

PRECEPT-UPON-PRECEPT USING BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

CONCORDANCES AND LEXICONS

INTRODUCTION

Concordances

Brief concordances are located in the back of most Bibles and consist of a list words and where the words appear in the Bible. These concordances do not list every instance of every word found in the Bible. That kind of reference is called an exhaustive concordance. The most famous exhaustive concordance is Strong's, which also numbers the words so they can be located in a lexicon or Bible dictionary. The words are "keyed" to the King James Bible as a standard. Strong's can be used with other versions of Bibles, although some words that are translated differently than the KJV may not appear in Strong's. There is a New American Standard Bible (NASB) Concordance, as well as others that are "keyed" to particular translations. Not all translations have concordances. If one were to pay \$20 for one concordance, Strong's does the job just fine. (See also, Internet Resources handout.)

Dictionaries

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance also contains a Concise Dictionary in two sections: Hebrew/Aramaic and Greek. Read the "How to Use" section, which will make word studies easier and more interesting. Once the word is found in the concordance, note the number of the word and look it up in the dictionary. The definition contains: the word printed out using the original language's alphabet; the transliteration of the word in English letters in bold type; the pronunciation of the word in italics; the definition of the word.

Lexicons

Lexicons, such as the Zodhiates "Complete Word Study Dictionary" provide an expanded definition and shade of meaning. Lexicons can run from \$20-\$45 per book. It is not crucial that one have lexicons in a home library. One Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is suitable. (See also, Internet Resources handout.)

WORD STUDY EXAMPLE: WORDS "KIN" AND "REDEEMER" FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

Kin, Kinsman(men)

Strong's #	Found in Verses	Transliteration	Pronunciation	Definition
3045	Ruth 2:1	Yáda'	Yaw-dah'	Acknowledge, acquaintance, familiar friend, famous
1350	Ruth 2:20; 3:9, 12, 13; 4:1, 3, 6, 8, 14	Gā'al	Gaw al'	To redeem, to be the next of kin and as such to buy back a relative's property, marry his widow, etc.; purchase, ransomer, revenger

Redeem(er)

Strong's #	Found in Verses	Transliteration	Pronunciation	Definition
6299	Ruth 4:4	Pâdâh	Paw-daw'	To sever; i.e., ransom; release, preserve; rescue
1350	Ruth 4:4, 6	Gā'al	Gaw al'	Same as above in Kin, Kinsman(men)

NEXT STEP

Where else is the word found in the Bible? How is it used? What additional meaning is provided?

THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP

Plug the definition and/or entire meaning back in the text in place of the word that was looked up. Is the meaning clearer? Does it shed light on the culture in the time the text was written? Compare our 21st Century culture with the original intent of the meaning of the word. How does this apply to my life?