

# “Did Abraham Speak Hebrew?”

What language did Abraham speak? What I really want to know is, did Abraham speak Hebrew?

I honestly don't know for sure what language Abraham spoke. It would have surely been one of the ancient Semitic languages and thus would have been quite similar to ancient Hebrew in many respects. Easton's Bible Dictionary has this to say about the Hebrew language and the language of Abraham:

*“It is one of the class of languages called Semitic, because they were chiefly spoken among the descendants of Shem.*

*When Abraham entered Canaan it is obvious that he found the language of its inhabitants closely allied to his own. Isaiah (19:18) calls it “the language of Canaan.” Whether this language, as seen in the earliest books of the Old Testament, was the very dialect which Abraham brought with him into Canaan, or whether it was the common tongue of the Canaanitish nations which he only adopted, is uncertain; probably the latter opinion is the correct one....*

*The Hebrew is one of the oldest languages of which we have any knowledge. It is essentially identical with the Phoenician language... The Semitic languages, to which class the Hebrew and Phoenician belonged, were spoken over a very wide area: in Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine and Arabia, in all the countries from the Mediterranean to the borders of Assyria, and from the mountains of Armenia to the Indian Ocean. The rounded form of the letters, as seen in the Moabite stone, was probably that in which the ancient Hebrew was written down to the time of the Exile, when the present square or Chaldean form was adopted.”*

If you've never heard of the Biblical Studies Foundation website, I would strongly encourage you to check it out at [www.netbible.com](http://www.netbible.com). They have hundreds of articles on biblical and theological issues.

The Lord bless you,

Michael Gleghorn

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## **“How Do I Find Bibles in their Original Languages?”**

**I need help finding the New Testament in the classic Greek language, and also the Old Testament in the original language it was written in. I need a history lesson about these scriptures to inform me of the true origins of their creation.**

You can get your own copies of the Greek New Testament and Hebrew Old Testament from any good Christian bookstore. If they don't have any in stock, they should at least be able to order them for you. Also, you can probably order these items from the web (e.g. Christian Book Distributors, etc.). However, in order to really profit from these resources, it's best to master both languages.

Probably the best one-volume work on the Bible that I'm aware of is Norman Geisler and William Nix's *A General Introduction to the Bible* (Revised and Expanded edition). But you can find plenty of profitable studies on the bible.org website. Indeed, they have an entire section on Bibliology at [http://www.bible.org/topic.asp?topic\\_id=5](http://www.bible.org/topic.asp?topic_id=5). On their homepage, you can even order a Greek/English NT. I would become very

familiar with this site. They have lots of great information that can be of great use to you.

The Lord bless you,

Michael Gleghorn

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