

## CHAPTER 9

## WORD STUDIES

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A concordance is a listing of all the words used in a book, often with a summary of how those words are translated into English. You can use a concordance to get a feel for what the word could mean (i.e., its semantic range). We are going to use the online resource developed by the scholars at Tyndale House, Cambridge—the STEP program (Scripture Tools for Every Person), available to use for free at [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org). The STEP program is tied to the ESV.<sup>1</sup>

## ASSIGNMENT 9-1

Use the STEP Bible program as your concordance to answer the following questions:

1. Use the concordance to answer the following questions about Acts 1:8.

- Write out the English transliterated form of the word translated “power” in GREAT WORKS Acts 1:8: DUNAMIS (GREEK) MEANING POWER, ABILITY, MIRACLE, RULER, AUTHORITY, SUPER NATURAL BEING
- How many times does this word occur in the New Testament? ESV 119x IN 115 VERSES
- List the passages in Acts that translate this word as “power”:

1:8 POWER  
 2:22 MIGHTY WORKS  
 3:12 POWER  
 4:7 POWER  
 4:33 POWER  
 6:8 POWER  
 8:10 POWER  
 8:13 MIRACLES  
 10:38 POWER  
 19:11 MIRACLES

1. If you prefer the NIV translation, you could use *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance*, ed. Edward W. Goodrick and John R. Kohlenberger III (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999). The online STEP Bible program is tied to the ESV translation. The main thing is that you use a concordance that matches the version of the Bible you are using.

d. List the passages in Acts that translate this word as "miracles" or "mighty works":

2:22 MIGHTY WORKS  
8:13 MIRACLES  
19:11 MIRACLES

2. Use the concordance to answer the following questions about Exodus 4:21.

a. Write out the English transliterated form of the word translated "power" in Exodus 4:21:

HAND (YAD) HEBREW

AS 'HAND' TO MEAN 'POWER';

b. How many times does this word occur in the Old Testament? ESV 578 X IN 510 VERSES

c. List the passages in Exodus that translate the word as "power":

3:19  
4:21  
6:1  
9:3  
9:15  
13:3-16  
14:8  
14:31  
15:9  
16:3  
32:11

3. The ESV uses the word "judge" in 1 Corinthians 4:3; 5:12; and Revelation 20:4. Are these the same Greek words? Write out the English transliteration of the three Greek words translated as "judge" in these three passages.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 4:3 - ANAKRINŌ: TO INVESTIGATE

A GREEK VERB MEANING TO EXAMINE, INVESTIGATE, QUESTION OR JUDGE CLOSELY. IT SIGNIFIES A RIGOROUS, FORENSIC OR JUDICIAL SCRUTINY TO DISCERN TRUTH, SEPARATING FACTS THRU' CAREFUL STUDY.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 5:12 - KRINŌ: TO JUDGE

A GREEK VERB MEANING TO JUDGE, DECIDE, SEPARATE OR DISTINGUISH

- REVELATION 20:4 - KRIMA: JUDGEMENT

A GREEK NOUN MEANING JUDGEMENT, CONDEMNATION, VERDICT, JUDICIAL SENTENCE, PUNISHMENT, RESULT OF A JUDGEMENT NOT THE PROCESS OF JUDGING.

4. Use the concordance to answer the following questions about the word "hope":

- a. Paul uses the word "hope" in Romans 4:18. How many times total does Paul use this same Greek word in his letters? (Do not assume that Paul wrote Hebrews.) 37x **ELPIS** (53x USED IN GENERAL IN THE N.T.)
- b. How many times is the word used in Matthew, Mark, and Luke? \*SEE BELOW
- c. Is this the same word for "hope" that is used in 1 Corinthians 13:13? ELPIS SAME AS ROM. 4:18  
 \*ELPIS "A NOUN MEANING HOPE OR EXPECTATION, CONFIDENT ASSURANCE OF GOOD"  
 \*ELPIZŌ "VERB MEANING TO HOPE, TO EXPECT, TO TRUST. THE ACTION OF DOING SO"

68 • Contexts—Now and Then

"ELPIS" AND "ELPIZŌ"  
SHARE THE SAME ROOT  
MEANING BUT ARE USED  
DIFFERENTLY IN SPEECH.

MATEW 12:21 "HOPE" GREEK WORD ELPIZŌ  
(CITATION OF ISAIAH 42:4 REFERENCING THE HOPE OR TRUST  
THE NATIONS/GENTILES WILL PLACE IN THE MESSIAH.)

LUKE 6:34 "EXPECT" = "HOPE" GREEK WORD ELPIZŌ

LUKE 23:8 "HOPING" GREEK WORD ELPIZŌ

LUKE 24:21 "HOPED" GREEK WORD ELPIZŌ

NAME: CARLO TEDESCO

DATE:

**ASSIGNMENT 9-2**

You are studying the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and the word "anxious" in Matthew 6:25 (ESV) catches your eye. You decide to study the word "anxious" more in-depth. Use the STEP Bible program as your concordance to answer the following questions:

1. What is the Greek word for "anxious" in Matthew 6:25? Write out the word in transliterated English form: MERIMNAŌ. How many times is it used in the New Testament? ESV ABOUT 19x IN 17 VERSES

2. Now do some more concordance work to decide what the word "anxious" *could* mean in the New Testament. Make a list of the "meanings" provided in the box to the right in the STEP Bible program. This gives you a good sense of what the word could mean, but you need to look a bit more closely at the context. There is an art to identifying a word's semantic range. Don't give up. Keep working at it, and you'll find that it gets easier with practice. Answer the following questions about how the word is used in each context as a way of getting at its range of meaning:

a. What things are we told not to be anxious about in Matthew 6:25, 27, 28, 31, 34; Luke 12:22, 25, 26?

IN THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES WE ARE TOLD "DO NOT BE ANXIOUS", REFERRING TO EXCESSIVE WORRY, ABOUT LIFE'S DAILY NECESSITIES LIKE FOOD, DRINK, CLOTHING. SUCH CONCERNS WILL NOT ADD TO OR LENGTHEN OUR LIVES. THESE VERSES ARE PART OF A LARGER TEACHING- URGING DISCIPLES TO TRUST IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE AND TO AVOID THE CONSUMING, FEARFUL WORRY THAT PARALYZES

b. What is the context of Matthew 10:19 and Luke 12:11? Is this a different kind of anxiety ONES FAITH AND TESTIMONY. than that prohibited in Matthew 6:25?

BOTH THE ABOVE VERSES USE THE SAME GREEK WORD - MERIMNAŌ, FOR ANXIOUS

c. What stands in contrast to Martha's anxiety (Luke 10:41)? How does this contrast help to define Martha's anxiety?

JESUS GENTLY COUNCELS MARTHA'S ANXIETY (MERIMNAŌ), HER MIND/HEART PULLED IN MULTIPLE DIRECTIONS BY THE PRESSURE OF "MANY THINGS". WHILE HER DESIRE TO SERVE WAS GOOD AND WELL INTENDED, HER OVER-SOLICITUDE - PERHAPS EVEN OBSESSION, FOR PERFECT HOSPITALITY BECAME A DISTRACTION (GREEK WORD PERISPAŌ), DIVIDING HER ATTENTION AND CAUSING A FRETFUL, AGITATED Word Studies • 69 STATE OF MIND. IN CONTRAST, MARY'S SETTLE DEVOTION TO THE "ONE THING" - JESUS' TEACHING - REVEALS THAT EVEN NECESSARY DUTIES BECOME SPIRITUAL HINDRANCES WHEN THEY ECLIPSE HIS PRESENCE REMINDING US THAT SIMPLE FELLOWSHIP IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANXIOUS EFFORT.

d. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul uses the word four times. Describe the context of this usage.

HERE, THE WORD "ANXIOUS" (GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ) REFERS TO THE DIVIDED AND PRACTICAL CONCERNS OF DAILY LIFE THAT ARE INHERENT TO MARRIAGE, CONTRASTING THEM WITH THE UNDIVIDED DEVOTION TO THE LORD THAT IS REALISTICALLY MORE EASILY ATTAINABLE AS AN UNMARRIED PERSON.

e. What do the contexts of 1 Corinthians 12 and Philippians 2 have in common?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:25 THE WORD "CARE" (GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ)  
 PHILIPPIANS 2:20 THE WORD "CONCERNED" (GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ)  
 BOTH OF THESE VERSES HAVE THE GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ, EMPHASIZING THE THEMES OF UNITY WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND SELFLESS SERVICE AND MUTUAL CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS.

f. What kind of anxiety is Paul describing in Philippians 4? How do you know?

HERE THE WORD "ANXIOUS" (GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ) REFERS TO THE ANXIETY THAT COMES WITH ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH LIFE IN ONE'S OWN STRENGTH, KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, EDUCATION, TRAINING, ETC. ALL OF WHICH ARE FLAWED AND GRAVELY LIMITED AND NON EFFECTUAL ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING AS A BELIEVER. RELYING AND TRUSTING IN GOD AND HIS PROVISION IN ALL THINGS ELIMINATES THIS ANXIETY AND BRINGS A BELIEVER PEACE INSTEAD OF ANXIETY. HOW DO WE KNOW? BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS US SO. 😊

3. As you survey the word in context, do you want to add to or take away from the list of meanings? Based on your brief study of the word as used in context, describe as best you can the semantic range of the word. There are at least two major senses of the word and perhaps a couple more.

THE WORD ANXIOUS (MERIMNAŌ) COVERS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF MEANING, RANGING FROM POSITIVE, PRODUCTIVE CARE AND INTEREST FOR ONESELF AND OTHERS TO CRIPPLING WORRY. FUNDAMENTALLY, IT SIGNIFIES A DISTRACTED OR DIVIDED MIND WHERE A PERSON'S FOCUS IS PULLED IN COMPETING DIRECTIONS.

4. Now decide what the Greek word used in Matthew 6:25 and translated "be anxious" actually means in this verse. Select one of the semantic-range options that you identified in step 2 and explain why you think the word carries that meaning in Matthew 6:25.

HERE, THE WORD "ANXIOUS" (GREEK WORD MERIMNAŌ) MEANS TO WORRY. EVEN AS BELIEVERS THEY ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNNECESSARY FRETTING OVER EVEN THEIR MOST BASIC NEEDS. NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

5. To check your work, see Verbrugge, *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology: Abridged Edition*, 36A.

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**ASSIGNMENT 9-3**

You want to study the word “meditate” in Joshua 1:8, where God tells Joshua: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.” Use the STEP Bible program to answer the following questions:

1. Click on the word “meditate” in Joshua 1:8. What is the transliteration of the Hebrew word that appears in the Vocab panel to the right? HA.GAH How many times is it used in the Old Testament? ESV 25x

2. List out the meanings provided in the Vocab panel as a way to begin establishing a range of meaning. Now click on the phrase “Search for this word” in the Vocab panel to generate a list of its occurrences in the Old Testament. Now look at each occurrence as a means of clarifying the word’s range of meaning. Based on your brief study of the word as used in context, describe as best you can the semantic range of this word.

A) TO MOAN, GROWL, UTTER, MUSE, MUTTER, MEDITATE, DEVISE, PLOT, SPEAK.

B) ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS; TO ROAR, IMAGINE, GROAN

THE SEMANTIC RANGE FOR THE HEBREW WORD HAGAH TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS “MEDITATE” IN JOSHUA 1:8, IS BROAD AND INCLUDES BOTH INWARD REFLECTION AND OUTWARD VOCALISATION AND IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE A CONTINUOUS, FOCUSED ENGAGEMENT WITH GOD’S LAW.

3. Now decide what the Hebrew word used in Joshua 1:8 means. Select one of the semantic-range options that you identified in step 2 and explain why you think the word carries that meaning in Joshua 1:8.

A COMBINATION OF DEEP, PURPOSEFUL, PRAYERFUL THINKING AND VOCAL RECITATION OF GOD’S LAW TO FULLY UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE, REVERE AND APPLY THE WORD OF GOD; ENSURING CONSTANT AWARENESS AND KEEPING IT AT THE FRONT OF ONES CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE SURROUNDING SCRIPTURES REVEAL THAT THIS IS WHAT THE LORD IS COMMANDING JOSHUA TO DO.

4. To check your work, see VanGemeren, *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*, 1:1006–8.

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**ASSIGNMENT 9-4**

Complete the following word study of the word "trials" in James 1:2 using the STEP Bible program. The example of our study of the word "present" in Romans 12:1 in this chapter may prove helpful.

1. First, why do you think it is important to study this word?

IN JAMES 1:2, THE WORD "PEIRASMOS" (TRIALS) REFERS TO GOD-PERMITTED DIFFICULTIES INTENDED TO REFINE RATHER THAN DESTROY GOD'S PEOPLE - THOSE WHO 'FEAR' THE LORD. UNLIKE OLDER TRANSLATIONS THAT USE "TEMPTATIONS" WHICH IMPLIES AN ENTICEMENT TO SIN, THE ESV'S USE OF THE WORD "TRIALS" EMPHASIZES A CONSTRUCTIVE TESTING OF FAITH. BY SHIFTING THE BELIEVERS PERSPECTIVE FROM RANDOM SUFFERING TO PURPOSEFUL GROWTH, THIS DISTINCTION ALLOWS/ENABLES THE BELIEVER TO MEET HARDSHIPS WITH JOY, KNOWING THEY PRODUCE THE STEADFASTNESS AND MATURITY REQUIRED FOR SPIRITUAL COMPLETENESS. WE, AS BELIEVERS TOO, NEED TO UNDERSTAND THIS DIFFERENCE

2. What *could* this word mean? In other words, identify the word's semantic range.

TEST, TESTING, TRIAL, TEMPTATION, A PUTTING TO THE PROOF, CALAMITY, AFFLICTION

3. What *does* this word mean in context? Be sure to explain your choice.

PLEASE SEE No. 1 ABOVE.

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## ASSIGNMENT 9-5

Complete the following word study of the word "sick" in James 5:14 using the STEP Bible program. The example of our study of the word "present" in Romans 12:1 in this chapter may prove helpful.

1. First, why do you think it is important to study this word?

"SICK", GREEK WORD ASTHENEÓ

IT IS IMPORTANT TO STUDY THIS WORD SO THAT WE HAVE A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS MEANING AND ITS CONTEXTUAL APPLICATION WHICH IS CRUCIAL FOR ACCURATE COMPREHENSION, AND COMMUNICATION.

2. What *could* this word mean? In other words, identify the word's semantic range.

TO BE WEAK FROM ILLNESS OR INFIRMITY, DEFICIENT IN STRENGTH METAPHORICALLY; TO BE WEAK IN FAITH, TO DOUBT, TO HESITATE, TO BE UNSETTLED, TIMID, TO BE DEFICIENT IN AUTHORITY, DIGNITY OR POWER, TO BE CONTEMPTIBLE, TO BE AFFLICTED, DISTRESSED, NEEDY.

3. What *does* this word mean in context? Be sure to explain your choice.

THE GREEK WORD "ASTHENEÓ" USED IN JAMES 5:14 ESV SEEMS TO MAKE REFERENCE TO A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS INCLUDING BEING WEAK OR FEEBLE, NOT ONLY PHYSICAL SICKNESS BUT ALSO SPIRITUAL OR EMOTIONAL WEAKNESS, DISCOURAGEMENT OR GENERAL INCAPACITY.

"CALLING FOR ELDERS" IMPLIES A SERIOUS CONDITION / PHYSICAL AILMENT, THE AFFLICTED SICK PERSON NEEDING FOR THE LORD TO "RAISE HIM UP".

"IF HE HAS COMMITTED SINS" - SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS, NEEDS FORGIVENESS

"ANNOINTING WITH OIL" FOR PHYSICAL AND/OR EMOTIONAL ILLNESS/WEAKNESS

THE NEXT VERSE USES A DIFFERENT GREEK WORD - KAMNŌ ALSO TRANSLATED AS TO BE WEARY, SICK, WHICH REINFORCES THE POTENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL OR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ALONGSIDE PHYSICAL ILLNESS.