

Biblical Studies

This list is intended to give the student and pastor an introduction to the major reference works available for the study of the Bible in English. There are many other tools available for aiding in the study of the Bible from the original languages – these are included in a separate guide.

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J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. Library



BS – Bible

➤ BS 125 – 198 English Translations of the Bible

Complete Parallel Bible

- REF New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
BS *The Old and New Testaments, including the Apocrypha, from the NRSV,
125 NASB, Revised English Version, and the New Jerusalem Bible in parallel
.C65 columns for easy comparison.
1993*

Today's Parallel Bible

- REF Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
BS *The Old and New Testaments from the KJV, NIV, NLT, and NASB in parallel
125 columns for easy comparison.
.T6
2000*

NIV Thematic Reference Bible

- REF Alister McGrath, editor. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
BS *The NIV text of the Bible with a verse-by-verse analysis of themes using a system
195 of over 2000 themes arranged categorically. These themes are gathered in a
.N37 "Thematic Section" at the end of the biblical text where each theme is described
1999 and cross-references to other Scripture passages on the theme. Over 150 of the
major themes have short feature articles scattered throughout the biblical text.*

BS – Bible

➤ BS 425 English Bible Concordances

NIV Exhaustive Concordance

- REF Edward W. Goodrick and John R. Kohlenberger III. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan,
BS 1990.
425 *A concordance to the NIV that also identifies the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and
.G62 Greek words translated by the English word, and lists in an appendix the articles,
1990 conjunctions, particles, prepositions, and pronouns with biblical citations. Gives
frequency count for each word and contexts for each keyword, as well as
introducing the Goodrick/Kohlenberger numbers (meant as a replacement of
Strong's numbers – see below).*

Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

- REF James Strong. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.
BS *The most complete concordance of the King James Version, covering all words*
425 *(occurrences of 47 of the most common, e.g., "the" and "and," are listed in an*
.S8 *appendix). Under each English word, a single list of all its occurrences with an*
1980 *entry number is given. The entry number indicates the Hebrew or Greek word*
being translated and refers to the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries at the end of
the work.

AVAILABLE IN MANY EDITIONS AND PRINTINGS.

BS – Bible

➤ **BS 432 Topical Bibles**

Nave's Topical Bible

- REF Orville J. Nave. Chicago: Moody Press, 1897.
BS *This is the most widely known topical Bible. Lists more than 100,000 references*
432 *to Scripture under 20,000 topics and subtopics. Each entry tries to briefly bring*
.N29 *together all that the Bible contains on a particular topic.*
1897

Zondervan Topical Bible

- REF Edward Viening, editor. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1969.
BS *A revision and reorganization of Nave's Topical Bible. It is slightly preferable to*
432 *Nave's.*
.V5

Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes

- REF Martin H. Manser, Alister E. McGrath, J.I. Packer, and Donald J. Wiseman, editors.
BS Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
432 *Contains over 2,000 thematic articles with an explanation of the theme, key*
.Z66 *Bible references, and cross-references to related themes.*
1999

BS – Bible

➤ BS 440 Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Anchor Bible Dictionary

- REF David Noel Freedman, editor. 6 vol. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
BS *The standard scholarly Bible dictionary – it is not strictly evangelical or*
440 *Christian. Entries cover every proper name, major words, books of the Bible,*
.A54 *Apocryphal texts, Dead Sea scrolls, and Nag Hammadi codices. Gives much*
1992 *attention to cultural history, social institutions, and method. Also valuable for*
the list of abbreviations of biblical, pseudepigraphical, and apocryphal books,
patristic works, Dead Sea Scroll texts, Bible translations, scholarly works,
periodicals, etc. that appears at the beginning of each volume.

Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation

- REF R. J. Coggins and J. L. Houlden, editors. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International,
BS 1990.
440 *The articles are intended to introduce issues of biblical interpretation to general*
.D494 *readers. Explains topics used in contemporary scholarship, including influential*
1990 *figures, schools of interpretation, Biblical books and figures, and major terms. A*
useful tool, although the selection of topics and quality of the entries are uneven.

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible

- REF David Noel Freedman, editor. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.
BS *A one-volume Bible dictionary that includes articles on all books, persons, places,*
440 *events, and significant terms in Scripture. It also incorporates articles on the*
.E44 *background of the biblical books, cultural, natural, geographical, and literary*
2000 *phenomenon.*

HarperCollins Bible Dictionary

- REF Paul J. Achtemeier, editor. Rev. ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
BS *Produced in cooperation with the Society of Biblical Literature, it includes*
440 *articles on biblical archaeology, geography, and chronology, along with all the*
.H235 *people, places, events, and ideas of biblical times. Also included are photographs,*
1996 *maps, drawings, charts, and a pronunciation guide.*

Dictionary of the Bible: Dealing with its Language, Literature, and Contents including Biblical Theology

- REF James Hastings, editor. 5 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.
BS *A reprint of the original edition published in 1898-1904, this work is still*
440 *extremely valuable. As one scholar puts it, "older works of this quality are not to*
.H5 *be ignored."*¹ *The subtitle (and size) shows the amazing scope of this particular*
work

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

- REF Geoffrey W. Bromiley, editor. Fully rev. 4 vol. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979.
BS *A new edition of the earlier ISBE (1929). Written from an evangelical*
440 *perspective, it contains articles on every person or place named in the Bible, as*
.I6 *well as other terms of theological or ethical significance. Issues regarding the*
1979 *transmission, study, and interpretation of the Bible are also covered.*

Oxford Companion to the Bible

- REF Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, editors. New York: Oxford University
BS Press, 1993.
440 *Provides a one-volume reference to the people, places, events, books, institutions,*
.M434 *religious beliefs, and secular influence of the Bible. Ranging beyond the scope of a*
1993 *Bible dictionary, it features essays on religious concepts (e.g., immortality, grace,*
sin) and biblical views on modern issues (e.g., homosexuality, marriage, and anti-
Semitism).

New Bible Dictionary

- REF D. R. W. Wood, editor. 3rd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.
BS *Gives entries on the Bible's books, people, places, key words, and major doctrines.*
440 *It provides background information on the history, geography, and customs of*
.N3 *Israel and its Middle Eastern neighbors. Especially valuable is the index of more*
1996 *than 10,000 terms giving detailed access to the information contained within the*
dictionary.

¹ Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993), 150.

New International Dictionary of the Bible

- REF J. D. Douglas and Merrill C. Tenney, editors. Pictorial ed. Grand Rapids, MI:
BS Zondervan, 1987.
440 *Revision of the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary (1963). A good, single*
.N44 *volume Bible dictionary with 5,400 entries, 1,000 illustrations, and 167 maps*
1987 *(including 16 color maps). It includes many more illustrations and pictures than*
a typical Bible dictionary. To give greater access to the contents, a Scripture
citation index and an index to the color maps are included.

BS – Bible

➤ BS 410 – 680 Works about the Bible

Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation

- REF John H. Hayes, editor. 2 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
BS *Articles cover three basic areas: the history of interpretation of all canonical and*
500 *deuterocanonical works as well as some other ancient non-biblical books;*
.D5 *biographies and contributions of individual interpreters; and review and*
1999 *discussion of various methods and movements that have influenced and informed*
the reading and study of Scripture.

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

- REF Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, editors. Downers
BS Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.
537 *Covers almost 850 topics related to the imagery, metaphors, and archetypes of*
.D48 *Scripture. Articles cover character types, plot motifs, type scenes, rhetorical*
1998 *devices, literary genres, and the individual books of the Bible.*

Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament

- REF Carol Meyers, editor. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.
BS *Written from a feminist perspective, this work contains articles covering every*
575 *woman or group of women (including deities and personifications) mentioned in*
.W593 *the Bible or apocryphal books. The women who are named are arranged*
2000 *alphabetically by name, while those who are not named are arranged in the order*
in which they appear in the source texts.

New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology

- REF E. M. Blaiklock and R. K. Harrison, editors. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1983.
BS *Articles on a wide range of topics related to Biblical archaeology, including*
622 *archaeological sites, ancient customs, archaeological methodology, people, places,*
.N48 *and texts bearing on the Bible. Included are illustrations, color plates and maps*
1983 *(with a map index).*

Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places: Towns & Cities, Countries & States, Archaeology & Topography

- REF John J. Bimson, editor. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
BS *Heavily illustrated (with all illustrations in color), this work includes articles*
635.2 *listed alphabetically on all the towns, cities, villages, settlements, streams, rivers,*
.B34 *countries, and states mentioned in the Bible.*
1995

Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament

- REF John H. Walton. Rev. and exp. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.
BS *100 charts covering the historical, literary, archaeological, and theological aspects*
637.2 *of the Old Testament, its background, and biblical studies. The charts are divided*
.W35 *into three groups: sections of the canon, ancient Near East, and Bible study.*
1994 *Includes a subject index.*

Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy

- REF J. Barton Payne. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.
BS *Begins with a long introduction (144 pages) on the nature and identification of*
647.2 *prophecy (i.e., predictions) and the identification of fulfillment. The majority of*
.P38 *the work consists of the prophecies of Scripture arranged in the order they are*
found in the biblical text accompanied by a summary and comments on their
meaning and fulfillment. The work also includes summaries, statistics, indexes,
and a bibliography.

B S – B i b l e
➤ BS 701 – 1830 Old Testament

The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament

- REF John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas. Downers Grove: IL:
BS InterVarsity, 2000.
1151.2 *This work provides the historical, cultural, and social background information for every passage of the Old Testament. Additional features include a short glossary of historical terms, ancient peoples, texts, and inscriptions; maps and charts of important historical resources; and a short topical index to the work.*
.W35
2000

Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch

- REF T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, editors. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity
BS Press, 2003.
1225.5 *The first of four volumes on the Old Testament intended as companions to the four IVP Dictionaries on the New Testament (New Testament Background, Jesus and the Gospels, Paul and His Letters, and the Later New Testament & its Development). This volume covers the major themes and issues of the Pentateuch (background, methods of interpretation, themes, scholarship, etc.). Includes Scripture, subject, and article indexes.*
.D53
2002

B S – B i b l e
➤ BS 1901 – 2970 New Testament

Contemporary Parallel New Testament

- REF John R. Kohlenberger, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
BS *The New Testament from the KJV, NASB, NIV, NLT, NCV, CEV, NKJV, and the Message arranged in parallel columns for easy comparison.*
2025
1997
.K64

Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament

- REF H. Wayne House. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1981.
BS *75 charts illustrating all aspects of the chronology, historical background, and criticism of the New Testament, covering such topics as weights and measures, social structures, theories of the history of the text, and the history of Rome and Palestine. The charts are arranged in four groups: general material (chronological listing of the books of the NT, weights, NT quotations of OT prophecy, etc.), backgrounds to the NT, the Gospels, and the Apostolic Age.*
2310
.H68
1981

Dictionary of New Testament Background

- REF Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, editors. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press,
BS 2000.
2312 *A companion volume to the other IVP Dictionaries (Jesus and the Gospels, Paul
.D53 & His Letters, Later New Testament & its Development, and Old Testament:
2000 Pentateuch). This volume covers the background of Judaism (second temple and
beyond, including the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Jewish writings) as well as the
Greco-Roman culture. It includes Scripture, subject, and article indexes, as well
as cross-references to related articles in the other dictionaries in the series.*

Dictionary of the New Testament

- REF Xavier Leon-Dufour. New York: Harper, 1980.
BS *A translation of a French work, this is a compact, scholarly dictionary of about
2312 1,000 NT terms needing historical, theological, literary, and/or archeological
.L4513 explanation, as well as important terms in NT study today. Each entry provides a
1980 listing of relevant biblical references. It has an excellent system of cross-references
to other relevant articles in the dictionary, and an index of Greek words cited in
the dictionary.*

The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament

- REF Craig Keener. Downers Grove: IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
BS *This work provides the historical, cultural, and social background information for
2341.2 every passage of the New Testament. Additional features include a short glossary
.K445 of cultural terms and important historical figures and several maps and charts.
1993*

Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Development

- REF Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, editors. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press,
BS 1997.
2410 *A companion volume to the other IVP Dictionaries (New Testament
.D53 Background, Jesus and the Gospels, Paul & His Letters, and Old Testament:
1997 Pentateuch). This volume covers the New Testament literature outside of the
Gospels and Pauline epistles, as well as Christian history, theology, and practice
through the middle of the second century. Includes Scripture, subject, and article
indexes.*

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels

- REF Joel B. Green and Scot McKnight, editors. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992.
BS
2555.2 *A companion volume to the other IVP Dictionaries (New Testament Background, Paul & His Letters, Later New Testament & its Development, and Old Testament: Pentateuch). This volume covers the Gospels, important themes and concepts in the Gospels, methods of interpretation, and aspects of Jesus' life and ministry. Includes Scripture, subject, and article indexes. This is the first work of its kind since Hastings' Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels (below).*
.D53
1992

Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels

- REF James Hastings, editor. 2 vol. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1906-08.
BS
2555.2 *A complement to his Dictionary of the Bible, this work is intended to cover everything relating to Christ and the Gospels in the Bible and in world literature. It is indexed by subject and by Greek terms. As one scholar remarks on Hastings' work, "older works of this quality are not to be ignored."²*
.H4
1906

Charts of the Gospels and the Life of Christ

- REF Robert L. Thomas. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
BS
2555.5 *Charts on the life, ministry, setting, and teachings of Jesus Christ divided into four groups: overview, background, chronological, and thematic.*
.T46
2000

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters

- REF Gerald F. Hawthorne and Ralph P. Martin, editors. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.
BS
2650.2 *A companion volume to the other IVP Dictionaries (New Testament Background, Jesus and the Gospels, Later New Testament & its Development, and Old Testament: Pentateuch). This volume covers Pauline theology, literature, background, scholarship, and methods of interpretation. Includes Scripture, subject, and article indexes.*
.D53
1993

² Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993), 150.

D – History: Archaeology

Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East

- REF Eric M. Meyers, editor. 5 vol. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- DS *This comprehensive five-volume work analyzes the archaeological and linguistic data that pertain to the broad cultural milieu of the ancient Near East. Ranging from prehistoric times up to the early centuries of the rise of Islam. The work covers the civilizations of Syria-Palestine, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Iran, Arabia, Cyprus, Egypt, and the coastal regions of North and East Africa. It includes alphabetically arranged entries on sites, languages, material culture, archaeological methods, organizations and institutions, and major excavators and scholars of the field. Volume five includes a chronology, 12 maps, a synoptic outline of contents, and an index.*
- 56
- .O9
- 1997

The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land

- REF Ephraim Stern, editor. 4 vols. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.
- DS *Covering work done through 1991 on sites within the Holy Land (Israel, Sinai, and Jordan) from the dawn of human creativity through the Ottoman period. It includes, under the name commonly used in scholarly circles, articles on over 350 sites, each describing the history, excavations, and discoveries at that location.*
- 111
- .A2
- N488
- 1992 *Vol. 4 has chronological charts, indexes of persons, places, and biblical references.*

G – Geography: Bible Atlases

Macmillan Bible Atlas

- REF Yohanan Ahoroni and Micahel Avi-Yonah. Rev. ed. New York: Macmillan, 1977.
- G *262 maps depicting religious, political, military, and economic events of the Old Testament, second temple, intertestamental, New Testament, and early church periods. The sheer number of maps included makes this atlas unmatched in scope.*
- 2230
- .A2
- 1977 *The maps are accompanied by brief explanatory text and illustrations. Also included are chronological tables of ancient civilizations, a key to the maps according to the books of the Bible (Scripture index), and an index of all the geographical names appearing in the maps.*

The Holy Land Satellite Atlas

ATLAS 2 vols. Cyprus: Røhr Productions, 1999.
G
2230 *Two volumes of beautiful color satellite and high altitude aerial photographs with individual sites marked. Volume 1 is aimed at terrain recognition (illustrating the physical terrain of the Holy Land) and volume 2 is aimed at a greater understanding of the various regions (e.g., Jerusalem, Plain of Sharon, Jezreel Valley). Both volumes contain indexes of individual sites for both volumes.*
.C53
1999

Atlas of the Bible and Christianity

ATLAS Tim Dowley, editor. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997.
G
2230 *Includes 160 maps covering the biblical period up through the 20th century. Brief explanatory text accompanies each map with a number of photographs and illustrations are scattered throughout. An index to the text and a gazetteer (index of places included on the maps) are included.*
.D68
1997

The Harper Atlas of the Bible

ATLAS James B. Pritchard, editor. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.
G
2230 *A large atlas that includes more text and illustrations than others included here. It provides an atlas of the Old and New Testaments and the intertestamental period, a chronology of the ancient Near East, a glossary of the biblical people that are prominent in the atlas, and a detailed index to the majority places shown on the maps.*
.H47
1987