

GUIDE TO THE USE OF EVEN-SHOSHAN'S *NEW CONCORDANCE*

BETHEL SEMINARY



CENTER FOR BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS
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- 1 Read John Sailhamer's Introduction to the 2nd Edition, paying special attention to §2 on "Special Features"— esp. "synonyms" and collocations (idiomatic phrases).
- 2 Look up the word in question. (Note that Even-Shoshan helps with difficult forms by listing them alphabetically and noting their *shoresh*, e.g., esp. pp. 317-18).
- 3 List or chart the semantic domain of your word, using the list of synonyms (קְרוּבִים *qrovim*) if there is one.
- 4 List or chart the various senses of your word from biblical usage.
 - 4.1 If the word is used frequently, you'll need to try to group the words by chronology or author or genre or a combination. If the word is infrequent, you'll need to be exhaustive with the available data.
 - 4.2 Even-Shoshan will suggest the number of different senses but since he gives mod. Heb. definitions, you'll need to identify some key references and use BDB to try to determine the variety of definitions.
- 5 Pay close attention to the distribution of the word. It's significant if the term occurs predominantly in torah passages or in lament psalms or in legal contexts, etc. Pay attention to the list of collocations.
- 6 Identify those passages which are most closely related (author, subject, period, etc.) to yours and in which the usage of the term is clear and definite enough to establish the word's meaning.
- 7 Then focus on your passage and adducing all available

NOTES:

relevant data, draw a conclusion. Write out an expanded paraphrase or summary statement suitable for this particular passage.

Exercise: One of your parishioners asks about an expression they have seen in the Book of Ruth. Using Even-Shoshan prepare your own lexical analysis of the following expression:

Ruth 3:9 "spread skirt"