

December 19, 2003

Learn Hebrew

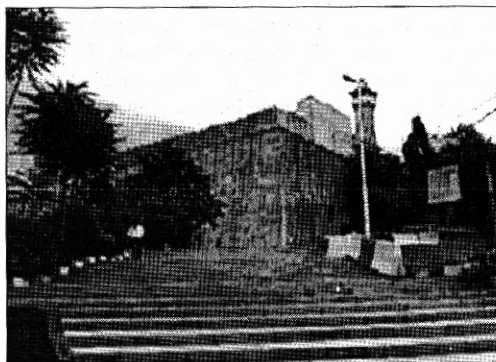
BY SHIMON LEWIN
Technology Editor

For those of you looking to learn how to speak or read Hebrew, *Learn Hebrew* is a fantastic program. This program is geared both toward the absolute beginner and those who are somewhat familiar with the Hebrew language.

Today, many schools—unfortunately—skip a lot of the fundamentals of Hebrew grammar. If and when schools do teach grammar, it is only a brief overview at most. It is quite a shame that it's overlooked because a knowledge of *dikduk* can help the student study and learn his/her Hebrew studies better. *Learn Hebrew* affords the user a more detailed lesson that helps to study Hebrew texts better and hopefully make up for what was overlooked in school. Completing these lessons is sure to improve your level of learning. With your newly acquired skills you will have a better understanding of the Hebrew text you are studying.

Learn Hebrew was put out by Pirchei Shoshanim of the Shema Yisroel Network. Rabbi Shalom Gold, from the Old City in Jerusalem, is both the lecturer and author of this program.

What makes this program unique is its teaching



and narrating tours of the land of Israel. Also included with the program is the *Dikduk* Book. Each of the 17 lessons explores the mechanics of *dikduk* of the Hebrew language in detail.

The first and second lesson take the user through the Hebrew alphabet, letter function, long and short vowels. Once these lessons are completed the user will move on to the third lesson, learning *sheva nah, nach, chataph sheva*, and guttural letters.

Lesson 4 addresses syllables and *dageshim hazak/kal*.

Lesson 5—reading practice: vowels, syllables, *dagesh, sheva*, sources the first paragraph of the *Amidah* and *Birchat HaMazon*.

Lesson 6—nouns, general identification, definitiveness, dual endings.

Lesson 7—construct nouns and adjectives.

Lesson 8—subject pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, direct object pronouns, possessive pronouns, pronoun endings, *mapik hey*, prepositional phrases.

Lesson 9—Static Word quiz
Lesson 10—*binyan* identification chart, verbs, *binyan* ditty

Lesson 11—unique *binyan* identification signs; number, person, gender tense chart

Lesson 12—complete verb roots quiz

Lesson 13—dropping letters, *Pay-Alef, Pay-Gimel, Pay-Yud, Ayin-Vav, Ayin-Yud*

Lesson 14—dropping letters, *Lamid-Hay*

Lesson 15—dropping letter *Vav*, command form, reversing, infinitive, special root verbs.

Lesson 16—verb charts, prefix, suffix, infini-

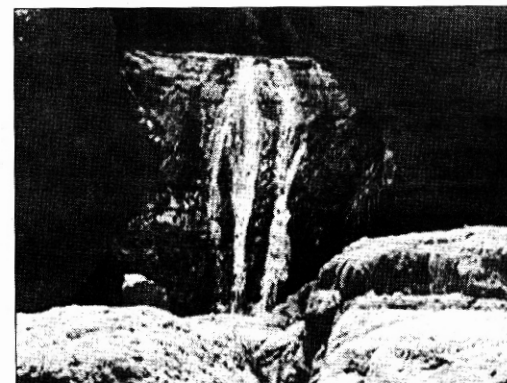
charts, general reference booking

Lesson 17—Aramaic

There are also self-evaluation quizzes that will help you evaluate your progress.

As you can see, an added bonus is lesson number 16, which teaches the student a bit of Aramaic. This lesson comes in very handy for those interested in learning Talmud, as the primary language of the Talmud is Aramaic.

This program teaches the student Hebrew almost the way a student learns English. Each lesson is a video file which allows the user to see and hear the lesson, as opposed to simply reading it from a book. If, however, you prefer the classic way of learning—via book—you can access the lessons off the CD. In order to read the lessons you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded from



www.Adobe.com.

When you put the CD into the proper drive, the computer will automatically start playing the lesson. No more falling behind because the teacher goes too fast; unlike in a real classroom, with this program you can study the lesson at your own pace and pause your lesson whenever you please. If you want to view the book files, simply go to Windows Explorer and click on the lesson you would like to view.

The tours that are included with the lesson are breathtaking yet informative. Visiting some of Israel's holiest sites and other major historical sites, you will see footage that takes you back over 3000 years. Not only do you get to see these sites, but you will also receive a detailed historical explanation of the places you are viewing from experienced tour guides.

For questions about this program or if you need technical support, call the U.S. office: 732-370-3344. *Learn Hebrew* can also be contacted in England: 020-8371-6666; South Africa: 27-72-148-4900; and Israel 03-616-6340; or log onto www.shemayisrael.com; email: dikduk@shemayisrael.com.

People like me who didn't understand,
speak or read Hebrew can now

Learn HEBREW

Rabbi Shalom Gold of the Old City of Jerusalem
brings the Hebrew language to life as he leads us
on a tour of The Land of Israel

style. People sometimes pick up a new language by understanding the roots of the language and the history behind it and where it was used most. This program provides both.

The program comes with nine CD-ROMs, containing 17 classes. With those lessons, there are 17 fasci-