



Understanding the Bible Series

Using the Strong's Concordance (SC) (part 3)

A few examples:

Example #1 – “Power” (from John 1:12; pg. 887).

Jn. 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

In the SC: Jn 1:12 to them gave he **p** to become the sons G1849

Explanation (paliwanag): The SC assigns a number code (G1849) to the English word “power.” Use the Greek Lexicon at the back of the SC to see the basic word definition of “power” as used in Jn. 1:12. By using the SC one discovers that the Greek word which is translated “power” comes from the Greek word, ἐξουσία (*exousia*) which means authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength (*awtoridad, sakop, kalayaan, karapatan, kakayahan*).

1. The SC demonstrates the original language “root word” in its basic lexical form and not in its grammatical form.

The root word is ἐξουσία (*exousia*), but the way this word is used in the Green New Testament – Textus Receptus (GNT-TR) appears as ἐξουσιαν (*exousian*) indicating that is in the accusative case (direct object). The SC only shows the original language word in it's most basic “root word.”

(Ipinapakita ng SC ang salita sa pinaka “basic” o panimulang forma ng salita at hindi kung paano ginagamit sa pangungusap na makikita sa GNT-TR – sa halimbawa sa itaas: ang salitang “power” ay ἐξουσία (exousia) na ang SC number code ay G1849. At ang pagamit ng salitang ito sa GNT-TR ay ἐξουσιαν (exousian) dahil ang salitang ito ay nagpapakita na ito ay na sa kaso ng accusative (accusatibo o direct object ng verb).

2. A word entry and definition may not reflect the meaning or usage of a word. Context always reveals meaning and significance.
(Ang isang word entry (salita) ay maaaring hindi magbigay ng wastong kahulugan o pagkagamit ng salita. Ang konteksto ay laging nagpapakita ng kahulugan at kahalagahan). (see for example, the word “mystery” G3466 from Col. 1:26). The passage in Col. 1:26 explains the meaning of the word mystery instead of its etymology (*pinagmulan na salita*) or root word.
3. The SC will show that there are other Greek/Hebrew words which are similarly translated as “power.” Usually, they bear a different shade or meaning. In the SC, the word “power” has several word entries in the Greek: G1325; G1410; G1411; G1415; **G1849**; G1850; G2479; G2904; G3168; G746. Our sample word is only one of 10 words.

1) G1325 didomi	to give, grant, bestow, deliver.
2) G1410 dynamai	to be able, possible, can.
3) G1411 dynamis	miraculous power, ability, might.
4) G1415 dynatos	powerful or capable, able, strong.
5) G1849 exousia	privilege, force, capacity, freedom.
6) G1850 exousiazō	to control, to bring under the power.
7) G2479 ischys	forcefulness, ability, might, mightily.
8) G2904 kratos	vigor, dominion, might...
9) G3168 megalieotes	grandeur, glory, splendor, majesty...
10) G746 arche	commencement, chief, magistrate...

Example #2 – “Sons” (from John 1:12; pg. 1087)

Jn. 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the **sons** of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

In the SC: Jn. 1:12 to become the s of God, even to them G5043

1. The word translated “sons” comes from the Greek root word τέκνον (*teknon*) meaning a child (as produced).
2. The word “sons” has two other Greek words accounted for in the SC: G5207; and G5206;
 - 1) G5207 huios child, foal, son.
 - 2) G5206 huiiothesia the placing as a son, adoption.
 - 3) **G5043 teknon a child (as produced).**
3. The English word “sons” infers a child (as produced) but emphasizes the filial relationship between the saved sinner and God, and the privileges of sonship in accordance to the context of Jn. 1:12. The KJV Translators chose to translate *teknon* as “children” in Jn. 8:39 and in several other places.

Conclusion:

1. We are thankful for our Methodist friend, Dr. James Strong (1822 – 1894) and company for their magnificent contribution to the study of God’s Holy Word. But we also do not turn a blind eye towards his (& co.) magnificent errors of correcting the words of God. Ultimately, contributing to the critical American Standard Version (completed in 1901).
2. Strong’s word definitions are not necessarily “final.” There are several other lexicons, and dictionaries, and concordances. But we are thankful that the SC is “exhaustive” and catalogs every word in the King James Bible. In Bible study, context is king!
3. May the Lord raise up many Biblical Baptists (Independent Baptist, Biblicists) who would exceed the contributions of our Catholic and Protestant friends.