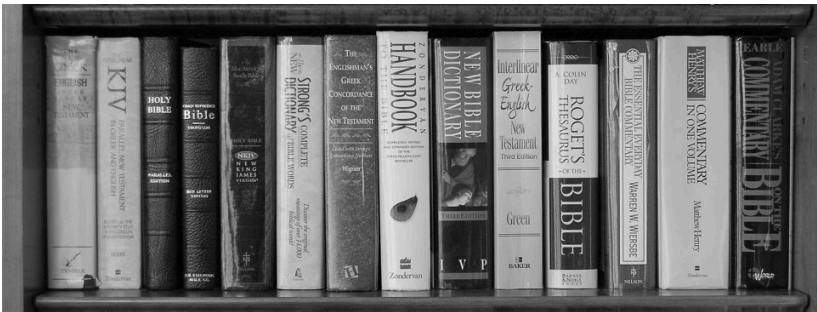


How To Study The Bible

Lesson 6

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources



Introduction: The Bible Study resources readily available to the average American today are unparalleled in history. The problem is not finding the resources, but sorting through them to separate the wheat from the chaff.

This last section provides a limited set of recommendations that will help establish the direction and caliber you can use as you search for tools to assist you in your personal studies.

You are welcome to freely distribute the recordings and printed material for this study, however you are not allowed to change the contents in any form or fashion without written permission from Pahrump Community Church.

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

I. Study Bibles.

A. Relative value: useful/very helpful

B. Printed Version

1. *ESV Study Bible*.

a. Description: The ESV Study Bible includes more than 20,000 notes, written specifically for it. Comprehensive book introductions, full-color maps, over 50 theological articles, 80,000 cross references, a concordance, over 200 color charts, located throughout the Bible, & more—provide clear, concise presentations of essential information to help you understand the Bible in a deeper way. (*Christianbook.com*)

b. Features:

- Section summaries.
- Maps.
- Notes providing answers to frequently raised issues.
- Cross-references to key words, passages, and themes throughout the Bible.
- Numerous diagrams & charts.

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Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

2. *Life Application Study Bible.*

Available in KJV, NIV, NLT, NASB, NKJV.

a. Description: This Bible helps you focus on God's Word, discover what God is teaching you, and put into practice the truths you are learning.

b. Features:

- Nearly 10,000 Life Application study notes that show you how God's Word speaks to every situation in your life
- Profiles of more than 100 key Bible people
- Harmony of the Gospels
- Dictionary/Concordance
- Cross-references
- Book introductions, outlines, and timelines
- In-text maps
- Charts and diagrams

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3. *MacArthur Study Bible*. Available in NKJV, NASB.

a. Description: The *MacArthur Study Bible* is perfect for serious study. Over 35 years of Bible study are packed into one volume. The extensive verse-by-verse study notes provide a one-stop way to do your Bible study.

b. Features:

- Over 600 pages of revisions and updates
- New concise Topical Index
- More than 20,000 study notes
- Thorough Book Introductions and Outlines
- Outline of Systematic Theology
- Concordance
- Index to Key Bible Doctrines
- Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament
- Timeline of Old Testament Kings and Prophets
- Timeline of New Testament Chronology
- Harmony of the Gospels
- Over 50 Bible Maps

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4. *NIV Archaeological Study Bible.*

- a. Description: Journey back to the lands and origins of the Bible for an unparalleled encounter with the Word of God. Get insights into the roots of the Bible that will strengthen your faith and open new vistas of knowledge and understanding.
- b. Features:
 - Detailed look at the lands and times of Scripture
 - Importance of ancient civilizations
 - Importance of historical practices, records, artifacts, etc

5. *NIV Study Bible.*

- Description: The *NIV Study Bible* is the work of a transdenominational team of Biblical scholars. All confess the authority of the Bible as God's infallible word to humanity. They have sought to clarify understanding of, develop appreciation for, and provide insight into that word. Doctrinally, the *NIV Study Bible* reflects traditional evangelical theology.

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6. *Ryrie Study Bible*. Available in KJV, NIV, NASB.

- a. Description: *Charles Ryrie's Study Bible* is the result of many years of scholarly study and is intended to help the reader grasp the fundamental truths of Scripture.
- b. Features:
 - extensive cross-references
 - A Synopsis of Bible Doctrine
 - The Inspiration of the Bible
 - Understanding the Bible
 - How We Got Our Bible
 - The Meaning and Blessings of Salvation
 - Archeology and the Bible
 - A Brief Survey of Church History

7. *Scofield Study Bible*.

Available in KJV, NIV, NASB, NKJV, HCSB.

- a. Description: The *Scofield Reference Bible* is a widely circulated annotated study Bible edited and annotated by C. I. Scofield.
- b. Features:
 - an extensive cross-reference system
 - a thorough concordance
 - a brief but helpful introduction to the books of the Bible
 - a strong dispensational approach to Biblical interpretation

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8. *Thompson Chain-Reference Bible.*

Available in KJV, NIV, NASB, NKJV.

a. Description: The *Thompson Chain-Reference Bible* offers all the tools necessary for fully self-directed study. It provides verse-by-verse access to all the themes and topics of the Bible—allowing you to discover and develop Scriptural principles that apply directly to your own life or ministry situation.

b. Features:

- 75 departments of Helps
- Over 7,000 topics
- Over 100,000 references

C. Digital Version

- Many of the Study Bible notes and tools are available as add-ons for high-end Bible Study software programs.
- Some are available in public access Bible Study web sites (see VII. below).
- A few Study Bibles can be purchased as stand-alone computer programs.

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

II. Parallel Bibles.

A. Relative value: very helpful

B. Printed Version

- Almost any combination of the most popular translations can be found in the Parallel Bible line. The most common are either two or four side-by-side translations.
- The *NKJV Amplified Parallel Bible*.
- The *Essential Evangelical Parallel Bible* contains NKJV, ESV, NLT and The Message.
- The *Contemporary Parallel New Testament: 8 Translations* (KJV, NASB, NCV, CEV, NIV, NLT, NKJV, The Message).

C. Digital Version

- 22 Translations available for online reading at biblegateway.com
- also see VII. below

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

III. Concordances.

A. Relative value: essential

B. Printed Version

1. *New International Bible Concordance.*

2. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.*

3. *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance
(Strongest Strong's).*

C. Digital Version

- The equivalent of simple exhaustive concordances are available on most sites that have translations that can be read online.
- Additionally, some sites also have many of the advanced features of *Strong's* system.
- also see VII. below

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

IV. Bible Dictionaries and Bible Encyclopedias.

A. Relative value: useful

B. Printed Version

1. *Unger's Bible Dictionary.*

2. *New International Bible Dictionary.*

C. Digital Version

- The equivalent of Bible Dictionaries and Bible Encyclopedias are available on many sites that have online Bible Study tools.
- also see VII. below

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

V. Commentaries.

A. Relative value: essential

B. Printed Version

1. *Expositors Bible Commentary Set* (12 Volumes).
2. *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* (1871).
3. *MacArthur Bible Commentary*.
4. *MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set* (27 Volume).
5. *Matthew Henry's Commentary* (1706).
6. *Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee, (5 Volumes).
7. *Tyndale New Testament* (20 Volumes) and
Old Testament (28 Volumes) Commentary Set.
8. *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (1962).

How To Study The Bible

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C. Digital Version

- Many commentaries are available as add-ons for high-end Bible Study software programs (*Logos, Accordance*, etc).
- Some are available in public access Bible Study web sites (see also VII. below).
 - Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary (1871).
(<http://www.ccel.org/j/jfb/jfb/JFB00.HTM>)
 - Matthew Henry’s Commentary (1706).
(<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-concise/>)
- Many can be purchased as stand-alone computer programs.

How To Study The Bible

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VI. Studies.

A. Relative value: useful/very helpful

B. How to choose:

- Because the individual studies would be too numerous to list, the safest starting point is to look for works by reputable authors (i.e. those who have established a reputation for a high view of Scripture and doctrinal integrity—correctly handling the word of truth [2 Timothy 2:15]).

- David Jeremiah
- John MacArthur
- Dwight L. Moody
- Charles Stanley
- John R. W. Stott
- Chuck Swindoll

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Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

VII. Additional Online and/or Downloadable Resources

A. *Bible Study Tools*

1. Start here: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/>
2. Operating System Requirements: any (browser based)
3. Cost: Free
4. Description: *BibleStudyTools.com* is the largest free online Bible website for verse search and in-depth studies.
5. Notable Features:
 - Bible reading plans
 - Parallel Bible
 - Several Classic and well-known commentaries
 - Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
 - Naves Topical Concordance
 - additional resources including dictionaries and encyclopedias
 - Both Hebrew and Greek Interlinear tools
 - Lexicons
 - A selection of popular Church history books
 - Direct links to a wide selection of classic and contemporary devotional publications

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

B. *Biblos*

1. Start here: <http://biblos.com/>
2. Operating System Requirements: any (browser based)
3. Cost: Free
4. Description: *“Our mission is to increase the visibility and accessibility of the Scriptures online by providing free access to Bible study tools in many languages.”*
5. Notable Features:
 - Multiple translations
 - A multi-view extensive atlas
 - A Multi-Version Concordance
 - A multi-source Bible Dictionary
 - A multi-source Bible Encyclopedia
 - Several Classic and well-known commentaries
 - Both Hebrew and Greek Interlinear tools
 - A Harmony of the Gospels
 - Strong’s Concordance
 - Numerous other tools and helps

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

C. *e-Sword*

1. Start here: <http://www.e-sword.net/>
2. Operating System Requirements:
Windows 95, 98, ME, NT4, 2000, XP, Vista or Windows 7
3. Cost: Free
4. Description: A full-featured downloadable integrated Bible Study program with many of the same features of Bible Programs costing hundreds of dollars.
5. Notable Features:
 - All available Bibles, commentaries and dictionaries are easily viewed
 - Create your own “parallel Bible” with up to four translations
 - Integrated editor for creating your own commentaries or study notes
 - Strong’s definitions are displayed as ToolTips
 - Scripture references in the Commentary and Dictionary views are displayed as ToolTips
 - Powerful search capabilities, yet simple to use
 - Graphics Viewer for studying maps, charts, and other images
 - Online training: <http://www.e-sword.net/training.html>

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

D. *Online Bible*

1. Start here: <http://www.onlinebible.org/html/eng/starterspack.htm>
2. Operating System Requirements:
Windows ME, 2000, XP or Vista
3. Cost: Free
4. Description: The *Online Bible Starters Pack* contains a complete Bible study Software set.
5. Notable Features:
 - Once downloaded, you do not have to be online to use the *Online Bible*
 - Complete software edition of the *Online Bible*
 - The King James Version Bible with Strong's numbers
 - Hebrew-English and Greek-English Lexicons to explain the Strong's numbers
 - The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge Notes and Cross-References
 - Easton's Bible Dictionary
 - Matthew Henry Concise Commentary, Jamison-Fausset & Brown Commentary, Treasury of David by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Scofield Bible Notes and more available as a free supplemental downloads.
 - Offers expandable modules for purchase (listed in Euros)

How To Study The Bible

Where to Find Bible Tools and Resources

Conclusion: Studying the Bible is a necessity for all who desire to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2 PETER 3:18). This six-lesson series has been designed to help you understand how God’s Word is essential in the Christian life and to learn how to use it effectively for spiritual growth and development.

This series is not an attempt to give you a complete set of tools for every study need, but rather to equip you with the principles needed to *rightly divide the Word of Truth* and give you examples of suitable resources that can be utilized in your studies. The most important concepts to remember are the ***Principles of Biblical Interpretation*** given in lesson four; by diligently searching the Scriptures and applying these principles you will have the foundation necessary to evaluate the legitimacy of every book, every teaching and every teacher.

Finally, the Bible also offers a word of warning to help you keep your priorities straight while you study:

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:12-14^{NIV}

Don’t ever let the academic discipline of “Bible Study” replace the spiritual disciplines of ***faith*** and ***obedience!*** Study not simply to grow in knowledge, but to grow in grace—growing closer to God and becoming more like Jesus every day.