

theological element, as well). On the other hand, one must admit that in this systematisation and analysis of Shorter's ideas Domingues builds up his own understanding of healing in African Christianity. Thus the subtitle's reference to dialogue with Aylward Shorter is correct.

While admitting the vast experience of Shorter in Africa, and considering that neither is Domingues a stranger to Africa and its cultures, one can, however, wonder whether the voice of African Christianity would be heard more clearly if the approach would have related Domingues' work more directly to emissistic African interpretations and understandings of healing. This view can also be seen as a challenge and encouragement to African theologians to deal more extensively with the essential issue of healing. The grassroots situation of African Christianity should simply force academic African theologians to see the issues of brokenness and healing to be among the most essential areas of contextualisation or inculturation.

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James C. Bangsund, *Biblical Hebrew: A Simplified Grammar*. Makumira Text Book Series 2, Makumira: The Research Institute of Makumira University College (Tumaini University), 2001.

The second of currently three books in the Makumira Textbook Series, *Biblical Hebrew: A Simplified Grammar* keeps the promise it makes in its title. Hebrew, a subject which (unfortunately!) still frightens theology students because of its presumed difficulty, can actually be manageable: it can be simplified without letting the learner lose anything.

I have made this experience throughout the last three years, during which I have been privileged to use pre-publication versions of Bangsund's *Biblical Hebrew* in teaching biblical languages at Tanzania Adventist College, a neighbouring institution to Makumira University College. Having initially learnt Hebrew through a self-study course in German, I missed similar materials in English; however, I believe to have found it in this book.

As compared to other common books such as Weingreen's *Hebrew Grammar*,

Page H. Kelley's *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*, Menahem Mansoor's *Biblical Hebrew: Step by Step*, or *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* by C.L. Seow, what is exemplary is indeed the way Bangsund makes phenomena easily understood which may otherwise seem strange to students, especially to those who either are not used to the process of learning foreign languages, or learners who operate with English as a medium for study but do not have it as their mother tongue.

This is visible from the beginning. A short introduction to grammatical terms is followed by a detailed section on Hebrew letters, pronunciation, and elements to be studied before reaching the translation stage. This crucial introductory part has enough explanations that make it easy for the new learner to overcome the "shock" of the new mode of writing and reading.

The lessons themselves are well arranged: every lesson has one topic only which makes them easy to understand. Each chapter is arranged according to the same pattern, with clear summaries and footnotes for matters of secondary importance. Many of the translation exercises have keys so that self-study is possible. On the other hand, Bangsund has decided to do without English-Hebrew translation sections and other grammar exercises that several other books have. I fully support this approach, for it leaves enough room for the kind of work that will ultimately reach the main task: translating from Hebrew to English.

Other features that have impressed me include in particular the large size (A4) format, which makes the Hebrew writing appear big enough for beginners. The author has recognised that a serious handicap in many existing text books is that the Hebrew letters appear so small that the average student has a hard time differentiating them, not only because of their strangeness but because of their miniature size. In addition to this, Bangsund provides a well-organized vocabulary list that indicates in which lesson a word appears first, and records verbs with their different derived forms. The only thing to improve is a number of spelling mistakes which will surely be corrected in future editions.

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