

Analyzing Greek Words

A. First, Find the **Vocabulary Meaning** of Greek Words in the New Testament Passage.

This easy technique can be used while learning the Greek alphabet. After learning the alphabet and how to find the lexical form of the word, you can go directly to a Greek lexicon. (See Step 4)

But for now ... here is how to find a word meaning using the Strong's Concordance:

Example — What is the full lexical meaning of the word “wrath” as used in John 3:36?

Step (1) Find the desired word in the Greek interlinear.

It is the sixth from the last word in the verse. (ὀργή)

Step (2) How is it translated in the King James Version?

It is translated “wrath.”

Step (3) Go to Strong's and find the word “wrath.”

A. Next — under “wrath” find John 3:36.

B. Next — note the number given for “wrath” — #3709.

C. Next — Go to the Greek Dictionary in the back of Strong's and find #3709.

Beside this word (ὀργή) is the dictionary meaning of the Greek word translated “wrath.” Strong's suggested meanings are: *desire* (as a *reaching* forth or *excitement* of the mind), i.e. (by anal.) violent *passion*; (by impl.) *punishment*: — anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.

Step (4) For a more detailed definition you can look this word up in a lexicon.

#3709 ὀργή in Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament is given a rather lengthy treatment. The following definitions are included. In Greek writings from Hesiod down *the natural disposition, temper, character; movement or agitation of soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion*, but especially (and chiefly in Attic) *anger*. In biblical Greek *anger, wrath, indignation; anger exhibited in punishing*, hence used of the *punishment* itself. The ὀργή attributed to God in the New Testament is *that in God which stands opposed to man's disobedience, obduracy* (esp. in resisting the gospel) *and sin, and manifest itself in punishing the same*.

B. Next, Do A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek Words.

When doing your own expanded translations it is necessary to do a grammatical analysis of the words in a passage. The following is how to find the grammatical analysis using the Analytical Greek New Testament:

Step (1) Find the desired word in the Greek interlinear. In Mark 1:5 for example, the second word in the verse is ἔξεπορεύετο. (See Lesson Two #15B)

Step (2) Go to your Analytical Greek New Testament and look under the second word in the verse. It is easy to see that it is the same word as the one in the interlinear.

Example:

Mark 1:5

καὶ ἔξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα
CC VIIN--ZS PA NPAMZS A--NF-S
And **went out** to him all

ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται πάντες, καὶ
DNFS A--NF-S N-NF-S CC DNMP N-NM-P A--NM-P CC
the of Judea country and they of Jerusalem all, and

ἐβαπτίζοντο ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ
VIIP--ZP PG NPGMZS PD DDMS N-DM-S N-DM-S
were baptized by him in the Jordan River

ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν.
VPPMNM-P DAFF N-AF=P NPFMZP
confessing the sins of themselves.

Note that beneath the word is written (VIIN--ZS)

Step (3) Use the chart in the book (reprinted below) to determine the grammatical analysis of ἔξεπορεύετο (VIIN--ZS):

V — Verb
I — Indicative mood
I — Imperfect tense
N — Middle or passive deponent voice
- — n/a
- — n/a
Z — Third person
S — Singular number

This tells us it is a verb in the indicative mood, imperfect tense, middle deponent voice, third person, singular in number.

C. Finally, Write an Expanded Translation of the Passage.

Using the information obtained in Steps A and B above, write an expanded translation of the passage of scripture you are analyzing.

In our example above the passage could be translated as:

Mark 1:5 “And sometime in the past the people of the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem routinely and perpetually flowed out regularly and were continuously baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, confessing their own sins.”

It gives an image of great crowds moving and the regular routine of John the Baptist.

Mark 1:5 — “And there **went out** unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all **baptized** by him,”

The above text is taken from New Testament Greek Series I, Dr. Charles Goodwin & W. David McBrayer, The Original Word, as published on CD by Logos, Inc.