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ONE IDIOM, MANY RENDERINGS

YOUNG'S *Analytical Concordance to the Bible* has been a boon to students. Yet it has limitations, perhaps not observed by many who consult it. It professes to contain "every word in alphabetical order, arranged under its Hebrew or Greek original". It is a "Concordance of words, not of phrases save in so far as any given Hebrew or Greek word may be translated in the English Bible not by a word merely but by a phrase". But let us examine Ezek. i. 3: "The word of the Lord came expressly"; and we find a summary of passages, including this verse, under "the word of the Lord came", but "expressly" here is omitted. It so happens that "expressly" is not expressly found in the Hebrew original, but is supplied by translators to supplement a frequent Hebrew idiom. This idiom can be exhibited by referring to some passages: Gen. xxii. 17, "in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed". Also, in the margin, Authorized Version (A.V.) of the following: Gen. ii. 16, "eating thou shalt eat". Gen. xliii. 3, "protesting he protested" and verse 7, "asking he asked". Ex. v. 23, "delivering thou hast not delivered". Ps. xl. 1, "waiting I waited". Convenient explanations of this idiom are given in Dr. J. A. Alexander's commentary on Matthew (p. 408), "'Let him die the death', Cranmer's imitation of the Hebrew idiom which combines a finite tense and an infinitive of the same verb to express intensity, repetition, certainty or any other accessory notion not belonging to the essential import of the verb itself." Also (p. 358), commenting upon Matt. xiii. 14, "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive": "The Hebrew idiom is retained, which uses two forms of the same verb for intensity or more exact specification." The idiom can be traced in the Old Testament probably not less than four hundred and ninety times, of which over three hundred are in the Pentateuch and the Major Prophets. A few passages have peculiarities. Moses and Jeremiah use it more frequently than the other writers. Seldom is this idiom ignored by our English translators, who with few exceptions supplement it by adverbs, in great variety, with judicious selections. They have thus contributed to the

beauty and power of the A.V. and revealed their copious vocabulary, for they have employed about a hundred different renderings of this one idiom. Italics are used in our present editions of the A.V. to indicate additions by translators, to make good English. In reading, omit some of the words in italics, and what sort of English is left? But, strange to say, these adverbs, accompanying this idiom, which are not in the original at all, are not in italics; and the writer has not happened to see this fact explained. Interpreters, ancient and modern, in dealing with this idiom have had three options: to ignore it (which is often the case in the Vulgate), to translate literally (also often in the Vulgate, and very often in the Septuagint), to add words and phrases. The additions supplied by translators have made our A.V. more beautiful. It is an English classic.

The following list contains most of the instances of this Hebrew idiom, and of the various additions furnished in the A.V. by the translators:—

Gen. ii. 16, freely; 17 and iii. 4, surely; iii. 16, greatly; viii. 3, continually; 7, forth to and fro; xii. 9, on still (Vulg. *ultra*); xv. 13, of a surety; xvi. 10, exceedingly; xvii. 13, must needs be; xviii. 10, certainly; 18, surely; xix. 9, needs be; xx. 7, surely; 18, fast closed up; xxii. 17, (literal, blessing, multiplying); xxiv. 5, must needs; xxvi. 11, surely; 13, forward; 28, certainly; xxvii. 30 (Vulg. *vix*) scarce; xxviii. 22 and xxx. 16, surely; xxxi. 15, quite; 30, needs be—sore; xxxii. 12, surely; xxxvii. 8, indeed (twice) and verse 10; 33, without doubt; xl. 15, indeed; xliii. 3, solemnly; 7, straitly—certainly; 20, indeed (and xliv. 5); xliv. 15, certainly; 28, surely (and xlvi. 4, l. 24, 25).

Ex. ii. 19, enough; iii. 7, 16, surely; iv. 14, well (Vulg. *eloquens*); v. 23, at all; viii. 28, very (Vulg. *longius*); xi. 1, surely; xiii. 19, straitly—surely; xv. 1, 21, gloriously (Vulg. *glorioso*); 26, diligently; xvii. 14, utterly; xviii. 18, surely; xix. 5, indeed; 12, 13, surely; 13, shot through; xxi. 5, plainly; 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, surely; 19, thoroughly; 22, 28, 36, surely; xxii. 3, full restitution; 4, certainly; 6, 14, 16, 19, 23, surely; 12, idiom unnoticed?; 13, in pieces; 17, utterly; 23, in any wise—at all (and 26); xxiii. 4, 5, surely; 22, indeed; 24, utterly—quite; xxxi. 14, 15, surely; xxxiv. 7, by no means.

Lev. v. 19, certainly ; vii. 18, at all ; 24, in no wise ; x. 16, diligently ; 18, indeed ; xiii. 7, 12, 22, 27, abroad ; 35, much ; xiv. 48 (see margin) ; xv. 24 and xix. 7, at all (and 20 ; Vulg. *tamen pretio*) ; xix. 17, in any wise (Vulg. *publice*) ; xx. 4, any ways ; 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 27, and xxiv. 16, 17, surely ; xxiv. 16, certainly ; xxvii. 10, at all (and 13) ; 19, in any wise ; 29, surely ; 31, at all.

Num. xi. 15, out of hand ; 32, all abroad ; xii. 14, had but ; xiii. 30, at once—well ; xiv. 18, by no means ; xv. 31, utterly ; 35, surely ; xvi. 13, altogether ; xviii. 15, surely ; xxi. 2, indeed ; xxii. 17, very ; xxii. 30, ever (Vulg. *simile unquam*) ; 37, earnestly ; 38, at all ; xxiii. 11, altogether (Vulg. *e contrario*) ; 25, at all (twice) and xxx. 6 ; xxiv. 10, altogether ; 11, great (Vulg. *magnifice*) ; xxvi. 65 and xxvii. 7 and xxxv. 16, 17, 18, 21, 31, surely ; xxx. 12, utterly ; 14, altogether ; 15, any ways ; xxxv. 26, at any time.

Deut. iv. 26, utterly (twice) ; vi. 17, diligently ; vii. 2, 26 (twice), utterly ; vii. 18, well ; viii. 19, at all—surely ; xi. 13, 22, diligently ; xii. 2, utterly ; xiii. 9, 15, surely ; xiv. 22, truly ; xv. 4, greatly ; 5, carefully ; 8, 11, wide ; 8, 10, surely ; 14, liberally ; xvii. 15, xxi. 23, xxii. 7, in any wise ; xx. 17, utterly ; xxi. 14, at all ; xxii. 1, xxiv. 13, in any case ; xxii. 4, xxiii. 21, xxx. 18 (Vulg. *parvo tempore*), xxxi. 18, surely ; xxviii. 1, diligently ; xxxi. 29, utterly.

Josh. iii. 10, without fail ; vi. 13, continually (participle employed) ; vii. 7, at all ; ix. 24, certainly ; xxiii. 12, in any wise ; 13, for a certainty ; xxiv. 10, still.

Judges i. 28, utterly ; iv. 9, surely (Vulg. *quidem*) ; v. 23, bitterly ; vii. 19, newly ; viii. 25, willingly (Vulg. *libentissime*) ; ix. 8, (went) forth *on a time* (A.V. italics) ; xi. 25, ever (twice) ; 30, without fail ; 35, very ; xiii. 22, surely ; xiv. 9, (went) on ; 12, certainly ; xv. 2, verily—utterly ; 13, fast—surely ; xvi. 11, fast ; xvii. 3, wholly ; xx. 39, xxi. 5, surely.

Ruth ii. 11, fully ; 16, handfuls of purpose.

I Sam. i. 10, sore (Vulg. *largiter*) ; 11, indeed ; ii. 16, not fail ; 27, plainly ; 30, indeed ; vi. 3, in any wise ; 12, (as they went) ; viii. 9, solemnly ; ix. 6, surely ; x. 16, plainly ; xii. 25, still ; xiv. 19, (went) on ; 28, straitly ; 30, freely ; 39, surely ; 43, did but ; 44, surely ; xix. 23, (went) on ; xx. 3, certainly ; 5, not fail ; 6, at all—earnestly ; 7, very ; 9, certainly ;

21, expressly; 28, earnestly; xxii. 16, surely (and 22); xxiii. 10, certainly; 22, very subtly; xxiv. 20, surely; xxv. 28, certainly; xxvi. 25, great—still; xxvii. 1, speedily; 12, utterly; xxviii. 1, assuredly.

2 Sam. i. 6, by chance (Vulg. *casu*); iii. 24, quite; v. 10, (went) on; 19, doubtless; vi. 20, shamelessly; ix. 7, surely; xii. 14, great occasion—surely; xiii. 19, (went) on; xiv. 14, must needs; xv. 8, again indeed; 30, (weeping as they went up); xvi. 5, still (participle employed); xvii. 10, utterly; 11, generally; 16, speedily; xviii. 2, surely; 3, away; 25, apace; xix. 42, at all—any gift; xx. 18, were wont—surely; xxiii. 7, utterly; xxiv. 24, surely.

1 Kings ii. 37, for certain—surely; 42, for a certain—surely; iii. 26, 27, in no wise; viii. 13, surely; ix. 6, at all; xi. 11, surely; 22, in any wise; xiii. 32, surely; xix. 10, 14, very; xx. 37 (see margin); 39, by any means; xxii. 28, at all.

2 Kings i. 4, 6, 16, iii. 23, v. 11, surely; ii. 11, still (participle employed); viii. 10, certainly—surely (and 14); xiv. 10, indeed; xviii. 30, surely; 33, at all.

1 Chron. iv. 10, indeed; xi. 9, waxed greater; xxi. 17, indeed; 24, verily.

2 Chron. xviii. 27, certainly; xxxii. 13, any ways.

Neh. i. 7, very.

Esther iv. 14, altogether; vi. 13, surely.

Job vi. 2, thoroughly; xiii. 5, altogether; 10, surely; 17, diligently (and xxi. 2); xxvii. 22, fain; xxxvii. 2, attentively.

Psalms xl. 1, patiently; xlix. 7, by any means; l. 21, altogether; cix. 10, continually vagabonds; cxviii. 13, 18, sore; cxxvi. 6, forth—doubtless; cxxxii. 15, abundantly; 16, aloud.

Prov. xxiii. 1, diligently (Vulg. *diligenter*); 5, certainly; 24, greatly; xxvii. 23, diligent.

Sol. Song viii. 7, utterly (Vulg. *quasi nihil*).

Isa. vi. 9, indeed (twice); xxii. 7, in array; 17, surely; 18, violently; xxiv. 3, utterly (twice); 19, utterly—clean—exceedingly; 20, to and fro; xxviii. 28, idiom unnoticed?; xxx. 19, no more—very; xxxv. 2, abundantly; xxxvi. 15, surely; xl. 30, utterly; xlviii. 8, very; l. 2, at all; liv. 15, surely; lv. 2, diligently; lvi. 3, utterly; lix. 11, sore; lx. 12, utterly; lxi. 10, greatly.

Jer. iii. 1 and iv. 10, greatly ; v. 11, very ; vi. 9, thoroughly ; 15, at all ; vii. 5, thoroughly (twice) ; vii. 13, early ; viii. 12, at all ; 13, surely ; ix. 4, utterly ; x. 5, needs be ; xi. 7, earnestly ; 12, at all ; xii. 16, diligently ; 17, utterly ; xiii. 12, certainly ; 17, sore ; xiv. 19, utterly ; xv. 18, altogether ; xvii. 24, diligently ; xx. 15, very ; xxii. 4, indeed ; 10, sore ; xxiii. 32, at all ; 39, utterly ; xxv. 28, certainly ; 29, utterly ; 30, mightily ; xxvi. 8, surely ; 15, for certain ; 19, at all ; xxx. 11, altogether ; xxxi. 18, surely ; 20, earnestly—surely ; xxxii. 4 and xxxiv. 3 and xxxvi. 16, surely ; xxxvi. 29, certainly ; xxxvii. 9 and xxxviii. 3, 15, surely ; xxxviii. 17, assuredly ; xxxix. 18, surely ; xl. 14, certainly ; xli. 6, all along ; xlii. 10, still ; 15, wholly ; 19, 22, certainly (and xlv. 17) ; xlv. 25, surely (three times) (and 29) ; xlvi. 28, wholly ; xlviii. 9, get away ; xlix. 12, assuredly—altogether—surely ; l. 34, thoroughly ; li. 56, surely ; 58, utterly.

Lam. i. 2 (and iii. 52), sore ; 20, grievously ; iii. 20, still ; v. 22, utterly.

Ezek. i. 3, expressly ; iii. 18, 21, surely ; xiv. 3 and xvi. 4 (twice), at all ; xvii. 10, utterly ; xviii. 9, 13, 17, 19, 21, surely (and 28) ; xviii. 23 and xx. 32, at all ; xxv. 12, greatly ; xxviii. 9, yet ; xxx. 16, great pain ; xxxi. 11 and xxxiii. 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, surely ; xxxviii. 7, (be thou prepared) ; xlv. 20, only.

Dan. x. 3, at all ; xi. 10, 13, certainly.

Hos. i. 2, great ; 6, utterly ; iv. 18, continually ; x. 15, utterly.

Joel i. 7, clean ; ii. 26, in plenty.

Amos iii. 5, at all ; v. 5 and vii. 11, 17, surely ; ix. 8, utterly.

Mic. i. 10, at all ; ii. 4, doleful (a participle here ?) ; 12, surely (twice).

Nah. i. 3, at all ; iii. 13, wide open.

Hab. ii. 3, surely ; iii. 9, quite (verbal noun for infinitive).

Zeph. i. 2, utterly.

Zech. vi. 15, diligently ; vii. 5, at all ; viii. 21, speedily ; xi. 17, clean—utterly ; xii. 3, in pieces.

NOTE.—No instances here recorded in Ezra, Ecclesiastes, Obadiah, Jonah, Haggai, Malachi.

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