Suggestions for Preparing/Studying a Text of the Hebrew Bible
Dr. Phillip Marshall

1. When you're completing your preparations of the Hebrew passages, you should have several reference works *opened* and being consulted:
- Ross or Van Pelt/Pratico elem. grammar (depending on which intro grammar you used—note that I constantly make reference to Ross because that's the grammar I teach from, so please made adjustments to VPP where applicable)
- Verb Paradigm sheets (esp for weak verbs!)
- Principal Parts sheet and Inflectional Boxes sheet
- a Hebrew lexicon: Holladay, HALOT, DCH, and/or BDB
- Willams' Hebrew Syntax (edited by Beckman, WHS)
- Waltke-O'Connor (WO)
- van der Merwe (BHRG)
- If you have any of the other grammars (Joüon-Muraoka/JM, Gesenius-Kautzsch-Cowley/GKC, Arnold-Choi/AC), by all means use them!

2. Print the Hebrew text (or use a copy provided by Dr. Marshall)

3. Provide your own translation of the verse at the top section of your notes for the verse. 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.

4. Provide "notes" in which you do the following:
[a] Parse any verbs, nouns, and adjectives that you don't immediately know how to parse by sight (find the lexical form and write it down!). Try to understand what happened to the lexical form leading to the inflected form (the form in the text) you're seeing. Make a note of that so that you can remember what you learned.
[b] List/note any vocab that you struggled with. Look up words you don't know in a lexicon: write down the lexical form and an English gloss of the word.
[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.
[d] Mark up your text in helpful ways in order to see the syntactic structure (use arrows, parentheses, brackets, labels, even colors). Use sentence-type labelling where helpful.

See next page (p.2) for an example of some of my own notes from Gen 12:1 in typewritten form. See p. 3 for an example of my notes on Gen 12:1 in handwritten form.

Notes on Genesis 12:1

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."

¹וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֶךְ־לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ׃

    a. וַיֹּאמֶר From אמר, Qal wci 3ms: "and he said." This is an S V IO DO, in which the S is יְהוָה, the IO is in the form of the אֶל־PP אֶל־אַבְרָם ('to Abram'), and the DO is the entire quoted speech "Go out . . . I will show you."

    b. The preposition מִן is used 3x, functioning as a מִן of *separation*, 'from' (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!" (see Ross 35.4; this verb behaves like a weak I-waw verb)

    d. לְךָ = Prep ל + 2ms sfx. This prepositional phrase is normally translated "for you." Acc to Ross (p. 314) it is "an untranslated pleonastic form" (meaning it's a redundant idea) stressing/indicating who the subject of the command is: (you) Go! Ross says it need not be translated. Others take it as a ל of advantage/interest (Go out—to your benefit—from your land); see Will 271a for this category. Others classify it as a reflexive ל or an ethical dative (see Will 272).

    e. אַרְאֶךָּ From ראה, Hiph impf 1cs + 2ms sfx: "I will show you." The Qal stem רָאָה means "to see," so the Hiphil can be glossed "to cause to see," which means "to show."

    f. וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ = conj. ו + prep מִן (nun assimilated) + מוֹלֶדֶת (f.s. "kindred, family, offspring") + 2ms sfx

Dr. Marshall, updated 9-16-23

Genesis 12 (BHW 4.18)

Handwritten translation (top right):

(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."

Printed Hebrew text with handwritten annotations:

¹ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֶךְ־לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ

וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר

אַרְאֶךָּ

² וְאֶעֶשְׂךָ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל וַאֲבָרֶכְךָ וַאֲגַדְּלָה

Handwritten annotations include:

- pleonastic?
- reflexive?
- ethical dative? / advantage?
- prep מן w/ assim. + comp. lengthening
- 2ms sfx
- prep ל
- V (S)
- DO = quotation
- IO, S, V
- נ מ ר — Q wai 3ms (יהוה = S)
- הלך (I-waw) — Q impv 2ms — "Go!" — yourself
- QIIG
- מן (w/ assimil.) — conj waw (ו) — b/f "BUMP" letters
- 2ms sfx, abs, cst — No article on cst nouns
- מוֹלֶדֶת — family
- בַּיִת, בַּיִת father, house
- ארץ land
- DO, V (S)
- אַרְאֶךָּ — 2ms — I will show you — DF
- רָאָה — Q see, Hi show — Hi imp 1cs + 2ms sfx

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