

What is the Strong's Concordance and How to Use It

Introduction

The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is a very useful tool for studying the scriptures. You can find the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance in most any Bible bookstore or online. *This downloadable version you are using from the Gospel Billboard website is setup differently than the actual hard copy of the book, however the results are the same. It also has the entire King James Version Bible and the King James Version with Strong's numbers. Be sure to read the "Legend" document for more instructions on how you can conduct a bible word and phrase search.* It takes every single word of the King James Version and lists where each word can be found in the scriptures. It is useful for locating scripture verses that you know the words to, but don't know the book, chapter and verse. For example, let's say that you know of a verse that says our hairs are numbered. You could look up the word "numbered" in a Strong's Concordance and it would give you a listing of all the verses that contain the word "numbered." You would then find Matthew 10:30, where Jesus said that "the very hairs of your head are all *numbered*."

General information about the Strong's Concordance



James Strong (1822–1894)

Strong's Concordance was written by Dr. James Strong, a professor of Exegetical Theology from Drew Theological Seminary in the late nineteenth century. It took him more than 35 years to prepare his concordance. A concordance is a practical tool for studying Scripture because 1) It helps the student locate any verse in Scripture, of the King James Version, if the student can remember only one or more words from that verse. 2) It helps the student understand the Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic meaning behind any word in Scripture. 3) For the concordance, Strong numbered every Hebrew or Greek root word which was found, for ease of reference. This numbering system consists of 8674 Hebrew roots and 5523 Greek roots.

Demonstration

Depending on the particular publisher of the Strong's Concordance you purchase each is setup with certain features that another Strong's Concordance may not include. One such feature is how many times a particular word appears in the King James Bible. Some have just the word with no number while others indicate how many times a word appears in the King James Bible. Here is an example:

REJOICE

REJOICE (192)

To demonstrate this study process let us research the word "rejoice" as found in the King James Version. To begin we look up the word "rejoice" in the concordance. Below is an example of what you will see in the concordance (the verses listed below are only a portion of what is actually found in the concordance). The **left column** is a portion of the verse containing the word "rejoice" (identified as "r "). **The middle column** is the verse location and **the right column** identifies the Strong's number assigned to the Hebrew word in this instance translated as "rejoice" in that verse.

REJOICE

ye shall <i>r</i> before the LORD your	Lev 23:40	8055
ye shall <i>r</i> in all that ye put	Deut 12:7	8055
so the LORD will <i>r</i> over you to	Deut 26:83	7797
will again <i>r</i> over thee for good	Deut 30:9	7797
<i>r</i> , O ye nations, with his people	Deut 32:43	7442
with fear, and <i>r</i> with trembling	Ps 2:11	1523
I will <i>r</i> in thy salvation	Ps 9:14	1523
We will <i>r</i> in thy salvation, and in	Ps 20:5	7442
Be glad in the LORD, and <i>r</i>	Ps 32:11	1524
Let mount Zion <i>r</i> , let the	Ps 48:11	8055
yea, let them exceedingly <i>r</i>	Ps 68:3	7797
Let the heavens <i>r</i> , and let the	Ps 96:11	8056
I will <i>r</i> , I will divide Shechem	Ps 108:7	5937
<i>r</i> in Rezin and Remaliah's son	Is 8:6	4885
even them that <i>r</i> in my highness	Is 13:3	5947
as thou didst <i>r</i> at the	Eze 35:15	8057

The first thing we notice in this study is that the King James Version uses the word "rejoice" which is capitalized (It may or may not have the number of times it appears in the KJV). If it does it will most likely be directly to the right of the word ("rejoice") but, it is an English word used to translate several different Hebrew words. In your notebook you will record each of the Strong's numbers. The next step is to look up each of these numbers in the dictionary in the back of the concordance. Below is what you will find in the concordance for each of these numbers. When we look up the number "1523" we find that the Hebrew word is "guwl" and means to "spin round" (concrete) and is translated in the King James Version as "rejoice", "glad", "joyful", "joy" and "delight" (abstracts). The concrete meaning of the word is what we are looking for as this would be the more ancient Hebraic meaning of the word and gives a better understanding of what this word implies.

Very Important Note

The Strong's or Young's concordances are the two most popular reference guides to use that will help you with your bible study. However as you use either of the concordances, remember to never allow it to interpret verses in the bible. The bible never needs an outside source to make it more understandable. The bible is its own knowledge base because it is the Word of God, its own reference in order to compare scripture with scripture and its own dictionary that gives the spiritual meaning of its language.