

GUIDE TO THE USE OF GKC

BETHEL SEMINARY



CENTER FOR BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

PAUL W. FERRIS JR., PH.D

The Gesenius-Kautsch-Cowley (GKC) grammar represents a monumental project undertaken by Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Gesenius, professor at Halle. It became and remains without doubt the most influential Hebrew grammar. Gesenius made his contribution several decades before the advent of the computer (1786-1842) so all of his analysis had to be done "by hand." His *Grammar* has gone through 28 editions (which is how Kautsch and Cowley got into the act) and remains a standard reference work today. Similarly, his *Lexicon* has gone through numerous editions and serves as the basis for our *BDB*.

NOTES:

- 1 As always, you should at least skim the introduction (sections 1-4) paying close attention to the 4th on the division and arrangement of the work.
- 2 Become familiar with the rather detailed table of contents which maps out the extensive detailed discussion of the full range of grammatical issues.
- 3 Note especially the excellent indices which include an index of words and forms treated and an index of passages cited. When you are working through an extended passage it may be useful to run a quick check of the index of passages to see if insight might be gained from the discussion in one or more sections.

N.b. The index refers not to page numbers but to sections identified by numbers and paragraphs identified by letters, thus allowing the index to work for any edition.