



How to Study the Bible

Proper Tools for Bible Study

I. THE BIBLE

A. The Benefit of the Bible

1. The Bible is the best dictionary and commentary for the Bible.
2. The Bible is the only perfect resource for Bible study.

B. What Is Meant by the Bible?

1. The King James Bible is the only Bible in the English language. The rest are considered below under the heading *perversions*.
2. In order to do the most honest Bible study, it is recommended that the student avoid any and all reference or study Bibles.
3. When looking for a Bible, you must be careful to avoid some of the newer perversions claiming to be King James, but that changed the text.

II. SWORDSEARCHER

A. The Material

1. It has a wealth of material indexed and ready for immediate retrieval.
2. Among dozens of resources, it has a good number of commentaries.
3. It also includes Webster's 1828 Dictionary (a classic), the entire International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (another classic), Nave's Topical Bible, and numerous maps and illustrations.

B. The Cost Is Affordable (<https://www.swordsearcher.com/>)

III. CONCORDANCES

A. Definition

1. A concordance is an alphabetical list of the words used in the Bible with the references where these words are used and usually a partial quote of the passage showing the word in context.
2. A complete concordance records every listing of every word in the Bible. There are also concordances for different versions of the Bible.

B. Specific Uses

1. Aids in finding a verse when the reference is not known
2. Gives material for word studies



C. Most Popular Concordances

1. Cruden's Concordance
 - a. Features
 - (1) Has some definitions
 - (2) Gives many words according to phrase
 - (3) Paraphrases some selections
 - b. Advantages
 - (1) Smaller than the others and therefore easier to handle
 - (2) Excellent for finding references
 - (3) Excellent for phrase studies
 - c. Disadvantages
 - (1) Does not have all Bible words or references
 - (2) Phrasing can be confusing.
 - (3) Paraphrasing does not give exact feel of the verse.
 - (4) Note: avoid abridged versions of Cruden's.
2. Young's Concordance
 - a. Features
 - (1) Contains most Bible references
 - (2) Subdivides each English word into Hebrew and Greek words with a short definition
 - b. Advantage—helps to distinguish words with completely different meanings but identical spellings, i.e., *fast*, *bow*
 - c. Disadvantages
 - (1) Still not complete
 - (2) Places too much emphasis on the Hebrew and Greek
 - (3) Makes it hard to find a passage
 - (4) Makes word studies difficult
3. Strong's Concordance
 - a. Features
 - (1) Contains every biblical reference to every passage
 - (2) Passages are verbatim
 - (3) No subdivisions—except in the new edition which subdivides proper nouns when they refer to different people or places
 - b. Advantages
 - (1) Every word and reference
 - (2) Exact wording
 - (3) Excellent for word studies or verse searches
 - c. Disadvantage—if spelling is the same, no distinction is made.

IV. DICTIONARIES

A. For Definitions

1. The most obvious usage of a dictionary is for its definitions.
2. Yet, it is dangerous to rely too heavily on definitions found in dictionaries as they are always updating to reflect the modern usage of the word.



B. For Etymology

1. This is a history of how a word came to its present form.
2. Use the etymology to help determine the most basic idea of the word.

C. For Part of Speech

1. If more than one applies to the word, find which applies to the passage you are studying.
2. Use this information to understand the significance of this word in the verses in which it is found.

D. Some Recommendations

1. *Webster's New World Dictionary* published by Simon & Schuster
2. *1828 American Dictionary of the American Language* by Noah Webster
3. *The Merriam-Webster New Book of Word Histories*
4. *Dictionary of Word Origins* by John Ayto
5. *An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language* by Walter W. Skeat

V. CROSS-REFERENCE AIDS

A. Definition—any reference that starts from a particular Bible reference and gives related references

B. Uses

1. Find related verses and passages
2. Find what else the Bible has to say on the same subject
3. Obey the commands to compare and build truth on scripture (Isaiah 28:9-10; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

C. Examples

1. Center column reference Bibles
 - a. Can be an excellent tool for Bible study
 - b. All are not alike; check them out before you purchase them.
 - c. Use the center column reference.
2. *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*
 - a. Probably the best cross-reference tool available
 - b. Has many more references than a Bible center column
 - c. Divides the verses into phrases to save time in study
 - d. This is a must for the serious Bible student
3. *The New Topical Textbook*
 - a. More of a topical reference than a cross reference
 - b. Yet, an excellent tool for the study of certain topics
 - c. A great help in sermon building



VI. BIBLE DICTIONARIES

A. Kinds

1. Single-volume bible dictionaries
 - a. Most contain all proper nouns in the Bible
 - b. Outline major topics in the Bible: history, temple, vegetation
 - c. Cover major themes about the Bible: archaeology, chronology
 - d. Give outlines, summaries and introductions to the books of the Bible
2. Encyclopedia Bible dictionaries
 - a. Has everything found in the single-volume dictionaries and more
 - b. They cover less frequent words, historical subjects, and archaeological discoveries which are not found in single-volume dictionaries.

B. Uses

1. Helps in defining biblical words
2. Good for biographical or geographical studies
3. Good for the study of background information on Bible words and topics

VII. COMMENTARIES

A. A Proper Expectation

1. We expect too much from commentaries which ends in disappointment.
2. Do not expect these books to have the answers you want.

B. A Proper Use

1. Use commentaries after you have studied the problem for yourself.
2. Commentaries tend to emphasize different things: doctrine, devotional thoughts, and technical discussions. Know your commentaries and know when to use which.

VIII. PERVERSIONS OF THE SCRIPTURE

A. Usage

1. This is not meant to be used for actual study of the scripture.
2. When a modern version changes something from the King James Bible, it is a good indicator that you need to do some studying of the King James because Satan is obviously trying to get rid of a good truth.

B. Acquisition

1. You do not have to purchase the modern versions.
2. Many of these are available for your viewing on the internet.