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Chapter 1 presents an introduction to the theoretical framework of grammaticalization. A review of common approaches and a working definition is provided. Chapter 2 describes the grammatical characteristics of Biblical Hebrew prepositions including the morphological categories of simple and multi-word prepositions. Chapter 3 provides an examination of a subset of the simple prepositions. The source constructions, the functional usages, and the potential development(s) are assessed. Chapter 4 includes a similar accounting of the changes attested with Biblical Hebrew multi-word prepositions. Finally, Chapter 5 aggregates and compares the data on a corpus-wide scale.

One overarching goal of the study is to provide an interchange of ideas, or maybe even a prototype for constructive discourse, between research in linguistics and traditional grammatical approaches. The volume includes both a linguistic discussion—for those interested in the theoretical background—and a philological discussion—for those interested in the more data-driven approach. The intended audience includes grammatically minded readers in biblical studies who are interested in understanding and implementing current linguistic models for language variation and diachronic development. The result is a type of diachronic lexicon of preposition meaning that is useful not merely for linguistic investigation but Hebrew exegetes. That said, an effort to provide broader accessibility for the historical linguist and diachronic topologist is attempted with the hope that the wealth of Semitic data available may be more widely integrated into cross-linguistic investigations. This endeavor is largely accomplished through following common linguistic glossing practices and adhering to established functional terminology.

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