

## LIBRARY SUBJECT GUIDE:

## HOW TO DO A HEBREW WORD STUDY

1. **Define** the word in its original language. Use a Hebrew lexicon.

Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, Brown, Driver, Briggs (BDB)  
REF 221.4403 H446. If you do not read Hebrew, look up the Scripture reference in Index to Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon, REF 221.4403 H446 1976 Index.

The New Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon (New BDB)  
REF 221.4403 B877n 1979. If you do not read Hebrew, get the number assigned to the English word using Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, REF 220.2 S924e 1890. This resource is coded to Strong's numbering system.

Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament  
Ref 221.4403 G389 1980. If you do not read Hebrew, get the number assigned to the English word using Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, REF 220.2 S924e 1890. This resource is coded to Strong's numbering system.

2. **Identify** the word in its original context. Use an exhaustive Hebrew concordance to locate any other passages in which the same Biblical writer uses the Hebrew word. Look for context, frequency, and use of the word. Use The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance, REF 221.4402 1984 or The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament, REF 221.4402 W662e 1970. If you do not read Hebrew, get the number assigned to the English word in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, REF 220.2 S924e 1890. This resource is coded to Strong's numbering system.

Use various Bible version concordances for contemporary context, frequency, and use:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (KJV), REF 220.2 S924e,  
NRSV Exhaustive Concordance, REF 220.2 N532 1991  
Nelson's Complete Concordance (RSV), REF 220.2 E47n  
New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, REF 220.2 E96n 1981

3. **Parse** the word using a parsing guide for a grammatical analysis of the word. Use Analytical Key to the Old Testament, REF 221.4403 O97a 1989 v.1-4. See also Old Testament Parsing Guide, REF 221.4403 O44 2000.
4. **Use** Bible dictionaries, wordbooks, journal articles, theological dictionaries, and authoritative websites to confirm your investigation.

- **BIBLE DICTIONARIES:**

Anchor Bible Dictionary REF 220.3 A539 1992 v.1-6  
Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible REF 220.3 I615 v.1-5  
International Standard Bible Encyclopedia REF 220.3 I61 1979 v.1-4  
Dictionary of Old Testament words for English readers REF 221.4403 P594 1977  
Nelson's Expository Dictionary of the Old Testament REF 221.3 N432 1980

• **WORDBOOKS:**

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (TWOT)

REF 221.4403 T391 1980 v.1-2. If you do not read Hebrew, get the number assigned to the English word using Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, REF 220.2 S924e 1890. Look up the number in the back of vol. 2 and find the corresponding (TWOT) number. You may also want to use Wilson's Old Testament word studies, REF 221.447 W754w.

• **THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES:**

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament, Botterweck and Ringgren

REF 221.3 B751t v.1-8. An incomplete translation of Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament (TWAT). An index of transliterated Hebrew words in English alphabetical order is listed in the front of each volume.

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (TDNT), Kittel

REF 225.3 K62t v.1-10. A complete translation of Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament (TWNT). Volume 10 includes an English, Greek, and Scripture index.

New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology

REF 230.03 B877n 1975. Arranged alphabetically by the ENGLISH word. Look at volume 3 for an index of transliterated Hebrew words and an index of English words. Main articles are indicated by heavy type. A Scripture index, REF 230.03 B877s 1985, is also available.

• **PERIODICAL ARTICLES:**

ATLA Religion Database with ATLAS (use EbscoHost)

Use for journal articles, and chapters in multi-authored books. Use the subject heading HEBREW LANGUAGE- TERMS- and the transliterated Hebrew word.

• **COMMENTARIES:**

Commentaries can be wonderful aids to study, and can help confirm your findings. But the joy of discovery is enhanced when you derive a word's definition/use yourself rather than relying solely on someone else's opinion.

• **WEB RESOURCES:**

The steps in doing a word study are basically the same whether you are using books or your own computer. Online resources, however, have made the task so much easier. [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com) , [www.netbible.com](http://www.netbible.com) , and [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) are a few of the many resources available to you.