

Word Studies

Chapter 14

Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν κόσμον

“Do not love the world” (1 John 2:15)

οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον

“For God so loved the world” (John 3:16)

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Comparing Translations

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω (1 Tim 4:12)

- Let no one despise **your youth** (NKJV)
- Let no one despise you **for your youth** (ESV)
- Let no one look down on **your youthfulness** (NASB)
- Don't let anyone look down on you **because you are young** (NIV)
- Don't let anyone think less of you **because you are young** (NLT)

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Comparing Translations

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- Use multiple translations.
- Teach your people to use multiple translations.
- Do not criticize translations.

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

1. Don't make any word mean more than is intended.

“The least meaning is the best meaning”
~Martin Joobs

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- **Illegitimate Totality Transfer:** ascribing to a word the totality of what the word could mean in each individual instance.
- **κόσμος** – adornment, order, the world, the universe, the sum total of all beings above the level of animals, planet earth, humanity, the system of human existence in its many aspects, totality.

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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2. Prioritize synchrony over diachrony.

- **Synchrony** – same time period.
- **Diachrony** – the tracing of a word's meaning through time.
- And ye have respect to him that weareth the **gay** clothing (James 2:3 KJV).

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- **Etymological Fallacy:** The belief that the origin of a word (its etymology) reveals a deeper or truer sense of the word's meaning.
- When etymology matters:
 - **Names** (Gen 25:26; 27:36; Matt 1:21; John 9:7)
 - **Rare Words** (Matt 6:11, ἐπιούσιον, “daily”)

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

3. Do not confuse word and concept.

- **προσεύχομαι**
- Don't forget: δέησις, εὐχή, εὐχομαι.
- Or when no “prayer words” are used (John 11:41–42).

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Principles for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

4. Do not view word study tools as inerrant.

- **καὶ αὐτὸς ἰλασμός ἐστιν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν** (1 John 2:2)
- **Louw & Nida** argue against the English rendering “propitiation” (wrath-appeasing) because “in the NT God is never the object of propitiation since he is already on the side of people.”

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Resources for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- BDAG
- NIDNTT
- EDNT
- Louw & Nida

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Additional Resources

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- Kittel or TDNT
- Spicq
- Liddell (LSJ)
- Moulton & Milligan
- NewDocs
- Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TGL)

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

1. Consider the immediate and broader context.

- “Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from **carousing** (**κραϊπάλη**) drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly” (Luke 21:34 HCSB)

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

2. Compare English Bible translations.

- KJV: **surfeiting**
- ESV: **dissipation**
- NJB: **debauchery**
- NLT: **carousing**
- NIV: **wasteful living**
- CEB: **drinking parties**

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

3. Consider the same biblical author's uses of the word.

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

4. Consult Lexicons or word study tools.

BDAG: “both ‘carousing, intoxication’ and its result ‘drunken headache, hangover’ are associated with the term, since it means ‘dizziness, staggering’ when the head refuses to function . . . **unbridled indulgence in a drinking party, drinking bout . . .**”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

NIDNTT: “*kraipalē* (intoxication) occurs in a few Hellenistic sources (e.g., Aristophanes), and can also be used of the effects of intoxication—dizziness and staggering. In the NT *kraipalē* occurs only once, and in conjunction with *methē* (Lk. 21:34). The effect of drunkenness is probably intended (thus ‘dissipation’ RSV).”

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EDNT: “intoxication, dizziness, staggering”

Louw & Nida: “drunken behavior which is completely without moral restraint....In a number of languages it may be possible to translate *κραϊπάλη* as ‘bad things people do when they are very drunk.’”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Technical commentaries

- **Baylor handbook**: “drunken behavior which is completely without moral restraint.”
- **Bock’s Luke commentary**: “dizziness or carousing associated with drunkenness.”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

5. Identify others words in the same semantic domain (see Louw & Nida).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- **μεθύω, μέθη** – “to become drunk on alcoholic beverages,” “drunkenness”
- **οἰνοφλυγία** – “drunkenness, implying the consumption of large quantities of wine”
- **μεθύσκομαι** – “to become intoxicated”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- **κῶμος, πότος** – “drinking parties involving unrestrained indulgence in alcoholic beverages and accompanying immoral behavior”
- **μέθυσος, οἰνοπότης, πάροις** – “a person who habitually drinks too much and thus becomes a drunkard”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

6. Consider the use of the word in the NT and LXX.

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Hermas, Mandate 6.2.5 – “When some angry temperamental outburst or bitterness comes over you, recognize that [the angel of wickedness] is in you. Then comes the desire for much business, and extravagant kinds of food and drink, and **much drunkenness** (**κραিপάλων πολλῶν**), and various kinds of unnecessary luxuries, and the desire for women, and greed and arrogance and pretentiousness, and whatever else resembles or is similar to these things. So whenever these things enter your heart, you know that the angel of wickedness is with you.”

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Strategy for Word Studies

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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7. State clearly and succinctly your discoveries.

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Strategy for Word Studies

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κραιπάλη refers not just to drunkenness in the abstract, but visible immoral behavior that often accompanies the clouded faculties of an inebriated person. The ancient texts above present such immoral behavior in relation to other persons, that is, the way a drunk person sins against others through foolish talk, violence, and sexual exploitation.

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