Scripture and Interpretation

Using Bible Reference Resources
Concordances

What is a concordance?

- Index to a book
- Arranged alphabetically
- Shows location of each word in the book (in our case, the Bible)
- Provides context in which word is found

Exhaustive Concordance -- contains every reference to every word in the Bible
How to Use a Concordance

Search for the WORD to find where and how it is used. -- Example: the word “Praise”
Figure out what the numbers mean

**BIBLICAL REFERENCE**
See the abbreviations table below.

**INDEXED WORD**
Abbreviated by its first letter, usually in bold type.

**ITALIC TYPEFACE**
Indicates words that “assist in translation” (see the introduction, page xiii).

**BOLD TYPEFACE**
In addition to the indexed word, indicates multiple-word translation (intro., p. xiii).

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**G/K NUMBER**
Refers to the biblical-language index-lexicons; one- to four-digit “roman” type is Hebrew; five-digit is Aramaic; *italic* is Greek (see the introduction, pages xii, xv, xvi). For the explanation of a superscript “S” after a G/K number (for example, 3523\(^5\)), see the introduction, pages xiii, xiv.

**ADDITIONAL G/K NUMBER(S)**
Indicates more than one Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word is represented by the NIV translation (introduction, page xiii).
Find the correct dictionary - Hebrew or Greek

2146 הָלָלָהּ, v. [146] [→ 2136, 2148, 2149, 4545, 9335; also used with compound proper names]. [P] to praise; give thanks; cheer, extol; [Pu] to be praised, be worthy of praise, be of renown; [Ht] to make one’s boast in (the name of God); “Hallelujah” is a compound of the second person plural imperative and the personal name of God: hallelu-yah, praise Yah(weh); see 2149:— praise (89), boast (11), praised (7), worthy of praise (6), boasts (4), glory (4), give praise (3), praises (3), be praised (2), praising (2), bring praise (1), cheering (1), extol (1), exult (1), gave (2), thank (1), giving praise (1), had wedding songs (1), is praised (1), make boast (1), renown (1), sang (1), sang praises (1), sing praise (1), sing praises (1), that purposes (1)

2147 הָלָלָה, v. [16] [→ 2099, 2100]. [Q] to be arrogant; [Po] to make a fool of, to mock, rail against; [Poal] to be foolish; [Ht] to act like a madman; act furiously:—
Understanding the dictionary entry

**FEATURES OF THE MAIN CONCORDANCE**

- **NIV WORD HEADING**: The indexed word as spelled in the NIV (see the introduction, pages x, xi).
- **FREQUENCY COUNT**: Total number of occurrences in the NIV (see the introduction, page x).
- **RELATED WORD LIST**: Other spellings and related words in the NIV (see the introduction, page x).

**ABLE** (133) [ABILITY, ABLE-BODIED, DISABLED, ENABLE, ENABLED, ENABLES, ENABLING]

*Ge 13: 6 that they were not able to stay together.*

3523

**G/K NUMBER**: Refers to the biblical-language index-lexicons; one- to four-digit "tags."
More than one “meaning” or usage

9306  רָצִּים tā’ar², v.den. [2] [→ 9307; cf. 9305]. [P] to mark out a form, make an outline:— makes an outline (1), marks (1)

9307  רְצֵי tō’ar, n.m. [15] [√ 9306]. form, shape; beauty, fine-looking person:— form (4), beautiful (2 [+3637]), bearing (1), beauty (1), fine-looking (1), handsome (1 [+3202]), look like (1), sleek (1 [+3637]), they (1 [+4392]), ugly (1 [+8273]), well-built (1 [+3637])

9334  רַע tohôlā, n.f. [1]. error:— error (1)

9335  רָע tohôlā, n.f. [57] [√ 2146]. praise, renown, glory; praise is proclaiming the excellence of a person or object:— praise (46), praised (2), praises (2), boast (1), glory (1), hymn of praise (1), praiseworthy deeds (1), psalm of praise (1), renown (1), theme of praise (1)

9336  רַע tahôlûkā, n.f. Not in NIV [√ 2143]. procession
Word Study Dictionary

Useful tool for non-Hebrew and non-Greek students

Provides:

1. Parts of speech
2. Original language
3. Transliteration
4. Development of the word in different contexts
TO PRAISE

A. Verb.

ḥâlal (ḥâlal), "to praise, celebrate, glory, sing (praise), boast." The meaning "to praise" is actually the meaning of the intensive form of the Hebrew verb ḥâlal, which in its simple active form means "to boast." In this latter sense ḥâlal is found in its cognate forms in ancient Akkadian, of which Babylonian and Assyrian are dialects. The word is found in Ugaritic in the sense of "shouting," and perhaps "jubilation." Found more than 160 times in the Old Testament, ḥâlal is used for the first time in Gen. 12:15, where it is noted that because of Sarah's great beauty, the princes of Pharaoh "commended" her to Pharaoh.

While ḥâlal is often used simply to indicate "praise" of people, including the king (2 Chron. 23:12) or the beauty of Absalom (2 Sam. 14:25), the word is usually used in reference to the "praise" of God. Indeed, not only all living things but all created things, including the sun and moon, are called upon "to praise" God (Ps. 148:2-5, 13; 150:1). Typically, such "praise" is called for and expressed in the sanctuary, especially in times of special festivals (Isa. 62:9).

The Hebrew name for the Book of Psalms is simply the equivalent for the word "praises" and is a bit more appropriate than "Psalms," which comes from the Greek and has to do with the accompaniment of singing with a stringed instrument of some sort. It is little wonder that the Book of Psalms contains more than half the occurrences of ḥâlal in its various forms. Psalms 113-118 are traditionally referred to as the "Hallel Psalms," because they have to do with praise to God for deliverance from Egyptian bondage under Moses. Because of this, they are an important part of the traditional Passover service. There is no reason to doubt that these were the hymns sung by Jesus and His disciples on Maundy Thursday when He instituted the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:30).

The word ḥâlal is the source of "Hallelujah," a Hebrew expression of "praise" to God which has been taken over into virtually every language of mankind. The Hebrew "Hallelujah" is generally translated "Praise the Lord!" The Hebrew term is more technically translated "Let us praise Yah," the term "Yah" being a shortened form of "Yahweh," the unique Israelite name for God. The term "Yah" is found in the KJV rendering of Ps. 68:4, reflecting the Hebrew text; however, the Jerusalem Bible (JB) translates it with "Yahweh." Most versions follow the traditional translation "Lord," a
Tṡhîlîlāh (תִּהלָל). "glory; praise; song of praise; praiseworthy deeds." Tṡhîlîlāh occurs 57 times and in all periods of biblical Hebrew.

First, this word denotes a quality or attribute of some person or thing, "glory or praiseworthiness": "He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen" (Deut. 10:21). Israel is God's "glory" when she exists in a divinely exalted and blessed state: "And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isa. 62:7; cf. Jer. 13:11).

Second, in some cases tshîlîlāh represents the words or song by which God is publicly hauled, or by which His "glory" is publicly declared: "My praise [the Messiah is speaking here] shall be of thee in the great congregation..." (Ps. 22:25). Ps. 22:22 is even clearer: "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

In a third nuance tshîlîlāh is a technical-musical term for a song (shîr) which exalts or praises God: "David's psalm of praise" (heading for Ps. 145; v. I in the Hebrew). Perhaps Neh. 11:17 refers to a choirmaster or one who conducts such singing of "praises": "And Mattaniah, ... the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer [who at the beginning was the leader of praise at prayer], ..."

Finally, tshîlîlāh may represent deeds which are worthy of "praise," or deeds for which the doer deserves "praise and glory." This meaning is in the word's first biblical appearance: "Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises [in praiseworthy deeds], doing wonders [miracles]?" (Exod. 15:11).

Two other related nouns are mîhâlîl and hîlîlîm. Mîhâlîl occurs once (Prov. 27:21) and denotes the degree of "praise" or its lack. Hîlîlîm, which occurs twice, means "festive jubilation" in the fourth year at harvest time (Lev. 19:24; RSV; Judg. 9:27, NASB).

Tōdāh (תֹּדָה). "thanksgiving." This important noun form, found some 30 words is preserved in modern Hebrew as the regular word for "thanksgiving." The Hebrew text tōdāh is used to indicate "thanksgiving" in the songs of worship (Ps. 146:2; 42:4). Sometimes the word is used to refer to the thanksgiving choir or
Commentaries

Bible commentary is an explanation of text by someone who is a scholar of the scripture. The purpose is to provide background and insights that are not evident by just reading the translated passage. Some commentaries are brief overviews, while other are very detailed.
One Volume Commentaries

One volume commentaries usually provide a brief summary of a chapter or section of each Bible book and then one paragraph explanations of 4-8 verses (maybe even more)
Application or Devotional -- gives the text of a chapter or large section of a chapter; explains the original meaning; gives the context historically; and provides a contemporary application of that portion of scripture
Expository Commentaries

Expository commentaries explain scripture passage by passage. They may give an overview of a passage, provide background information and may also explain how the passage is relevant to daily life. They are great for serious students of the Bible.
Technical or Exegetical Commentaries

Exegetical commentaries exhaustively go through all the details scripture verse by verse using the original languages. They give information about the form and structure and many other details. They are best for those who know the Biblical languages but can provide relevant information for the beginning Bible student.