

## How to Use a Concordance

A concordance is a handy tool for any Christian. Sometimes we can think of a topic or a word in a scripture, but we cannot quite remember the book, chapter, and verse in the Bible. A concordance is a great way to find those passages or study a particular topic.

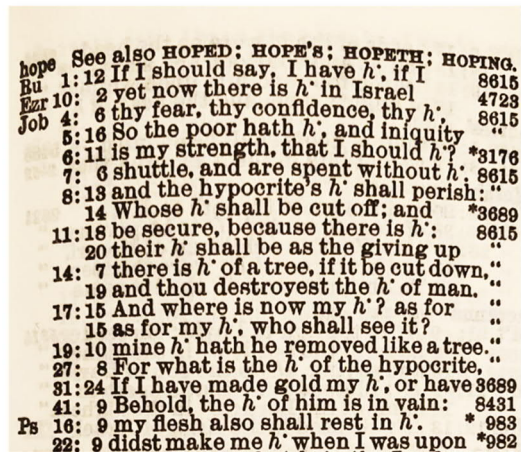
Because a concordance is so handy, they are often included in the back of many Bibles, especially study Bibles. Usually the concordance in the back of a Bible is somewhat abbreviated, and it will not contain all references to all words. There are some popular concordances that you can purchase, if you want a tool that is more comprehensive. Here are a few popular concordances:

- The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
- Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
- Cruden's Complete Concordance

There are many others available. You can expect to spend \$16 to \$29 for a concordance – a modest price for such a useful tool for you and your family.

A concordance is organized alphabetically, much like a dictionary. To find scriptures related to “hope”, for example, you would turn to the section of words starting with the letter “h” and look for the word “hope”. The concordance will list the word at the top of a section, and then show brief snippets of scripture that include the word, along with the book, chapter, and verse where you can turn to read the passage in your Bible. The snippet will abbreviate the word in that section by showing it as a single letter. Here are examples using the word “hope” from three different concordances.

### Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible



Notice that in the Strong's Concordance, it mentions other forms of the word hope that you may want to examine, including “hoped”, “hope’s”, “hopeth”, and “hoping”. Strong’s also has a number to the right of the passage. This number is called a Strong’s Number, and it can be used to identify words that have the same common word in the original language of the Bible.

## Cruden's Complete Concordance

<b>hope</b>	
should say, I have <i>h.</i> , if.	<i>Ruth</i> 1:12
there is <i>h.</i> in Israel.	<i>Ezra</i> 10:2
fear, confidence, thy <i>h.</i> ?	<i>Job</i> 4:6
poor hath <i>h.</i> , and iniquity.	5:16
my days are spent without <i>h.</i>	7:6
hypocrite's <i>h.</i> shall perish.	8:13, 14*
be secure, because there is <i>h.</i>	11:1
their <i>h.</i> shall be as the giving up.	20
for there is <i>h.</i> of a tree if it.	14:7
thou destroyest the <i>h.</i> of man.	19
what is <i>h.</i> of hypocrite though?	27:8
the <i>h.</i> of him is in vain.	41:9
might set their <i>h.</i> in.	<i>Ps</i> 78:7
happy is he whose <i>h.</i> is in.	146:5
the <i>h.</i> of the righteous.	<i>Pr</i> 10:28
<i>h.</i> of unjust men perisheth.	11:7
<i>h.</i> deferred maketh the.	13:12
but the righteous hath <i>h.</i>	14:32

Note that both Cruden's and Strong's are based on the King James Version of the Bible. Other translations may use slightly different words. It is helpful to have a concordance that matches the version of the Bible that you prefer to use. However, slight differences in translation will not make a lot of difference in your actual usage of the concordance.

## A study Bible concordance

<b>HOPE</b> (n) <i>expectation</i>	
Where now is my <b>h</b>	<i>Job</i> 17:15
My <b>h</b> is in Thee	<i>Ps</i> 39:7
Thou art my <b>h</b>	<i>Ps</i> 71:5
while there is <b>h</b>	<i>Prov</i> 19:18
the <b>h</b> of Israel	<i>Jer</i> 17:13
our <b>h</b> has perished	<i>Ezek</i> 37:11
<b>h</b> does not disappoint	<i>Rom</i> 5:5
rejoicing in <b>h</b>	<i>Rom</i> 12:12
may the God of <b>h</b>	<i>Rom</i> 15:13
now abide faith, <b>h</b>	<i>1 Cor</i> 13:13
<b>h</b> of righteousness	<i>Gal</i> 5:5
the <b>h</b> of His calling	<i>Eph</i> 1:18
the <b>h</b> of glory	<i>Col</i> 1:27

This is an excerpt from a study Bible concordance, based on the New American Standard Bible version. Note that it provides a brief definition of the word "hope". But as we mentioned earlier, this "in Bible" concordance is not as complete, as the first mention of "hope" it references is in *Job* 17:15, and both the Strong's and the Cruden's reference *Ruth* 1:12 as the first occurrence of "hope". The print is a little larger in this concordance, and readability may factor into your choice of a concordance.

A good concordance is an inexpensive and important part of your personal library. Perhaps a friend or your church library would have one they could loan you, and you could try a few different concordances to see which one you like best. God bless you as you study His Word and grow in your knowledge of Him.