

## Biblical Studies Tools

What follows includes works that deal with the original languages of the Bible. To fully utilize them one needs a facility with Greek and Hebrew. There are works that are partially in Greek-Hebrew and English and there are works that are entirely in English. If you need to get into the original languages but do not have a working knowledge of those languages yourself, get with a friend who does or come to the reference desk and we will help you.

### WARNING!

Any of these works that you don't have in your personal library would make a wonderful gift for yourself or your spouse! As such, this could be a financially dangerous list! Use with extreme caution.

### Lexicons

A lexicon is a dictionary. Most people use the word lexicon to refer to a dictionary of words of a foreign language (from your own). For the most part, the term refers to dictionaries of Greek and Hebrew/Aramaic words. This genre also includes detailed word studies. An ability with Hebrew and Greek is real handy but, depending on whether you have any skilled friends or have been nice to the reference department in The Library, you can get around this. If nothing else, devote a weekend getting to know the Hebrew and Greek alphabets and you will be set. You already know all but six letters of the Greek alphabet! If you don't have a weekend free, learn to butter up your friends or bring some chocolate to the reference desk at The Library. We do anything for chocolate. Milk chocolate. With nuts. Brownies will work too.

### Hebrew Lexicons

Brown, Francis, and S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996. ISBN 1-56563-206-0. PJ 4833.G4 1996. Commonly known as Brown, Driver, Briggs or BDB, this is the standard Hebrew lexicon. Originally published in 1907, it is a fine example of what kind of scholarship you can do when there are no modern distractions, i.e. t.v. Because it comes before some very important archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is somewhat dated, even though it remains the standard (and affordable) lexicon for Hebrew and Aramaic.

Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver and Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. ISBN 0-8024-4082-7. PA 4833.B683.E35. This is a handy tool. It goes through the OT and lists the important words and references their place in BDB. Its weakness is that it lists names (something fairly easy to recognize and that does not need a definition) while at times omitting important and hard to locate words.

Koehler, Ludwig and Walter Baumgartner, eds. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 4 vols. New York: E. J. Brill, 1994. ISBN 90-04-09700-7 (set). PJ 4833.K63 1994. This is a more recent work (and recently revised) than BDB. As such, it utilizes the archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and does give the words a more thorough treatment.

Clines, David J. A. ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 4 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993. ISBN 1-85075-244-3. PJ 4833.D53 1993. This work claims to encompass classical Hebrew, more than just Biblical Hebrew. It includes Hebrew up to the time of the Mishnah (~200 A.D.).

Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Mark Biddle, trans. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1997. ISBN 1-56563-133-1. BS 440.T4813 1997. This is a translation of an earlier German work (*Theologisches Handwörterbuch zum Alten Testament*). It claims to “offer a reliable aid for the academic study of the OT [and] also for the church’s teaching and preaching.”

Harris, R. Laird and Gleason L. Archer, Jr. and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980. ISBN 0-8024-8631-2. BS 440.T49. This is a popular and handy work. It is succinct which facilitates its ease and speed of use. It is not as exhaustive as some of the other works so a search that requires more depth and detail must be done in other places. Quick and easy lookups are the hallmark of this work.

VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997. ISBN 0-310-48170-8. BS 440.N438 1997. This is a fairly new work that has some interesting features. It has an essay in vol. 1 that is an introduction to hermeneutics and interpretation. The words that it handles are organized in semantic domains. It has a topical section that deals with names, concepts, and theology.

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 10 vols. (projected). John T. Willis, trans. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977. ISBN 0-8028-2325-4. PJ 4835.G3 BG13. This is a standard work for detailed word studies. It covers most of the important words in the Hebrew Bible and treats their origin, usage, and translation. It is extremely detailed and thorough. For serious students of the Hebrew Language of the Bible, this is a must have.

## Greek Lexicons

Bauer, Walter and William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, eds. *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1979. ISBN 0-226-03932-3. PA 881.B38 1979. This is the standard Greek NT lexicon. It is commonly referred to as Bauer, Arndt and Gingrich or BAG.

Alsop, John R., ed. *An Index to the Revised Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich Greek Lexicon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981. ISBN 0-310-44031-9. PA 881.A72A45 1981. This is a handy tool. It goes through the NT and lists the important words and references their place in BAG.

Johannes P. Louw and Eugene A. Nida, eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988. ISBN 0-8267-0340-2 (set). PA 882.G68 1989. This lexicon is based primarily on semantic domains (words that have the same meaning in context). This is an excellent resource for determining the meaning of a word in its context and amongst its semantic siblings; words with a similar meaning in a given context.

Liddell, Henry George and Robert Scott, comps. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1985. ISBN 0-19-864214-8. PA 445.E5 L6 1996. This is THE Lexicon for the ancient Greek Language. While BAG covers the NT and some early church writings, LS covers all of Greek Literature, including the NT and the LXX. It is an indispensable tool for tracing the use of Greek words.

Liddell, Henry George and Robert Scott, comps. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1985. ISBN 0-19-864214-8. PA 445.E5 L6 1996. This is THE Lexicon for the ancient Greek Language. While BAG covers the NT and some early church writings, LS covers all of Greek Literature, including the NT and the LXX. It is an indispensable tool for tracing the use of Greek words.

Kittel, Gerhard, ed. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, trans. and ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964. ISBN 0-8028-2323-8. PA 881.K513. This is a standard work for detailed word studies. It covers most of the important words in the Greek Bible and treats their origin, usage, and translation. It handles the use of Greek words to translate the Hebrew words of the Hebrew Bible. It is extremely detailed and thorough. For serious students of the Greek Language of the Bible, this is a must have. Though it has come under criticism for its linguistic presuppositions and methodologies, no-one has come up with a replacement for it.

## Concordances

A concordance is a book that lists the use of each and every word in the Bible. This is especially handy for determining word meaning and usage, especially within a particular writer's corpus.

There is a concordance for each translation of the Bible. Most of them include a Hebrew/Aramaic and Greek word list at the back that is keyed to Strong's numbering system, a means of identifying specific Greek and Hebrew/Aramaic words. This allows you to determine what Hebrew/Aramaic or Greek word is used in your verse or passage. Most also give the words both in the original characters and transliterated.

### Hebrew/Aramaic Concordances

Even-Shoshan, Abraham, ed. *A New Concordance of the Bible: Thesaurus of the Language of the Bible, Hebrew and Aramaic Roots, Words, Proper Names, Phrases and Synonyms*. Je-

rusalem: "Kiryat Sepher" Publishing House Ltd., 1990. ISBN 965-17-0192-7. BS 1121.E93 1990. This work is for serious students of Hebrew. An early edition of it had the names of the books of the Hebrew Bible and the chapter and verse references in Hebrew. It lists the word and then gives the verses in which that word is found, in Hebrew. This is extremely valuable for syntactical investigations.

Lisowsky, Gerhard. *Koncordanz zum Hebräischen Alten Testament: nach dem von Paul Kahle in der Biblia Hebraica edidit R. Kittle besorgten Masoretischen Text*. Stuttgart: Privileg, Württ, Bibelanstalt, 1958. BS 1121.L55. This is an amazing work. It was originally hand written! It is like Even-Shoshan in that it is almost entirely in Hebrew (with German definitions).

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980. ISBN 0-8054-1387-1. BS 1121.W5 1980. This is an extremely handy work. It has the Hebrew/Aramaic (Chaldean) words but the verses are given in English.

Kohlenberger III, John R., James A. Swanson. *The Hebrew-English Concordance to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Company, 1998. ISBN 0-310-20839-4. This is just like the above work but newer and based on the NIV.

#### Greek Concordances

Hatch, Edwin and Henry A. Redpath. *A Concordance to The Septuagint and the other Greek Versions of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Graz, Austria: Akademische Druck-U. Verlagsanstalt, 1954. BS 1121.H3 1954. This work is a Greek concordance of the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament that dates as far back as 250 B.C. It is very useful when trying to determine how a Greek word in the New Testament was used to translate an Old Testament Hebrew word. This is an extremely valuable tool.

Takamitsu, Muraoka. *Hebrew/Aramaic Index to the Septuagint: keyed to the Hatch-Redpath Concordance*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0-8010-2145-6. BS 1121.H32M87 1998. This is a recent publication and a very welcome one. To do a solid comparison of Greek and Hebrew words and their relationship, this is a must have addition to Hatch & Redpath. Where H & R tell what Hebrew words a Greek word was translated from, Takamitsu tells you what Greek word(s) was used to translate a Hebrew word.

Moulton, W. F. and A. S. Geden, eds. *A Concordance to the Greek Testament according to the texts of Westcott and Hort, Tischendorf and the English Revisers*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1963. BS 2302.M8 1963. This is a classic work and stays entirely in the Greek language. As with Even-Shoshan, it lists the word and then gives the verses in which that word is found, in Greek. This is extremely valuable for syntactical investigations.

*Concordance to the Novum Testamentum Graece of Nestle-Aland, 26<sup>th</sup> edition, and to the Greek New Testament, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. ISBN 0-89925-438-1. BS 2302.K66 1987. This is a computer generated work that is similar to Moulton-Geden.

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979. ISBN 0-8054-1388-X. BS 2302.W52 1980. Wigram did it again. This is an extremely handy work. It has the Greek words but the verses are given in English.

Goodrick, Edward W., Mr. John R. Kohlenberger III, James A. Swanson. *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Company, 1997. ISBN 0-310-40220-4. This is just like the above work but newer and based on the NIV.

#### English Language Concordances

Thomas, Robert L. *New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Nashville: Holman, 1977. ISBN 0-87981-197-8. BS 425.N385.

Strong, James. *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995. ISBN 0-8407-2072-6. BS 425.S8 1995.

Goodrick, Edward W. &, eds. *The NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990. ISBN 0-310-43690-7. BS 425.G62 1990.

Kohlenberger, John III. *The New Revised Standard Version Concordance, unabridged*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990. ISBN 0-310-53910-2. BS 425K645 1991.

*Exhaustive Concordance: New King James Version*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992. ISBN 0-8407-4261-4. BS 425.N55 1992.

#### General Dictionaries, Word Studies and Encyclopedias

Tenney, Merrill C., ed. *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1967. BS 440.Z6.

Achtemeier, Paul J., ed. *The Harper Collins Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, 1996. ISBN 0-06-060037-3. BS 440.H235 1996.

Myers, Allen C., ed. *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987. ISBN 0-8028-2402-1. BS 440.G7613 1987.

Hastings, James, ed. *A Dictionary of the Bible: dealing with its Language, Literature, and Contents, including the Biblical Theology*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988. ISBN 0-943575-07-9. BS 440.H5 1988. This is a reprint of an 1898 work. It gives a good idea of what the theological thinking and understanding was at the turn of the century.

Elwell, Walter, ed. *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988. ISBN 0-8010-3447-7 (set). BS 440.B26 1988.

Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992. ISBN 0-385-19351-3 (vol. 1). BS 440.A54 1992. A very good, scholastic work. It tends to hold to more critical theories.

Tenney, Merrill, ed. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977. BS 440.Z63. A very good, scholastic work. It tends to be more traditional.