

IV. USING AN EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE

Why would I want to use an “exhaustive” concordance instead of an abridged one? Simple, In an abridged concordance, someone else decided which appearances of certain words you don’t need to see, while with an exhaustive concordance, you get to make those choices.

How An Exhaustive concordance works

First of all, every word that appears in the Bible is collected alphabetically. In each listing of where a word appears, you have them listed from Genesis to Revelation with the book/ chapter/verse reference and then a portion of the verse to show the word in limited context. To the right, you have a numbering system that will link you to the Hebrew or Greek word behind each translation occurrence. Remember that Genesis through Malachi numbers will link you to the Hebrew Dictionary, whereas Matthew through Revelation will link you to the Greek Dictionary. Here is what the regular listing for “Abandoned” looks like in the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance (above, left).

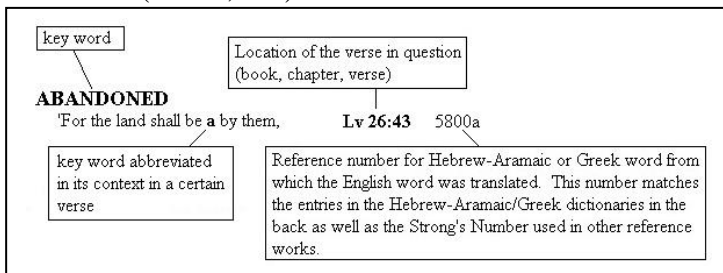
First, you are given the “key word” that you are interested in and all of the places where that word appears in the Bible (your translation). Next, you will find a number of entries, depending on how often the word appears. You will see the word (or possibly just the first letter of the key word high-lighted in a portion of the verse (limited context). To the right, you will find the book/ chapter/verse reference and then another number that will link you to the Hebrew or Greek dictionary in the back of the concordance. Now, let’s go to the Hebrew

5799. אָזַזְלָ *azazel* [736d]; from an unused word; *entire removal*:—scapegoat(m)(4).

5800a. אָזַב *azab* [736d]; a prim. root; *to leave, forsake, loose*:—abandon(4), abandoned(10), abandons(1), commits(1), deserted(1), failed(m)(1), fails(1), forsake(48), forsaken(56), forsakes(3), forsaking(1), forsook(16), free(5), give full vent*(1), leave(26), leave behind(1), leave undone(1), leaves(2), leaving(1), left(22), left behind(3), let go(1), neglect(m)(2), restore(1), stopped(m)(1), surely release(1), withdrawn(1).

5800b. אָזַב *azab* [738a]; denom. vb. from 5801; *to restore, repair*:—restore(1), restored(1).

dictionary and see what we can learn about this word.



Since the Strong’s number was 5800a, we will go to the Hebrew dictionary in the back and find that number. First you have the word in Hebrew characters, followed by a transliteration, so you can sound the word out in English letters and sounds. The word sounds like “ah-zob” and we are then told its Hebrew root (number given), its general meaning, and then all of the various ways that your translation of Scripture renders the word *azab* into English.

How can the Concordance Improve my Bible Study?

1. Use a Concordance to locate a book, chapter, verse references when you know a verse or part of a verse, but don't know where to find it. You can shorten your search time by using the most rare word that occurs in the verse (the list you need to run through will be shorter).

2. Locating everywhere a word occurs in the Bible, so you can either list or study everything about the item in Scripture. For a topical study, the first thing you want to do is find everywhere in the Bible that a term of interest occurs. When you know where the word occurs, then you can investigate each usage and begin to collect the information by which you can arrive at an understanding and some conclusions about "what the Bible teaches" on that topic.

ANTHOTHIJAH Hananiah, Elam, A.	1Ch 8:24	6070
ANTICHRIST as you heard that <i>a</i> is coming. This is the <i>a</i> , the one who denies and this is the <i>spirit</i> of the <i>a</i> . This is the deceiver and the <i>a</i> .	1Jn 2:18 1Jn 2:22 1Jn 4:3 2Jn 1:7	500 500 500 500
ANTICHRISTS even now many <i>a</i> have arisen;	1Jn 2:18	500
ANTICIPATE My eyes <i>a</i> the night watches. That	Ps 119:148	6923

Let's try an easy topic like "antichrist." Go to your concordance and see where and how often the term "antichrist" appears in the Bible. Then, read each verse in context and pay attention to what each passage has to tell you about the topic. Learn to ask good questions - who, what, when, how many, where from, what is being done - that will help you to pull out the information you seek. Read 1 John 2:18-22; 4:1-3; 2John 7 and ask these questions:

- A) What does John tell us about "when" antichrist appears? (v. 18)
- B) What does John tell us about "how many" of them there are? (v. 18)
- C) What does John tell us about the identity of these characters? (v. 19,22)
- D) What doctrine/heresy seems to be characteristic of these characters? (1Jn. 4:1-3; 2Jn. 7)
- E) Reflect on what you have learned from Scripture about "antichrist" in comparison or contrast to popular notions that are around? How many times is "antichrist" mentioned in the book of Revelation? Does John associate "antichrist" with the 2nd coming or any kind of political/war events?

3. What can we learn from the original languages (disclosed by concordance study)? Consider Acts 16:30-31 and is the issue "just

"S, what must I do to be saved?"	Acts 16:30	2962
"Believe in the L Jesus and you"	Acts 16:31	2962

believe" in order to be saved or "who" should you believe in so as to be saved? In the NAS (New American Standard), what Greek word is "sirs" in verse 30 and "Lord" in verse 31? If the same word is used in both verses, does the choice of different English words impact the meaning? Would it change the meaning if we translated the words *kurioi/kuriou* as "Lords/Lord"? Were they telling him "believe only" or "don't believe in us - we're not gods - (see: Acts 14:8-18), believe in Jesus as Lord and you can be saved through Him"?

Also read context - many who say that salvation is by "faith only" stop at verse 31 - what happened in verses 32-34?

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4. How consistent are translations in rendering Hebrew & Greek words? Consider the English word “tribulation” - what is “the tribulation”? How would you begin to “search the Scriptures” for a better understanding of “tribulation”?

2568	θλίψις	<i>thlipsis</i>	(45)
	trouble		(8)
	troubles		(7)
	distress		(6)
	suffering		(4)
	hardships		(3)
	persecution		(3)
	afflictions		(2)
	sufferings		(2)
	trials		(2)
	affliction		(1)
	anguish		(1)
	hard pressed		(1)
	persecuted		(1)
	severe trial		(1) +1509
	suffer		(1)
	suffer persecution		(1) +2400
	tribulation		(1)

Get your concordance out and find where the word “tribulation” occurs in your Bible. If you use the NAS (right), you will find *thlipsis* translated as “tribulation(s)” about 20 times in the New Testament. However, if you use the NIV (left), the Greek word *thlipsis* (pressure) is only rendered “tribulation” one time

TRIBULATION		
*Then they will deliver you to <i>t</i> .	Mt 24:9	2347
*for then there will be a great <i>t</i> .	Mt 24:21	2347
immediately after the <i>t</i> of those days	Mt 24:29	2347
those days will be a <i>time of t</i> such as	Mk 13:19	2347
“But in those days, after that <i>t</i> ,	Mk 13:24	2347
<i>In the world you have t</i> .	Jn 16:33	2347
<i>There will be t</i> and distress for	Ro 2:9	2347
<i>that t brings about perseverance</i> ;	Ro 5:3	2347
Shall <i>t</i> , or distress, or	Ro 8:35	2347
in hope, persevering in <i>t</i> ,	Ro 12:12	2347
having received the word in much <i>t</i>	1Th 1:6	2347
<i>fellow partaker in the t and kingdom</i>	Rv 1:9	2347
I know your <i>t</i> and your poverty	Rv 2:9	2347
<i>and you will have t ten days</i> .	Rv 2:10	2347
*adultery with her into great <i>t</i> .	Rv 2:22	2347
*ones who come out of the great <i>t</i> .	Rv 7:14	2347
TRIBULATIONS		
“Through many <i>t</i> we must enter the	Ac 14:22	2347
this, but we also exult in our <i>t</i> .	Ro 5:3	2347
lose heart at my <i>t</i> on your behalf,	Eph 3:13	2347
<i>through reproaches and t</i> .	Heb 10:33	2347

(Revelation 7:14). How many Greek words are behind the NAS translation “tribulation”? What words are used in these places by the NIV? Why does the NIV translate *thlipsis* as “tribulation” so rarely? Does it help or hinder Bible study to have one Greek word translated as a dozen different English word when one would work?

Other things you can do with the concordance:

1. find out how many things the Apostles associated with salvation
2. Where is Jehoshaphat mentioned in the Bible?
3. Is the phrase “Cleanliness is next to Godliness” in the Bible?
4. Find out if things are NOT in the Bible (are we saved by “faith alone”?)
5. Prop doors open
6. build up your arm-strength carrying it around

Other types of Concordances

Phrase Concordance

Original Language concordance (Hebrew & Greek)¹

Acts 11:26 - “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Does this have any particular significance? Was this a term of derision applied by outsiders or a Divinely-designated term?

A) Read the verse in context

B) check the word for “called” in Greek

(*chrematidzo*) and see if there are any hints there (right)

C) Does the term “Christian” appear elsewhere in Scripture and what can we learn from these?

(Acts 26:28; 1Peter 4:16)

D) *Chrematidzo* appear to be a “technical term” (reserved for special meaning)

		ΧΡΗΜΑΤΙΖΩ	
Mt	2 12	χρηματισθέντες κατ' ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι	
	22	χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν	
Lu	2 26	ἦν αὐτῷ κεχρηματισμένος ὑπὸ τ. πνεύ-	
		ματος τ. ἁγίου	
Ac	10 22	ἐχρηματίσθη ὑπὸ ἀγγέλου ἁγίου	
	11 26	χρηματίσαι τε πρώτως ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τ.	
		μαθητῶν Χριστιανούς	
Ro	7 3	ζώντος τ. ἀνθρώπου μοιχαλὶς χρηματίσει	
He	8 5	καθὼς κεχρηματίσθη Μωσῆς	
	11 7	πίστει χρηματισθεὶς Νῶε περὶ τῶν μηδέπω	
		βλεπομένων	
	12 25	ἐπὶ γῆς παραιτησάμενοι τ. χρηματίζοντα	

¹ Wigram & Green's The New Englishman's Hebrew/Aramaic Concordance (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984); Moulton & Geden's Concordance to the Greek Testament (Edinburgh: T&T Clark 1974 reprint)

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The Exhaustive concordance is a great tool for research. Start from scratch and pursue some questions that are on your mind or swirl around us in popular notions.

1. What are the “signs of the times” and do these apply to the 1st or 2nd coming?
2. What is “the tribulation”? “Great Tribulation”?
3. What is “Gog and Magog”?
4. What or who are the “saints”?
5. What is “the Gospel”?
6. Where are Jesus’ words “it is more blessed to give than to receive” recorded?
7. Where does the New Testament mention “infant baptism and confirmation”?
8. Where does the Bible mention “clergy / Archbishops / the Papacy”?
9. Is there any evidence that the apostles were married?
10. In what verse are all of the following terms for our spiritual adversary used: dragon, serpent, devil, Satan?
11. When are “the last days”?
12. Where does the term “the unforgivable sin” appear in Scripture?

These are just examples, but your first and best tool for doing better Bible study is the concordance.