



An Introductory Grammar of Rabbinic Hebrew

By Miguel Perez Fernandez

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In Greek and Roman Palestine a Hebrew dialect existed alongside the literary language of Biblical Hebrew and yet followed its own pattern of development. After the destruction of the Temple it is believed the rabbis elevated this dialect to the status of a literary language, "Rabbinic Hebrew" and employed it in the composition of the Mishnah, Tosefta and halakhic "Midrashim". This volume is a practical grammar of Rabbinic Hebrew that seeks to bring up-to-date the 1927 work of M.H. Segal. It incorporates the results of recent investigations in the field and adds a pedagogic perspective, with vocabulary and exercises in every unit.

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Review

'...the most complete description of the language of the Mishnah and other tannaitic works in English since Segal's 1927 grammar Perez Fernandez has rendered an important service to English-speaking students and scholars. He has made the modern study of Mishnaic Hebrew easily accessible to a wide audience.'

Steven E. Fassberg, "The Jewish Quarterly Review, 1999.

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About the Author

Miguel Perez Fernandez, Ph.D. (1975) in Semitic Philology, Madrid, is Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature in the University of Granada. He is series editor of *Biblioteca Midrasica*, in which series he has published translations, with commentaries, of *Pirqe Rabbi Eliezer* (Valencia, 1984), *Sifre* to Numbers (Valencia, 1989) and *Sifra* (Estella, 1997). **John F. Elwolde** Ph.D. (1988) in Linguistics, Hull, is an Associate Member of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford. His publications in the fields of Hebrew language and the Dead Sea Scrolls include translations of A. Saenz-Badillos's *A history of the Hebrew Language* (Cambridge, 1993) and M. Perez Fernandez's *An Introductory Grammar of Rabbinic Hebrew* (Leiden, 1997)."

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