

## # #6 The Lack of a Compound Noun

In English you can put two nouns together and get a third, a longer one. ★ Like bedroom or ? markup. These are two words put together to make a compound word. In German you can put 5 or 6 together and make a compound like this, but in Hebrew you find each word stands as a unit. You do not put them together as compounds until you get very late times when the language was affected by other languages utterly different. And too late to have been in the OT at all.

## #7 There are only two genders.

You have no neuter form in Heb. In Heb. there is very little gender at all. Most nouns are masculine. There are very few that are fem. in Heb. You can be thankful it's not German where you learn three genders and you never know which gender something is going to be under. Spoon is masculine. Fork is feminine. Knife is neuter. You have to call it he, she, or it depending of which you are speaking of. A girl is neuter in German. You call her it. Because you just go by what the form of the word is rather than by meaning. In Heb. you only have two and sometimes there is not much logic or reason why something is feminine. But there are comparatively few of them, so gender is not a problem in Heb. But Semitic languages as a rule have only two genders, not three as so many of our Indo-European languages do.

## #8 The affixing of pronominal suffixes.

This is common in all the Semitic languages. Actually it is the same as #5 -- the use of the construct, though you may not realize that at first. In Heb. the form for his horse, is actually horse of him. You add a pronoun instead of a noun at the end. But you affix it to make one word. We cannot make his horse into one word in English. We have no way of doing it. We have to have two words. We may have one word for a masculine and one for a feminine. We may have one word for something big, one word for something small, but we do not have a separate word to indicate a personal ownership or relationship. But that's very common, or Semitic languages -- this affixing of pronominal suffixes.

I merely mention those eight features which all of you who have had Heb. are familiar with but they are distinctive features, not just of Heb., but of all Semitic languages.

I want to go on and say something about the history of the various Semitic languages.

B. The Specific Semitic Languages Other than Hebrew. I'm going to speak of Heb. particularly after speaking of the other. There are five principle Semitic languages. Of these five, one has far less material in it than the other four. Sometimes you'll hear there are four principle ones. These five -- certainly these four -- are languages that have a great deal of material written in them and are very important in the study of situations related to the OT, and even one of them is of great importance in relation to material of the NT.

I will not try to arrange these geographically. People often try to