

Learn to Read the Bible Effectively

Distance Learning Programme

Session 5



SESSION 5

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Section 1

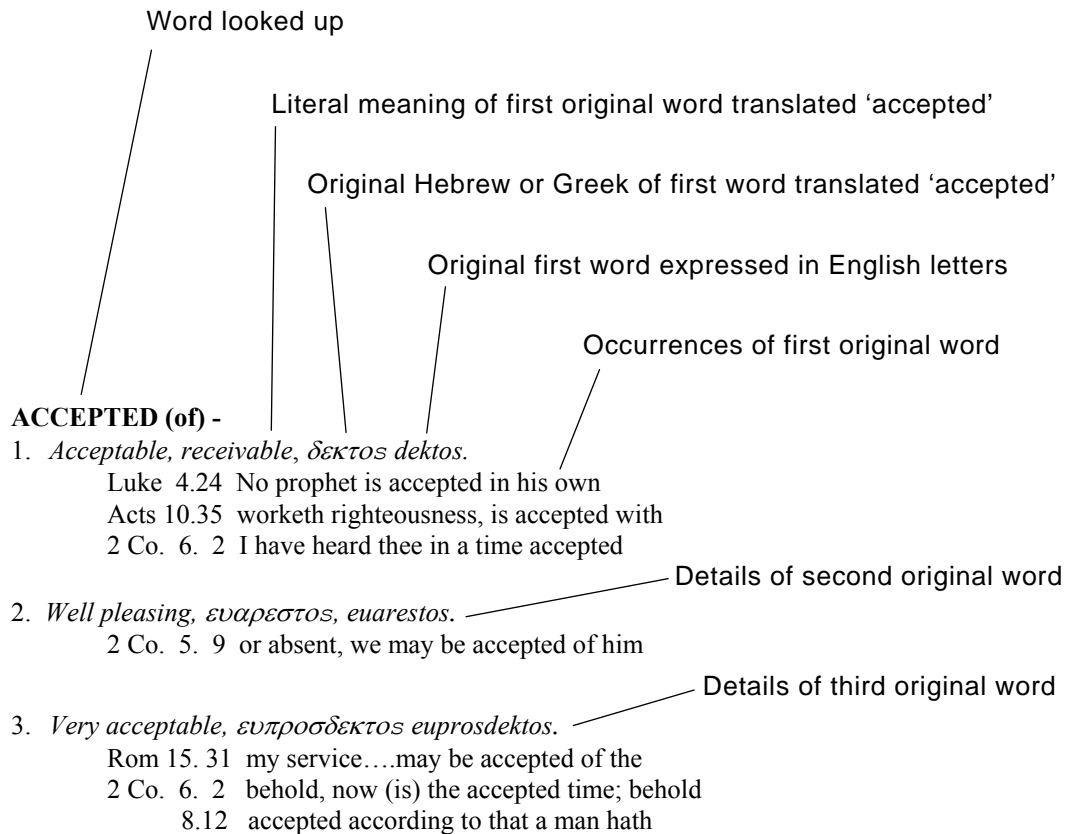
Study tools (Part 1)

We are going to look at two study tools that can be very useful – the concordance and the lexicon.

The most commonly used concordances are *Young's Concordance* and *Strong's Concordance*. Both of these concordances relate to the Authorised Version of the Bible. Similar concordances are available for the New King James Version and the New International Version. Other smaller concordances are available, but they are not as thorough.

Young's Concordance contains an alphabetical listing of almost all the words in the Bible, giving the original Hebrew or Greek words, together with their literal meaning and "transliteration" (the original word expressed in English letters). It also contains an index lexicon, which gives all the ways that each word is translated.

Here is a typical entry in *Young's Concordance* together with explanations:



Strong's Concordance contains an alphabetical listing of all the words in the Bible together with a number which is used in the lexicon at the back to give the meaning. The *Strong's* lexicon also gives the pronunciation.

It is a matter of personal preference which concordance to use. *Young's* tends to be easier to use, but *Strong's* gives more information. We shall show you an example of how to use concordances.

If you have access to a computer, the *Online Bible* is a very useful tool to have. It is based on the *Strong's* numbering system. It is more useful than either *Young's* or *Strong's* in that it can search for combinations of words or phrases in addition to individual words. The Authorised Version *Online Bible* can be copied freely. If you would like a copy, please ask your tutor.

When to use a concordance

A concordance is useful when trying to locate a verse if you can only remember just a phrase or word.

e.g. Where does it say "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

In this phrase pick the most uncommon word, to reduce the number of references you will need to look at. Try "forsaken". If you do not find it under "forsaken", look at related words, like "forsake".

We have copied a small part of the reference for "FORSAKE, to" from *Young's*:
(There are nine words in the original translated "forsake". We have reproduced the entry for the eighth word because it contains the references we are interested in.)

8 *To leave down in, εγκαταλειπω egkatataleipo.*

Matt 27. 46 My God! my God! why hast thou forsa.

Mark 15. 34 My God! my God! why hast thou forsa.

2 Co. 4. 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down

2 Ti. 4. 10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having lov

4. 16 but all (men) forsook me (I pray God)

Heb. 10. 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves

13. 5 I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee

You will see that the quotation we are looking for is either Matthew 27 v 26 or Mark 15 v 34.

Strong's works in a similar way, but uses a numbering system to find the original word.

When to use a concordance and lexicon

When the Bible was translated into English, remember that the original Old Testament texts were in Hebrew and the original New Testament texts were in Greek. As a result, when certain of the words were translated into English, they lost some of their shades of meaning. A lexicon can help to find the real meaning of the original word after you have found the original word or words in the concordance.

e.g. What does the Bible mean by "World"?

Part of the *Young's* entry in the concordance section looks like this:

(We have not included the original Hebrew and Greek words.)

WORLD -

1. *Land, earth, erets.*

- Psa. 22.27 All the ends of the world shall remember
- Isa. 23.17 fornication with all the kingdoms of the w.
- 62.11 hath proclaimed unto the end of the world
- Jer. 25.26 all the kingdoms of the world, which (are)

2. *Cessation, chedel.*

- Isa. 38.11 no more with the inhabitants of the world

3. *Lifetime, age, cheled.*

- Psa. 17.14 from men of the world, (which have) their
- 49. 1 give ear, all (ye) inhabitants of the world

4. *Indefinite time, or its love, olam.*

- Psa. 73.12 these (are) the ungodly, who prosper in t. w.
- Eccl. 3.11 also he hath set the world in their heart

5. *Fruit bearing or habitable earth, tebel.*

- 1 Sa. 2. 8 the LORD'S, and he hath set the world up.
- 2 Sa. 22.16 foundations of the world were discovered
- 1 Ch. 16.30 world also shall be stable, that it be not

(+ 32 more references in the Old Testament)

6. *Age, indefinite time, dispensation, aion.*

- Matt 12.32 neither in this world, neither in the (wor).
- 13.22 care of this world, and the deceitfulness
- 13.39 the harvest is the end of the world; and
- 13.40 so shall it be in the end of this world
- 13.49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the

(+ 23 more references in the New Testament)

7. *Ages, dispensations, aionon.*

- 1 Co. 2. 7 which God ordained before the world unto
 10.11 upon whom the ends of the world are
 Heb. 9. 26 but now once in the end of the world

8. *Land, earth, ge.*

- Rev. 13. 3 and all the world wondered after the be.

9. *Arrangement, beauty, world, kosmos.*

- Matt 4. 8 showeth him all the kingdoms of the wor.
 5. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that
 13. 35 kept secret from the foundation [of the w.]
 13. 38 The field is the world; the good seed are
 16. 26 if he shall gain the whole world, and lose

(+ 174 more references in the New Testament)

10. *Habitable earth or land, oikoumene.*

- Matt 24. 14 preached in all the world for a witness
 Luke 2. 1 a decree...that all the world should be ta.
 4. 5 showed...him all the kingdoms of the w.
 Acts 11. 28 be great dearth throughout all the world
 17. 6 These that have turned the world upside

(+ 9 more references in the New Testament)

Here is a summary of what the concordance search is saying.

1. There are ten different original words (five in the Old Testament and five in the New) all translated "world". You will remember from the earlier explanation that the words given after the meanings of the words (e.g. "erets") are the original Hebrew or Greek words expressed in English letters.
2. The verses where the word "world" appears in the Authorised Version.

You can then use the index lexicon at the back of the concordance to find out what other words are used as translations of the same original word. Remember there is a lexicon for the Old Testament and a separate one for the New Testament.

If you want to find out more about the first word, look at the anglicised word "erets" in the Old Testament lexicon. This is what the concordance tells us:

ERETS

country 140
 earth *freq.*
 field 1
 ground 96
 land *freq.*
 nation 1
 way 3
 world 4

This says that “erets” is also translated “country” 140 times, “earth” frequently, “field” once, and so on down the list.

You can then look up these words in the main body of the concordance and find out what the passages say. Part of the “country” and “earth” entries are set out below.

COUNTRY-

3. *Land, country, erets.*

- Gen. 10. 20 in their countries, (and) in their nations
- 12. 1 Get thee out of thy country, and from
- 19. 28 the smoke of the country went up as the
- 20. 1 Abraham journeyed....toward the south c.
- 24. 4 thou shalt go unto my country, and to

(+ many more references in the Old Testament)

EARTH -

3. *Earth, land, erets.*

- Gen. 1.1 God created the heaven and the earth
- 1. 2 And the earth was without form and
- 1. 10 And God called the dry (land) Earth
- 1. 11 God said, Let the earth bring forth
- 1. 11 whose seed (is) in itself, upon the earth

(+ 100s more references in the Old Testament)

We can now see all the different shades of meaning of the anglicised word “erets”.

We can do similar things with Strong's Concordance.

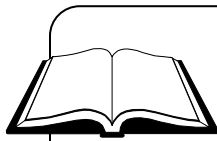
Section 2

Terminology (Part 1)

In this section we are going to look at some basic words commonly used in the Bible, but which are often not understood. We will use some of the principles we looked at in section 1 to help us find out what these words really mean.

1. Faith

The Bible's definition is given in Hebrews.



Look at Hebrews 11 v 1

The New International Version makes this verse easier to understand:

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”.

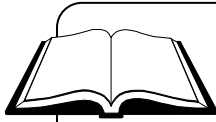
Young’s and *Strong’s* concordances tell us that Hebrews 11 contains far more references to faith than any other chapter in the Bible.



Read the whole of Hebrews 11
noticing the effect faith has on people

Faith makes people do things because they are sure that God means what He says, even when they can't prove it. This doesn't mean that people are expected to have a blind faith. God gives us *evidence* to help our faith. We looked at just a little of this evidence in Session 3, Section 2, “The role of prophecy”. There are several other topics you can look at which show that the Bible could not have been written by men or women, which can all help build our faith. Different topics appeal to different people. Examples are:

- Internal evidence in the Bible
- The way unrelated passages support each other in unexpected ways. These are sometimes called “Undesigned Coincidences”.
- Evidence of design in nature



Look at Romans 10 v 7

The Bible makes it clear that reading our Bible effectively is vital to our faith.

In summary, you can see that faith is total trust and confidence in God, a trust that He will do what He has promised. Faith comes as a result of reading the Bible and looking at the evidence given in the Bible.

2. Hell

The entry in *Young's Concordance* looks like this.

HELL -

1. *The unseen state, sheol.*

- Deut 32.22 and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and
- 2 Sa. 22. 6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about
- Job 11. 8 what canst thou do? deeper than hell
- 26. 6 Hell (is) naked before him, and destruction
- Psa. 9. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, (and)
- 16. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell

(+ 25 more Old Testament references)

2. *Hades, the unseen world, hades.*

- Matt 11. 23 thou... shalt be brought down to hell: for
- 16. 18 gates of hell shall not prevail against it
- Luke 10. 15 And thou... shalt be thrust down to hell

(+ 7 more New Testament references)

3. *Valley of Hinnom, Gehenna, geenna.*

- Matt. 5. 22 shall say... shall be in danger of hell fire
- 5. 29, 30 thy whole body should be cast into hell
- 10. 28 him which is able to destroy... body in hell

(+ 8 more New Testament references)

Looking at this, you can see that the word "Hell" is used as a translation of:

1. The Hebrew word "sheol"
2. The Greek word "hades" and
3. The Greek word "geenna"

The Hebrew word "sheol" and the Greek word "hades" both mean similar things i.e. the unseen state or world. We show over the page the lexicon entries for these words. As we said earlier on in this session, when you have a Greek or Hebrew word, you can look it up in a lexicon to find out how it is translated.

SHEOL

grave 31

hell 31

pit 3

You can see that the word is translated “hell”, “grave” and “pit”.

HADES

grave 1

hell 10

You can see that, again, the word is also translated grave.

From this you can see that “sheol” and “hades” can both be translated as “grave”.

GEENNA

You can see from the *Young’s Concordance* entry that “geenna” is the “Valley of Hinnom” which is one of the valleys outside Jerusalem. This can be found on most maps of Jerusalem. The Valley of Hinnom was the rubbish dump outside Jerusalem where fires were kept constantly burning to dispose of the rubbish.

In summary, there are three words that have been translated “hell”. Two can also be translated “grave” and the third was a literal place of continual fires.

3. Soul

With two exceptions, “Soul” is a translation of the Hebrew “nephesh” in the Old Testament and the Greek “psuche” in the New Testament.

The lexicon in Young’s says that “nephesh” is also translated “creature”, “body”, “life”, “mind”, “person” and other similar words. (There are too many references to reproduce here.)



Look at the following examples of the word “nephesh”
(bear in mind that the word “soul” could have been used
in place of the word indicated in all these passages)

- creature: Genesis 1 v 24; 9 v 10, 12, 15, 16
- body: Leviticus 21 v 11; Numbers 6 v 6, 19 v 13
- life: Genesis 19 v 17; Joshua 2 v 14; Psalm 38 v 12
- mind: Deuteronomy 18 v 6; 1 Chronicles 28 v 9; Ezekiel 24 v 25
- person: Numbers 5 v 6; Joshua 20 v 3, 9; Jeremiah 43 v 6

Young’s says “psuche” in the New Testament is also translated “heart”, “life” and “mind”.



Look at the following examples of the word “psuche”
(again bear in mind that the word “soul” could have
been used in place of the word indicated)

- heart: Ephesians 6 v 6
- life: Matthew 6 v 25; Mark 3 v 4; Acts 27 v 22
- mind: Acts 14 v 2

To summarise, “soul” could also have been translated by such words as “creature”, “life”, “person” and “mind”.

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT 7

Encouraging faith

Write down what convinces you that the Bible is the Word of God. If you are looking for more evidence, have a look at one of the books in the list below, and then write down what aspects help stimulate your faith. If you cannot locate any of these books, please contact your tutor, who will be pleased to obtain a copy for you.

Books you may find useful to encourage your faith:

Undesigned Scriptural Coincidences by J.J. Blunt

(Looks at the way various unrelated passages of Scripture support each other)

God's Truth by A. Hayward

(A scientist shows why it makes sense to believe the Bible)

God Is by A. Hayward

(Why it makes sense to believe in creation)

Notes

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