

How To Do A Bible Word Study

Using Strong's Concordance
as a starting point



James Strong, 1822 - 1894



Prepared by Chris Reeves

Why This Study?

- English words today may have meanings that are foreign to the meaning of the original Bible words.
- The use of some modern versions may misdirect the student away from the original meaning of the word.
- Most Bible versions use transliterated words (like “apostle,” or “baptism”) which are not translated.

Why This Study?

- Word studies help to answer religious error (consider “Easter” in Acts 12:4)
- Words studies help us avoid making the wrong point based upon an assumed meaning of an English word (consider “peculiar” in 1 Pet. 2:9; or “scarcely” in 1 Peter 4:18)

Step1: Locate the English word you want to study using the King James Version.

Example:

“Destroy” in Acts 6:14



Step 2: Look up the English word in Strong's Concordance. Go down the list to the Bible verse that contains the word you want to study. Take note of the number to the right of the entry.

Example:

of Nazareth shall *d* this
place...Acts 6:14 2647



Step 3: Go to the Hebrew/Greek dictionaries in the back of Strong's Concordance and locate the number.

Example:

In the Greek Dictionary go to number 2647



Step 4: After you find your number, examine the five pieces of information to the right of the number you have selected.

Example:

2647. καταλύω *kataluō*, *kat-al-oo'-o*; from 2596 and 3089; to *loosen down (disintegrate)*, i.e. (by impl.) to *demolish* (lit. or fig.); spec. [comp. 2646] to *halt* for the night :- *destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.*



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Example:

1. The original letters

2647. καταλύω *kataluō*, *kat-al-oo'-o*; from 2596 and 3089; to *loosen down (disintegrate)*, i.e. (by impl.) to *demolish* (lit. or fig.); spec. [comp. 2646] to *halt for the night* :- *destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.*



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Example:

2. The transliteration

2647. καταλύω *kataluō*, *kat-al-oo'-o*; from 2596 and 3089; to *loosen down (disintegrate)*, i.e. (by impl.) to *demolish* (lit. or fig.); spec. [comp. 2646] to *halt for the night* :- *destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.*



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3. The pronunciation

Example:

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Step 4: After you find your number, examine the five pieces of information to the right of the number you have selected.

4. The definition

Example:

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Example:

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5. The translation



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Example:

2647. καταλύω kataluō, *kat-al-oo'-o*; from 2596 and 3089; to *loosen down (disintegrate)*, i.e. (by impl.) to *demolish* (lit. or fig.); spec. [comp. 2646] to *halt for the night* :- destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.

The “:-” symbol separates the **definition** from the **translation**



Step 5: Write down Strong's definition of the original Hebrew/Greek word you are studying. Compare Strong's definition with others who use Strong's numbers.

Example:

2647. *loosen down, disintegrate, demolish, halt* (Strong's)

2647. (1) *to unloose, to destroy,* (2) *to render void,* (3) *to pass the night, lodge* (Berry)

2647. *kata, "down," intensive, "to destroy utterly, to overthrow completely"* (Vine)



Step 6: Write down the different English words used to translate the original Hebrew/Greek word.

Example (#2647):

1. destroy [Mt.5:17(2x); 26:61; 27:40; Mk.14:58; 15:29; Acts 6:14; Rom.14:20; Gal. 2:18]
2. dissolve [2 Cor.5:1]
3. be guest [Lk.19:7]
4. lodge [Lk.9:12]
5. come to nought [Acts 5:38]
6. overthrow [Acts 5:39]
7. throw down [Mt.27:42; Mk.13:2; Lk. 21:6]

Step 7: Compare the meaning of the English word in your Bible with the original definition of the Hebrew/Greek word.

Example:

“Church” – is it a building?

“Baptism” – is it sprinkling?

“Pastor” – is he the preacher?



Bible References Works Coded to Strong's Numbering System **

Bibles

1. The HTML Bible (www.htmlbible.org)
2. Berry's Interlinear Greek New Testament, George R. Berry
3. The Interlinear Bible, J.P. Green
4. Word Study Greek-English New Testament, Paul McReynolds
5. Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible (NASV), Spiros Zodiatas
6. KJV Interlinear Bible: Greek-English Parallel NT, David Townsley

Concordances

1. The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance, George V. Wigram
2. The Englishman's Greek Concordance, George V. Wigram

Hebrew Word Studies

1. Girdlestone's Synonyms of the Old Testament
2. Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon
3. New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies, William Wilson
4. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (2 Vol.), Harris, Archer, Waltke
5. Hebrew - Chaldee Lexicon, Benjamin Davis
6. Gesenius' Hebrew - Chaldee Lexicon, Samuel P. Tregelles
7. The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament, Warren Baker

Greek Word Studies

1. Berry's Greek-English NT Lexicon with Synonyms, George R. Berry
2. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the NT, J. H. Thayer
3. The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament, Spiros Zodiatas

Both Hebrew and Greek Word Studies

1. Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, W.E. Vine
2. Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, Stephen D. Renn
3. The Complete Word Study OT/NT Series, Spiros Zodiatas
4. The New Strong's Guide to Bible Words, James Strong (this is the same dictionaries found in the back of Strong's Concordance, removed and bound as a separate book)

** Several of these books are now on the Internet and can be read online without purchasing the book.

