

influenced by “the natural sciences in the modern era,” as he suggests. To his credit, I concede that such influence does not detract from his exposition. I also welcome Green’s sensitivity to the powerful role of presuppositions in interpreting texts (430).

On the book as a whole, I agree with the editors that *The Blackwell Companion to Substance Dualism* is a “valuable resource for scholars in a variety of disciplines (notably, philosophy of mind, psychology, and theological anthropology) and a useful reference for those interested in doing further work advancing the case for or against substance dualism” (11).

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FLAVIO PRESTES III

Van der Merwe, Christo H., Jacobus A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze, eds. *Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. 2nd ed. New York: T&T Clark, 2017. 640 pp. Softcover. USD 43.16.

It has been a long wait for this significantly updated popular *Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* that first appeared in 1999 from Sheffield Academic Press. The first edition of this grammar was particularly popular among Bible translators but was also well received by students of biblical Hebrew and exegetes. The quality of its content was warranted by the academic quality of its authors. Particularly, van der Merwe’s work and research groups are well known in the field. His close work with Bible societies and Bible translation predestined him, together with Naudé and Kroeze, to write a grammar that shines as a reference tool for all those that work with biblical Hebrew on a regular basis. Today, a digital version of both the first and this second edition are available in Logos Bible Software and help to advance the exegetical workflow.

Now, after eighteen years, the grammar has been updated by an additional 236 pages (current total of 640 pages), that is, more than 50 percent of the total page number of the first edition (404 pages). This amplification is caused by the integration of insights that were generated through the linguistic research of the last 10 years: Andrason (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013), Oakes (2011), Cook (2012), Joosten (2012), Miller-Naude & Zevit (2012), Kahn (2013), Schniedewind (2013), van der Merwe (2013, 2014), Holmstedt (2014), Jones (2014), Rezetko & Young (2014), Lamprecht (2015), Naude (2015, 2016), Bivin (2017).

Despite the massive updates, this edition still functions as a reference grammar (and this is good!) and lacks features that come with comprehensive grammars like the one of Joüon-Muraoka. But one can state firmly that this latest edition is the most up-to-date Hebrew grammar on the market and will be one of the most important reference works for Hebrew in the next decade.

The basic structure of the grammar has not changed. But this edition makes it easier to find grammatical terms and topics when compared to the previous version. Several editorial changes contribute to this improvement. First, the table of contents now lists sub-headings all the way down to the fourth level (as opposed to the second level of the previous edition). Second, the Index for “Biblical References” and “Subjects” has been massively enlarged.

On the content side, the most important improvements to this edition can be summarized into eight general points. First, conjunctions, adverbs and discourse markers are now all integrated under §40. This was done differently in the previous edition, where each received its own main paragraph (1st ed., §40–§45). Here the authors decided to be more comprehensive and almost doubled the pages used in the first edition (70 pp. instead of the previous 40 pp.). Second, the discussion of prepositions has been improved (by over 30 pages when compared to the first edition). Their general function is explained in a more comprehensive fashion. This can especially be seen in the treatment of אָהָר in §39.2. and אָצֵל in §39.4. Third, the first edition lacked a treatment of Hebrew oath formulas. This was very unfortunate, since oath formulas appear frequently in the Old Testament. With the second edition, Hebrew oaths are treated satisfactorily under §45. Fourth, as with Hebrew oath formulas, “gentile suffixes” also did not receive any attention in the first edition. They are now treated at §28.3 under noun modifications. Fifth, the phenomenon of “fronting” and *casus pendens* has been reorganized. A clear distinction is now made between “fronting” and *casus pendens*. This was also missing in the first edition. The second addition created a new paragraph labeled “Left Dislocation” (§44), while the phenomenon of fronting has been moved to §47.2.1. (previously §46.1.2.[3]). Sixth, the first edition discussed the matter of “verbal valence” in a separate main paragraph (§22). This was awkward, since valence is a phenomenon that should be treated within the context of the verb as such, and not as a separate entity. This has been fixed in the second edition. Verbal valence now appears in §11.1.1. under verbs (§11.1.). Seventh, the treatment of congruence between subject and predicate has improved significantly (§35). And finally, eighth, several of the tables are improved. All spacing errors that the 1st edition had in some of its tables are now fixed. Some tables are now also showing important alternative forms which were missing in the first edition (e.g., מְהֵם in the 1st. ed. was updated to מְהֵם מְהֵמָה מְהֵמָה in the 2nd ed.).

As with each publication, not everything is perfect. The following points should be mentioned. One, a close look at the Index shows that the page reference to “§19.5.2.3 Imperatives with הַ” is wrong (it should be p. 172, instead of p.171). Two, the n. 31 is disappointing: the paragraph it refers to treats imperatives with הַ suffix. While the form of the phenomenon is explained, the grammar remains silent about its function. Of course, since no scholarly consensus is yet achieved on this matter, one can understand

the decision. However, the footnote to Fassberg's work (n. 31) only states that more information about its possible function can be found in his work. It would have been helpful for the reader if he had summarized his findings and not just provided the reference. Three, where the second edition reorganized its paragraphing, it has clarified sense and improved the user's overall experience with the grammar. However, for those who have worked with the first edition extensively, it may at times difficult to find the new paragraph number, as one was used to find a certain grammatical phenomenon in a different section. Fortunately, the improved Indexes and Table of Contents help in the process. Still, the reader will appreciate if a reorganization of the paragraphing can be prevented in a third edition. Four, my last point is not about the book, but the publisher. While the quality of this grammar lies also in its pedagogical value, as it can be used for teaching Hebrew and, more particularly, the instruction of advanced Hebrew at university level, it is very unfortunate that the publisher is unwilling to equip professors with desk copies, even when the book is required reading in the class.

Finally, the *Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* remains a fine product and the only up-to-date work in the world of Hebrew grammars. In contrast to other grammars, it seeks to be informed not only by philological research, but modern linguistics. It is this quality that has attracted many Bible translators and scholars, as well as helped establish this reference grammar as a standard in the field. Its referential quality has prompted this grammar to become a textbook for Hebrew classes. Its benefits are obvious in that when students learn biblical Hebrew with classical textbooks, they won't find much value in them anymore once they have passed their exams. The pedagogical organization of grammar in textbooks disqualifies them as reference works. In reverse, a reference grammar is not pedagogically organized. But where students and instructors teach and learn in alternative ways (e.g., text-driven approach), this book becomes *the* grammar. When students learn Hebrew from the very beginning with this reference grammar, the material will accompany them throughout their career and remain of value even long after they have passed their Hebrew exams. And speaking about exams, studying this reference grammar is an excellent means to pass any Hebrew exam.

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OLIVER GLANZ

Nongbri, Brent. *God's Library: The Archaeology of the Earliest Christian Manuscripts*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020. ix + 416 pp. Hardcover. USD 35.00.

Brent Nongbri is an Honorary Research Fellow at Macquarie University. Nongbri's book on *God's Library* is the culmination of his research undertaken at Macquarie University, Australia, under the Department of Ancient