

Accordance 8 Bible Software Webinar

Key Number Searches (Strong's)

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“Dr. J”

Introduction

The most accurate word studies deal with the original language word behind the English translation!

Example: many different Hebrew and Greek words are translated into the English word “love.”

Key numbers allow the English-only user to *identify* and *define* the original Greek or Hebrew word behind any English word in the Bible.

Two Key Number Systems

Strong's

KJVS (Primary 8 DVD, \$15*)

Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

Strong's Greek Dictionary

NAS95S (\$49)

NAS Hebrew Dictionary

NAS Greek Dictionary

ESVS (\$49)

Key Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic

Key Dictionary of the Greek New Testament

Goodrick/Kohlenberger

NIV-G/K (Essential ZBSS, \$69)

NIV Hebrew Dictionary

NIV Greek Dictionary

Hebrew Word Studies

1. Identify the Hebrew word

Triple-click on the word in any key number text to access the related dictionary for the original Hebrew or Greek word. The dictionary provides the following information (in order): the key number, the Hebrew or Greek lemma (dictionary form), the transliteration, the pronunciation, a brief definition.

2. Establish its Range of Meanings

Select the lemma in the dictionary, then use the resource palette to open any [or all!] of your Hebrew tools.

Better yet, use option-click directly in the text and amplify to any Hebrew tool on the Resource Palette. Accordance 8's new Key Number highlighting feature means you can even option-click directly in the Hebrew text! Meanwhile, the “Instant Details” box will also give you additional information on the Hebrew word.

You can also copy the lemma and paste it into the “Search Entry Box” of any English tool (like a multi-volume Bible dictionary) that has a Hebrew language field.

3. Analyze its Frequency and Distribution

Control-click (“right-click”) on the word in the key number text again, then select “Search For” “Key Number” on the pop-up menu. Accordance will

list every instance of the key number (=original Hebrew word) in the text, regardless of how it is translated into English.

Click the “Details” button for even more information on the word’s frequency and distribution.

4. Check the Exegetical Commentaries

Select the reference for your target verse, then use the resource palette to open your exegetical Old Testament commentaries. Alternately, you can open them individually using the “Add Reference Tool” button.

5. Narrow the Meaning for your Target Passage

At the outset of your research, you may know very little about the word you are about to study. Along the way, you will acquire a great deal of knowledge, much of it irrelevant to your target passage [though still really good stuff! ☺]. Select only the information for your presentation that helps illuminate the meaning of your passage.

Greek Word Studies

The same techniques we used in Hebrew word studies work in Greek word studies. The only difference is the tools one uses. So, we will cover other information this time around.

1. Identify the Greek word

2. Establish its Range of Meanings

The better tools you use, the better information you get! For the Greek word rendered “were... created...”

The included dictionary [*Strong’s Greek*] has a 25 word definition.

Thayer’s [a standard scholarly lexicon] has a 200 word definition.

TDNT [*“Little Kittle*] has 3200 words in its definition.

NIDNTT has over 5600 words in its definition!

You get what you pay for!

3. Analyze its Frequency and Distribution

Search for the key number using either the control-click method described above or the [KEY ?] command (⇧⌘K). Then use the “Details” button to access information to help you answer the following kind of questions:

Is this word especially frequent or rare? Why?

Is this word favored by a particular author or book? Why?

4. Check the Exegetical Commentaries

Once again, you get what you pay for!

Consider purchasing the major commentary sets: Word Biblical Commentary (now on sale for \$399!), Eerdmans’ Pillar commentaries, the *Hermeia* commentary set (its release is on the horizon!) Exegetical commentaries contain original language phrases that may be intimidating at first, but learn to “read around” the foreign words.

5. Narrow the Meaning for your Target Passage

Conclusion & Cautions

Key numbers allow the English-only user to identify and define the original Greek or Hebrew word behind any English word in the Bible.

They can not solve textual, grammatical or syntactical issues; these require a working knowledge of the original language.

Avoid the character flaws of conceit and pretension, as well as alienating those whom you wish to teach.

Think of key numbers as a step toward, rather than a substitute for, seminary-level education

For more information...

David Lang, *Contra Strongnosticism*, 4 Parts. Jan. 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 2009
(www.accordancebible.com/blog).

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