How to Use Greek & Hebrew Study Tools

Analyzing Nouns

- 1. Using a literal English translation, note the number (singular or plural), function of the noun in its sentence/clause/phrase. Find the noun in the BH interlinear and note the gender, grammatical markers, gloss, and Strong's number.
- 2. Based on the English translation and interlinear gloss, and with an initial survey of other passages using the noun in same/similar and different ways, what is the central idea (core meaning) of this noun *in its context*?
- 3. Write out the BDAG (for Greek) or BDB (for Hebrew) entry and any subentries that represents the primary meaning of the noun. Write a preliminary conclusion for the meaning of your word in context.
- 4. Using Webster's, skim through the primary entries for the noun and write down the entry numbers for the possible meanings most similar to how it is used in your passage, then narrow your list to the entry that most closely means the same as you found in BDAG/BDB.
- 5. Use Roget's or Webster's to find the most relevant synonym study for your noun. Write out a paragraph that explains the similarities and differences between the most relevant synonyms and which one in particular most clearly explains the meaning of your target word.
- 6. Write out a *thorough* conclusion for the meaning of your noun in context. Include key concepts from the context of your passage and the author's intention for using this particular word. Your conclusion needs to show a grasp of the grammatical usage in context, similar and different usages, and the nuances involved with similar terms. This should include any insights from the historical, cultural, and literary context of your passage, its author, and the original audience. Your final statement should firmly assert what the author meant in his use of the term within the phrase where it is used.