

# 119

## MINISTRIES

### LEARN BIBLICAL HEBREW LESSON 1

#### **SUMMARY:**

- Biblical Hebrew is the primary language that the 39 books of the Tanach are written in. (The Tanach is the Hebrew Bible, sometimes called the Old Testament.)
- Biblical Hebrew is written and read from right to left.
- Hebrew has its own alphabet.
  - Hebrew letters do *not* have uppercase and lowercase forms.
  - Hebrew letters can be written in different scripts. A script is the way the letters look. The script used in this course, as well as most modern Hebrew Bibles, is called the Babylonian script.
  - Hebrew uses vowel points, which are small symbols written underneath of the letters, to indicate vowel sounds (i.e., the sounds of A, E, I, O, and U).
- Hebrew letters and vowels can be pronounced in different ways. These different ways of pronouncing Hebrew are called dialects. This course teaches the Modern dialect, also known as the Israeli dialect. You may hear some of the letters and vowels pronounced differently from speakers using different dialects.
  - The Modern dialect is considered the standard way of speaking Hebrew in Israel today. Since we don't know exactly how Hebrew was pronounced in Biblical times and places, we are teaching the most popular modern way to pronounce it.
- The goal of this course is to provide a good base of knowledge that you can build on if you take more advanced Hebrew courses in the future. It is intended for beginners.
  - This course only teaches words that are used in the Tanach. This course will be useful for reading the Bible, but not so much for conversing in Hebrew.

- This course sometimes oversimplifies the rules of the Hebrew language to make them easy to remember and use. As we progress through the course, these rules will be explained in greater detail.
- Every video lesson has a corresponding summary like this one. Future summaries will also have exercises that you can complete, so you can practice the skills you are learning. For the best experience with this course, we strongly encourage you to complete these exercises.