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**Book note:**

**Fernandez, Miquel Pérez.** *An Introductory Grammar of Rabbinic Hebrew.*  
Transl. John Elwolde. Leiden: E. J. Brill 1997.

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# Judaism: Hellenistic through Late Antiquity

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**AN INTRODUCTORY GRAMMAR OF RABBINIC HEBREW.** By Miguel Perez Fernandez. Translated by John Elwolde. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997. Pp. xxii + 327. \$112.50; ISBN 90-04-10890-4.

This excellent teaching grammar is designed for students with a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew. Not only is it the first work to appear in English on the subject since M. H. Segal's 1927 grammar (reprinted in 1979), but, unlike Segal's reference grammar, which is based primarily on printed editions, this teaching grammar is based on the manuscript work undertaken in the past two generations by M. S. Zuckerman, S. Lieberman, E. Y. Kutscher, J. S. Lauterbach, I. H. Weiss, and many others. It is a most welcome work. The book is organized into four parts: nouns, verbs, particles, and clauses. Each of these sections is subdivided further into six units including an introductory text, discussions of morphology, grammar and usage, phraseology, vocabulary, and a series of exercises. The introduction to the work offers a useful discussion of the various strata of Rabbinic Hebrew (e.g., Tannaitic and Amoraic) and their relationship to the Hebrew of the Bible and the scrolls found at Qumran. Also touched upon are the current state of research on Rabbinic Hebrew, a discussion of Rabbinic Hebrew in the light of recent advances in dialect geography, and an overview of the evidence for influences from Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Akkadian, and Persian.

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