

1. The Character of BDB

- an immensely useful tool, BDB doubles also as a concordance and etymological commentary, although it is not exhaustive in these latter classifications.
- Read the Preface! Following this there is a list of signs and abbreviations. Familiarity with these is a necessity and may easily be obtained through reading. The section of signs on xix is particularly important and sufficiently brief that one might easily know them all on sight. To have access to this material is about as important as knowing it. If one takes advantage of the availability one will soon know most of it.
  - There follows, to page 1077, the Biblical Hebrew lexicography.
  - This is followed, pp 1078-1118 with the lexicographic materials for Biblical Aramaic.
  - A section of appendages and corrigenda concludes the work

2. The arrangement of Material in the Hebrew lexicographical section

--without doubt or apology, the most common student problems in the use of the lexicon are in the area of not understanding how the words are arranged or may be found in the lexicon....many the time occurs when an impossible word is simply a matter of the student (or his professor!) looking in the wrong place.

a. The Lexicon is ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED!(1) The arrangement is according to root.

--The Hebrew verb, we think, is the source of other words. Therefore derivatives appear under the basic root from which they are derived. Note:

$\text{עָשָׂה}$  the verb /to do, make/ p. 793

$\text{בֵּנָיָה}$  the noun /building, work/ p.795

Now if you did not recognize the noun as a derivative of the verb, you will find it listed as a noun on page 592 and with a reference to the proper place under the root form. So it goes with all similar words.

The most important thing, as you can see, is to be able to correctly ascertain the root...but even if you cannot, the lexicon will give you cross reference so long as you can remove the affixes and have a basic noun-verb form for which to look.

- (2) But many Hebrew words have common radicals so making the roots appear identical. In such cases the following must be remembered.