New Testament Word Studies Using Accordance Bible Software

Mark 4:35-41
When you read the New Testament in English, it is important to keep in mind that you are not reading the New Testament. You are reading a *translation* of the New Testament.
Translation is tricky, and thus requires interpretation, because there is not always a word-for-word correlation between languages. This is why it is so important to base your exegetical work on original languages, as much as possible.
Inconceivable? Not if you use Accordance
Accordance Bible software is like a guide who can out-fence a Spaniard, bring a giant to his knees, and even outwit a Sicilian when death is on the line!

It is available on select computers in the library and in McCord and McMillan.
When you open Accordance, you will see text of the default Bible version, the NRSV

Mark 4:35  On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
Use the search bar to enter the Bible passage you want to see, search for particular word, change the version you are searching (for example, to a Greek text), and limit your search to a particular book or range of books (by using the “plus” button and selecting from a drop-down menu).
There is also a toolbar that will allow you to open other texts in the Accordance library, view maps and timelines, and see more information about a given word, person, place, concept, etc. from tools such as lexicons, dictionaries, and a super-fast, built-in concordance.
Because the NRSV is coded with Strong’s numbers (i.e., each word is keyed to a number that corresponds with the Greek or Hebrew word it is translating), you can hover over any word, click the Instant Details button (or, “Harry Potter” lightning scar button) and “instantly” see information about the word.

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So, for example, if you **hover over** the word “awe” while the instant details button is toggled, you will see (in the instant details pane) that the word awe corresponds to the **Strong’s number G5401**, which is the number for the Greek word φοβος, transliterated into English as “phobos;” you will also see information about how the Greek word is used in this sentence (parsing information).
A brief word about Strong’s numbers

• James Strong was a 19th century Bible scholar (he was professor of exegesis at Drew for 25 years)

• He devised a systems of numbers that correspond with Greek and Hebrew roots, and then connected these numbers with the English words in the KJV

• So, while you do not want to use Strong’s Concordance, since you do not want to base your exegesis on the KJV (because newer manuscripts have become available since 1611, like the Dead Sea Scrolls), Strong’s numbering system can still be useful
Sort of like coordinates – they were made for physical maps, but are the basis for GPS.
So, we now know that the word “awe” corresponds to the Strong’s number G5401, which is the number for the Greek word φόβος, transliterated into English as “phobos;”
To see where else this Greek word G5401, φοβος, “phobos” occurs, right-click the word being translated (“awe”) and hover over “search for” and then select “key word”
This brings up a list of all the occurrences of G5401 φοβος, phobos in the New Testament, regardless of how the word G5401 φοβος, phobos is translated in the NRSV (so, for example in Mark 4:41, it is translated “awe”).

Matt. 14:26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.

Matt. 28:4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

Matt. 28:8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
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Some options, like the Table Bar Chart, represent the information visually (so you can see that “fear” is used frequently in 1 Peter and Jude in proportion to the overall word count in these books). Others like the “Analysis” option show you how G5401 φοβος, phobos is translated in the NRSV

**Matt. 14:26** But when the disciple walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried for fear.

**Matt. 28:4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
You can also limit your search to a particular book, or range of books; click the “plus” sign next to the search bar and use the drop-down menu (so here, I have limited the results to “Mark”).
There are two sides to the word-study coin: one English word may be used to translate multiple Greek words, and multiple English words may be used to translate the same Greek word. Again, translation does not always involve a one-to-one, word-to-word correlation.
This is another reason to base exegesis on the Greek, but to do that, you need to know a little bit about how Greek works.
English depends on word order to establish grammatical relationships between words. Thus,

The man ate the fish.

means something different from

The fish ate the man.
Unlike English, Greek does not depend on word order to establish grammatical relationships between words. Rather, slight changes made to the word themselves indicate relationships among words (as you might put a superscript 1 at the end of a word to mark it as the subject and a superscript 2 to mark the object). Thus,

The man\textsuperscript{2} ate the fish\textsuperscript{2}.

\textit{ὁ ἀνθρωπος ἐφαγε τὸν ἢχθυς}

means the same thing as

The fish\textsuperscript{2} ate the man\textsuperscript{1}.

\textit{τὸν ἢχθυς ἐφαγε ὁ ἀνθρωπος}

Completely clear; not at all ambiguous. Like all things Greek ;)}
Even if you do not know Greek, you can use Accordance to get useful information from the Greek text of the New Testament by adding the Greek New Testament (NA28) as a parallel.
Notice that when you have the Greek NT (NA28) open as a parallel, if you hover over a word in the NRSV, the corresponding work in the Greek NT is also highlighted (you can check the instant details below to verify that you have the right word)
This means that you can hover over the Greek word, and use it as the basis of your search. Like an English search, you can **right click** on the word and see options for your search: Lexeme, Inflected, Root, and Tag.
Remember that Greek expresses relationships among words in a sentence by making changes to the words themselves (The man\textsuperscript{1} ate the fish\textsuperscript{2} o\`a;nqrwpoj e;fage to,n ivcqu/j).

- A “Lexeme” search ignores these changes and looks for every form of the selected noun, verb, etc.
- An “Inflected” search will only find identical forms of the word.
- A “Tag” search will find any word that has this same form (case, number, gender; tense, voice, mood, etc.)
The **Lexeme** search is the kind of search you will most likely be using most often. It is essentially like the Key Number search, without the English and numbers getting in the way 😊
You can also limit the range of results to a particular book, or range of books, such as Mark. **Click the “plus” sign** and then select the book(s) you want from the drop-down menu.

Mark 4:41 καὶ ἔφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἄλληλους: τίς άρα οὗτός ἐστιν ὁι καὶ ὁ ἄνεμος καὶ ἡ θάλασσα ὑπακούει αὐτῷ;
If you want to see all forms of a word, verbs, nouns, etc., **right click** on the word and select Search For > **Root**
You can also limit this to Mark.

Mark 4:41 καὶ ἔφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἀλλήλους· τίς ἂρα οὗτός ἐστιν ὅτι καὶ ὁ ἄνεμος καὶ ἡ θάλασσα ὑπακούει αὐτῷ;  

Mark 5:15 καὶ ἔρχονται πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ θεωροῦσιν τὸν δαιμονιζόμενον καθήμενον ἰματισμένον καὶ σωφρονοῦντα, τὸν ἐσχηκότα τὸν λεγιῶνα, καὶ ἔφοβήθησαν.
Notice when you do so, that there are two hits in Mark 4:41
What is going on here?

The phrase “they were filled with . . . awe” is the NRSV’s attempt to capture a Greek construction ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον

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ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον is a “cognate accusative” which means the verb and its object are from the same root. Translated literally, it would mean “they feared a fear”

39 καὶ διεγερθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τῷ ἀνέμῳ καὶ εἶπεν τῇ θαλάσσῃ· σιώπα, πεφίμωσο. καὶ ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος καὶ ἐγένετο γαλήνη μεγάλη. 40 καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί δειλοί ἐστε; οὔπω ἔχετε πίστιν; 41 καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἀλλήλους· τίς ἄρα οὗτός ἐστιν ὅτι καὶ ὁ ἄνεμος καὶ η θάλασσα ὑπακούει αὐτῷ;
Now, you might be thinking “Great. What do I actually, you know, do with all of this?”

• The goal of these word studies is not just to be able to say what Greek words are being translated “filled with awe” (as cool as that is)
Now, you might be thinking “Great. What do I actually, you know, do with all of this?”

- The goal of these word studies is not just to be able to say what Greek words are being translated “filled with awe” (as cool as that is)

- What you are looking for are connections between your passage and other passages based on the use of particular Greek words, or “word clusters”
Finding connections

- Finding other passages in which “key” Greek words, phrases, or “clusters” of words occur can help you see possible connections between them.
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• Finding other passages in which “key” Greek words, phrases, or “clusters” of words occur can help you see possible connections between them.

• These connections can help you better understand your passage, as other passages shed light on what the Evangelist intended and how your passage might fit into the overall narrative of the Gospel.
Mark 4:35  On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
perishing G0622 ἀπολλθμι apollumi

Matt. 2:13 Ἀναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἦν ἄγγελος κυρίου ὁ Ἰωσήφ λέγων ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεύγει εἰς Αἴγυπτον καὶ ἵστι ἐκεί ἐκεῖ ἐν εἴποι σου μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρῴδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτὸ.

Matt. 5:29 Εἰ δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ὁ δεξιός σκανδαλίζει σε,
afraid G1169 δειλὸς deilos
faith  G4102 πίστις  pistis
You can combine results into one search, but simply copying and pasting: +φόβος <AND> +πείθω <AND> =ἀπόλλυμι <OR> +δέος (NB – set scope to Chapter)

Matt. 8:6 καὶ λέγων ὁ κύριε, ὁ παῖς μου βεβληται ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ παραλυτικός, δεινὸς βασανιζόμενος.

Matt. 8:26 καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς τί δειλοὶ ἐστε, ὁλιγόπιστοι; τότε ἐγερθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τοὺς ἁνέμοις καὶ τῇ θαλάσσῃ, καὶ ἐγένετο γαλήνη μεγάλη.
Using the graph function, you can then view a visual representation of your compiled results. This can suggest other chapters where you can investigate possible connections.
You can do something similar using the English text. Use Accordance to get the Key number (Strong’s number) for each word,

Matt. 8:10 When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Matt. 9:2 And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins

Matt. 8:10 ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐθαύμασεν καὶ εἶπεν τοῖς ἀκολουθοῦσιν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ’παρ’ οὐδὲνι τοσαύτην πίστιν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ ἐνδον.

Matt. 9:2 καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικόν ἐπὶ κλίνης βεβλημένον. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν εἶπεν τῷ παραλυτικῷ

faith G4102 πίστις pistis

[NA28-T] πίστιν pistin Noun fem sing acc faith, belief, trust; value; proof
then search for each and compile the results, or add the key numbers to your search string to find passages where they occur together

Matt. 9:2 And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Matt. 9:8 When the crowds saw it, they were filled with
(Note – it might take a little tweaking; and remember: the graph is only a way of suggesting passages that might offer fruitful comparisons, but might lead to discoveries you might not have considered otherwise)
For example, all three words occur in Mark 11, which might suggest a possible connection with Jesus actions in the Temple, symbolized by the fig tree (a connection that I certainly would not have considered otherwise)
Accordance is a powerful tool for exegesis, but remember: it is not a silver bullet, or a miracle pill.

There are still some things that you have to do that Accordance cannot do for you (Like choose which words to study).

Nor can it substitute for your own observations and reflections, grounded in spending time with the text.
ASK (FOR HELP), AND YE SHALL RECEIVE

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Contact us any time at libraryiq@austinseminary.edu with any questions.