

# Basics of Biblical Aramaic: Complete Grammar, Lexicon, and Annotated Text by Miles V. Van Pelt

## [Basic Aramaic](#)

There are 269 verses in the Old Testament written in Aramaic, not in Hebrew. Most of the verses are found in Daniel and Ezra. Basics of Biblical Aramaic follows the same easy-to-understand style found in the widely-used Basics of Biblical Hebrew and includes everything you need to learn Biblical Aramaic. This book is designed for those who already have a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. Basics of Biblical Aramaic features:  
-Complete lexicon of Biblical Aramaic  
-Complete annotated text of all 269 Bible verses written in Aramaic  
-Chapter exercises  
-Answer key

Features:

\* Zondervan

My Personal Review:

This book is very similar to the grammar by Greenspahn. It assumes a knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, follows the same basic structure, and has very similar exercises to G. G follows the German designations for verb stems (G, D, H etc) whereas van Pelt goes with Peal, Peil, Haphel etc, which I prefer as they are easier to remember as they sound like the verbs when pronounced. As an improvement to G, this book has the full text of every Aramaic verse in the bible accompanied with notes to help in translation (compared to G, which has dummed down and condensed snippets of the biblical materials at the end of each chapter as translation exercises). As its title suggests, the book is limited to Biblical Aramaic, whereas G branches out into extra-biblical materials in Targum, Midrash, letters and inscriptions. If you are interested in learning Biblical Aramaic and nothing more, van Pelt is sufficient and preferable to G. If you want to learn Biblical Aramaic as a springboard into other Aramaic materials, G provides a better foundation for that.

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