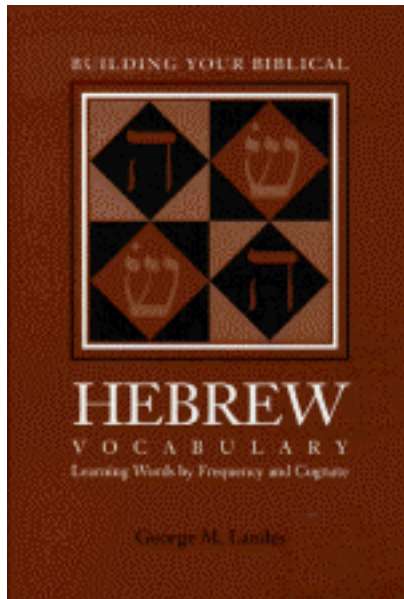


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Landes, George M.

***Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary:
Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate***

Resources for Biblical Study 41

Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001. Pp. 232.
Paper. \$19.95. ISBN 1589830032.

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This revised and expanded edition of G. Landes's *A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew* is an excellent help for both students and teachers of Biblical Hebrew. The work surpasses any other vocabulary aid for Biblical Hebrew that is now in print.

The bulk of the book is a very complete listing of Hebrew Bible vocabulary. Unlike other books in this genre, Landes's work details all Hebrew roots that occur ten times or more. The value of this is that the student may choose to focus on the more generic meaning of the root as a means to learning the cognates. Alternatively, one may use the lists for rote memorization of cognates (similar to L. Mitchel's *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*).

Landes lists the cognates by root. This might seem to leave room for the weakness suffered by other lexical works. That is, categorization by root serves to frustrate the student searching for a cognate form. Landes plugs this hole with a comprehensive index of cognate forms.

In the revision of this edition, Landes has completely updated both the word counts and the lexical data. He relies on the recent, English-only edition of *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* by Koehler and Baumgartner. This up-to-date lexical data

has then been arranged according to which meanings, in Landes's view, occur most frequently.

While the lexical helps and excellent index would be sufficient revisions to commend this book, Landes expanded this edition with a section bearing the elementary title "How Hebrew Words Are Formed." This is a modest title for nothing less than a mini-treatment of Hebrew morphology. Landes not only discusses key characteristics of various forms but also alludes to the linguistic diachrony behind them.

If this work is wanting in a significant area, it is with respect to Biblical Aramaic. Naturally, this topic is outside the scope suggested by this book's title. However, such a work is desirable for students of the Hebrew Bible, not least for understanding the books of Ezra and Daniel.

This desideratum aside, the work is an excellent resource for the student endeavoring to learn Hebrew and for the teacher instructing such students. For the student who wishes to work specifically on Hebrew (over Aramaic) vocabulary, no better handbook exists in print.