Preparation/Studying a Text of the Hebrew Bible

[1] Provide your own translation of the verse at the top section of your notes. You may want to wait to do this until you’re done working through the grammar, so leave room for it at the top and then go back and provide a suitable translation after you’ve studied the grammar and vocabulary of the verse.

[2] Provide a section of “notes” in which you [a] parse any verbs or nouns that you don’t immediately know how to parse, [b] list any vocab that you struggled with, [c] make any syntax notes that help you to understand or analyze the passage, such as what the main verb and its subject are, how a participle is functioning, whether a prefix verbal form is imperfect or jussive, etc.

See below for an example from Gen 12:1.

Notes on Genesis

12:1 Yhwh said to Abram, “(You) Go out from your land and from your family and from the house of your father, to the land which I will show you.”

a. ואָמַר From אמר, Qal wci 3ms: “and he said.”

b. The word מִן is used 3x, functioning as separation (not comparative). Note that in the first instance, since אַרְצְךָ begins with a gutteral, it cannot take the normal DF, and so the hireq compensatorily lengthens to sere: מֵאַרְצְךָ.

c. לֵךְ From הלך, Qal impv 2ms: “go out, depart!” [This is a weak verb which you haven’t learned yet.]

d. לְךָ = Prep ל + 2ms sfx. This prepositional phrase is normally translated “for you,” but here it is “Pleonastic,” meaning it’s a redundant idea indicating who the subject of the command is, and it need not be translated. In fact, it makes no sense if you translate it literally.

e. אַרְאֶ֫ךָ From ראָ, Hiph impf 1cs + 2ms sfx: “I will show you.” The qal אָרָ means “to see,” so the Hiphil can be glossed “to cause to see,” which means “to show.” [This is a weak verb which you haven’t learned yet.]

f. וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ = conj. ו + prep מ + מִן (f.s. “kindred, family, offspring”) + 2ms sfx