

Haply

Haply, an old English word, is found once in the KJV Old Testament and five times in the New Testament. There are three different Greek words which all are translated into 'haply'. The context of the passage in which this word is found gives a sense of words we might use today in its place.

Here are the three New Testament definitions (which are closely related).

1) *Haply*: “***if only***”. Example – ‘If only (*If haply*) I would have studied harder for my math test’.

(2) *Haply*: “***so then***” or “***therefore***”. Example – ‘So then (or ‘Therefore’), (*So, Haply,*) you should never light a fire near an open can of gasoline’

(3) *Haply*: “***perhaps***”. Example – ‘If you would, perhaps (*haply*), look in the closet, you may find your shoes’.

(4) *Haply* “***Oh that by any means***” . This particular meaning of the word *haply* is found once in the Old Testament. There it is used as an expression of extreme longing or desire. Example: ‘How important that by any way possible!’ (*If haply*) the medicine could be delivered immediately!