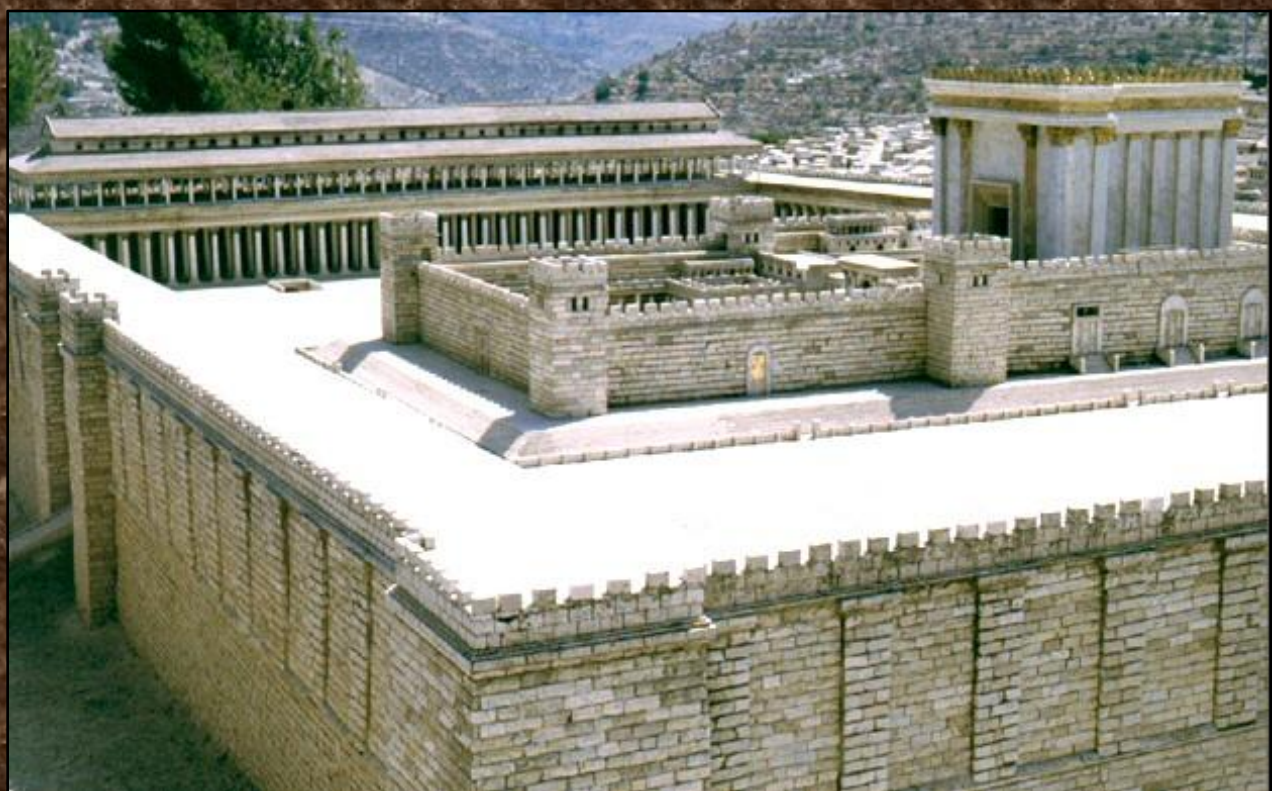


HEBREW SYNTAX

יְרֵ-לְרַגְלֵי דְבָרְךָ וְאוֹר לְנִתְיָבְתִי:

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.”



**A Quick-Reference Manual
For Use in Hebrew Exegesis**

By
Dr. J. Paul Tanner

HEBREW SYNTAX

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PREFACE

The following notes have been prepared to help students who have completed basic Hebrew grammar studies and are now ready to move on to the process of exegesis. The purpose of this notebook is to place before the student the various exegetical options that he or she must consider once the basic matters of parsing and grammatical identification have been made. I wish to clarify from the outset that the goal of this notebook is not to give an exhaustive syntactical treatment of each topic, but to place in the hands of the student a *practical and handy tool* that will assist him or her in evaluating the exegetical options.

I would like to give credit to Professor Don Glenn and Dr. Bruce Waltke, whose class notes from Dallas Seminary have been of immense help in the preparation of this notebook (particularly the analysis of nouns and verbs), albeit with appropriate modification. I have also been helped by Ronald Williams' book, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline* (2nd ed.), as well as the classical work *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (edited and revised by E. Kautzsch and A. E. Cowley). Dr. Allen P. Ross has kindly allowed me to use a prepublication copy of his Hebrew grammar entitled "Biblical Hebrew Handbook" for teaching my students the basic rudiments of Hebrew (copyright 1986). At certain points in this syntax notebook, I have made reference to corresponding portions in his Handbook with the abbreviation "R." Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Bruce K. Waltke and Dr. M. O'Connor for their outstanding contribution to Hebrew studies entitled *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1990). I have attempted to incorporate insights from their work into my own (and have correlated my work with theirs using the designation "Waltke").

One of the particular contributions that these notes provide is the use of illustrations from *The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament*, edited by John R. Kohlenberger (though the Hebrew text is the same as *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*). Students using this Hebrew text will find these notes to be particularly "user friendly." The 6th edition included a section on "figures of speech" as an appendix (an appropriate addition, since the determination of figures is a common part of the exegetical task). With the release of the 7th edition, I have included a second appendix providing a guide to the signs, symbols and abbreviations used in the text-critical apparatus of the Hebrew Bible. In the 8th edition I have updated the notes on the genitive and accusative noun. In the 9th and 10th editions, I have made a few additional corrections and clarifications.

J. Paul Tanner

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