

Software Assignment – Word Search

The goal of this assignment is to give you experience using Bible software to look for and begin to analyze specific words as they are used in the Old Testament. The following steps will walk you through the use of Accordance Bible software, though you can use whatever Bible software you have in order to complete this assignment.

A. Setting Up your Bible Software

1. Open your Bible software to a searchable Bible. For Accordance Lite, the *ESV with Strong's* will suffice.
2. If Accordance is being used on a mobile device, long-pressing a word should cause a new window with further details to pop-up.
3. If Accordance is being used on a computer, open the “Instant Details” function by either:
 - a. Clicking on the “Instant Details” button on the top row of the screen. The button will have a lightning bolt as part of its symbol.
 - b. Or click the “Window” dropdown menu from the top of the page. Click *Window* → *Instant Details*.
 - c. With either method, a new window should appear on the side or bottom of your screen. Every time you mouse over a word from a searchable or tagged Bible, further information about the word will appear in the Instant Details window. This information is important for the rest of this assignment.

B. Genesis 2:18, 20

4. Read Genesis 2:15-25 and pay special attention to when the word “helper” (ESV) is used in verses 18 and 20.
5. Find out what the original Hebrew word is that was translated as “helper” in Gen 2:18 or 2:20 in the ESV, (it’s the same Hebrew word each time).
 - a. For Accordance on mobile, long-pressing the word “helper” in Gen 2:18 or 2:20 in the ESV will bring up a window with the English word “helper”, an alpha-numeric code beginning with “H” (Strong’s number), and the Hebrew word in Hebrew. A Hebrew-English dictionary entry will follow, and

somewhere in this dictionary entry will be the Hebrew word written in English letters (i.e., in transliteration).

- b. For Accordance on a computer, hover over the word “helper” in Gen 2:18 or 2:20. In the *Instant Details* box you should see the English word “helper”, an alpha-numeric code beginning with “H” (Strong’s number), the Hebrew word in Hebrew, and the same Hebrew word written in English letters (i.e., in transliteration).
6. Copy/write the transliterated form¹ of the Hebrew word that is translated as “helper” in Gen 2:18, 20, here:

7. Write the Strong’s number² of the Hebrew word that is translated as “helper” in Gen 2:18, 20, here:

C. Where Else Is This Word Used in the OT?

8. The Hebrew word translated as “helper” in Gen 2:18, 20 occurs 21 times as a noun in the Hebrew Bible.³ Search for all occurrences of this word by right-clicking/long-pressing the word “helper” in Gen 2:18 or 2:20, choosing “search for/search”, then choosing “Key Number” (i.e., *Right click/Long press* → *Search for/Search* → *Key Number*).
9. Read all 21 passages and any necessary surrounding passages to determine who is doing the helping, who is being helped, and what the nature of the help is. Use a word or short phrase to fill in the table on the following pages.
- a. Answers may vary based on how you interpret the passages, but any reasonable answer will be accepted.

¹ The *transliterated form* of a Hebrew word in English is the English spelling of the Hebrew word that uses the English letters that make the closest corresponding sound. For example, the Hebrew word לֵב is *translated* in English as “heart,” but is *transliterated* as “lev.”

² The *Strong’s Number* is the alpha-numeric code in the *Instant Details* pane that begins with “H”.

³ Hebrew nouns and verbs frequently use the same consonants and are differentiated only by their vowels. The verbal form of this word, “to help,” occurs some 80x in the Hebrew Bible (OT). This assignment is only concerned with the nominal form of the word, since the noun is what occurs in Genesis 2:18, 20.

- b. The word you are looking for will be translated as “help,” “helper,” or a similar noun in each of these verses. The Hebrew word will have been the same in each case, and this simply reflects the contextual nature of the translation process. Though “help” can be a noun or a verb in English, in these Hebrew examples it is always used as a noun.

- c. Some passages will be unclear as to the nature of the assistance. Whereas Exodus 18:4 specifies that God saved Moses “from the sword of Pharaoh,” Psalm 20:2 only indicates that God may provide some sort of “help” or “support” (20:2) from nondescript “distress” (20:1). In those vague cases, do your best to indicate as much as can be reasonably inferred from the context. The answer might begin with, “Unclear, but...” Answers may vary; any reasonable answer will be accepted.

	Verse	Who is helping?	Who is helped?	What is the help?
1.	Ex 18:4			
2.	Deut 33:7			
3.	Deut 33:26			
4.	Deut 33:29			
5.	Ps 20:2			
6.	Ps 33:20			
7.	Ps 70:5			
8.	Ps 89:19			
9.	Ps 115:9			

10.	Ps 115:10			
11.	Ps 115:11			
12.	Ps 121:1			
13.	Ps 121:2			
14.	Ps 124:8			
15.	Ps 146:5			
16.	Isa 30:5			
17.	Ezek 12:14			
18.	Dan 11:34			
19.	Hos 13:9			
20.	Gen 2:18			
21.	Gen 2:20			

D. Conclusions

10. While a more complete word study would go on to look into Hebrew lexicons (dictionaries), commentaries, journal articles, and other studies that discuss how the word “helper” is used in Genesis 2:18 & 2:20, we have reached the end of our journey for this assignment. Now that you have looked at all the other places in the Old Testament where the Hebrew word for “helper” occurs, use *a minimum* of 150 words of university-level, formal prose to reflect on how this exercise has helped you with your approach to Scripture as a whole. Also discuss what sorts of questions have emerged for you during this process regarding Bible translation. Thirdly, reflect on how you think the Hebrew word for “helper” might be understood in Genesis 2:18, 20.