Course Goal:

This course is an advanced study of Biblical Hebrew. It is a course that builds on the student’s prior work in Hebrew grammar, hermeneutics, and exegesis. As such, the primary aim of the course is the development of good, sound translation and exegetical skills. It is also our hope that the student will acquire a richer Hebrew vocabulary and good reading skills. These goals will be accomplished through an in-depth study of the early chapters of the book of Genesis. We will also investigate the place of Genesis 1-4 in the flow of redemptive history, and how it fits into the unfolding of God’s plan for salvation.

Moses wrote the following to the children of Israel: “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). The Word of God is to be central to our very being, life, and ministry. Beyond a doubt, the study of Hebrew enhances a person’s ability to work with the biblical text and adds depth to one’s ministry. So, this course is a means to an end, namely, the student’s better understanding of God’s holy Word and an application of it to today’s world. Do not hesitate! Do not flee! Your Hebrew study is not in vain. It is a noble task. Do it to the glory of God. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:17). “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men” (Colossians 3:23).

Required Textbooks:

1. A Hebrew Bible (preferably Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia).
2. A Hebrew lexicon (either BDB, Holladay, or Koehler and Baumgartner).
Class Requirements:
1. Students are required to attend class.
2. Students must be prepared for class, and they must be able to read, translate, exegete, and discuss the assigned material.

Grading:

There are no papers, quizzes, or exams. Grades are entirely determined by a student’s preparation and class participation. The student must demonstrate that he has adequately prepared the Hebrew text and can competently interact with it in a classroom setting.

During each class period, students will be assigned a set of verses that will be discussed in the following class. Preparation includes: (1) a hand-written translation from Hebrew to English; and, (2) parsing of all Hebrew verbs.

Class Schedule:

1. March 29   Syllabus
   Genesis 1:1-19   The First Four Days of Creation
2. April 5   Genesis 1:20-31   Days Five and Six of Creation
3. April 12   Genesis 2:1-17   Eden
4. April 19   Genesis 2:18-3:7   Marriage and the Fall
5. April 26   Genesis 3:8-24   Punishment
6. May 3   Genesis 4:1-16   Cain and Abel