

Basic Bible Study Reference Works

BIBLE STUDY METHODS: These books help you learn how to study the Bible: *How to Study the Bible*, R. A. Torrey. *How to Study the Bible*, John MacArthur. *How to Study Your Bible*, Kay Arthur. *Studying, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, Walter Henrichsen. *Living by the Book*, Howard Hendricks

ENGLISH DICTIONARY: The first reference tool everyone should have. A translation from the original languages does little good if you still do not know what the English equivalent means. (Webster 1812 for those using KJV)

CONCORDANCE: A concordance is a very versatile and useful tool and should be the first specific Bible reference work acquired. An exhaustive concordance lists every occurrence of any particular word. This enables you to look up a word and all of the verses which contain that word. It can be used to locate verses, define words and assist in topical studies. Strong's Concordance has numbered all Greek, Hebrew and Chaldee words, to which other reference works are keyed, so a concordance using Strong's numbering system is recommended. *Use a Concordance that matches the translation of the Bible you use for study.*

LANGUAGE HELPS: There are many language helps now available that can enable anyone to explore Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic (Chaldee) with minimal effort. To help with New Testament - *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. This book lists words according to the English translation and then explains the original Greek words they were translated from. *Thayer's Greek/English Lexicon*. This is a regular Greek/English lexicon (words are listed in Greek and explained in English) that is keyed to Strong's numbering system. To help with the Old Testament - *The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* lists Hebrew words and then explains them in English, but it is also keyed to Strong's.

TOPICAL BIBLE AND BIBLE CROSS-REFERENCE: A topical Bible enables you to look up Scripture passages by Topic. *Nave's Topical Bible* is the standard work in this category. A cross-reference Bible lists cross references for each passage. *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* is the standard work in this category.

BIBLE DICTIONARY: This is more like a one volume encyclopedia than what most people commonly think of as a dictionary. You can look up words or topics and find very brief articles. Two of the better ones are *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* and *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* [If you plan on purchasing a Bible Encyclopedia, a Bible Dictionary is of limited value].

BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA: Similar to a regular encyclopedia except all of the articles are related to the Bible in some way. The two best are *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 5 vol.; *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, 4 vol.

BIBLE HANDBOOKS: These are sort of like an encyclopedia and Bible Commentary in one concise book. Good ones include: *MacArthur Bible Handbook*, *Holman Illustrated Bible Handbook*, *New Unger's Bible Handbook*.

BIBLE ATLAS: A Bible Atlas enables you to gain an understanding of the geography of the lands of the Near East and the Mediterranean. They vary widely as to their scope and depth, so it would be best to examine a few before purchasing. You will want one that at least charts the major movements of people, battles and missionary journeys. Some of the better ones will also describe the climate, topology, geology, and natural resources. Good ones include: *New Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, *The Kregel Bible Atlas*, *Crossway ESV Bible Atlas*, *IVP Atlas of Bible History*.

BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CUSTOMS: *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, *The Works of Josephus*, 1 vol. ed., *New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*, *Manners and Customs in the Bible*.

ARCHAEOLOGY - *The Bible & Archaeology*, *The Archaeology of the Bible*, *Kregel Pictorial Guide to Archaeology*

ONE VOLUME COMMENTARIES: These give good introductions to each book plus commentary upon the meanings of most passages. Some of the better ones are *Bible Knowledge Commentary of the New Testament - Old Testament*; *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*, *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* & *Willmington's Guide to the Bible*.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS: If you have a computer, most Bible study software programs will include one or more of the reference types above. Overall, a computer program is a much less expensive way to gain Bible Study Reference tools. Good programs include: Logos, Quick Verse, E-Sword (For free Bible study materials, check the link page at GraceBibleNY.org/bible_study_resources)