

BOOKS FOR STUDY IN THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

The Way International Bookstore carries three titles which are especially valuable for the study of the Hebrew Old Testament: *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies*, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, and *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*. Used together, these books provide definitions for Hebrew words, the resources needed to do a word study, and valuable links to other Hebrew reference books.

NEW WILSON'S OLD TESTAMENT WORD STUDIES

The *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* is a reference work written to illustrate the precise meaning of Hebrew words. The culmination of years of word studies done in the Hebrew language, this book is set apart from a regular Hebrew lexicon by the definitions being arranged under the English words used to translate them in the King James Version. So, the definitions are presented in a way that makes them easily accessible to the Biblical student who does not know the Hebrew language. Additionally, the book has been coded with Strong's numbering system, which allows a student to easily utilize other research works, such as the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*, and *The Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, that are coded or indexed with Strong's numbering system.

The main portion of the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* is an alphabetic list of most of the English words from the King James Version of the Old Testament. Under each of these words is the Hebrew word (or words) which the English word was translated from. Each Hebrew word has a definition beside it as well as the Strong's number for the word and a corresponding number for this word where more extensive information can be found in the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Following the Hebrew words is a list of scripture references where the Hebrew word (or words) can be found. (These references are coded to show which Hebrew word, if there are more than one referenced in the list, is referred to in the verse.)

Be certain to read the introductory material in the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies*. "How to Use *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies*" provides a detailed explanation of how to utilize the book. The "Introduction to Hebrew for English Readers" is a concise overview of Hebrew grammar written for the student who does not have any background in Hebrew.

In Isaiah 33:6 we read about God's wisdom and knowledge being "the stability of thy times." To find what the word "stability" means you can read the definition in the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* on page 414. Find the word "stability." There are four Hebrew words listed under the words "stable, stablish, stability." After each Hebrew word there is a definition. You can see the different shades of meaning for each form of the word. There is at least one scripture reference at the end of each definition. Isaiah 33:6 is at the end of the first definition, which is "firmness, stability; security; faithfulness."

To the left of the Hebrew word are two numbers. The first (in the column labeled "T") is the corresponding number for the Hebrew word in the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. In this case it is number 116e. The next number (in the column labeled "S") is Strong's number for the word, which is 530. Using Strong's number, you can find information about this word in other research books that are keyed to Strong's numbering system. For example, you could use Strong's number to

look this word up in *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament* and find a list of every place it occurs in the Old Testament.

Enjoy using the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* to augment your understanding of God's Word.

THEOLOGICAL WORDBOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* is a wonderful tool for Old Testament study. It is a Hebrew lexicon that has essay definitions that were written by committed Biblical scholars with love and reverence for God. It lists and defines related words together with the root from which they were derived. Many of the definitions include enlightening background, history, and symbolism, which are very helpful in Biblical study. It lists all major words in the Old Testament, arranged in order according to the consonants of the Hebrew alphabet. If you do not know Hebrew, you can still use this tool. It is keyed to a numbering system, so you do not have to know Hebrew to find the word you are looking for. There is an index in the back that is keyed to Strong's numbering system as well. All the Hebrew words are transliterated into English. This book is an invaluable addition to your Biblical research library. It will enrich and enhance your understanding of the Word as well as prove helpful in preparation for teaching.

Let's look further into the word "stability" used in Isaiah 33:6. Utilizing the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies*, we see the word "stability" listed on page 414. The column labeled "T" stands for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. The column labeled "S" stands for the number in Strong's concordance. The *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* shows the number 116e in the column labeled "T."

Now go to the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Turn to page 51, where the number 116e appears. Under the main number 116, there is a list of derivatives numbered 116a through 116l. We are looking for number 116e. Next to the number 116e is the Hebrew word followed by its transliteration into English, 'ĕmûnâ. Then three English words defining the Hebrew word are listed: firmness, fidelity, steadiness.

On pages 51 and 52 there are several paragraphs of information discussing and defining the main word, number 116, and its derivatives, including 116e. Here are a few excerpts:

The basic root idea is firmness or certainty....it expresses the basic concept of support and is used in the sense of the strong arms of the parent supporting the helpless infant.

"To cause to be certain, sure" or "to be certain about," "to be assured."

In its first occurrence in Scripture it expresses the sense of steady, firm hands....Basically, the term applies to God himself...to express his total dependability.

These excerpts were taken from an essay definition that is almost two pages long. There is much valuable insight here to help the Biblical student grow in understanding as a workman of the Word.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S HEBREW CONCORDANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament is a companion volume to *The Word Study Concordance* (which is for the New Testament). It allows a student who has no knowledge of the Hebrew language to study the Hebrew words from which the Old Testament was translated by utilizing Strong's numbering system. By using a numbering system rather than requiring the student to learn the Hebrew alphabet, the information in the concordance is easily accessible to most any student. By using this book, a student can study the range of occurrences of a particular Hebrew word in the Scripture and determine its Biblical usage or usages.

The greater part of the book is the main concordance, which is an alphabetic listing (by the Hebrew alphabet) of all the Hebrew words in the Old Testament. Each word is followed by a list of the verses where the word is used. The list of verses has a portion of the verse where the word appears, with the English word or words that translate the Hebrew word printed in italics. Most of the words are listed in numeric order by Strong's numbers, but there are exceptions, which are listed in the "Index of Out-of-Sequence Strong's Numbers" (page 1687).

In *God's Magnified Word*, chapter 10, there is an explanation of the usage of the word "church" in the Word of God. The word for "church" in Hebrew is *qahal*.¹ This chapter states that the first usage of *qahal* is in Genesis 28:3.

Genesis 28:3:

And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude [*qahal*] of people.

To study this word utilizing *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*, we first need to obtain Strong's number for the word *qahal*. There are many reference books that are coded with Strong's numbers. One way to find the Strong's number is by looking up "multitude" in the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies*, which is found on page 283. In the column labeled "S," you find that the Strong's number for this word in Genesis 28:3 is 6951.

Finding 6951 in *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* is simple. Strong's number for each Hebrew word is located on the outside margin beside the word it represents. Most of the words are listed in numeric order by Strong's numbers, and the exceptions are listed in the "Index of Out-of-Sequence Strong's Numbers." Number 6951 is in the regular numerical order and can be found on pages 1094 and 1095. Here the word *qahal* is transliterated *kāh-hāhl'*. Under this word is a list of every scripture where this word occurs. For each occurrence there is a scripture reference. Where the Hebrew and English Bibles differ as to verse and chapter, the Hebrew reference is placed after the English in parentheses. For example, you will notice that Deuteronomy 5:22 in the English Bible is Deuteronomy 5:19 in the Hebrew Bible. When the same verse is referred to twice, the second reference is indicated by a dash. Following the verse reference is a brief excerpt from the verse. In the excerpt the English words used to translate *qahal* are in italics. (Any words that appear in italics in the King James Version are set in parentheses.) Using this list of occurrences, you can move directly to doing a word study.

¹Reference books vary on how they spell Greek or Hebrew words with letters from the English alphabet (which is referred to as transliteration). For example, *qahal* is sometimes spelled *cahal*. This is because the standard for how this should be done has varied over the years.

The word studied above, *qahal*, is a noun. When the word you are studying is a verb, *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* arranges the list of occurrences according to the form of the verb. An example of this is on page 1094 where the verb form of *qahal*, Strong's number 6950, is listed. Read the "Introduction to Hebrew for English Readers" in the *New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies* for an explanation of what the different verb forms in Hebrew grammar signify.

As you can see, it is much easier to find all of the occurrences of a word using this concordance than it is using a Young's concordance. *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament* can also be used in conjunction with other research books that are keyed to Strong's numbering system.