

GUIDE TO READING AND TRANSLATING

BETHEL SEMINARY



CENTER FOR BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

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1 Preparation (10-15 minutes)

NOTES:

1.1 With the aid of the particles and main accents (see "Guide to Hebrew Accents"), mark out the phrases and clauses in each sentence of the paragraph.

1.2 Read the passage out loud 3-5 times. Flag unfamiliar words. Then listen to your passage in Hebrew (mp3) as you follow along in your English version several times.

1.3 Listen to the passage in English (mp3) as you follow in the Hebrew text.

2 Translating (30-75 minutes)

2.1 Identify the verb forms.

2.2 Do a morphological analysis where necessary (i.e., for any unfamiliar morpheme).

2.3 Write out a gloss for each morpheme and allomorph. Make a marginal note of any term that requires additional lexical analysis during exegesis later.

2.4 Write out an accurate but free translation paying attention to idioms.

2.5 Check NASB/ESV and/or a good critical (technical) commentary for help with any difficulties. Write out in your own words a feasible preliminary resolution of each difficulty.

2.6 Record your free translation and listen to it 2-3 times while following the Hebrew text.

2.7 Finally "sight read" the Hebrew passage several times out loud.