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 exeges 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?

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AA ■• ↔• NRSV with Strong's • ×	AA II- ☆- NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) ▼ × ^			
Acts 17:16 While Paul was waiting for them in Acts 17:16 $Ev \delta \hat{\epsilon} \tau \alpha \hat{\iota} \varsigma A \theta \dot{\eta} v \alpha \hat{\iota} \varsigma$				
Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the έκδεχομένου 'αὐτοὺς τοῦ Παύλου'				
city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the				
synagogue with the lews and the devout persons	παρωςυνείο το πνευμά αυτού εν			

- 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:

NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 💌 LXX R:	hlfs Tagged Philo Greek	*	LXX Rahlfs Tagged 2 💌 🔶	
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0 Verse 1 of 19	Compare Live Click 🖾 Add	d Parallel 🔻		Compare Live Click Add Parallel 🔻
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Acts 17:16 While Paul was waiting	Acts 17:16 Ἐν δὲ ταῖς		οιαγυνος, και	the nonow place in
for them in Athens, he was deeply	'Αθήναις ἐκδεχομένου		ἐξῆλθεν ἐξ αὐτοῦ	Lehi, and water came
full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the	'αὐτοὺς τοῦ Παύλου'		ὕδατα, καὶ ἔπιεν,	out of it. When Samson
synagogue with the Jews and the	παρωξύνετο τὸ πνεῦμα		και έπέστρεψεν το	drank, his strength
devout persons, and also in the	αὐτοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ			
marketplace every day with those	θεφορύντος κατείδωλον	,	πνεύμα αύτού έν	returned and he
who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also	ocupouvios katelounov	, ,		
some Epicurean and Stoic	ούσαν τὴν πόλιν. ¹⁷		αύτῷ, καὶ ἀνέψυξεν.	revived. ^a So the
philosophers debated with him	รายวิศักรรถ แล้น ออื่น อัน สติ			







You can also search for phrases, e.g.,	2 VERSES T acts 17		Compa	re 🗌 Live Click 🖪 (
αὐτῷ Highlight the phrase,	 λè ταῖς ᾿Αθήναις ἐκ 	Search For Search In Look Up Search Back Linked Text	>	Lexeme Inflected Root
Right Click , and choose Search For > Lexeme .	ο <mark>τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτοῦ</mark> ελέγετο μὲν οὖν ἐν τ	Research My Workspaces My Groups	>	ωλύν συσαν καί τοîς

The results are displayed in a new tab:

NRSV with Strong's	NA28 Greek NT (Sigla))	LXX Rahlfs Tagged 💌	+
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AA ■• ↔• LXX Rahlfs Tagged ▼	×	AA ₫~ **	NRSV with Strong's \checkmark	×
 Judg. 15:19 καὶ ἤνοιξεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ τραῦμ, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἐξ αὐτοῦ ὕδατα, καὶ ἐπιεν, πνεῦμα αὐτοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνέψυξεν. τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς Πηγὴ ἐπίκλητος σιαγό ἡμέρας ταύτης. — 1Sam. 30:12 καὶ διδόασιν αὐτῷ κλάσμα ἔφαγεν, καὶ κατέστη τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτοῦ 	α τῆς σιαγόνος, καὶ ἐπέστρεψεν τὸ διὰ τοῦτο ἐκλήθη νος ἔως τῆς παλάθης, καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ , ὅτι οὑ	Judg. 15:19 So God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came from it. When he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore it was named En-hakkore, which is at Lehi to this day. 15am. 30:12 they also gave him a piece of fig cake and two clusters of raisins. When he had eaten, his spirit revived; for he had not eaten bread or drunk water		
βεβρώκει ἄρτον καὶ οὐ πεπώκει ὕδωρ τρ τρεῖς νύκτας.	ει ὕδωρ τρεῖς ἡμέρας καὶ for three days and three nights.			
lote that you can use the ommands under the Search nenu to create more complex earches.	t Search Displ Enter Lex Enter Infl Enter Top Enter Co He Enter Syr Enter Tag Search Fe	ay Selection Am ical Forms lected Forms oics mmand nbol g or	Ctrl+L Ctrl+J Ctrl+J AND OR NOT XOR FOLLOWED B	Ctrl+Shift+A Ctrl+Shift+O Ctrl+Shift+N Ctrl+Shift+X Y Ctrl+Shift+B
or example, you can use the AND> command to create earches for multiple words.	ΝRSV with ΝΑ28 Greek NT (Sigla Ο Verse 1 ΑΑ Ξ· Φ· Μark 1:27 Καὶ ^τί ἐστιν το ἀκαθάρτοιο Αcts 17:19 'ἐπ δυνάμεθα γ	Strongs NA γ Q Q 1 of 2 έθαμβήθησα ρύτο; διδαχή ς έπιτάσσει, μ τιλαβόμενοί Γ	28 Greek NT (Sigla) 2 ΝΑ28 Greek NT (S ΣΙ Ινός <and> =διδαχή 4 ½ View Analytics ▼ ΝΑ28 Greek NT (Sigla) ▼ ν ἄπαντες ὥστε συζητεῖν καινὴ κατ' ἐξουσίαν^{*,4} καὶ καὶ ὑπακούουσιν αὐτῷ. τε αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἄρειον [*] καινὴ αὕτη °ἡ ὑπὸ σοῦ [*]?</and>	igla)

You can also add grammatical tags (joined to the word by @)
to words to form more precise searches:A menu of
select det
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apply to yFrom the menu under the Search tab, select Enter Tag > then
select the part of speech (e.g., Verb).A menu of
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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).

earch Display Selection A	mplify Utilities V	/indow Help			S	elect tag details	for VERB:	
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Acts 17:18 τινές δέ καὶ τῶν Ἐπιτ είων κα	α Στοϊκών φιλοσόφα	ον συνέβαλλον αὐτά	ῷ, καί τινες ἔλεγον τί
αν θέλοι ό σπερμολόγος ζλέγειν; οί	δέ ξένων δαιμονίων	ν δοκεί καταγγελεύο	ς είναι , □ὄτι τὸν
² In You can combine search commands to from complex queries $τω$ $τω$ $τ$ ε ²	ο τ Ν. Έτις δοκεί σοφός είν	αι ἐν ὑμῖν ἐν τῷ αἰα	ῶνι τούτφ, μωρὸς
γενέσθω, ίνα γένηται σοφός.			
1Cor. 11:16 Εἰ δέ τις δοκεῖ φιλόνεικος είναι,	, ήμεῖς τοιαύτην συν	νήθειαν οὐκ ἔχομεν	οὐδὲ αἱ ἐκκλησίαι

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:

 (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). 	NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4 • NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) ▼ Q • VERSES ▼ acts 17.16-34 O Verse 1 of 19 AA AA E • * • Acts 17:16 Ev δὲ ταῖς ᾿Αθήναις ἐκδεχοι
(2) Open another text in the same language (e.g., the LXX), or a second "copy" of the text you are using (NA28).	NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4 LXX Rahlfs Tagged ▼ CX Rahlfs Tagged ▼ Q. Q. Verse 5889 of 28971 A I. LXX Rahlfs Tagged
You may to set the Range of the search to limit your results to a specific book or group of books (e.g., the Writings or Ketuvim); click the plus sign next to the search box and then use the drop- down menu.	NA28 Greek NT (Sigla LXX Rahlfs Tagged ▼ LXX Rahlfs Ta▼ Q < VERSES ▼ Enter a word or phrase
 (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. Then, from the Search menu select Enter Command > INFER. 	Search Display Selection Amplify Utilities Window Help Enter Lexical Forms Ctrl+L Ctrl+J Ctrl+J Ctrl+Shift+A Enter Coreck Texts Greek Texts Greek Texts Ctrl+Shift+A Enter Topics AND Ctrl+Shift+A OR Ctrl+Shift+A Enter Symbol > OR Ctrl+Shift+N Search For > NOT Ctrl+Shift+N Search For > NOT Ctrl+Shift+N Search For > NOT Ctrl+Shift+N Define Range Ctrl+R FOLLOWED BY Ctrl+Shift+B PRECEDED BY Ctrl+Shift+G Use Selection For Find Ctrl+E Find Previous Ctrl+Shift+G CMTENTS Ctrl+Shift+L Use Selection For Find Ctrl+E HITS Ctrl+Shift+H Spelling Ctrl+E INFER Ctrl+Shift+I

Note – you can leave mos settings (in the dialog box as they are, though you w sure to select the tab that you wish to search (note have more than one tab or display here). Click OK to run the search	st of the (x that pops up) will want to be has the text that if you pen, they will wh.	Select INFER tab: NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4 for: • Lexical Forms • Words Number of words in phrase = [6] Use advanced settings Source words ignored = [1] Destination words added = [1] OK Cancel
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	Verse 1 of 14	
AA		
1	Chr. 11:19 καὶ εἶπε αὶ οὐκ ἐβούλετο π	ν Ίλεώς μοι ό θεός του ποιήσαι τὸ ῥήμα τουτο [.]
1	Chr. 16:32 Boußກ່ຽ	ει ή θάλασσα σύν τῶ πληρώματι
	καὶ ξύλον ἀ	γρού και πάντα τὰ ἐν αὐτῶ·
		•••
P	κρινεῖ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ,	
(4) To verify your res	ults, highlight	
 (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 		shifs Tagged ▼ Q (WORDS) [INFER 6 NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4] nge is (All text) Search For Verse 2 of 14 Search In Look Up 1Chr. 16:32 βομβήσει ἡ θάλασσα σὺν τῷ πληρώματι καὶ ξύλον ἀγροῦ καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐν αὐτῷ Ny Groups Copy Copy Conv As
passage.		Psa. 9:9 καὶ αὐτὸς κρινεῖ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐν ἑιπαιοσ Print Selection Add Selection To Stack "Lam"

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

NRSV with Strong's ▼ Q • (VERSES ▼) acts 17	Dot toning 193		+ 1
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Gn 1,28; c10 Gn 9,19; 1,14 Sap 7,18 Ps 74,17 Dt 32,8 • 27 ' ζητειν τον κυσιον Ε 323 11 ¦ μαλιστα (ητειν το θειον εστιν Ι) (gig: C Ir <u>lat</u>) ;	txt 2074 NABL 単 33 ¹¹¹⁰ 81, 614, 945, 1175, 1241, (-	•
$\frac{1505}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2$	2 (<u>818</u> , <u>Ci II</u> -) <u>i</u>	<u></u>	101
\land Vs \bigtriangledown \land Ch \bigtriangledown \land Bk \bigtriangledown		Acts 17:26	•
AA [NRSVS] <u>Deut. 32:8</u> When the Most High apportioned the nations, when he divided humankind, he fixed the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the gods;			

$(2)\ Literary/grammatical-how\ words\ function\ in\ sentences,\ paragraphs,\ works,\ collections$

- 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?

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 diagraming. Accordance has a built-in diagramming function:

To use the diagram function, select a portion of text you would like to diagram, and	File Edit Search Display Selection Amplify	Utilities Window Help	
choose Diagram from the menu under the Language (ink pot) menu.	NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4 NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4 NA28 Greek NT (Sigla) 4	Parsing Diagram Speak Ctrl+9	
	Verse 6 of 19	Word Chart Comp	
	Acts 17:22 Σταθείς δε °[o] άνδρες Άθηναΐοι, κατά	Παῦλος ἐν μέσφ τοῦ ᾿Αρ πάντα ὡς δεισιδαιμονεσ	



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 πάσι φίλος θνητοῖς εἴς 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).

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Use the Amplify			
function to look up			
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source (text or tool); for	NA28 Greel	Hebrew Texts	>
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orammar		Visual	> Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar (GKC)
grunninu.	δεισιδαιμο	Cross-references	> Jouon-Muraoka Hebrew Grammar
		Biblical Studies	> Conybeare & Stock's LXX Grammar
	Γάναθεωρώ	Apparatus	> Robertson's Grammar of NT Greek
	Б ² /	Greek Studies	> Wallace's Greek Grammar Beyond Basics
	επεγεγραπ	Semitic Studies	> Waltke & O'Connor's Hebrew Syntax
	Acts 17:22 κα	τὰ πάντα ὡς δεισιδαιμον ive how very religious y	νεστέρους ὑμας θεωρῶ ou are in every way
		The KJV has "I perceiv superstitious." But suc linguistically, since the established usage as Furthermore, this partice other literature in a	e that in all things ye are too h a translation is unnecessary ne comparative has a well- an elative in Koine Greek. ular term, δεισιδαίμων, is used in neutral [p. 301] sense often
		enough; ¹⁹ and "in the l speech before the Areo " ²⁰	audatory introduction of Paul's pagus it must mean <i>religious</i> .



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 states function to look up	دccordance Display Selection Amplify Utilities Window Help	
information in another source (text or tool); for example, click on the word "Athens" and then select the <i>International Standard</i>	Greek Texts	English Texts
<i>Bible Encyclopedia</i> (ISBE) under Dictionaries to see	Context Ctrl+5 Text Browser Ctrl+6	× AA ≣• ‡•
an entry on this city, and see why Paul might be making this speech in this city.	Pictionaries > BHS Latin K Commentaries > Easton's Bil Greek Lexicons > Eerdmans I Hebrew Lexicons > ISBE Comments > Latin Picture	ts 17:16 Dictionary Dictionary



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*.



c. Context/Development/Reception of the text

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

