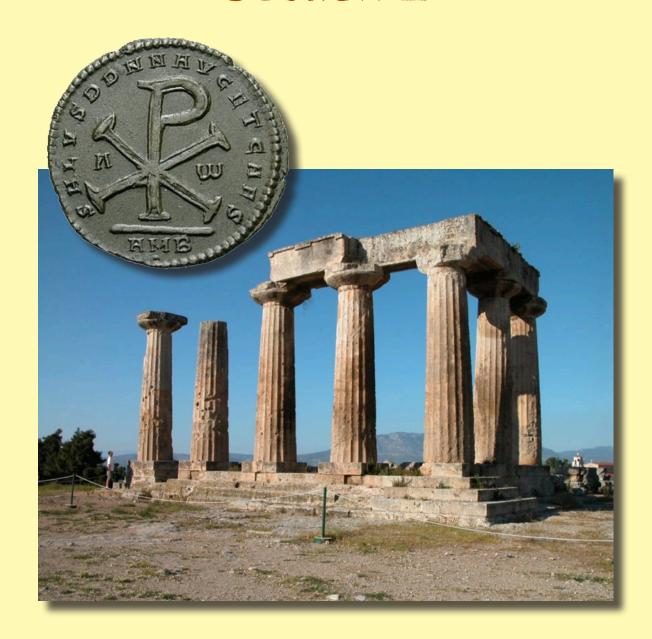# Section E

Glossary

Words are like bodies; meanings are like souls.

Moses Ibn Ezra, *Commentary on Exodus,* 20:1

A kind word is no substitute
for a piece of herring or a bag of oats.

Sholem Aleichem

Frank and Ernest

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A GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR HEBREW AND GREEK STUDIES

Much of the material in this glossary was derived from
*A DICTIONARY OF SPECIAL AND TECHNICAL TERMS
FOR HEBREW AND GREEK STUDIES*
By Lee R. Martin

Absolute. In Hebrew or Greek grammar, a word is absolute when it stands independently and has no grammatical relation to other elements in the sentence. The most common instance in Greek is the genitive absolute.

Absolute State. The Hebrew absolute together with a word in the construct state expresses the genitive. Do not confuse with the infinitive absolute. Heb: king (absolute); horse of (construct) the king (absolute), i.e., the king's horse (genitive).

Accidence. That part of grammar that treats inflection; a subcategory of morphology.

Accusative Case. See **Case** below. A word in the accusative case is a substantive (such as a noun or pronoun) used as the direct object of a transitive verb. In Greek, the accusative is the case of extension. Heb: "In the beginning God created the *heavens* and the *earth*" (Gen. 1:1). Gk: "He gave the *right* to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Active Voice. In the active voice, the subject is the doer of the action that is expressed by the verb. Heb: "In the beginning *God created* the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Gk: "*He gave* the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Adjective/Adjectival. A word, phrase, or clause used to modify a noun or in some cases a substantive. In Hebrew and Greek, it agrees with the word modified (concord). Heb: "Abraham held a *great* feast" (Gen. 21:8). Gk: "I am the *good* shepherd" (John 10:11). Also called adnominal.

Adverb/Adverbial. A word, phrase, or clause used to modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb. In English, adverbs are usually formed with the suffix "-ly." In Hebrew and Greek, many adverbs are formed with suffixes: other parts of speech and many clauses are used adverbially. Heb: "Agag came to him *confidently*" (1 Sam. 15:32). Gk: "*Freely* you have received, *freely* give" (Matt. 10:8).

Affix. A bound **Morpheme**, a letter or syllable placed at the beginning, middle, or end of a root or stem that will modify its meaning. Heb: pronouns, plural endings, and verbal forms that indicate person, gender, and number may be affixed tion of an "h" sound to a **Phoneme**, especially to the vowel beginning a Greek word: indicated in writing by a rough breathing mark.

Aramaism. See **Semitism.**

Assimilation. The adaptation of two adjacent sounds (consonant or vowel) to each other, either forward (progressive assimilation) or backward (regressive assimilation) in the word. Generally, a consonant that should close a syllable passes over into another that begins the next syllable and forms with it a strengthened letter or syllable. Heb: n is the most frequently assimilated letter in Hebrew, e.g., in יִקָּטֵל the dagesh forte in the Q represents an assimilated n of the niphal stem. Gk: a consonant that precedes a consonant is generally assimilated to the second consonant, e.g., in ἐμμένω, n+m has become mm.

Attenuation. The "thinning" of a sound. Heb: A patach may become a hireq, or a full vowel may be reduced to a sheva. Gk: any of the long vowels may be shortened in formation and inflection of words; cf. VOWEL GRADATION.

Attributive. An adjective or other adjunct word that stands before the noun it qualifies. Ex. *white* bread. Heb: the attributive may also be expressed by the genitive relationship: "man of strength" = "strong man." Gk: the attributive may follow the noun when both are articular.

Barth's Law. A statement of predictable vowel changes in Hebrew. If the thematic vowel of the perfect is a-class, the thematic vowel of the imperfect will be of the u-class. If the perfect thematic vowel is i or u, the imperfect will be a-class.

BeGeD KeFeT Letters. A mnemonic device containing the six Hebrew consonants (ב ג ד כ פ ת) whose pronunciation may change by the insertion or omission of a dagesh lene.

"Bump" Letters. A mnemonic device containing the Hebrew consonants that affect the pronunciation of the conjunction vav when it is prefixed to these consonants. The rule is that before b m p, and sheva the conjunction is pointed וּ instead of וְ.

Case. Case is the form or function of inflected forms of words, such as nouns and pronouns, which shows their grammatical relation to other words. For example, if a noun functions in a sentence as a direct object it is said to be in the ACCUSATIVE CASE.

Case Ending. In Greek, case endings are affixed to words to designate the case; in Hebrew, case endings are no longer used except in rare instances that may be remnants of earlier case endings.

Causative Verb. A transitive verb that can be said to cause the action depicted in a corresponding intransitive verb. E. g.: *lay* ("cause to lie") is the causative of *lie; raise,* the causative of *rise.*

Clause. A group of words containing a subject and a predicate and forming part of a compound or complex **Sentence**.

Closed Syllable. A syllable that ends in a consonant.

Cognate Accusative. A noun, derived from the same root as the verb, that defines, explains, or strengthens (emphasizes) the verbal idea. It is also called the absolute object, the internal object, schema etymologicum, or figura etymologica. Heb: "Jerusalem has sinned greatly" (Lam. 1:8), lit., "Jerusalem has sinned a *sin."* Grk: "If anyone sees his brother commit a sin" (1 John 5:16), lit., "sinning *a sin."*

Cohortative. Modal aspect of a verb, expressing desire, will, request, wish, self-encouragement, intention of the speaker for himself. It may be considered a modified **Imperative** and usually appears in the first person. Heb: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image'" (Gen. 1:26). Indicated in Heb. by appending ה to the end of a 1st person imperfect. Gk: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb. 12:1). Also called hortatory.

Comparative Degree. Forms of adjectives and adverbs, or adjectival and adverbial constructions, that express relative increase of quality, quantity, or intensity. In English, the comparative degree is expressed by an adjective with the suffix "-er" (richer) or by "more" with an adverb (more richly). In Hebrew, it is expressed by various means (the preposition מ or the context); in Greek, by means of suffixes and certain particles. Heb: "God made...the *greater light*...and the *lesser light"* (Gen. 1:16). Gk: After me will come one *more powerful* than I" (Mark 1:7).

Compensatory Lengthening. The lengthening of a short vowel to make up for the loss of one or more consonants. Heb: instead of doubling a consonant, a preceding vowel may be lengthened in the formation of the **Piel** stem before א, ע, or ר, e.g., בֵּרַה for בְּרְרָה. Gk: in the formation of the first aorist stem before λ, ν, or ρ, e.g., ἔμεινα for ἔμενσα.

Composite Sheva. A form of the sheva in the Hebrew language that normally appears with guttural letters. There are three composite shevas: ֲ , ֱ , and ֳ. Also called **Compound Sheva**.

Concord. The grammatical harmony of person, gender, and number among parts of the sentence and among units of discourse; also called agreement. Ex. a pronoun in Hebrew and Greek agrees with its ANTECEDENT in person, GENDER, and NUMBER.

Conjugation. An orderly arrangement or listing of the inflected forms of a verb or verbal according to its person, **Gender**, **Number**, tense, **Voice**, and **Mode**.

Construct State. A word in Hebrew that is dependent on the following word for meaning and definiteness (also for accent if the words are joined by a MAQQEPH); together they make up a compound state that is the equivalent of the GENITIVE in English or Greek. It is also called annexion. Heb: "God set them in the *expanse of* (construct) the sky" (Gen. 1:17).

Dagesh Forte. A dot that may appear in all the Hebrew consonants except the gutturals. It doubles the consonant in which it appears.

Dagesh Lene. A dot that appears only in the **BeGeD KeFeT** letters in Hebrew (e.g. בּ). It affects the pronunciation by giving the consonant in which it appears a hard sound.

Declension. An orderly arrangement or listing of the inflection of a noun, pronoun, participle, or adjective according to its **Case**, person, **Gender**, and **Number**.

Defective Writing. When the vowel letter is omitted in Hebrew. Also called *scriptio defectiva.* Ex: the writing of ֹ for וֹ.

Demonstrative Adjective. An adjective that points out particular persons, places, or things. There are two types: near (this, these) and remote (that, those). The demonstrative adjective is also called a demonstrative pronoun.

Denominative. A noun or a verb derived from a noun or adjective stem. Heb: שֹׁעֵר, "porter," from שַׁעַר, "gate"; Gk: γραμματεύς, "scribe," from γραμμα, "letter." Also called denominal.

Dental. Articulated with the tip of the tongue near or against the upper front teeth: the English dental consonants t and d.

Dieresis. Two dots ¨ placed over a vowel to show that the vowel is neither silent nor part of diphthong, as in *Brontë*.

Diphthong. A sound or *glide* that begins with one vowel and transitions into another vowel in the same syllable, as *oi* in boil.

Direct Object. The word, phrase, or clause that is the primary goal or result of the action of the verb (cf. **Accusative Case**); the person or thing is directly affected by the action of the verb. Heb: "God created the *heavens* and the *earth"* (Gen. 1:1). Gr: "He grabbed *him* and began to choke *him"* (Matt. 18:28).

Dual Number. A form denoting two persons or things. The dual suffix occurs in a few Hebrew nouns, but the Greek dual disappeared from use before the NT. Heb: יוֹם, "day," יוֹמַיִם, "two days."

Epigraphy. The study and decipherment of ancient inscriptions.

Enclitic. In our Grk text, a word that depends upon the preceding word for its accent. In the GNT, enclitic words include the indefinite pronoun, various particles and forms of εἰμί (compare **Proclitic**).

Energic Nun. A verbal form in Hebrew that is strengthened by the insertion of a connecting nun between the verbal stem and the suffix. Also called *nun energicum, nun demonstrativum, nun epentheticum,* epenthetic nun.

Etymology. The origin and historical development of a word as determined from its components.

Euphonic Nun. A nun placed at the end of a Hebrew word for pleasing sound or ease of pronunciation.

Exegesis. Analysis that draws meaning out of a text. Exegesis answers the question: What did the text mean to its original audience?

Exposition. A setting forth of the meaning of a text, in discourse or in writing. Exposition answers the questions: What does the text mean to us and how should we apply it?

Fricative. Also called spirant. A consonant, such as f or s in English, produced by the forcing of breath through a constricted passage. Fricatives can be pronounced as long as one's breath holds out. Contrast **Stop**.

Full Vowels. In Hebrew, the vowels that correspond to a, e, i, o, u.

Full Writing. Another name for plena writing.

Geminate (*n.*); Gemination. Gemination is the doubling of a consonant in BH, which doubling is usually indicated by a **Dagesh Forte.** A geminate is a Hebrew consonant thus doubled.

Gender. Grammatical gender follows the natural distinctions of sex only sometimes. Hebrew has only two classes of gender for **Nominals**, masculine and feminine, but three fro verbs: masculine, feminine, and common (when the same form is used to express masculine and feminine, it is called common gender). Greek expresses masculine, feminine, and neuter gender, as does English.

Genitive. The **Case** that expresses possession or specifies a relationship that can be expressed in English by "of." In Hebrew this is called a **Construct** relationship. The Greek genitive is the specifying case answering the question "What kind?" Heb: "the *expanse of* the sky" (Gen. 1:21). Gk: "a baptism *of repentance* for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4).

Gutturals. The mute consonants whose sounds are produced when the front of the tongue approaches the palate of the mouth. Four letters in Hebrew, א ה ח and ע are the guttural letters (ר has some guttural characteristics). Hebrew gutturals cannot be doubled, prefer a-class vowels, and composite shevas. In Greek, the guttural letters are γ κ and χ also called velars, laryngeals, or palatals.

Hebraism. See **Semitism.**

Hebrew. The Semitic language that most of the Old Testament is written in.

Hithpael. A verbal form in Hebrew that expresses intensive or emphatic action (classified by some grammars as causative action) and reflexive voice. For this emphasis in Greek, middle voice. Heb: "A group of adventurers gathered around [lit., gathered themselves around] him" (Judg. 11:3).

Hollow Verb. In Hebrew, a biconsonantal root that has a long vowel (י or ו) between the two root consonants. Also called ayin yod and ayin vav verbs. E.g. מות and שׂים.

Hophal. A verbal form in Hebrew that expresses causative action and passive voice. Heb: "Let seven of his male descendants be given [hophal] to us" (2 Sam. 21:6).

Idiom. A figure of speech that cannot usually be understood literally, particularly one that is unique to a particular group of people.

Imperative. A verb or verbal mood that expresses command or makes a request. Heb: "Give us water to drink" (Exod. 17:2). Gk: "Give us each day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3).

Imperfect. In Hebrew, the form of the verb used to express action that is incomplete or unfinished. Heb: "What if they *do not believe* me" (Exod. 4:1). The Greek imperfect tense expresses incomplete, linear action in past time. Gk: "People *were eating* and drinking…" (Luke 17:28). Other regular uses of the tense include iterative, frequentative, inceptive, and conative.

Indo-European. The family of languages that includes the European and Indo-Iranian languages. Compare with **Semitic Languages**.

Infinitive. A verbal noun that has characteristics of both verbs and nouns. In English usually introduced by *to.* Hebrew has both infinitive absolute and infinitive construct forms. Heb: "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans *to give* you this land" (Gen. 15:7). The Greek infinitive is used as a substantive, in subordinate clauses, with prepositions, and in epexegesis. Gk: "For to me, *to live* is Christ and *to die* is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

Infinitive Absolute. A form of the Hebrew infinitive that may function in a number of ways: to express certainty or intensification ("you will surely die," Gen. 2:17); to express repeated or continued action ("Be ever hearing," Isa. 6:9); as a finite verb ("They...broke the jars," Judg. 7:19); to express an emphatic imperative ("Remember the Sabbath day," Exod. 20:8).

Infix. An affix inserted within a root or stem instead of at the beginning (prefix) or at the end (suffix). A characteristic of Semitic languages, where forms of the verb are indicated by infixes in the consonantal root, but not applicable to Greek. Heb: energic nun is Ps. 50:23; the dagesh forte in the middle consonant of the intensive stems.

Intensive Stem. A verbal form in Hebrew that intensifies or emphasizes the action of the verb. The three principal intensive stems are piel, pual, and hithpael.

Interrogative Particle. A word that introduces a question. Heb: among the more common interrogative particles are מִי, "who?" מָה "what?" and הֲ (indicates a question).Gk: common interrogatives are τις, "who?" πως "how?"

Jussive. Modal aspect of the verb with the same function as the cohortative, but ordinarily it appears in the second or third person in Hebrew. The Greek jussive in the second or third person was little used, being replaced by the imperative. Heb: "And God said, 'Let there be light'" (Gen. 1:3).

KeMNeFaS Letters: A mnemonic device containing the Hebrew letters that have alternate final forms: צ פ נ מ כ.

Labial. Articulated mainly by closing or partly closing the lips, as the sounds (b), (m), or (w).

Lexical Form. The entry form under which the meaning of a word will be found in a lexicon. Hebrew words are listed according to root, usually the three radicals of the consonantal root. Greek nouns are listed according to nominative, singular; verbs are listed according to present tense, indicative mood.

Linguistics. The scientific study of language, developed as a discipline in the twentieth century; when the emphasis is historical, the term is equivalent to the older term philology.

Mappiq. The dot placed in the Hebrew letter ה, giving the letter consonantal value when it occurs at the end of a word. E.g. אֱלוֹהַּ (God).

Maqqeph. A hyphen-like line joining two Hebrew words. E. g. אֶת־קוֹל.

Masoretes. From Hebrew for "tradition." The Jewish scholars who added the vowel points to the Hebrew consonantal text.

Masoretic Text. The vocalized text of the Hebrew Bible, prepared by a group of Jewish scholars around A.D. 700 to preserve the oral pronunciation of the Hebrew words.

Matres Lectionis. The letters (י ו ה) that represent vowels in an unpointed text of the Hebrew Bible. Also called fulcra or vowel letters.

Metathesis. The transposition or reversal of letters (often consonants), words, or sentences. Heb: כֶּבֶשׂ and כֶּשֶׂב, "lamb"; in the hithpael stem, when the first root letter of a verb is ס, שׂ or שׁ, metathesis occurs with the ת of the prefix, e.g., הִשְׁתָּמֵּר instead of הִתְשָׁמֵּר. Gk: φαιλονης and φαινολης, "cloak."

Metheg. A small, perpendicular stroke written under a Hebrew consonant and to the left of the vowel to indicate the secondary accent of a word, or the secondary accent of words joined with the **Maqqeph**.

Mil'el. In Hebrew, the accent on the next to the last syllable of a word; equals an accented penult in Greek.

Milra'. In Hebrew, the accent on the last syllable of a word; equals an accented ultima in Greek.

Modal. A term that refers to some particular attitude (such as wish, possibility) toward the fulfillment of the action or state predicted, which may be expressed by inflectional mood, auxiliary verbs, word order, etc. Heb: "God may yet relent" (Jonah 3:9).

Mode. Another term for mood, although some grammarians distinguish the two (mood refers to the frame of mind in which the statement is made, mode to the manner in which it is made). Mood is more commonly used by Greek grammarians.

Mood. Mood indicates the manner in which the action is conceived (or its relation to reality). Moods are indicative, imperative, subjunctive, and optative. Mood may be expressed by finite verbs in Greek and by various means (form, words, or context) in Hebrew. Mode.

Morpheme. The minimal functioning unit in the composition of words; a basic element or form of a language that shows grammatical relations, e.g., in English, an apostrophe and "s" to show possession. Morphemes are classified into bound forms (such as affixes) and free forms that can occur as separate words. Heb: the ל functioning as a prefixed preposition "to/for." Gk: ἐλυε comprises three morphemes, the prefix e, the stem lu, and the suffix e.

Morphology. A study of the forms (morphemes) that enter into the structure of words in a language. The phoneme is the basic meaningful element of sound, the morpheme the basic meaningful element of form.

Niphal. A verbal form (stem) in Hebrew that expresses simple action and passive or reflexive voice. Heb: "She *was given* in marriage to Adriel of Meholah" (1 Sam. 18:19).

Nominal Sentence. A sentence is nominal if the predicate does not contain a finite verb. Heb: "For the Lord is our judge" (Isa. 33:22); there is no verb in the Hebrew. Commonly produced by elipsis in Greek.

Number. In parsing of words in Greek or Hebrew, this term is used to show whether the word refers to one or more than one person, place, or thing. In Hebrew there are three numbers: singular, plural, and dual; in Greek there are two: singular and plural.

Open Syllable. A syllable that ends in a vowel.

Optative Mood. The mood of possibility and more doubtful assertion that expresses wish or desire. See also JUSSIVE and COHORTATIVE. Heb: "If only we had died in Egypt!" (Num. 14:2). Gk: "May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance" (2 Thess. 3:5).

Orthography. Spelling. The study of letters and their sequence in words.

Paleography. The study of ancient writing as a means for dating and deciphering texts.

Paleo-Hebrew. A style of Hebrew writing found in archaeological inscriptions, predating most manuscript and printed Hebrew.

Paradigm. An example or pattern of a conjugation or declension, showing a word in all its inflectional forms. In form criticism, another name for apothegm.

Paragogic. In Hebrew, the paragogic nun ending ןו is found instead of the usual plural ending ו over three hundred times. There is also a paragogic ה (also called emphatic ה). Paragogic נ and ה usually express marked emphasis; however, the paragogic nun may sometimes be used for euphony. Heb: "tremble" (Exod. 15:14; paragogic nun).

Parse/Parsing. To describe grammatically a part of speech by listing its inflectional modifications and/or its syntactic relationships in the sentence. Heb: The verb אָמַר would be parsed as qal, perfect, third person, masculine gender, and singular in number. Gk: the verb λυσομεν is future, active, indicative, first, plural.

Participle. A verbal form that "participates" in the characteristics of both noun and verb. In Hebrew it represents characteristic, continual, uninterrupted action. Heb: "The Spirit of God *was hovering* over the waters" (Gen. 1:2). The Greek participle is widely used as a substantive, adjective, and adverb in phrases and clauses. Grk: "…in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him" (1 Peter 1:21).

Particle. A unit of speech that is ranked as an uninflected word but expresses some kind of syntactical relationship or some general aspect of meaning. Some grammarians classify all conjunctions, prepositions, and negatives as particles.

Passive Voice. A voice form of the verb that represents the subject as receiver of the action. Heb: "This land was given to us as our possession" (Ezek. 11:15). Gk: "You *were marked* in him with a seal" (Eph. 1:13).

Patach Furtive. The exceptional pronunciation of the patach before its consonant when it appears under a final chet. חַ is pronounced *ach* not *cha*.

Pause. In Hebrew, the last word in a sentence (marked by an accent, ׃ , called a **Silluq**), or the last word in the first major division of a sentence (marked by an accent, ֑ , called an athnach), is said to be in pause.

Perfect/Perfect Tense. In Hebrew, this form of the verb is used to express completed action, whether in reality or in the thought of the speaker or writer. Heb: שָׁמַר is a perfect form of the verb and would be translated "he guarded." The Greek perfect tense, by contrast, represents a state of completion with abiding results and is often translated as a present perfect. Gk: The perfect λελυκε would be rendered "he has released."

Personal Endings. In Greek, the verb suffixes that indicate person and number; comparable to pronominal suffixes in Hebrew.

Philology. Traditional term for the study of language history; in the widest sense, the study of literature, also linguistics; in classical usage, the study of ancient culture as revealed in history, language, art, literature, and religion.

Phoneme. The minimal unit of speech sound in a given language that distinguishes one utterance from another. Heb: the ה in הָיָה "to be," and the ח in חָיָה "to live," distinguish these words from each other. Gk: the π is πως, "how," and the φ in φως, "light," distinguish these two words from each other.

Phonemics. Analysis of different sounds that affect meaning; the branch of linguistics that deals with PHONEMES.

Phonetics. The science of speech sounds as elements of a language; the study of the characteristics of human sound making.

Phonology. Deals with the phonemic and phonetic elements of a language; these elements roughly correspond to the consonants and vowels. It also deals with accents, syllabification, consonantal and vocalic alterations, and similar phenomena. It is that part of the grammar of a language that describes its sounds and sound changes.

Phrase. a brief but meaningful arrangement of words that lacks the subject or predicate of a clause or complete sentence. E.g., "*under the fig tree*".

Piel. A verbal form in Hebrew that expresses intensive or emphatic action and ACTIVE VOICE. Heb: "They destroyed the high places and the altars" (2 Chron. 31:1).

Plena. Latin for "full." When the originally long vowel is written with its vowel letters (וֹ יֹ), it is said to be written fully, (plena writing). Also called full writing, scriptio plena, or plene writing.
Plene Writing. Another name for plena writing.

Pointing. A term that refers to the vowels added by the Masoretes to the consonantal text of the OT (Hebrew was originally written without vowels) in order to preserve the pronunciation of the language at a time when it was in danger of being forgotten. It is also called נִקּוּד.

Prefix. An inflectional affix; one or more letters or syllables placed at the beginning of a root or stem in Greek and Hebrew that will modify its meaning. Also called a preformative. Heb: prefix נ to form the niphal stem. Gk: the reduplicated prefix to form the perfect tense.

Preformative. Another term for **Prefix**.

Preposition: A word that shows relationships between its object and some other word in the sentence. Some common English prepositions are in, to, from, with, above, for, by.

Preterite. A Latin name for the past tense; it is the equivalent of the perfect in Hebrew and the aorist indicative in Greek.

Pretonic. The syllable immediately preceding the TONE OR TONIC SYLLABLE, or the vowel that immediately precedes the tonic syllable.

Principal Parts. The basic stems of a verb one must know in order to construct the remaining forms of its conjugation. In Hebrew, the principal parts are the qal, piel, hiphil, niphal, and hithpael; in Greek, the present, future, aorist, perfect, perfect middle, and aorist passive.

Proclitic. In Grk, a word which depends upon its following word for accent. Proclitics include εἰ, ὁ, οὐ, ὡς.

Pronominal. A term used by some grammarians for pronoun, or that which is related to the pronoun. In Hebrew, pronominal suffixes can be added to verbs, nouns, and particles.

Pual. A verbal form in Hebrew that expresses intensive or emphatic action and passive voice. Heb: "There was Baal's altar, demolished" (Judg. 6:28).

Qal. A verbal form in Hebrew that expresses simple action and active voice; it is sometimes spelled *Kal*. E. g.: "Then Jacob *gave* Esau some bread and some lentil stew" (Gen. 25:34).

Quiescent Letters. In Hebrew, the letters א ה ו and י are so weak in pronunciation that under certain conditions they lose their consonantal character and quiesce (that is, become silent). Heb: לִיהוּדָה, "to Judah."

Radical. That belonging to the root of a word, e.g., a primitive form that equals the root. In Hebrew, another name for a basic root letter (or consonant) of a word.

Reflexive Voice. Denotes an action that is directed back upon the agent or subject; expressed in Hebrew by the niphal and the hithpael, in Greek by the middle voice. Heb: "I have…*kept myself* from sin" (Ps. 18:23). Gk: "Then he went away and *hanged himself*" (Matt. 27:5).

Root. That part of a word left when all affixes are removed; the morpheme that carries the minimal unit of meaning in a word and can be common to several different words. The three consonants in Hebrew that ordinarily compose the basic uninflected spelling of a word are called the root letters. Occasionally a Hebrew word may have two or four root letters. Gk: the root δικ- is common to δικαιο″, "righteous," δικη, "justice," and δικαιω, "to acquit." Also called "Lexeme."

Root Meaning Fallacy. (Also Literal Meaning Fallacy and Semantic Anachronism Fallacy.) The fallacy of interpreting the meaning of a word by its **Etymology** rather than by its USAGE in the document under consideration. If we read a current newspaper article describing how certain people go to Starbuck's every Thursday, it would be a fallacy to interpret that habit as involving religious devotion to Thor based on the original components of the word Thursday. A word must be understood in the context of its usage in the time and place under consideration.

Segholate. In Hebrew, a term used of words that are characterized by the use of e vowels in spelling; these are sometimes called second declension nouns. Heb: נֶפֶשׁ, צֶדֶק, אֶמֶת, etc.

Semantics. The science of the meaning of words. In biblical studies, especially the view that word meaning is not simply a listing of independent items but a study of fields wherein words interrelate and define each other.

Semite/Semitic. A descendent of Shem, the son of Noah (Gen. 10:21-31). Included Babylonians, Assyrians, and Arameans in ancient times, as well as Arabs and Jews.

Semitic Languages. The family of languages that includes the middle-eastern languages like Hebrew and Arabic.

Semitism. A word or construction derived from Hebrew or Aramaic, more specifically those features of the LXX and the Greek NT that reflect the influence of Hebrew (**Hebraism**) or Aramaic (**Aramaism**).
Sentence. A group of words which makes *complete* grammatical sense.

Sibilants. The consonants that are characterized by the s sound. In Hebrew, the sibilants are ז ס צ שׂ and שׁ; in Greek, σ. Sometimes called spirants.

Silluq. The Hebrew accent mark placed on the last word in a verse. See **Pause**.

Sign Of The Definite Object. An untranslated sign that points to the object of the verb in Hebrew (אֵת).

Stative Verb, Static Verb. A stative verb is one that indicates a state of being or relationship rather than action. In Hebrew, its vowel pattern is different from that of verbs of action or motion. Greek statives include εἰμι, γινομαι, and ὑπαρχω. Heb: "the hands...will be strengthened (2 Sam. 16:21). Gk: "Who, being in very nature God" (Phil. 2:6).

Stem. The noun or verb base formed by the addition of derivational affixes to the root. Thus, in Greek, δορο- is the stem of the noun δορον, "gift"; δο- is the root, ρο is the affix (in this case, a suffix). Also called base in recent grammars. In Hebrew, the term is used to designate verb forms that express certain kinds of action and voice; the major Hebrew verbal stems are qal, niphal, piel, pual, hithpael, hiphil, and hophal.

Stop. A sound in which the air stream is completely restricted or interrupted and then released in a burst, as in making the sound of *p* or *d*. Also called a plosive.

Strong Verb. In Hebrew, the regular verb whose stem consonants do not change, i.e., remain unmodified in conjugation, in contrast to the weak verb. In Greek, a tense stem formed from the verb stem or root itself by vowel gradation.

Substantive. Any part of speech that is used as a noun or noun equivalent. Ex: an adjective, participle, or infinitive used as the subject of a sentence, e.g., "*to err* is human."

Suffix. One or more syllables added to the end of a root or to a stem in Hebrew and Greek that will modify its meaning. Also called an afformative or sufformative. Heb: pronominal suffixes added to the noun to indicate person, gender, and number. Gk: suffix the to form the aorist passive.

Sufformative. Another name for **Suffix**.

Syllable. A unit of pronunciation in a word. As a general rule, a Hebrew syllable begins with one consonant followed by a vowel and may be closed by another consonant. A Hebrew word has as many syllables as full vowels. A Greek word has as many syllables as vowels or diphthongs, divided on a pattern similar to English.

Syntax. The architecture of a sentence, i.e., the way words are arranged and combined to create a meaningful sentence.

Thematic Vowel. The vowel that characteristically appears with the second root letter of a Hebrew word; helpful in the identification of certain verbal stems. In Greek, the final vowel of certain tense stems that varies between ο and ϵ (lengthened to ω and η in the subjunctive mood). Also called variable vowel.

Tone-Long Vowel. In Hebrew, a short vowel may become a long vowel under the influence of the accented (tone) syllable. Also called heightening. Ex: לְמָיִם for לָמָיִם (Gen. 1:6).

Tone Syllable, Tonic Syllable. The syllable that receives the principal accent of the word in pronunciation.

Transliterate. To represent a word or its sounds in the corresponding characters of another alphabet.

Triliteral. The three consonants that form the root of most words in the Hebrew language.

Ugaritic. An ancient Semitic language, similar to Hebrew and Phoenician; the language spoken by the inhabitants of Ugarit. This language is important for biblical studies because of the Ras Shamra documents that are written in Ugaritic.

Unpointed Text. The Hebrew text written only with consonants; the vowels were omitted in early Hebrew writing and were added by the Masoretes.

Usage. The way in which words or phrases are actually used in a document under consideration.

Variable Vowel. Another name for thematic vowel.

Voice. Voice is a modification of a verb that tells whether the subject of the verb acts or is acted upon. There are three voices in English, Hebrew, and Greek: active, passive, and reflexive.

Vowel. A speech sound made by not blocking the oral part of the breath passage. In Hebrew syllables a vowel always follows a consonant, never precedes it (except for a PATACH FURTIVE).

Vowel Gradation. A general process of inflection by means of the alteration of internal vowels in a stem, e.g., sink, sank, sunk. The graded change can be either quantitative (lengthening or shortening) or qualitative (changed in nature). Heb: short a becomes i (a qualitative change) in closed, unaccented syllables: יְקַטֵּל יִקְטֹל. Gk: the tense stems of λειπω, "I leave," show qualitative change: λειπ- (present), -λιπ- (aorist), and -λοιπ- (perfect).

Vowel Letter: See **Matres Lectionis**.

Vowel Points: See **Pointing**.

Vav Conjunctive. In Hebrew a simple connective conjunction (וְ), usually translated as "and," but may also be translated as "but," "yet," "when," "so," "for," "since," "that," "how," "therefore," "then." It is also called the light vav, the simple vav, and the copulative vav.

Vav Consecutive. In Hebrew, a vav that may be prefixed to the perfect and imperfect forms of verbs; it will affect the meaning of the verb. Earlier grammars called it the vav conversive; it is also referred to as the strong vav.

Weak Verb. In Hebrew, the verbs with gutturals or weak letters (נ in first root position, י and ו in first or second root position, identical second and third root letters) as radicals, which produce modifications in the conjugation, in contrast to the strong verb. In Greek, a tense stem formed by adding a suffix to the verb stem or root.

Notes