g., SG p. 3, the sibilants).
- ◆ Practice writing out the lists and charts from memory.
- ◆ Try to work out your own weak verb charts and compare them with the SG.
- ◆ Note what the SG leaves out. For example, there's no discussion of *vocal* versus *simple* shewa. There's also no discussion of hollow verbs and geminate verbs, neither of which I ever really understood. This SG is not intended to replace the HH! (If you wish to contribute additional materials to the SG, please let me know.)

UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY GUIDE

- ◆ Shading is used for various purposes.
 - On p. 10, the shading indicates suffix forms with an *energetic nun* variant on the facing page.
 - On p. 15, the shading groups together identical forms within the chart. It is used similarly on p. 17.
 - In the x-charts (pp. 24-29), shading indicates where the chart is different from the strong verb x-chart (p. 23).
- ◆ Letters or words set apart in a small box typically show standard forms or the realized forms after a

set of rules is applied. (See, e.g., p. 3.)

- If the boxed form is preceded by an arrow, the form in the box includes another combining element (most commonly a yod). (See, e.g., p. 4. However, cf. p. 26.)

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY GUIDE

This SG was a personal project inspired by Vyacheslav "Slava" Starikov and was never intended for wide distribution. Dr. Starikov recommended that students write out the rules in a Day Timer or some other portable notebook for study during unexpected free time, between classes, and so on. (Incidentally, I believe that making your own study guide can help you more than using mine.)

Almost every weekend for the first couple months of Elementary Hebrew, I would set aside several hours on Saturday for typing up that week's charts. The SG began as eight frames on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper, folded into panels. Over the course of the semester it became a 2-sided sheet, and eventually it became two pages, which were unmanageable. So the booklet was born.

I found the SG to be a great way to review before tests and quizzes and to look up rules or forms while preparing homework assignments.

The SG may be distributed freely in PDF form or in print form. Anyone who prints and distributes should charge no more than actual costs incurred for photocopying, cutting, stapling, and trimming. The PDF should not be sold for profit.

The Hebrew text in the SG uses BibleWorks' *BWHEBL [Hebrew]* (Copyright 1994-2005 BibleWorks, LLC). BibleWorks fonts for Greek and Hebrew are robust and attractive, but they are not Unicode compliant.¹ I do not recommend that anyone ever type anything in a non-Unicode font. I regret doing it, and so will you.

All Roman text (in the SG and this document) is typeset with *Gentium* (Copyright 2003-2005 SIL International), a Unicode font designed, in part, for literacy publications.²

The SG was designed in Microsoft Publisher, a general-purpose consumer-level often-frustrating application. The file has been extremely unstable, and every time I make changes, I have to fix new problems. This companion PDF was created with NeoOffice.

If you find any errors (*bonus dormitat Homerus*) or would like to suggest any improvements, please email me at VivereChristus@gmail.com. Please do not email to tell me about abbreviations that lack periods. I know.

I hope that this guide is useful to you. If so, spread the word.

1. Unicode is an international character encoding standard designed to ensure that documents are fully portable from one font environment to another. BibleWorks 7.0 can export Greek and Hebrew to Unicode (when you copy-paste text into external applications or the internal editor), but the internal encoding for Bible versions in BW7.0 is still non-standard. I understand that future versions of BibleWorks will use Unicode. The situation with Accordance is similar to BibleWorks' (the software can export text to Unicode, but internal fonts are non-Unicode; I don't know about future plans for Accordance). Logos Bible software is almost fully Unicode.

2. SIL's open license fonts are available on the Web, www.sil.org (you may have to navigate a bit to find them; you can also simply Google *SIL fonts* to find the right page). SIL International has produced some of the best Greek and Hebrew Unicode fonts available, and no student should ever type a seminary-level paper without using them.