



Hints on the Study of Hebrew Words by Frank Salt

HINTS ON THE STUDY OF HEBREW WORDS

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A copy of "EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE OF THE BIBLE" by James Strong, commonly referred to as "Strong's Concordance" is very useful to anyone who wants to find the actual Hebrew or Greek word used in any passage of scripture. By so doing one is able to use our mystical values of the Hebrew Alphabet to penetrate the essence of a word rather than the version given in any English translation. It must be remembered that the translators were heavily conditioned by the church and heresy was a serious offence. The translators were fundamentalists and had no idea of the mystical nature of Hebrew, and even orthodox Jew takes a purely superficial view of the text. Strong ties the meaning of any word to the King James Version, even though the spelling or pointing of many words vary in the original for a purpose.

Resist the temptation to use Strong's interpretation, rather use the mystical approach and do your own translation. Strong frequently gives a bewildering range of meanings to oneword simply to make the word mean one of the many translations used in the bible.

Names are particularly interesting, whether names of people or of places. Thus Bethlehem = the house of bread. Galilee = a whirl or circle, "Rashith Ha Gilgalim", the Primordial whirling, but these are capable of much deeper meanings.

One problem is to find the actual root word, always three letters, though one of these may be elided. Other letters are formative to the root, qualifying it. thus VAU at the start of a word is a conjunction YOD-MEM at the end of a word is a plural, LAMED at the start of a word indicates "toward". Fabre d'Olivet gives a list of eleven "Radical" letters which are always part of a root, and eleven "Servile" letters which are usually not part of a root and which are sometimes left out of a word for good reasons.

The Eleven Radicals are:-

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר

unless TETH has been used in place of TAU.

The Eleven Servile Letters are:-

ה ו י ו נ מ ל כ י ו ה ב א

Take the full word and delete any servile letters and usually, not always, you will be left with three radical letters forming the root, ALWAYS A VERB, an activity, Strong usually shows any word as derived from a root, but we use many words which are not scriptural, and the above could be helpful. As usual, it is not the result of your speculations that matter, but the activity that bears fruit, do not be afraid of being wrong, just keep quiet about what seems "right" to you at the moment and you won't need to be defensive about it! As you progress the meaning may alter for you. Eventually you will get more of a feeling than a finite meaning for a word. It will become an activity in you rather than an academic exercise. You must be free to play around with symbolism, not fettered by it. You now have many symbols associated with each letter, make good use of them. See what you can make of the "231 Gates of Wisdom" of the Sepher Yetzirah, the 231 biliteral Roots. In this work you must work "alone and unaided" to benefit. Find your own innate ability to "see" meanings. This is true clairvoyance, "clear seeing" of the inner nature of things.

Eventually you will "see" a word as something inexpressable in words, as a timeless activity involving you, a real Life activity. Note the frequency of the word "activity" on this page. We move from the glamorous robes of academic philosophy into the warm spontaneity of of simple BEING, what greater activity is there? LIFE animates and activates matter, each life-form enriching what it takes from the lesser forms, animal, vegetable and mineral. What is LIFE?

"Matter" comes from the latin "Mater", mother, the Great Mother who provides all the material we need on any plane when stimulated by the Great Father who works in Silence & Whom nought but silence.....

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