

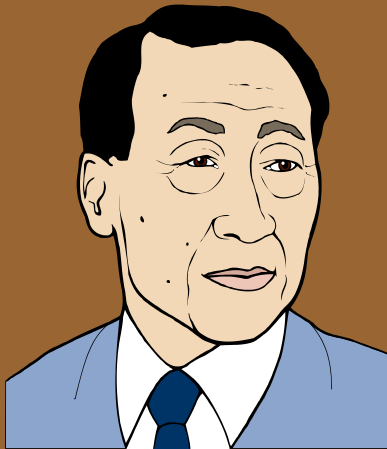
VII. How to Deal with Words

How do we find
the meaning of words?

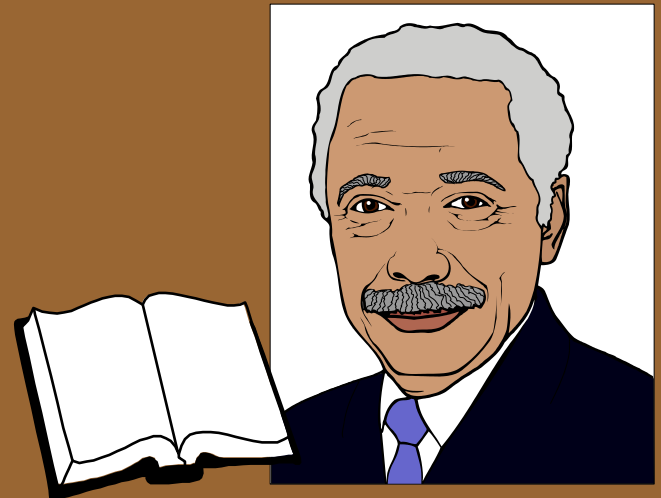


The Challenge

My pastor finds special meanings in Greek.
Should I worry about that?



There are
some pitfalls.



Reading Assignment on Words

◆ Required:

- Silva, *Biblical Words* 17-32
- Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies* 26-32
- or Carson, 2d ed., 28-33.

◆ Optional:

- Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies* 32-90
- or Carson, 2d ed., 33-86

Where Are We?

- ◆ 1. Preliminary acquaintance with the text
- ◆ 2. Exegesis in the original setting
- ◆ 3. Relations with other passages
- ◆ 4. Role in redemptive history
- ◆ 5. Application

◆ Redemptive history (section VI.) rests not on word repetition but content.
Watch pitfalls with words.

Implications of *Lex Christi*

3C implies richness of meaning in a name.

A. Bad Examples



Example: 1 Tim. 1:9

- ◆ 1 Tim 1:9, “understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, the unholy and profane;”
- ◆ Hendriksen: “... such people are by nature *sinner*s (pl. of *hamartôlos*), those who have missed the mark or goal of their existence,” (p. 66).
- ◆ BAG: “sinner.”

1 Timothy 1:9, “profane”

- ◆ Hendriksen: “What is stated negatively in the adjective ‘unholy’ is expressed positively in the adjective *profane* (*bebêlos* from *bainô*, to walk, step, tread). That which is ‘profane’ *can be trodden*. It is, as our English word implies, ‘in front of the temple,’ that is, ‘*outside* the temple’ (*pro* = before or in front of; *fane* = temple, sanctuary).” (p. 67).
- ◆ BAG: 2. “godless,” “irreligious.”

The Question of Etymology

- ◆ Hendriksen relies on origins, not current meaning.
- ◆ Origin suggests a preaching illustration.
- ◆ Does not govern present meaning.

The Problem with Etymologizing

Earlier stage

Now

nescius
in Latin

means

“ignorant”

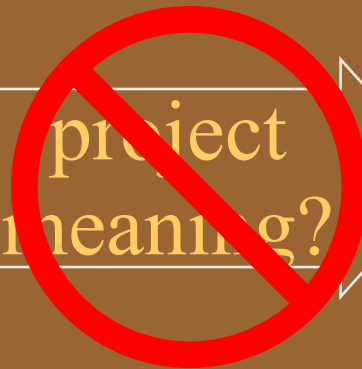
etymology

project
meaning?

“nice”

means?

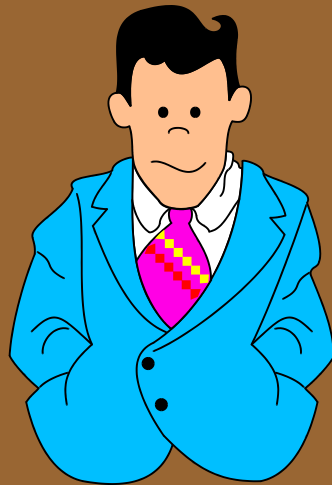
“ignorant”



How Language Operates

Now

I use "nice" even though I never studied Latin.



Etymology might actually confuse him.



Example: Words for Love

- ◆ Popular discussion says that
 - ἀγάπη = divine love,
 - φιλία = love of friendship
 - ἔρος = sexual love.
- ◆ Actually ἀγάπη and φιλία are nearly identical in meaning.

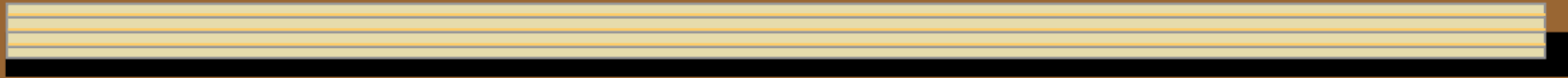
The Challenge with Words

- ◆ Something is going wrong here.
- ◆ “A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.” Prov. 22:3.

We need wisdom.



B. The Right Way



τιμῶ in John 8:49

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω, ἀλλὰ τιμῶ τὸν πατέρα μου, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀτιμάζετέ με.

- ◆ What is the meaning of τιμῶ?
- ◆ False: τιμῶ is related to τιμή “price.” So Jesus “sets a high price” on the Father.
- ◆ Proper: pick one appropriate sense.

The Way of Wisdom

- ◆ “If you seek it [wisdom] like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ...”
Prov. 2:4. “The Lord gives wisdom.”
- ◆ The steps for meaning are like Matt. 13:45-46:
 - Search.
 - Evaluate.
 - Decide and act.



Example 1 for Dealing with Words

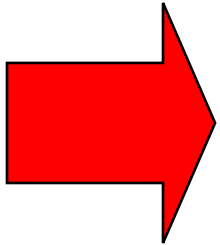
7.3a

John 8:49

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω,
ἀλλὰ τιμῶ τὸν πατέρα μου, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀτιμάζετέ με.

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of τιμάω in John 8:49.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BAG)?



Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in John 8:49? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

τιμάω fut. τιμήσω; 1 aor. ἐτίμησα, mid. ἐτιμησάμην;
 perf. pass. τετίμημαι, ptc. τετιμημένος (Hom.+; inscr.,
 pap., LXX, Ep. Arist., Philo, Joseph., Test. 12 Patr.).

① set a price on. estimate. value (Thu. et al.; inscr.; PSI
 382, 15 [I BC]; PFlor. 266, 6 al.) pass. τὴν τιμὴν τοῦ
 τετιμημένου (sc. ἀγροῦ or ἀνθρώπου, the latter referring to
 Judas) *the price for the field or for the man whose price was*
set (τιμή 1) Mt 27:9a. Mid. *set a price on or estimate*
for oneself (Hdt.+; Wilcken, Chrest. 224a, 8; c, 8; 11 [III
 BC]; Phal. 1, 201; 205 al. in pap.; Lev 27:8; Jos., Ant. 5,
 79) ὃν ἐτιμήσαντο *the one* (=field or man) *on which they*
had set a price vs. 9b.

2. *honor, revere τινά someone* God (X., Mem. 4, 3, 13; Diod. S. 6, 1, 4; 8 τοὺς θεοὺς; Strabo 16, 2, 35; Dio Chrys. 16[33], 45; 58[75], 8; Ael. Aristid. 13 p. 297 D.: πρὸ τῶν γονέων; Is 29:13; Ep. Arist. 234; Philo; Jos., Ant. 9, 153; 256) Mt 15:8; Mk 7:6; 1 Cl 15:2; 2 Cl 3:5; cf. 3:4. —J 5: 23b,d; 8:49 (Jesus honors his Father). Christ J 5:23a, e. On GP 3:9 cf. τιμή 2a. Parents (Ex 20:12) Mt 15:4; 19: 19; Mk 7:10; 10:19; Lk 18:20; Eph 6:2. Cf. Mt 15:6. Presbyters 1 Cl 21:6. The bishop ISm 9:1a. The teacher of the divine word D 4:1. Those who are really widows 1 Ti 5: 3 (though the mng. of τιμή 2e may be influential here; cf. Sir 38:1). πάντας (JPWilson, ET 54, '42/'43, 193f), τὸν βασιλέα 1 Pt 2:17a, b. τ. πολλαῖς τιμαῖς (τιμή 2a) Ac 28:10; cf. GP 3:9. Abs. Dg 5:15.--Of God (Soph., fgm. 226 N. ὃν τιμᾷ θεός. Pass. 4 Macc 17:20) or Christ: ...

Example 1 for Dealing with Words

7.3a

John 8:49

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω,
ἀλλὰ τιμῶ τὸν πατέρα μου, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀτιμάζετέ με.

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of τιμῶ in John 8:49.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon(BAG)?

1. set a price on, estimate, value...

2. honor, revere.

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in John 8:49? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

Step 2. Evaluate the Senses: Are These Senses Distinct?

- ◆ “Set a price on” belongs to monetary transactions.
“Honor” belongs to personal relations.
- ◆ Yes, there are two distinct senses.

Example 1 for Dealing with Words

7.3a

John 8:49

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω,
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Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of τιμῶ in John 8:49.

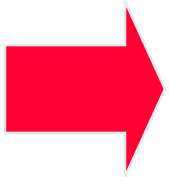
Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon(BAG)?

- 1. set a price on, estimate, value...*
- 2. honor, revere.*

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Yes.

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in John 8:49? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?



Step 3. Decide: Which Sense Occurs?

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω, ἀλλὰ τιμῶ τὸν πατέρα μου, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀτιμάζετέ με.

- ◆ John 8:49 has personal relations.
- ◆ In context, “honor” makes sense (contrasting with ἀτιμάζω, “dishonor”).
- ◆ Hence, sense 2, “honor,” occurs here.

Simple.



Example 1 for Dealing with Words

7.3a

John 8:49

ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ δαιμόνιον οὐκ ἔχω,
ἀλλὰ τιμῶ τὸν πατέρα μου, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀτιμάζετέ με.

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of τιμῶ in John 8:49.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon(BAG)?

- 1. set a price on, estimate, value...*
- 2. honor, revere.*

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Yes.

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in John 8:49? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

Sense 2, "honor," is here.

 *Fits "dishonor" and context of personal relations.*

Summary of General Principles

From Silva, *Biblical Words* ...

Search and identify:

- ◆ Words do not contain whole *worldviews*.
- ◆ Distinguish *words and concepts*.
- ◆ Ignore *etymology*.

Evaluate and decide:

- ◆ Only *one sense* in one use.
- ◆ *Context* indicates which sense is active.
- ◆ Best meaning *adds least* to context (Joos' Law).

A Example of Joos' Law

- ◆ “And they _____ on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.” (Judges 18:13)
- ◆ Blank can be guessed.
- ◆ ESV has “passed.”. These senses:
 - 1. moved, proceeded.
 - 2. sat in inquest or judgment.
 - 3. was approved by a legislature.
 - 4. declined to bid in a card game.
- ◆ Correct sense comes from context.

C. Practice with Word Meanings

- a. An example with Isaiah 51:22

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

Isaiah 51:22

כֹּה-אָמַר אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְהוָה וְאַלֹהֶיךָ יִרְיָב עַמּוֹ
הִנֵּה לִקְחָתִי מִיָּדְךָ אֶת-כּוֹס הַתַּרְעִלָּה
אֶת-קַבְעֵת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא-תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד:

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי
in Isa. 51:22.

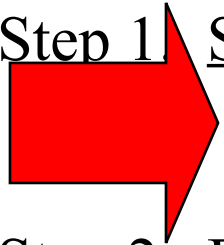
Example 2 for Dealing with Words

Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעַת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד:

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי in Isa. 51:22.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?



Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

Step 1. Search for Senses

- ◆ Go to Brown-Driver-Briggs (BDB) under יסף (Use Einspahr if helpful).

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אֲדוֹן

LORD

11b 2 2

אֲדוֹן

LORD

11b 3 2a

חַמָּה

RAGE

404d 2 c

יִסָּף

DO AGAIN

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CUP

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CUP

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Step 1. Search for Senses

- ◆ Go to Brown-Driver-Briggs (BDB)
under **יָסַף**. (Use Einspahr if helpful.)
- ◆ Find the appropriate verb stem (hiph'il).

inf. not expressed, but implied from context;
both c. לֹא *and did not do it again.* †Niph.

Pf. נוֹסַף Je 36³²; וְנִי consec. Ex 1¹⁰ Nu 36³; 3fs.

וְנוֹסְפָה consec. Nu 36⁴; *Pt.* וְנוֹסָף Pr 11²⁴; נוֹסְפוֹת

Is 15⁹; --1. *join* (intr.), *join oneself to* (עַל) Ex 1¹⁰.

2. *be joined, added to* (עַל) Nu 36^{3.4} Je 36³²; pt.

abs. *is increased* Pr 11²⁴; pt. fem. pl. = *things*

added, additions (i.e. additional calamities) Is

15⁹. Hiph. *Pf.* הוֹסִיף II K 24⁷; הוֹסִיפָה I K 10⁷,

etc.; *Impf.* ₁₆₄ יוֹסִיף Jos 23¹³⁺; *juss.* יוֹסֵף Gn

30²⁴⁺; יוֹסֵף (bef. tone) Pr 1⁵ 9⁹; וַיֹּסֵף Is 7¹⁰⁺;

תִּסְרָה *juss.* Am 7¹³⁺; 2 ms. תּוֹסִיף I S 18²⁹; וַיֹּסֶף
 Dt 13¹; תּוֹסֶף Jb 40³²; תּוֹסֶף Pr 30⁶; אוֹסִיף Ho
 1⁶⁺; volunt. אוֹסֶף Ho 9¹⁵; אֹסֶף Dt 18¹⁶⁺ Ez 5¹⁶ (del.
 Co); אֶסְפָּה II S 12⁸⁺prob. Dt 32²³ (for MT אֶסְפָּה^a);
 3 mpl. יוֹסֵפוֹן I K 19²; 2 mpl. תּוֹסִיפוּ Is 1⁵⁺;
 תִּסְפוֹן Gn 44²³⁺² t.; תִּאֶסְפוֹן Ex 5⁷ (per contr.
 2 S 6¹ *ψ* 104²⁹, cf. sub אֶסֶף), etc.; *Pt.pl.* מוֹסִיפִים
 Ne 13¹⁸; *Inf. cstr.* הוֹסִיף Lv 19²⁵⁺³ t., --1. *add* ←
 ←=Qal), sq. acc.+ עַל II K 20⁶ Lv 5^{16.24} 27³¹ Nu
 5⁷ Jb 34³⁷ (Elihu), *ψ* 61⁷ Pr 16²³ Ez 5¹⁶ (v. supr.),
 ← Ne 13^{18+Dt} 32²³; sq. acc.+ לָּ Gn 30²⁴ Pr 3² 9¹¹;
 ← sq. acc.+ אֵל I K 10⁷ (i.e. thou hast more wisdom

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

7.4a

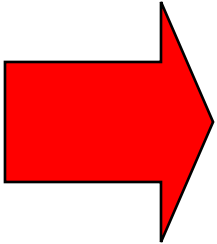
Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעֶת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד:

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי in Isa. 51:22.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

1. Hiph. יָסַף + obj. + עַל "add"



Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

➡ and prosperity than is reported); sq. acc.+ אם

Pr 10²²; cf. וְהוֹסַפְתִּי עַל-כָּל-תְּהִלָּתְךָ ψ 71¹⁴ (i.e.

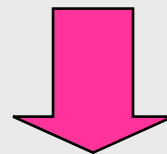
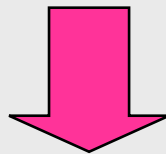
increase); וְהוֹסַפְתִּי חֵכְמָה עַל-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה לִפְנֵי Ec

1¹⁶ (|| הִגְדִּילְתִּי ||) (i.e. gain more); cf. 2⁹ (|| a|| הִגְדִּילְתִּי ||);

וַיֹּסֶף Lv 19²⁵ (i.e. yield more);

...

...



לְמַשְׁנָה Jb 42¹⁰. 2. a sq. inf. (with or without

לְ) *add to do=do again or more* (in Hex only

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

7.4a

Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעַת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד :

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי in Isa. 51:22.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

 1. Hiph. יָסַף + obj. + עַל "add"

2.a. Hiph. יָסַף (+ לְ_a) + inf. "do again"

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

JE & D); + עוֹד Gn 8^{21.21} 18²⁹ 37^{5.8} Ex 10²⁹ 14¹³
 Nu 25¹⁵ Dt 3²⁶ 17¹⁶ 19²⁰ 28⁶⁸ Ju 9³⁷ 20²⁸ 1 S 3⁶ 18²⁹
 (increase), 23⁴ 27⁴ (Kt), 2 S 2²² 5²² 7²⁰ (inf. om.
 in || 1 Ch 17¹⁸), 14¹⁰ 18²² 2 K 24⁷ Am 7^{8.13} 8² Is 8⁵
 10²⁰ 23¹² 51²² Na 2¹ Zp 3¹¹ Je 31¹² Ez 36¹² ψ 10¹⁸
 77⁸ 78¹⁷; inf. om. Pr 19¹⁹ 1 Ch 17¹⁸; עוֹד om. Gn
 4^{2.12} 8¹⁰ 44²³ Ex 5⁷ 8²⁵ 9^{28.34} 10²⁸ Nu 25^{19.25} Dt 13¹²
 18¹⁶ 25³ Jos 7¹² 23¹³ Ju 2²¹ 3¹² 4¹ 10^{6.13} 13¹ 20^{22.23}
 1 S 3^{8.21} 9⁸ 19⁸ 20¹⁷ 2 S 3³⁴ 7¹⁰ 24¹ 2 K 21⁸ Is 1¹³
 7¹⁰ 24²⁰ Ho 9¹⁵ 13² Am 5² 1 Ch 17⁹ 2 Ch 28²² 33⁸
 Jb 27¹ 29¹ ψ 41⁹ La 4^{15.16.22} Jon 2⁵; inf. om. Ex
 11⁶ Dt 25³ Jb 20⁹ 34³² (Elihu), 38¹¹ 40^{5.32} Jo 2²;
 cf. also עָבַד ה' Nu 22²⁶ i.e. *went on further*.

b. sq. Impf. c. • ׀ (of past time) Gn 25¹ 1 S 19²¹

Est 8³ Jb 36¹ (Elihu), Dn 10¹⁸; + עוד Gn 38⁵ Ju

11¹⁴ 1 Ch 14¹³. **c.** sq. Impf. asynd. (Ges §120, 1b, 2b)

אֹסִיף אֲבִקְשֶׁנּוּ עוֹד; Is 47^{1.5}; לֹא תוֹסִיפִי יִקְרְאוּ-לִי;

לֹא אֹסִיף עוֹד אֶרְחֶם אֶת-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל; Ho 1⁶;

לֹא יוֹסִיף יְבֹא-בְךָ עוֹד Is 52¹.

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

7.4a

Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעַת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד :

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי in Isa. 51:22.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

1. Hiph. יִסַּף + obj. + עַל "add"

2.a. Hiph. יִסַּף (+לָּא) + inf. "do again"

2.b. Hiph. יִסַּף + אֵין + impf. "do again"

2.c. Hiph. יִסַּף + impf. "do again"

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

Step 2. Evaluate for Distinctness

- ◆ Two distinct grammatical constructions.
 - יִסַּף + accusative + עַל (or variant)
 - יִסַּף (+ לְ) + inf. (or variant)
- ◆ “Add to” is similar to “increase, multiply, make more,” whereas
- ◆ “do again” is similar to “repeat, reiterate, redo.”
- ◆ Yes, there are two distinct senses.

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעַת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד :

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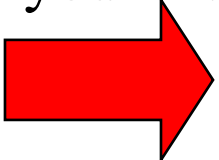
2.b. Hiph. יסף + impf. "do again"

2.c. Hiph. יסף + impf. "do again"

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Yes.

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?



Step 3. Decide Which Sense

הִנֵּה לְקַחְתִּי מִיָּדְךָ אֶת־קִבְעַת כּוֹס חַמָּתִי
אֶת־כוֹס הַתַּרְעִילָה
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד:

- ◆ In Isa. 51:22 the grammatical construction has $\text{יֹסֵף} + \text{לְ} + \text{infinitive}$.
- ◆ In context, “do again” makes sense.
- ◆ Hence, sense 2, “do again,” occurs here.

Example 2 for Dealing with Words

7.4a

Isaiah 51:22

אֶת־קַבְעַת כּוֹס חֲמָתִי
לֹא־תוֹסִיפִי לְשִׁתּוֹתָהּ עוֹד :

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of תוֹסִיפִי in Isa. 51:22.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

1. Hiph. יָסַף + obj. + עַל "add"

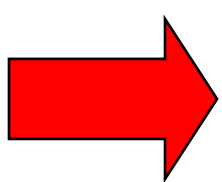
2.a. Hiph. יָסַף (+לָּא) + inf. "do again"

2.b. Hiph. יָסַף + יָסַף + impf. "do again"

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Yes.

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 51:22? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?



"Do again."

Fits grammar; meaning in context.

b. *An Example with Isa. 52:7*



Example 3 Dealing with Words

Isaiah 52:7

מֵה־נָּאוּ עַל־הַהָרִים רִגְלִי
מִבְּשָׂר מִשְׁמִיעַ שָׁלוֹם

מִבְּשָׂר טוֹב מִשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה

אָמַר לְצִיּוֹן מַלְךְ אֱלֹהֶיהָ :

- ◆ DETERMINE the sense of יְשׁוּעָה in Isa. 52:7.

Example 3 for Dealing with Words

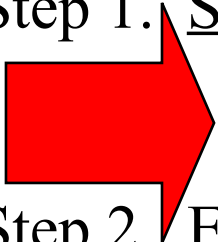
Isaiah 52:7

מְבַשֵּׁר מִשְׁמִיעַ שְׁלוֹם

מְבַשֵּׁר טוֹב מִשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of יְשׁוּעָה in Isa. 52:7.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?



Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 52:7? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

†ישועה n.f. **salvation**;-- יֵשׁ ψ 119¹⁵⁵⁺¹⁸

t.; יִשְׁעָה ψ 3³ Jon 2¹⁰; יִשְׁעָה ψ 80³; cstr. יִשְׁעַת Ex
14¹³⁺⁴ t.; sf. יִשְׁעָתִי Jb 30¹⁵; יִשְׁעָתִי ψ 62²⁺¹² t.,
+25 t. sfs.; pl. יִשְׁעוֹת II S 22⁵¹⁺⁶ t.; יִשְׁעַת ψ 42¹²

→ +3 t.; יִשְׁעוֹת 53⁷;--**1. welfare, prosperity**: כַּעַב

→ יִשְׁעָתִי עָבַר Jb 30¹⁵ *as a cloud my prosperity*

→ *passed away.* **2. deliverance**: וְהִיְתָה לִי לִישׁוּעָה

→ *and thou wilt be to me for deliverance* 2 S 10¹¹=

→ 1 Ch 19¹². **3. salvation** by God, primarily from
external evils, but often with added spiritual

idea: Gn 49¹⁸ (poem), Is 33² 52^{7.10} 59¹¹ 60¹⁸

Jon 2¹⁰ ψ 3^{3.9} 14⁷=53⁷, 22² 35³ 62² 69³⁰ 70⁵

Example 3 for Dealing with Words

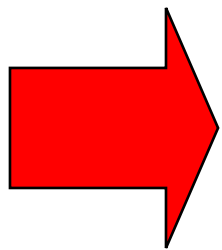
Isaiah 52:7

מְבַשֵּׁר מַשְׁמִיעַ שְׁלוֹם

מְבַשֵּׁר טוֹב מַשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of יְשׁוּעָה in Isa. 52:7.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?



1. welfare, prosperity.

2. deliverance.

3. salvation (by God).

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 52:7? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

|| יְשׁוּעָתִי עַד-קֵצָה; Is 51^{6.8} 56¹ 62¹ ψ 98^{2.3}; צִדְקָה ||

הָאָרֶץ Is 49⁶ *my salvation unto the ends of the*

earth; יְשׁוּעָתְךָ בְּכָל-גּוֹיִם ψ 67³ *among all nations*

thy salvation. 4. victory: c. עֲשָׂה work victory

1 S 14⁴⁵ Is 26¹⁸; elsewhere of victories wrought

by Yahweh for his people Ex 15² (song) Is 12²

Hb 3⁸ ψ 20⁶ 21^{2.6} 44⁵ 68²⁰ 118^{14.15.21}; phrases:

יְשׁוּעוֹת פֶּעַל *do victories* 74¹²; חֶסֶן יְשׁוּעַת Is 33⁶ *store*

of victories; מִגְדֹּל יְשׁוּעוֹת II S 22⁵¹ Qr *tower of*

victories (Kt מִגְדִּיל and so || ψ 18⁵¹); מְעוֹז יְשׁוּעוֹת

ψ 28⁸ *stronghold of victories*; רָאוּ אֶת-יְשׁוּעַת יְיָ

Ex 14¹³(J) *see the victory of Yahweh*, 2 Ch 20¹⁷;

Example 3 for Dealing with Words

Isaiah 52:7

מְבַשֵּׁר מִשְׁמִיעַ שְׁלוֹם

מְבַשֵּׁר טוֹב מִשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of יְשׁוּעָה in Isa. 52:7.

Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

1. welfare, prosperity.

2. deliverance.

3. salvation (by God).

4. victory.

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 52:7? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?

Step 2. Evaluate for Distinctness

- ◆ “Deliverance,” “salvation,” and “victory” are very similar.
- ◆ “Welfare” is a resulting state, as opposed to “deliverance,” the action resulting in the state. Only one attested instance of this sense.
- ◆ Probably only one broad meaning, “deliverance.”

Example 3 for Dealing with Words

Isaiah 52:7

מְבַשֵּׁר מַשְׁמִיעַ שְׁלוֹם

מְבַשֵּׁר טוֹב מַשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה

Assignment: DETERMINE the sense of יְשׁוּעָה in Isa. 52:7.

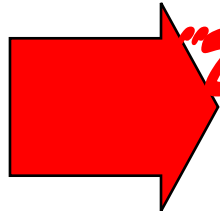
Step 1. Search: what alternative senses are listed in the lexicon (BDB)?

1. welfare, prosperity.
2. deliverance.
3. salvation (by God).
4. victory.

Step 2. Evaluate: do the headings represent distinct senses?

No.

Step 3. Decide: which sense occurs in Isaiah 52:7? What grounds do you have for your conclusion?



"Deliverance." (No decision necessary.)

Rejecting False Inferences

- ◆ Consider the following:
“שֶׁ” has the root meaning ‘be capacious.’
Hence Isa. 52:7 means that God’s salvation gives us wide room for our souls.”
- ◆ Beware of “root meaning.”
- ◆ Beware of importing other passages.
- ◆ Stick with the translation, “deliverance.”

c. Homework Exercise on Words

- ◆ Determine the sense of **וְהָאֱסֻפֹּכִים** in Isa. 52:12,
 - by filling out the attached worksheet.
 - Respond to the sample reasoning near the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Optional: determine the sense of **ἁμαρτίας** in John 8:46,
 - by filling out the attached worksheet.

D. Summary of Procedures for Determining Word Meanings

Steps for Word Meaning

- ◆ Step 1. Search: What alternative senses?
- ◆ Step 2. Evaluate: Are these senses distinct?
- ◆ Step 3. Decide: Which one sense occurs?
- ◆ Look in the advanced lexicon.
- ◆ Look for distinct areas of meaning.
- ◆ Look for clues from context.

One or More Senses

Do entries in lexicon
represent distinct senses?

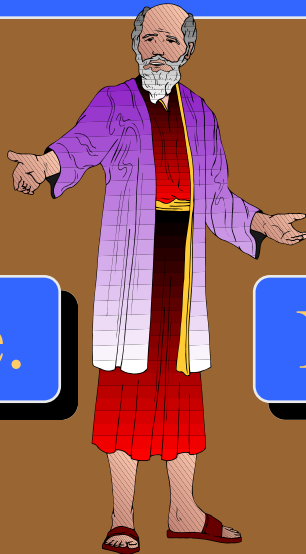
yes

Pick one sense.

no

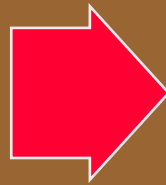
No need to pick.

(All one
broad sense.)



How to Pick the One Sense

List senses
from the lexicon



Pick **one**.

Context!



Grammatical
construction

Topic

When Are Senses Distinct?

- ◆ Intuitively distinct?
- ◆ No overlap?
- ◆ Two sets of synonyms?
- ◆ Two grammatical or semantic contexts?



Using a Concordance to Find Word Meaning

- ◆ BDB or BAG already did it!
- ◆ Watch for:
 - grammatical constructions
 - special semantic context
 - cases that combine two meanings.

E. How to Conceptualize Word Meanings

Contrastive Identity, Variation, and
Distribution

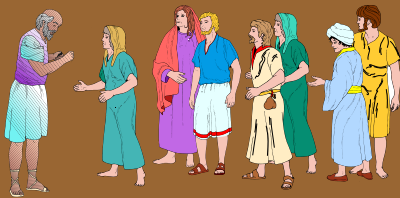
Meaning of Noah's Family

◆ Identity



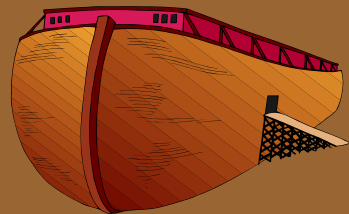
◆ Noah's family, not others.

◆ Variation



◆ Members vary in age, sex, gifts, etc.

◆ Distribution



◆ Live in an environment (on land, then in the ark, with animals).



Meaning of Word “Horse”

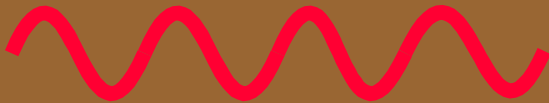
◆ Identity



◆ “Horse” contrasts with other animals.

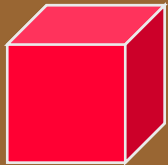
◆ Variation

◆ “Horse” varies in type, age, etc.



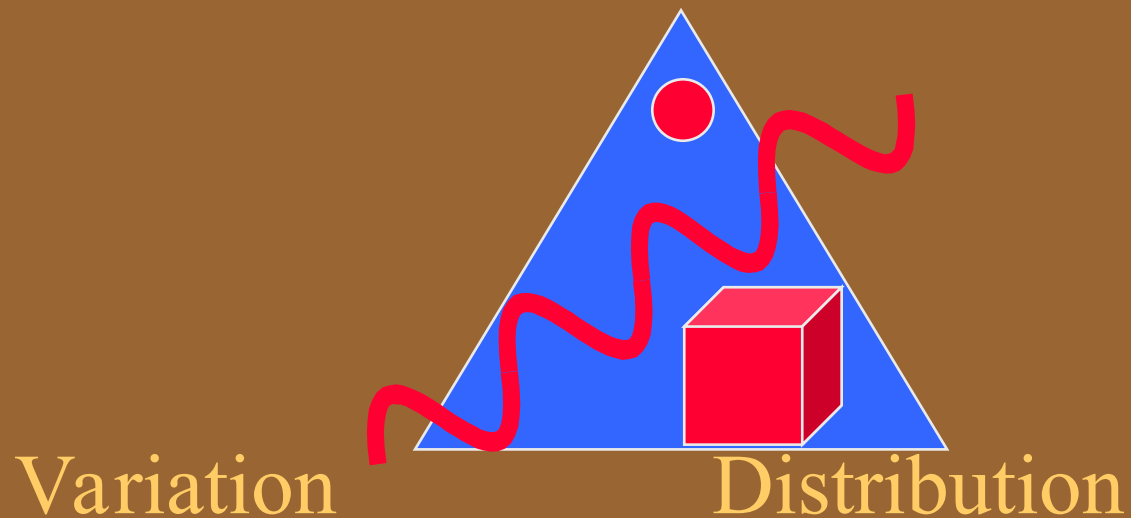
◆ Distribution

◆ Horses live, jump, eat, but do not speak or worship.

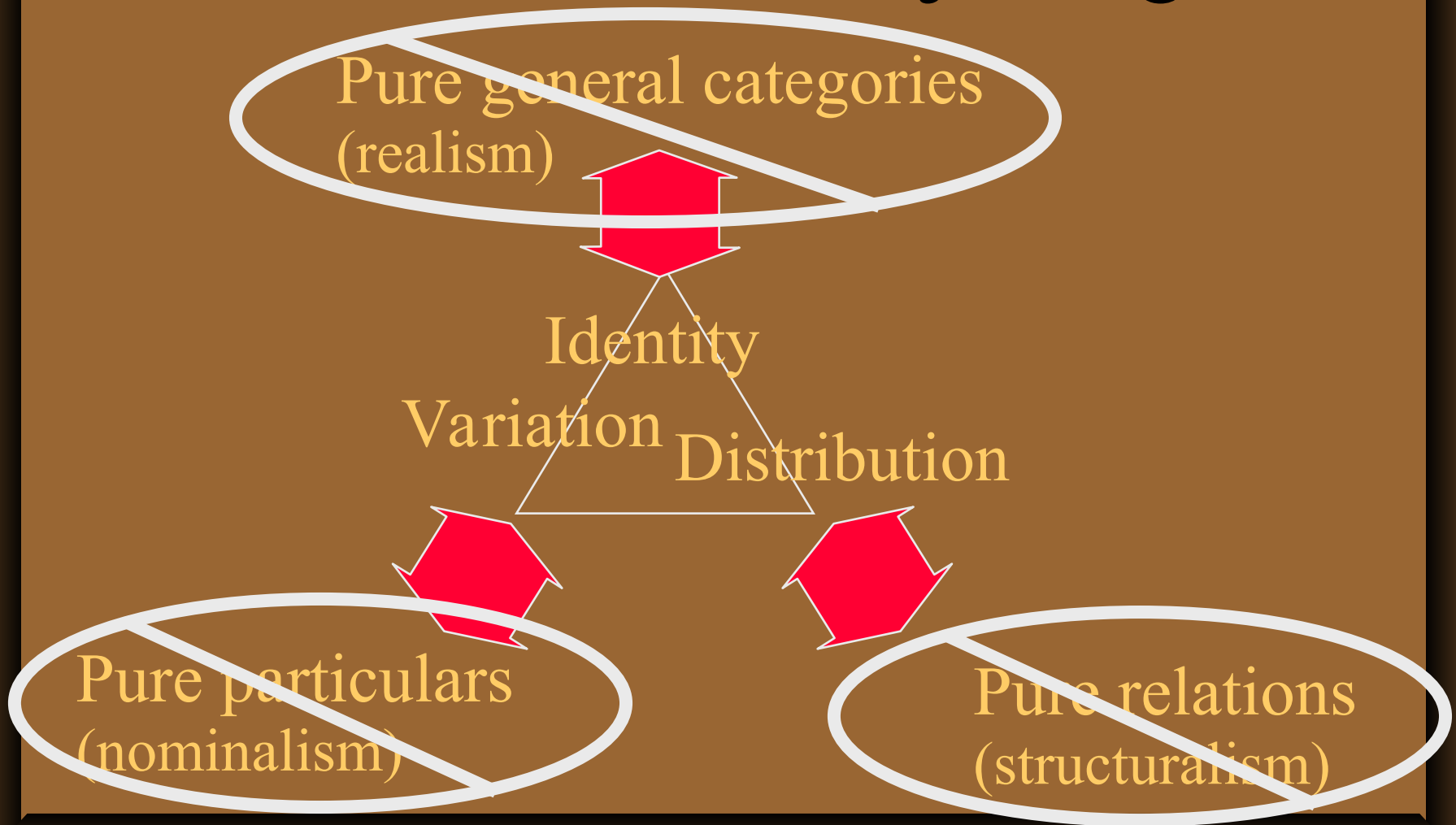


Unity of Meaning

Identity



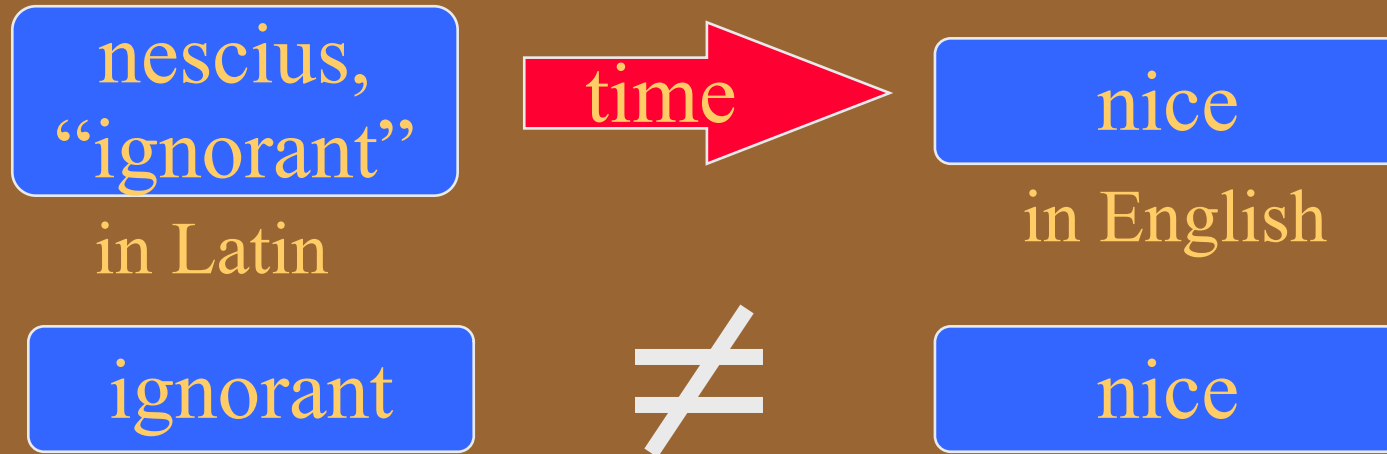
What We Are Rejecting



F. Errors to Avoid



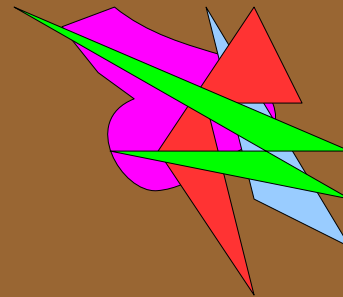
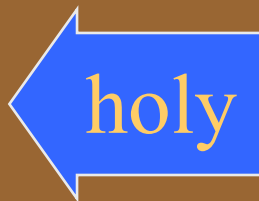
Etymologizing



- ◆ Etymology does not furnish meaning.
- ◆ Suggests a guess.

“Holy” Language

- ◆ Is the Bible’s language odd?
- ◆ The tabernacle is holy, but the language is normal.
- ◆ God’s word is holy, but it is pure, not weird.

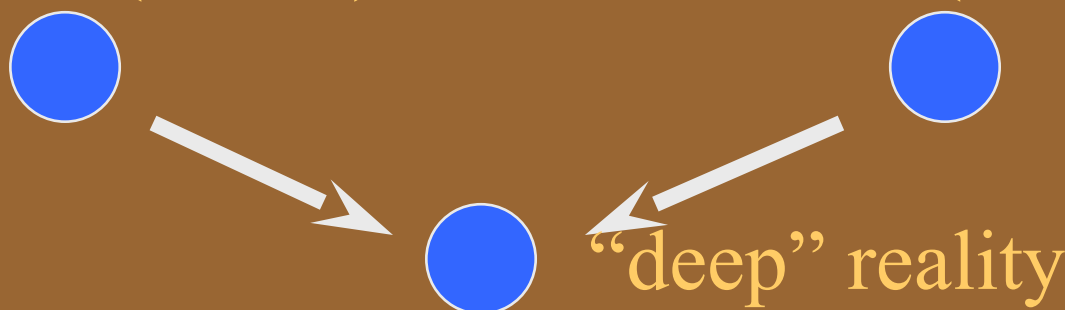


One “Central” Meaning

- ◆ Idea: deep unity (identity), but no variation.
(Danger of *realism*.)

“foolish woman”
Gen. 34:7 (Dinah)

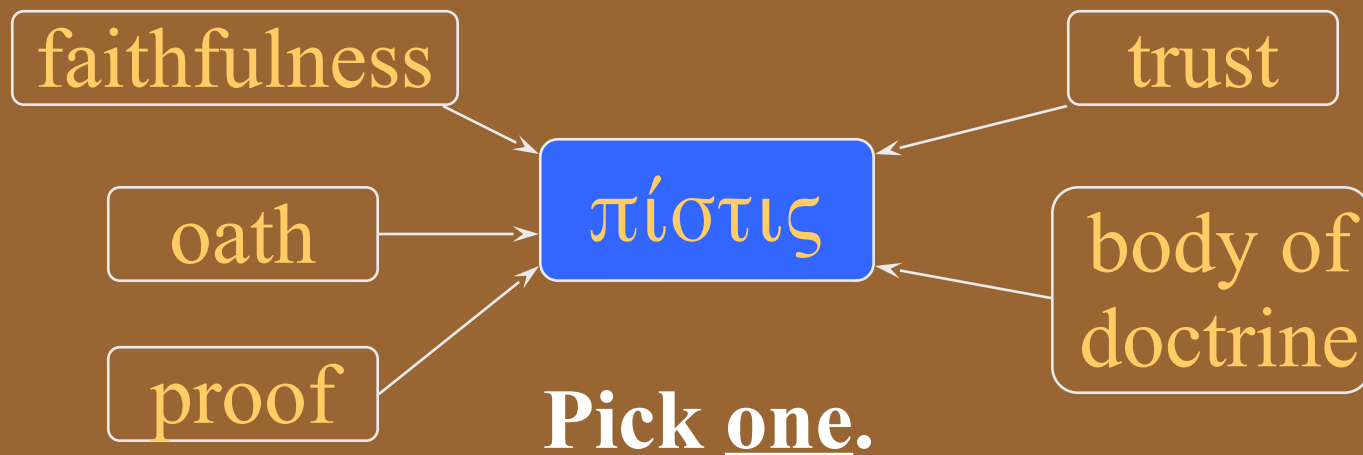
“foolish woman”
Job 2:10 (Job’s wife)



Rabbis inferred that Job married Dinah!

Illegitimate Totality Transfer

- ◆ Don't load all senses into a single occurrence.
 - “Richer,” but inaccurate.



Isolated Islands of Meaning

- ◆ Idea: no unity in uses. (Danger of *nominalism*.)

Sarah



“woman”

Ruth



“woman”

Hannah



“woman”

Mary



“woman”

G. Aristotle and the Syllogism

A decorative graphic consisting of five thin, parallel horizontal lines in a light cream color, stacked on top of a single, thicker black horizontal line. The lines span the width of the slide, starting from the left margin and ending at the right margin.

Syllogistic Reasoning

Valid
syllogism

All men are mortal.
Socrates is a man.
Hence, Socrates is mortal.

Invalid,
due to
equivocation

All **bows** are weapons.
A two-looped slipknot is a **bow**.
Hence, a two-looped slipknot
is a weapon.

A Syllogism for Assurance

All **believers** are justified.
I am a **believer**.
Hence, I am justified.

- ◆ Equivocation with “believer”?
- ◆ The term is incompletely specified.

The Role of Syllogistic Reasoning in Theology

- ◆ Theological arguments rely on incompletely specified terms (“believer”) – and analogy (this “belief” is sufficiently like the forms of belief in the Bible).
- ◆ Syllogistic form reveals premises or fallacies.
- ◆ But: easy to overrate syllogism, underrate contextual control.

H. Maxims for Words



Use the Lexicon

- ◆ Follow the advanced lexicons.
 - Don't improve on them.
 - Don't add extra meaning.
 - Most errors violate this maxim.
- ◆ One sense per occurrence.

Use the Lexicon

- ◆ Trust lexicons more than commentaries.
 - Advanced lexicons have problems, but seldom theological.
- ◆ Exceptions:
 - JEDP in BDB
 - political correctness in BDAG
 - I recommend BAGD and BAG (1st and 2d ed.; not 3d).

Determining Sense

- ◆ Lexicon's glosses have a range of meaning.
- ◆ Determine original by comparing glosses.

