

## **BHCT: Biblical Hebrew for Consultant Training**

Our BHCT Program started back in 2016 and was originally called the “NT2OT” (*New Testament to Old Testament*) program. It was designed for NT-experienced consultants who wanted to gain competency in Hebrew and OT translation. Since then we have expanded to occasionally include consultants-in-training (CIT). The program is part-time, mainly online, and specifically focused on enabling those who are working full-time. The aim of the program is to equip participants with requisite skills in Biblical Hebrew and set them on a trajectory of continued learning as they serve in Bible translation.

The 8th cohort has already begun, but we are already compiling a list of participants for Cohort 9 starting in October 2024. For further information, please email me, [Bob Carter](#). BHCT consists of three parts: (1) ten months of online immersive Hebrew acquisition, (2) a one-month intensive Hebrew course in Israel, and (3) a follow-up year of online training in Hebrew syntax, discourse, and translation issues.

**Part 1 (Year 1)** - The first part consists of ten months (October-July) online immersive Biblical Hebrew learning. They meet once a week for two hours with native-speaker Israeli teachers of Biblical Hebrew using second language acquisition methodologies, that is, “living” Biblical Hebrew.<sup>1</sup> The goal is to go beyond knowing about Hebrew to actually knowing Hebrew. This language acquisition lays the foundation for later grammatical studies. Four hours per week preparation is expected. With their supervisor's approval and cooperation, the consultants or CiTs are able to continue their regular work while limiting their study time to just six hours per week. Commitment to and funding for the August course are required in order to be admitted to the Year 1 course.

**Part 2 (August)** - The second part consists of a one-month, in-person Biblical Hebrew course held in Israel. This is usually done in the month of August in partnership with JCBT ([Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators](#)). The first year of online Hebrew acquisition prepares the participants for coming to Israel for the August intensive course. The course consists of 120 class hours of living Biblical Hebrew with Israeli teachers<sup>2</sup> along with 9 days of historical geography fieldtrips focusing on Old Testament sites. The goal is to internalize as much Biblical Hebrew as possible and gain functional oral/aural fluency, while also becoming familiar with the important features of the Land of Israel.

**Part 3 (Year 2)** - In the second year, the students begin to address many of the questions that linguist-translators have developed during their first two parts of the program. We offer modules taught by people who have specialized in topics like Verbal Syntax, Textual Criticism, Masoretic Accents, Discourse Analysis, and Poetry. The approach is more “traditional” than in Year 1 and August, which are focused on communicative Hebrew. These online sessions include vocabulary review along with reading and analyzing texts together. These modules meet online October-June for 1.5 hours per week and require a minimum of 3 hours per week preparation.

Course fees for Cohort 7 Oct 2023-Jun 2025:

Year 1 (Oct 23 – Jul 24): \$1350

August: The cost for the 2023 course was \$5250 (all expenses in Israel: Israeli teaching staff, food & lodging, entrance fees, transport, but not including international airfare and personal purchases) This may increase in 2024.

Year 2 (Oct 2024 – Jun 2025): about \$200 (for resources – they have tried to make use of TW Logos resources; teachers are all SC and SIL, so no cost)

Because of continuing inflation in Israel, there will likely be an increase in the cost of August 2025. We need to have a minimum of 8, but better to have 12.

<sup>1</sup> <https://jerusalemseminary.org/soh-en/> Year 1 is an official Jerusalem Seminary course which they call “BTC”.

<sup>2</sup> Along with Hebrew for the Nations teachers, we are privileged to have Eyal Nahum from Polis Institute to teach about 80 of these hours in our August course: <https://www.polisjerusalem.org/language/biblical-hebrew/>