

Rule #6  
When interpreting the scriptures, investigate the meaning of key words in their original language

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I. Steps in investigation

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I. Steps in investigation  
a) Examine the uses of the same word (original language) in a single discussion

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I. Steps in investigation

- b) Examine the uses of the word (original language) is used in the same letter

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I. Steps in investigation

- c) Examine the uses of the word (original language) by the same author

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I. Steps in investigation

- d) Examine the uses of the word (original language) by other authors to discuss the same/similar ideas

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I. Steps in investigation

- e) Consult lexical sources to determine how the word (original language) is used in uninspired documents from the same time period

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I. Steps in investigation

- f) Consult lexical sources to determine how the word (original language) is used in secular documents from the same time period

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I. Steps in investigation

- g) Pay attention to grammar (particularly important in the Greek language)

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2. Important caveats

- a) Determining the original text (and sometimes determining what the words are) is an evolving art/science dependent on available manuscript evidence

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2. Important caveats

- b) **Lexicons** can be helpful for tracking the meaning, history, and usage of certain words. They are often based upon the original languages of the Bible and require a little knowledge of the language to use. **Concordances** are helpful for finding other places a word has been used in the Bible. According to *The Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, "A concordance is an alphabetical listing of all the principal words of a book, including a reference indicating the place where it occurs and usually some portion of the accompanying phrase."

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<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=how+to+use+lexicons+for+bible+study&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:ac1e9717,vid:ufedUshwKQ8,st:0>

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The importance of a proper understanding of the word(s) in the original language hat is translated "for"

"eis" Acts 2:38 v. "huper" I Corinthians 15:29 v.  
"gar" Matthew 2:13

"in order to" or "because of"

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The importance of a proper understanding of the word in the original language hat is translated "for" in what Peter said in Acts 3:38 (reported by Luke) and Matthew 12:41 (Luke 11:32)

"eis"

"in order to" or "because of"

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