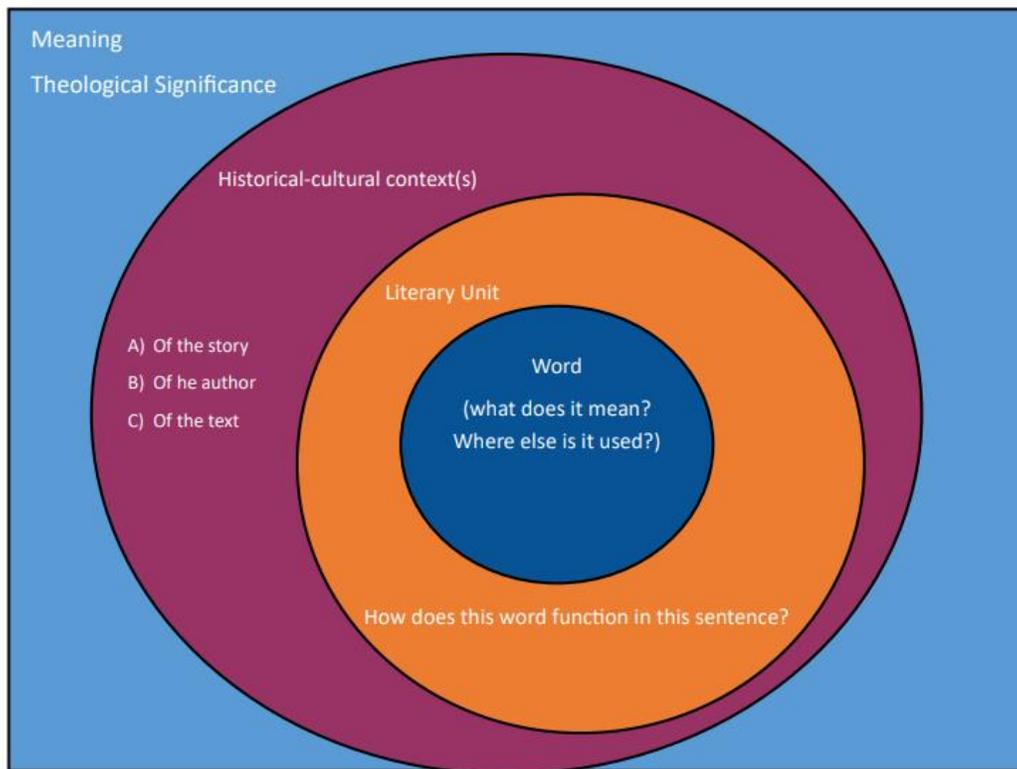


## How Accordance Can Help with New Testament Exegesis: Acts

When you are doing exegesis, there are three basic types of information you need:

- (1) Lexical – information about specific words –
  - a. What does this word mean? How do we know?
  - b. Where else is it used?
  - c. Do the significant words in this passage occur together elsewhere? How does its/their use elsewhere shed light on its/their use here?
- (2) Literary/grammatical – how words function in sentences, paragraphs, works, collections of works
  - a. How does this word function in this sentence (or other syntactical unit)?
  - b. What is its, and/or its grammatical unit's, role in the wider literary context?
  - c. Is this a common construction or an idiom, or is unusual?
- (3) Historical/cultural contextual – this has three perspectives, or axes of investigation:
  - a. Context of the story/implied narrative (of a letter or poem)
  - b. Context of the author (if different)
  - c. Context/Development/Reception of the text

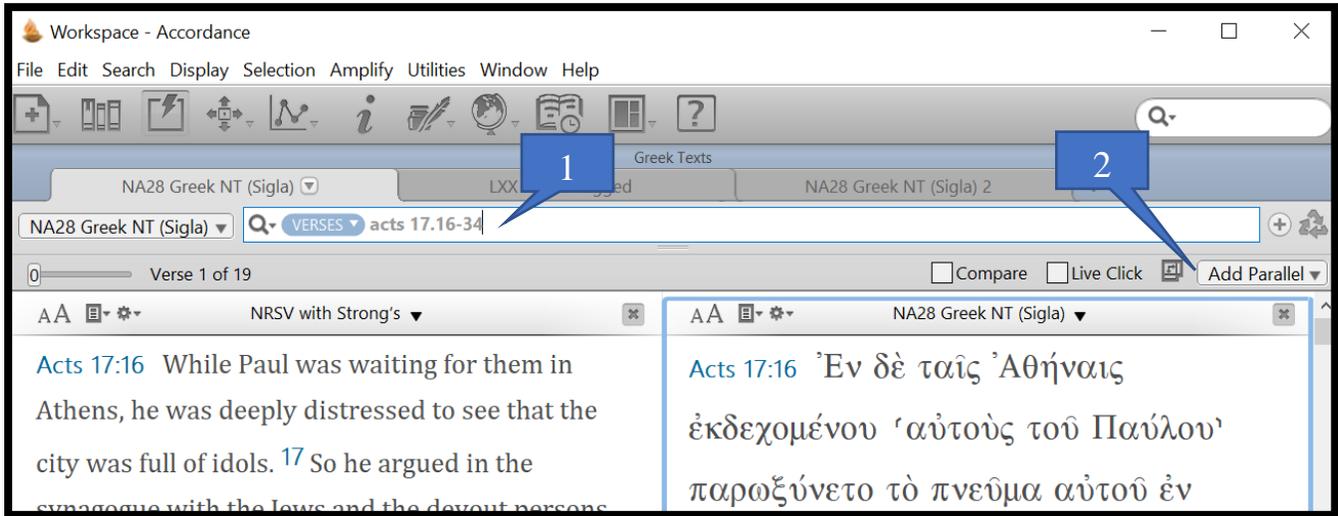
All of this takes place in the larger task of discerning the meaning of a text, and its theological significance.



Accordance can help you find all three kinds of information [note that this order does not reflect the sequence of the exegetical process; also remember that exegesis is an iterative process].

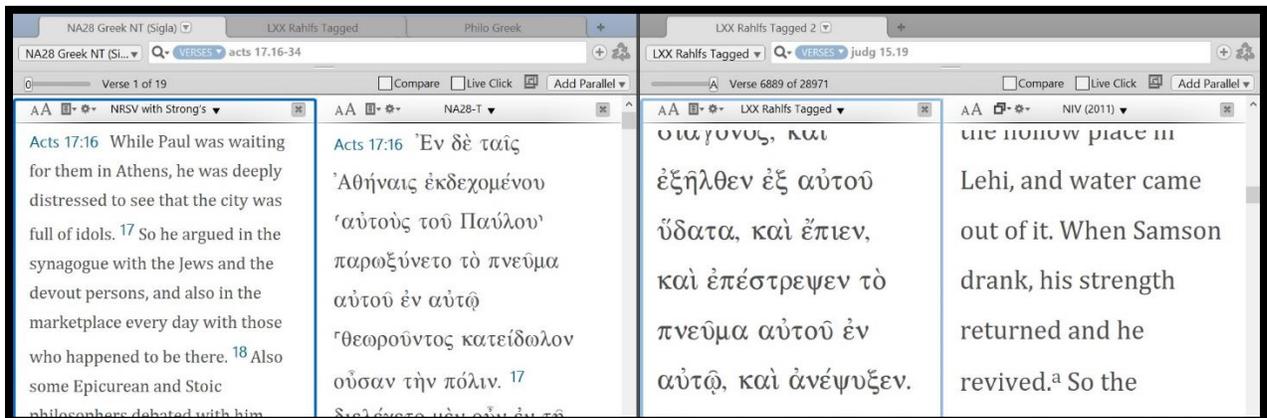
(1) *Lexical – information about specific words –*

- a. *What does this word mean? How do we know?*
- b. *Where else is it used?*
- c. *Do the significant words in this passage occur together elsewhere? How does its/their use elsewhere shed light on its/their use here?*



1. Use the search bar to navigate to your passage.
2. Click **Add Parallel** to see your text in another version, including the original languages. For example, you can have the NRSV text of Act 17:16-34 open in one pane and open the NA28 as a parallel text in the pane next to it, and thus see both texts at the same time.

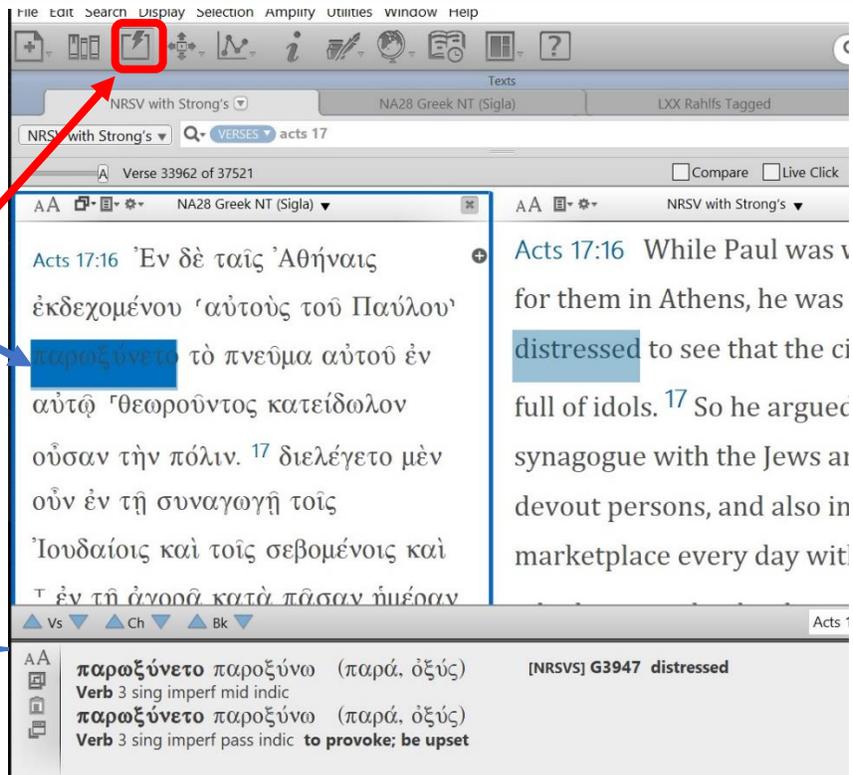
It is also possible to open other texts, in another zone, for comparison. For example, you can open the LXX in a different zone, and see it in both Greek and an English translation:



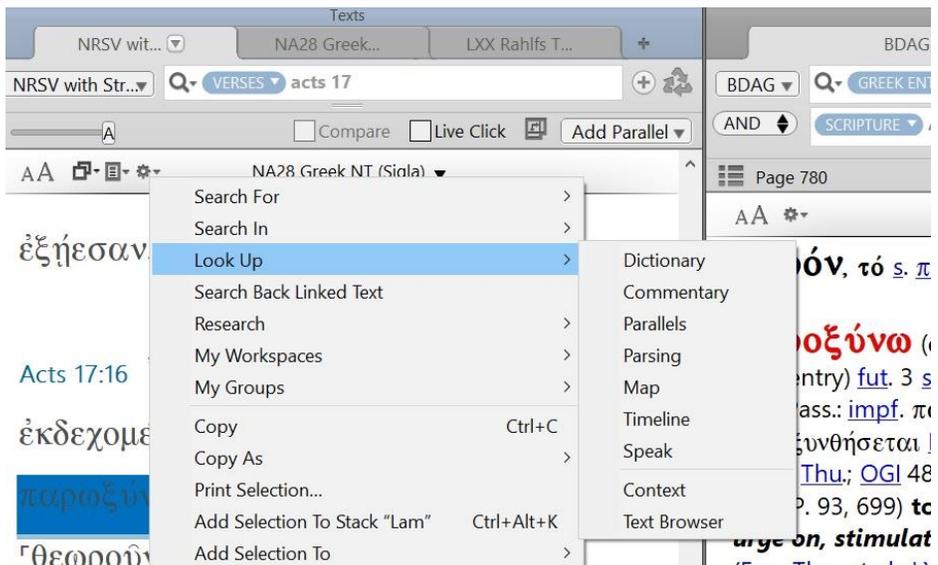
Use **Instant Details** (the Harry Potter Lightning Scar Button) to see more information on a given word.

For example, hovering over the word **παρωξύνετο** with the instant details button toggled gives you the following information:

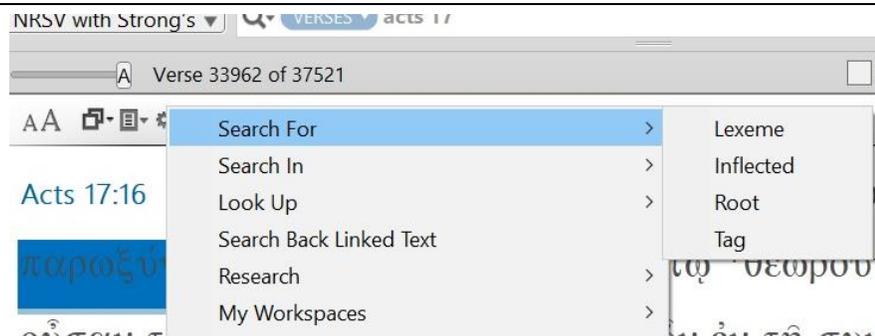
the lexical form is **παροξύνω** and the form that occurs in Acts 17:16 is either an imperfect middle or imperfect passive indicative, 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and it may be glossed **“to provoke; be upset.”**



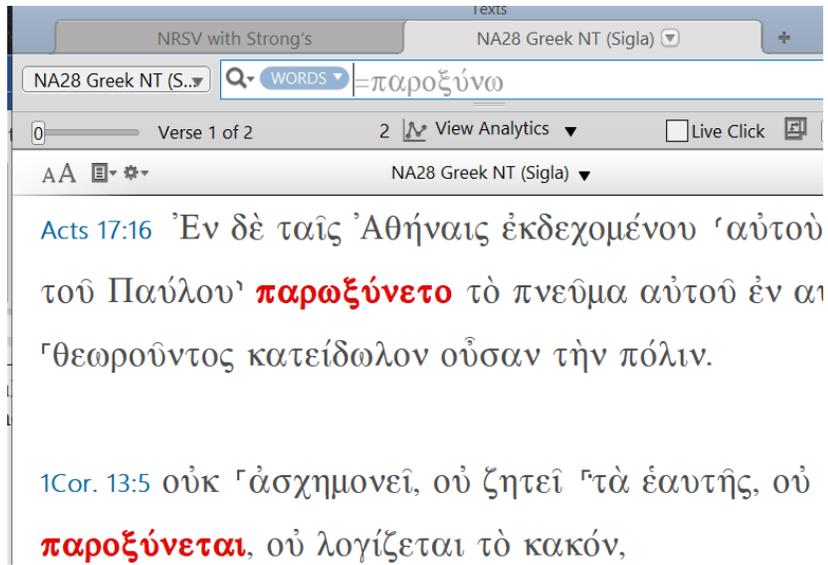
**Right Click** on a word to see more options for finding additional information on a word. For example, Right Click on a word such as **παρωξύνετο** and choose **Look Up > Dictionary** to look it up in a dictionary or lexicon (e.g., BDAG).



**Right Click** on a word and select **Search For > Lexeme** [lexical form], **Inflected** [exact form], **Root** [cognate forms], **Tag** [parsing] – to see where else a given word occurs.

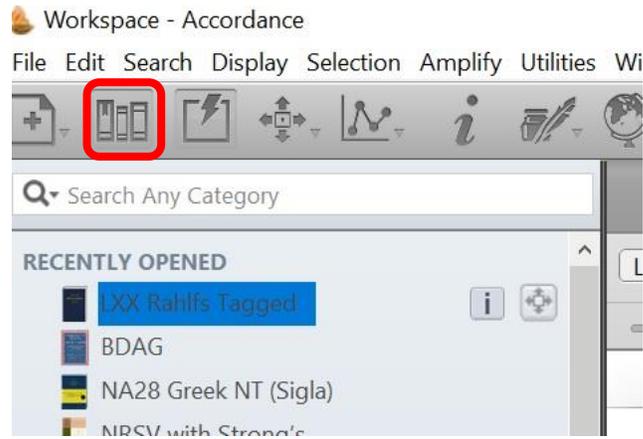


The search results are displayed in a new tab.

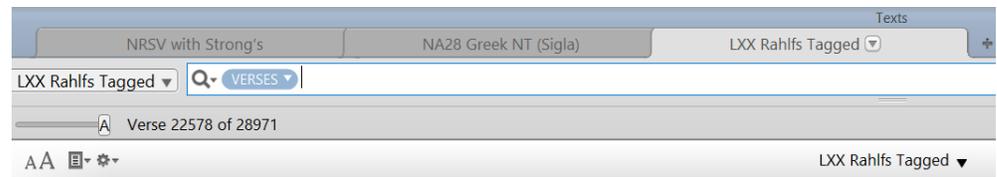


You can expand your search to see if a given word occurs in the Septuagint.

Open the **Accordance Library** and select a version of the LXX (note: the text may be in a folder, depending on how the library is organized).

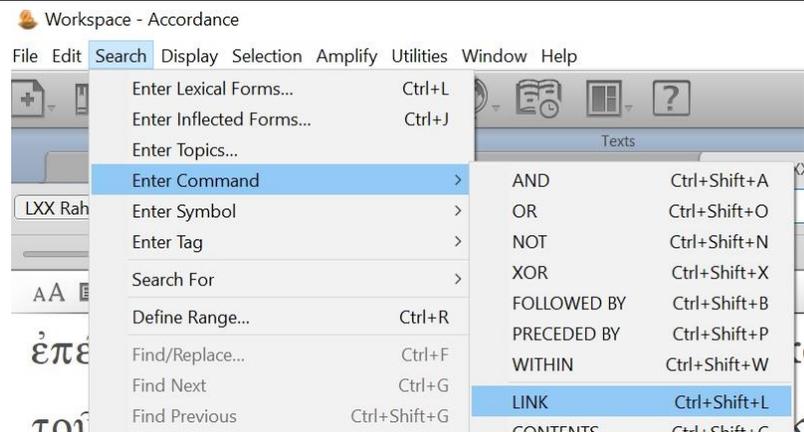


Click the LXX tab that opens from the Accordance library and click in the search box.



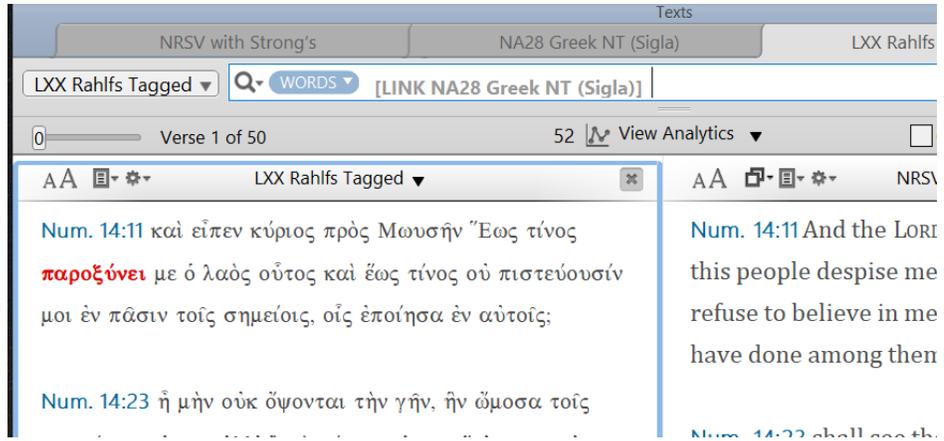
Then, select **Search** from the top menu and choose **Enter Command > LINK**.

(Note that if more than one other tab is open, you will want to select the tab that has the results from your initial search)



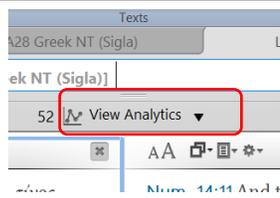
This will run a search in the LXX using the same search (a Lexeme search for the word **παροξύνω**) in the LXX.

Note that you can add an English text as a parallel.



Open the **View Analytics** menu to see various options for viewing the results, including visually, as a graph.

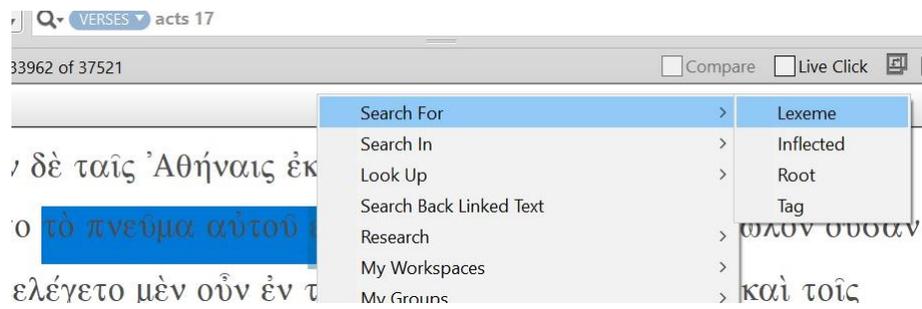
This data can suggest other passages that may be useful to study for comparison. The goal is to elucidate the meaning of a word or phrase by seeing how it is used elsewhere.



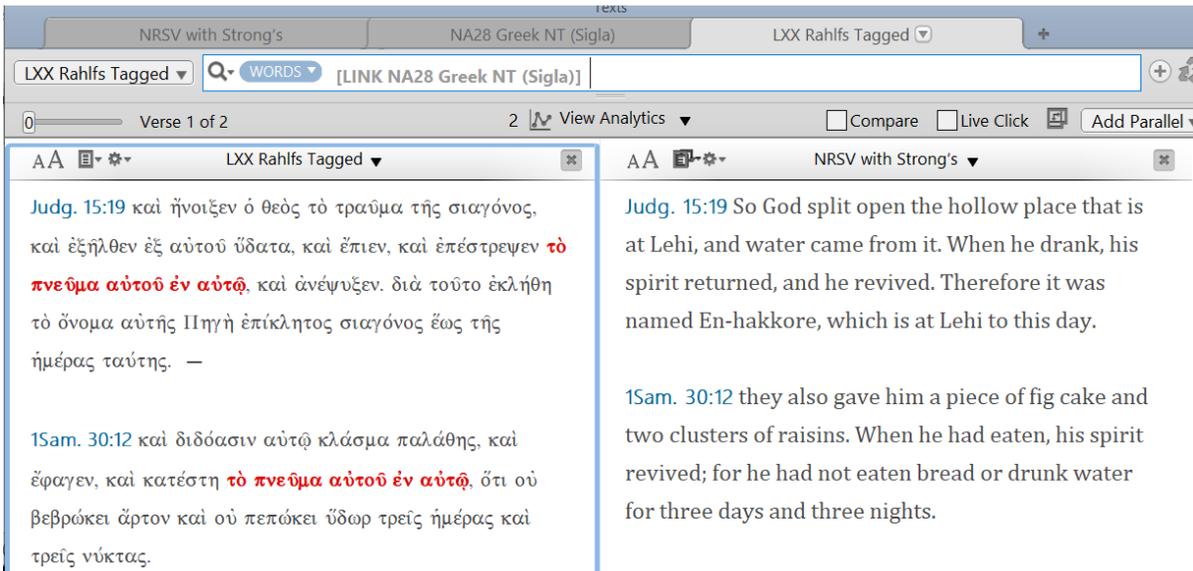
You can also search for phrases, e.g.,

τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ

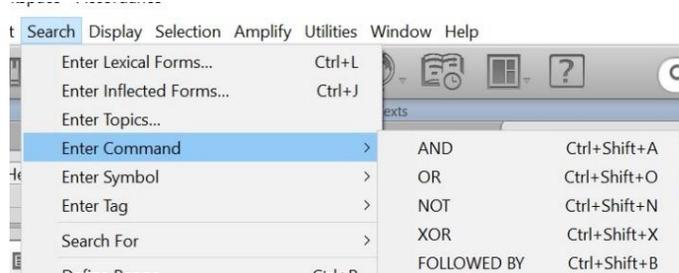
Highlight the phrase, **Right Click**, and choose **Search For > Lexeme**.



The results are displayed in a new tab:

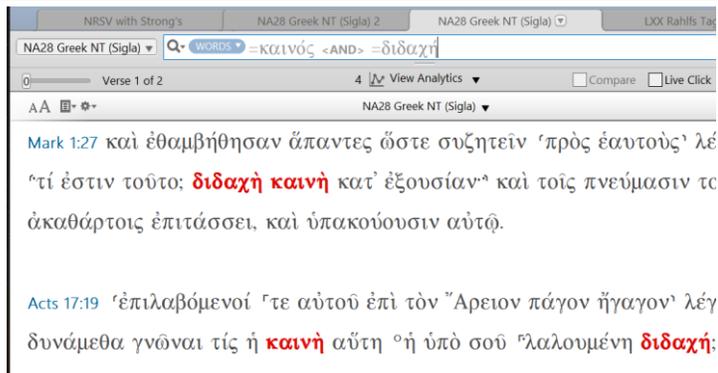


Note that you can use the commands under the **Search** menu to create more complex searches.



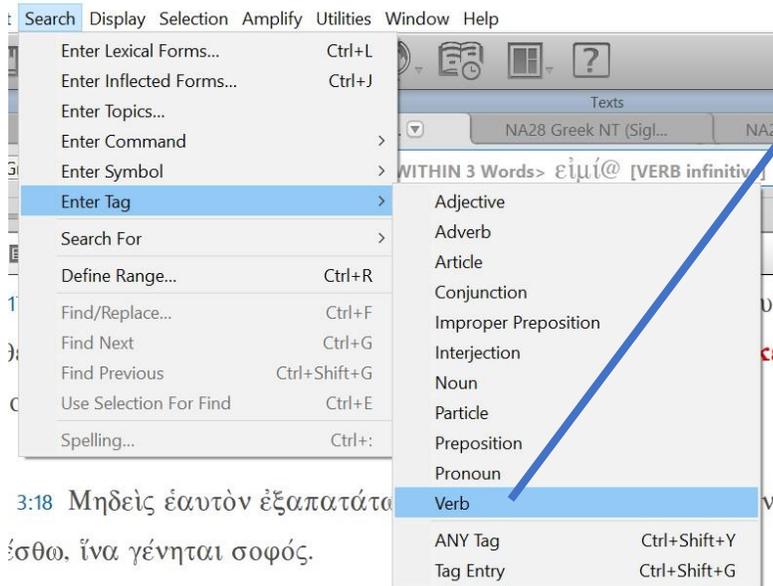
For example, you can use the **<AND>** command to create searches for multiple words.

=καινός <AND> =διδασχῆ

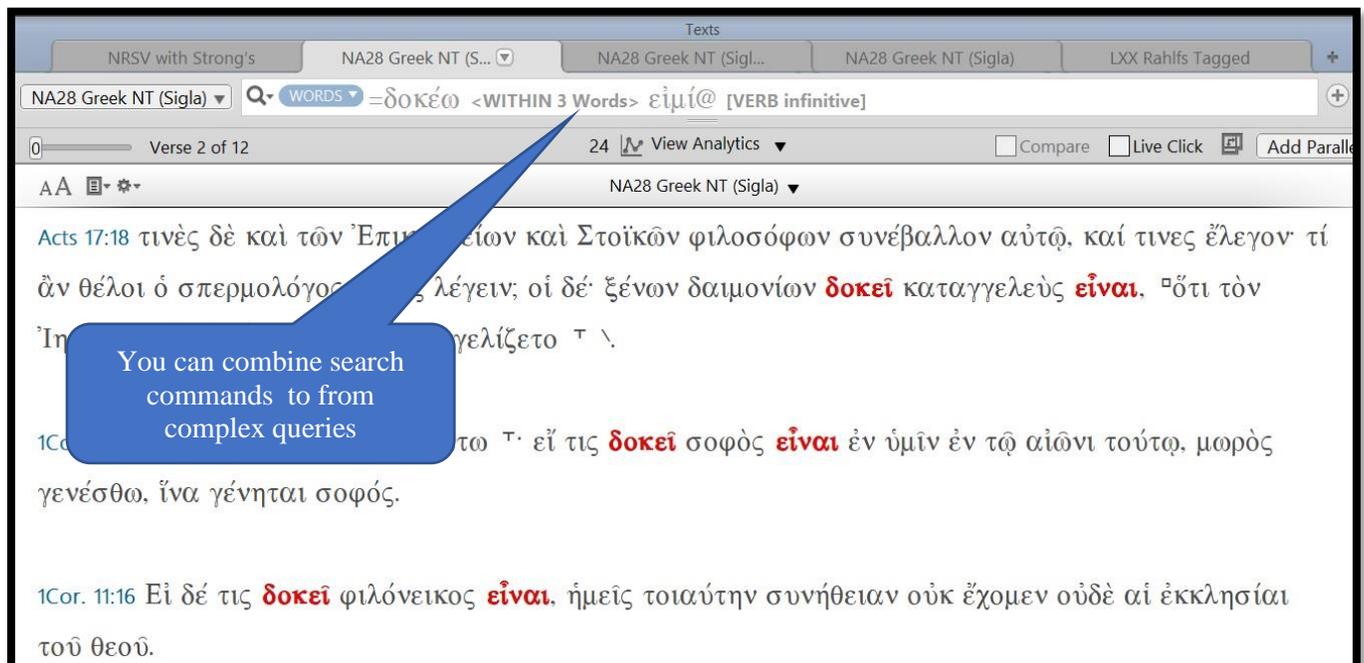
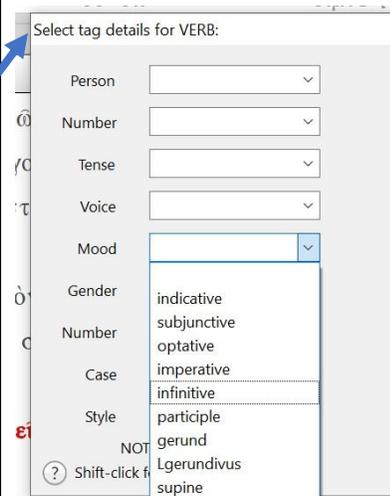


You can also add grammatical tags (joined to the word by @) to words to form more precise searches:

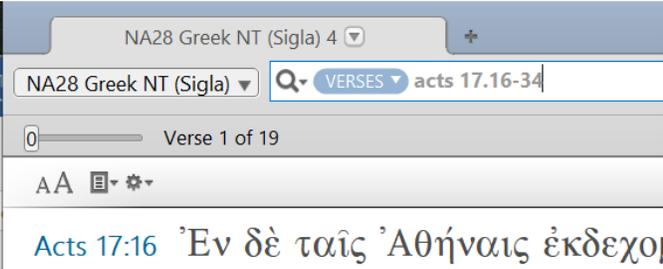
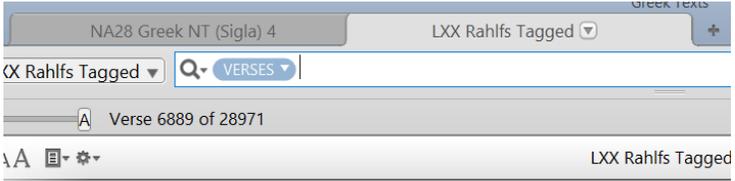
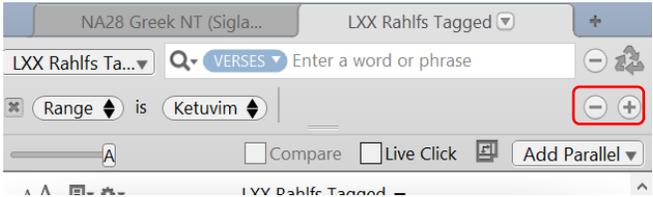
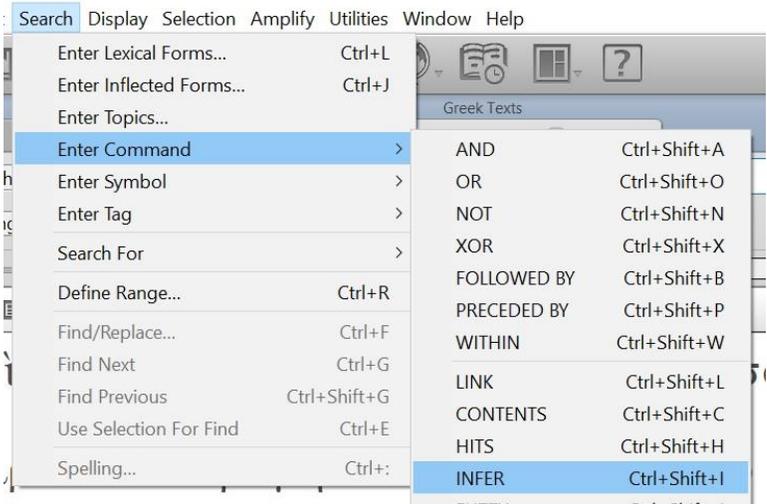
From the menu under the Search tab, select Enter Tag > then select the part of speech (e.g., Verb).



A menu opens that allows you to select details, such as Person, Number, Mood, Gender, etc. (you need only select criteria you wish to apply to your search term).

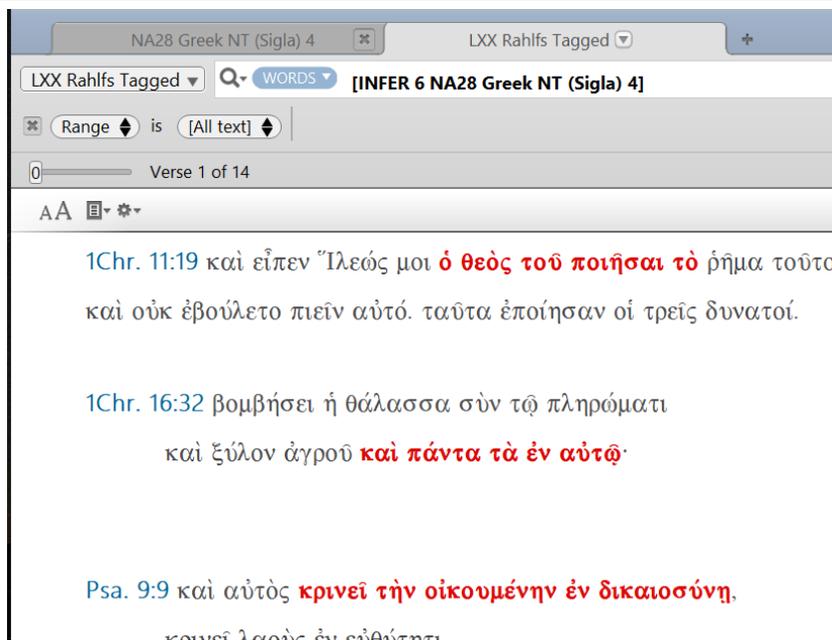
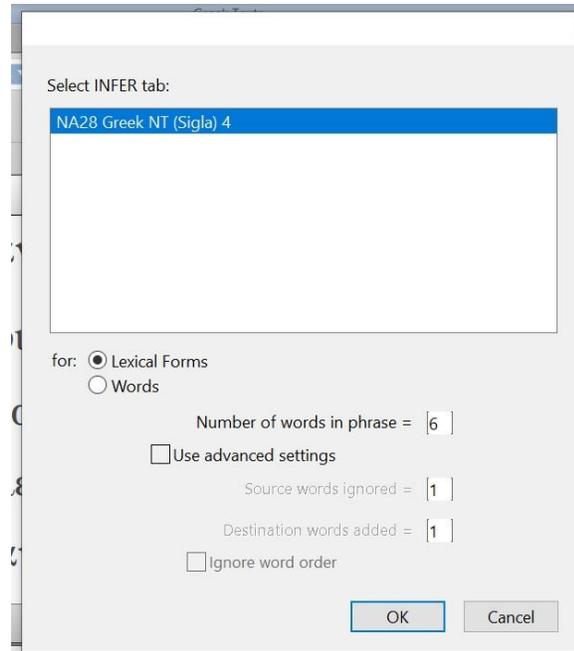


The **INFER** command can help you discover related passages by finding other occurrences of phrases found in your passage. There are four steps to using this command:

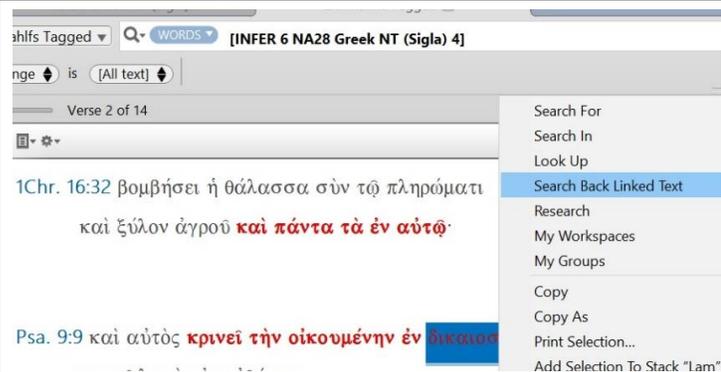
<p>(1) Open a text in the language you want to search and use the search text box to navigate to your passage (e.g., Acts 17:16-34).</p>	
<p>(2) Open another text in the same language (e.g., the LXX), or a second “copy” of the text you are using (NA28).</p>	
<p>You may to set the <b>Range</b> of the search to limit your results to a specific book or group of books (e.g., the Writings or Ketuvim); <b>click the plus sign</b> next to the search box and then use the drop-down menu.</p>	
<p>(3) Click the tab of the text you want to search (in this case, the LXX) to make that tab active, and place the cursor in the search box.</p> <p>Then, from the <b>Search</b> menu select <b>Enter Command &gt; INFER</b>.</p>	

Note – you can leave most of the settings (in the dialog box that pops up) as they are, though you will want to be sure to select the tab that has the text you wish to search (note that if you have more than one tab open, they will display here).

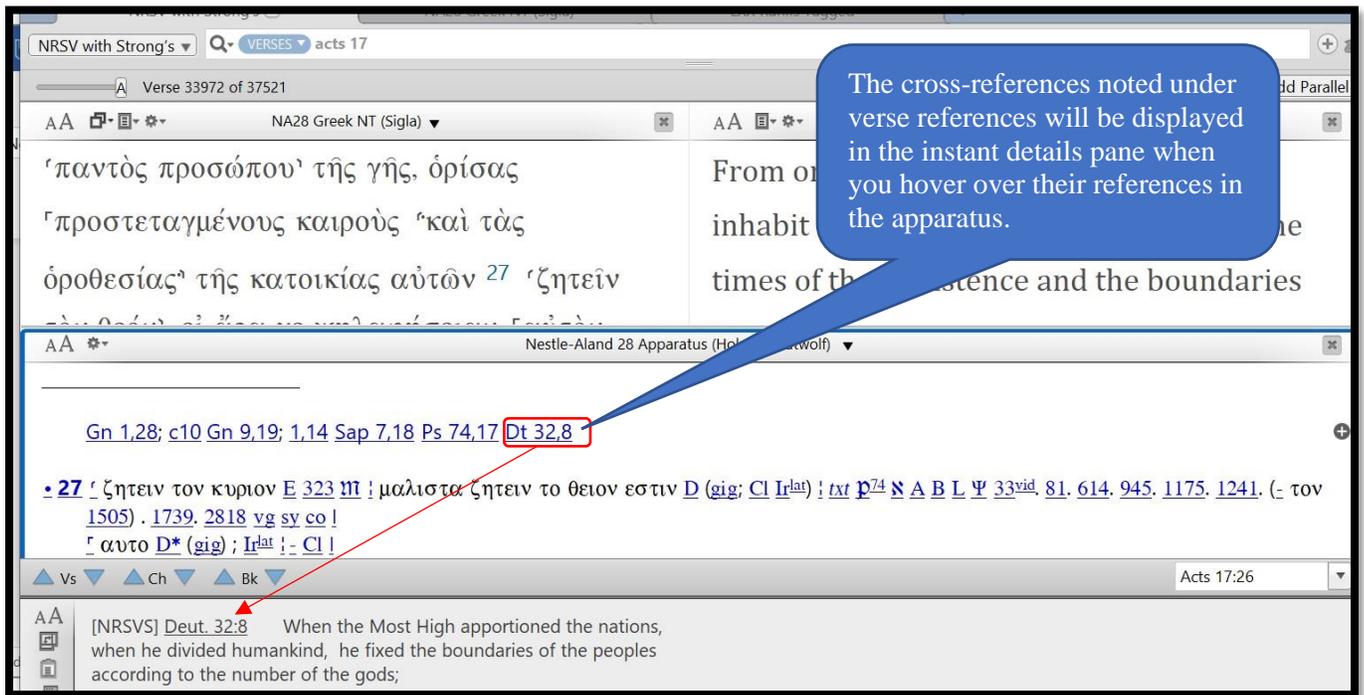
Click OK to run the search.



(4) To verify your results, highlight a word or phrase indicated in red in your results list, **Right Click** on the highlighted word or phrase, and select **Search Back Linked Text** from the menu; this will show you where this phrase occurs in your passage.



Another good way to find parallel passages is opening the NA28 Apparatus as a parallel text.



- (2) *Literary/grammatical* – how words function in sentences, paragraphs, works, collections
- How does this word function in this sentence (or other syntactical unit)?
  - What is its, and/or its grammatical unit's, role in the wider literary context?
  - Is this a common construction or an idiom, or is unusual?

One of the best ways to discern the structure of a sentence, and thus see how a given word or phrase functions in its literary context, is sentence diagramming. Accordance has a built-in diagramming function:

To use the diagram function, select a portion of text you would like to diagram, and choose **Diagram** from the menu under the **Language** (ink pot) menu.

Diagram (Acts 17:22 ... Acts...)

Language Tools

100% Helena 9 B I U

Acts 17:22

Acts 17:23

διερχόμενος γὰρ καὶ ἀναθεωρῶν τὰ σεβάσματα ὑμῶν εὖρον καὶ βωμὸν ἐν ᾧ ἐπεγέγραπτο Ἄγνωστω θεῷ ὃ οὖν ἀγνοοῦντες εὐσεβείτε τοῦτο ἐγὼ καταγγέλλω ὑμῖν

Σταθεῖς δὲ ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ Ἀρείου πάγου

[ὁ] Παῦλος ἔφη θεωρῶ ὑμᾶς = ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι ὡς δεισιδαιμονεστέρους κατὰ πάντα

(Attendant circum. or temporal)

Drag and drop lines to represent grammatical relationships (subject, object, modifier, etc.) and then drag words from the text that fill these roles.

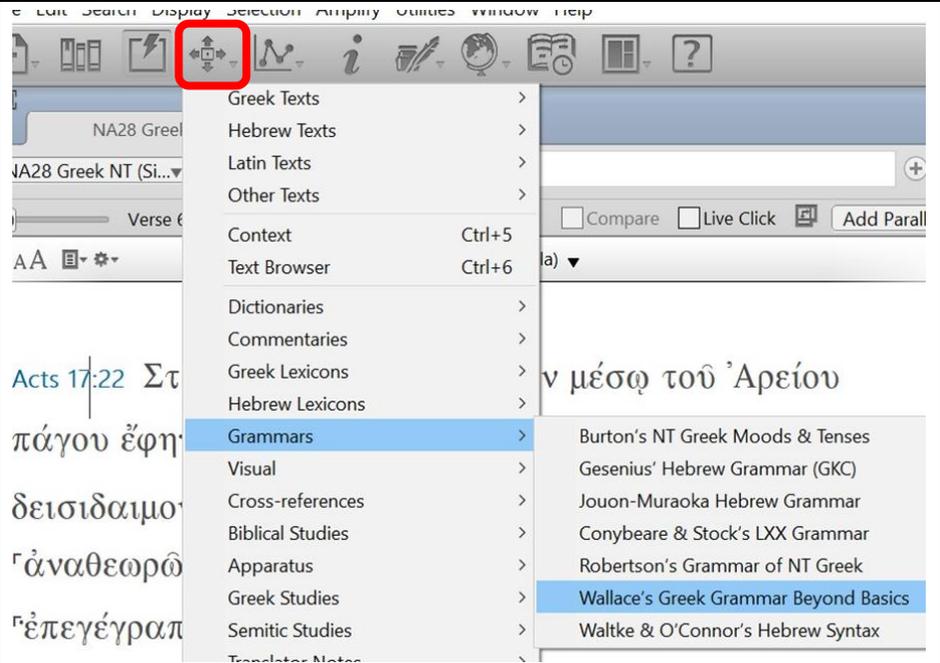
- Adjective
- Adverb
- Article
- Conjunction
- ImproperPr
- Interjection
- Noun
- Particle
- Preposition
- Pronoun

A lexicon often provides useful grammatical information about a word or phrase; for example, looking up δεισιδαιμονεστέρους in BDAG offers useful information on the phrase ὡς δεισιδαιμονεστέρους ὑμᾶς θεωρῶ in Acts 17:22:

in the laudatory introduction of Paul's speech before the Areopagus **Ac 17:22** it must mean **devout, religious** (so X., Cyr. 3, 3, 58, Ages. 11, 8; Aristot., Pol. 5, 11 p. 1315a, 1; Kaibel 607, 3 πᾶσι φίλος θνητοῖς εἰς τ' ἀθανάτους δεισιδαίμων) comp. for superl. (as Diog. L. 2, 132): δεισιδαιμονεστέρους ὑμᾶς θεωρῶ *I perceive that you are very devout people* **Ac 17:22**

You can also find much useful syntactical information (i.e., about how words and phrases are combined to convey meaning) by consulting a grammar, for example, Wallace's *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Using the Amplify function allows you to find places where Wallace refers to your passage (or to a given Greek word or syntactical construction).

Use the **Amplify** function to look up information in another source (text or tool); for example, click on a verse reference (e.g., Acts 17:22), open the **Amplify** menu, and choose **Grammars > Wallace's Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics** to see if the verse you are studying is referenced in that grammar.



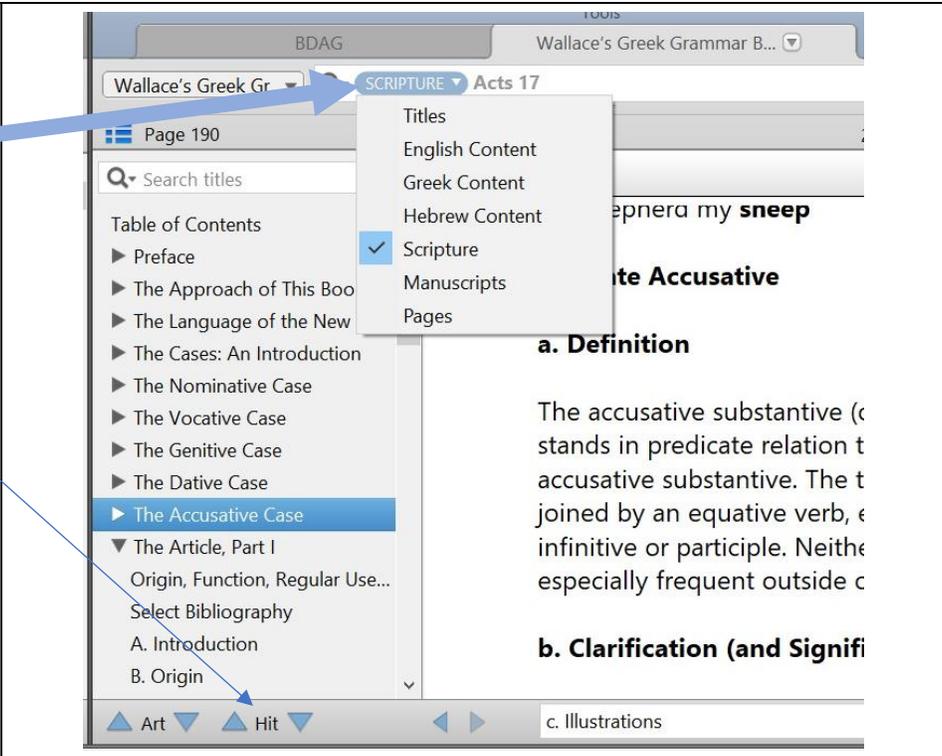
**Acts 17:22** κατὰ πάντα ὡς δεισιδαιμονεστέρους ὑμᾶς θεωρῶ

I perceive how **very religious** you are in every way

The KJV has "I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious." But such a translation is unnecessary linguistically, since the comparative has a well-established usage as an elative in Koine Greek. Furthermore, this particular term, δεισιδαίμων, is used in other literature in a neutral [p. 301] sense often enough;<sup>19</sup> and "in the laudatory introduction of Paul's speech before the Areopagus . . . it must mean *religious*. . . ."<sup>20</sup>

You can also find relevant topics by choosing a type of search in the **drop-down menu** next to the search box (for example, Scripture, or Greek Content) and entering relevant search terms (a scripture reference, or a Greek term). You can then browse through the hits using the **Hit arrows** at the bottom of the screen.

Alternatively, you can browse the Table of Contents for relevant sections by **clicking the contents icon** to open the **Table of Contents**.



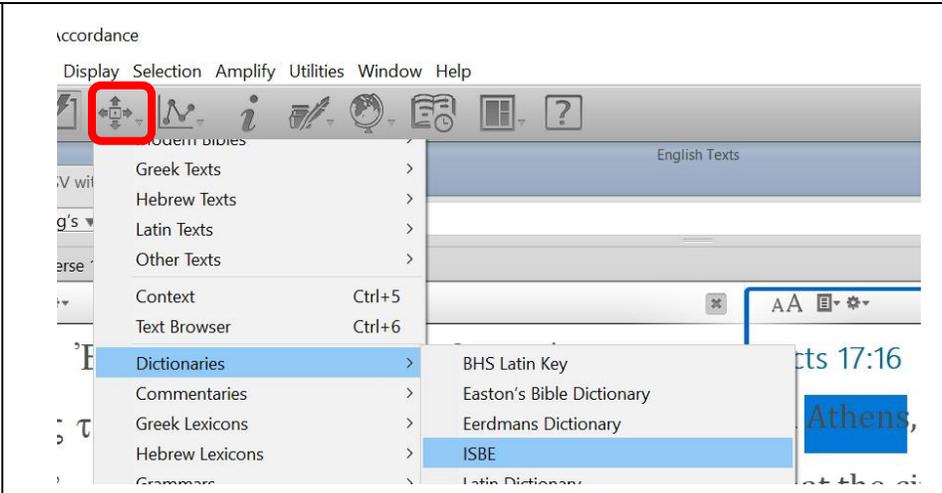
Accordance will even give you the proper citation; **Right Click** in the source you are using and select **Copy As – Bibliography**:

Wallace, Daniel B., *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: an Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Accordance electronic ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

(3) *Historical/cultural contextual – this has three perspectives, or axes of investigation:*

a. *Context of the story/implied narrative (of a letter or poem)*

Use the **Amplify** function to look up information in another source (text or tool); for example, click on the word “Athens” and then select the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ISBE) under **Dictionaries** to see an entry on this city, and see why Paul might be making this speech in this city.



ISBE (J. E. Harry)

**Athens** ath'enz (Ἀθήναι): In antiquity the celebrated metropolis of Attica, now the capital of Greece. Two long walls, 250 ft. apart, connected the city with the harbor (Peiraeus). In **Acts 17** we are told what Paul did during his single sojourn in this famous city. He came up from the sea by the new road (**N.** of the ancient) along which were altars of unknown gods, entered the city from the **W.**, and passed by the Ceramicus (burial-ground), which can be seen to this day, the "Theseum," the best preserved of all Greek temples, and on to the Agora (Market-Place), just **N.** of the Acropolis, a steep hill, 200 ft. high, in the center of the city. Cimon began and Pericles completed the work of transforming this

You can also use the Amplify function to see visual depictions of geographic locations mentioned in the text, for example, "Athens."

PhotoGuide Overview (David L)

**Figure 2:** The Temple of Erechtheion in the Athenian Acropolis. The Erechtheion commemorates the spot where Poseidon and Athena battled, her sacred symbol. The most dominant feature of the Erechtheion is the center of the figure.

*b. Context of the author (if different)*

The best way to find information on a given book of the Bible, including authorship, when it was written, overview of the contents, etc. is looking up the book in a Bible dictionary, such as *Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible*.

**Open the Accordance Library, and find dictionaries listed under Tools.**

With the search type set to "Entry," search for the book you are studying by name of the book, e.g., "Acts."

RECENTLY OPENED

- Eerdman's Dictionary
- ISBE
- NA28 Greek NT (Sigla)
- NRSV with Strong's
- Wallace's Greek Grammar Beyond Basics

Search Any Category

ISBE (J. E. Harry)

Eerdman's Dict..

Page 15

Eerdman's Dictionary (Christopher R.)

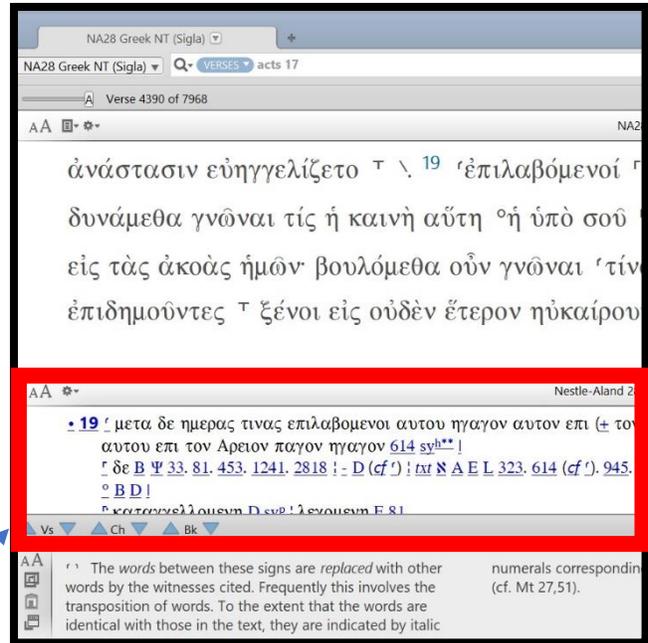
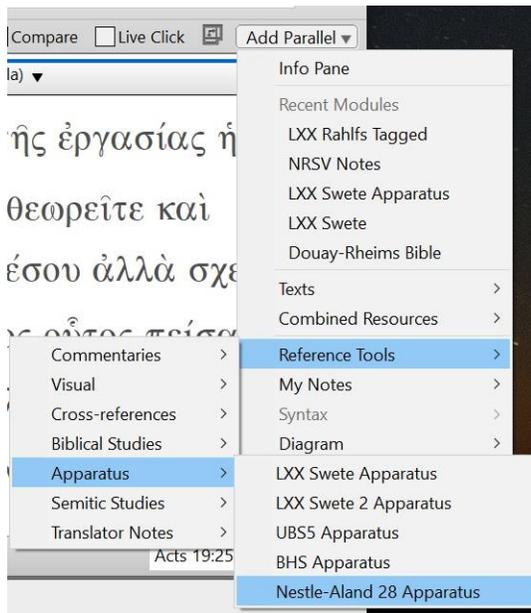
**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

The fifth book of the **NT**. Composed by the Gospel of Luke. the book of Acts represe

c. Context/Development/Reception of the text

One important aspect of exegesis that Accordance makes infinitely easier is textual criticism

For example, you can open the critical apparatus as a parallel text,



This makes useful information about various manuscripts and sigla available in the Instant Details pane:

