

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

If I were stranded on an island and could only have a library of two books, the first choice would be the Bible. But what would be my second choice? Without hesitation it would be “Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible” by James Strong. This Bible reference book is the road-map to the Word that every serious reader of the Bible should have access to.

The Concordance lists alphabetically every word that is in the Bible (King James Version- KJV). Under each of these words is a list of all of the phrases where the word is used, along with the chapter & verse where it can be found. Following this is a number. The number is the number of that word in the Hebrew or Greek dictionaries from which this word was translated. If the word is from the Old Testament, then the original word would be found in the Hebrew dictionary. If the word is from the New Testament, then the original word would be found in the Greek dictionary.

And fortunately these dictionaries are included in the back of the Concordance. Each dictionary assigns a number to each word in those languages, and has them arranged numerically. This arrangement makes it quick & easy to find the Hebrew or Greek word without having to know Hebrew or Greek. Where there is no number it is because the translators supplied the word for how they thought the meaning should be clarified.

For example, we've learned from the Lessons that the word “Lucifer” is not a proper noun, but rather a mistranslation by Jerome, (for the Catholic Church when he wrote the Latin Vulgate for them). Is that so? So we look up “Lucifer” and find that it occurs only once. The word “Lucifer” is in the King James Version in **Isaiah 14:12**. The Concordance shows how to pronounce the Hebrew word as “hay-cal”, and explains that it is the title of the King of Babylon. The number of this word is number 1966.

So we turn to the Hebrew dictionary in the back of the Concordance and find the Hebrew word numbered 1966. The definition in the Hebrew is “the morning star”. There is an added note that it comes from a primary root Hebrew word (number 1984), in the sense of brightness. Clearly in the Hebrew this is a description and not a proper name.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible also contains other extensive references. These include a “Harmony of the Gospels”, “Jewish Calendar”, “Chronology of the Old Testament”, “Messianic Prophecies”, and much more.

James Strong and over 100 colleagues worked 35 years to birth this book. It was first published in 1890. The publishing of this book was a major advancement in the Light of the Word coming upon the earth. It is no wonder that this book is still a commonly sought after key Biblical reference work.

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Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis
PO Box 400
Easton, ME 04740
ericandmaryellis@gmail.com
www.bibleconcepts.com