

Biblical Materials

Getting started with a Biblical research paper

An interactive and expanded version of this Information Sheet may be found on the Library's web site at: <http://library.gtu.edu/tutorials/exegesis.html>.

The **Exegesis Collection**, located on Level 2, is the best place to start looking for Biblical research tools.

How to Do Exegesis Research and Writing

Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors / Douglas K. Stuart. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. (📖 BS476 .S83 1984) Includes a good outline of the steps in writing a paper or preparing a sermon.

New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors / Gordon D. Fee. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. (📖 BS2331 .F44 2002) Similar to the Old Testament book above, with a good outline of the steps.

Handbook of Biblical Criticism / by Richard N. Soulen. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. (📖 BS511.2 .S68 2001) See "Exegesis" for a very brief outline of steps.

A Handbook for Basic Biblical Exegesis / Samuel R. Thorpe. Lanham MD: University Press of America. (📖 BS476 .T49 1999)

Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook / John H. Hayes, Carl R. Holladay. Atlanta: John Knox Press. (📖 Ref BS476 .H35 1987)

Finding Bibles

A selection of Bibles is kept in the Reference Collection on Level 2 (📖 BS 1-408). Bibles in Hebrew and Greek, and special Bibles such as interlinear Bibles and synoptic Bibles will also be found in Reference.

These and other copies, versions, languages, and editions of parts of the Bible can be located using the links found on GRACE at

http://grace.gtu.edu/screens/link_bibles.html

You can also search for online Bibles by going to one of the sites listed on the Library's *Biblical Resources* web page at <http://library.gtu.edu/links/biblical.html>.

Finding Concordances

Concordances for the whole Bible (in different versions) may be found in the Reference and Exegesis Collections under the call number 📖 BS 425. Concordances for just the Hebrew Bible are in the BS 1120's, and for the New Testament in the BS 2302 and BS 2305 sections.

A topical index is similar to a concordance, but it directs you to verses about certain topics. An example is the *Collins Thesaurus of the Bible* (📖 BS 440 D39)

Finding Commentaries and Critical Works

The easiest place to start is with the series in the **Exegesis Collection** (Level 2):

Anchor Bible

Brit Olam: Studies in Hebrew Narrative and Poetry

Hermeneia

International Critical Commentary

Interpreter's Bible

JPS Torah Commentary

New International Commentary (Old and New Testaments)

New Interpreter's Bible

Old Testament Library

Sacra Pagina

Word Biblical Commentary

The Exegesis Collection books are for library use only, but you can usually find additional copies in the stacks (Level 1) to check out. (Look under the same call number.)

Search for additional commentaries, and for other critical works by following the links on GRACE at http://grace.gtu.edu/screens/link_commentaries.html

You can also search for works by type of criticism (e.g., form, narrative, reader response, etc.) using the links found at the bottom of this same page.

Many one-volume commentaries may be found in the Reference Collection on Level 2 (📖 BS 491.2), including:

HarperCollins Bible Commentary

New Jerome Biblical Commentary

Women's Bible Commentary

Finding Lexicons and Dictionaries

Lexicons and dictionaries define the meaning of specific words in a Biblical passage. Grammatical forms, pronunciation, functions, etymologies, meanings and syntax of words, as well as their Biblical context can be found in Hebrew and Greek lexicons. Important resources include:

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Kittel)

Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon (BDB)

Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament

Finding Bible Atlases

Atlases can be found under two call numbers in the Reference Collection:

📖 BS 620 – 630

📖 G 2230

Getting an Overview: Using Bible Dictionaries

Use Bible dictionaries (i.e., Bible encyclopedias) to get a quick overview of historical, cultural, and archaeological information: information about people, places, and things. Reading an article on Isaiah, for example, will help you to place your scripture passage into the wider context of Isaiah's background and his writings. If you need more information, check to see if the article has a bibliography at the end. Look up these books in GRACE to see if the GTU Library has them.

Examples include:

<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>	BS 440 .A54
<i>Sacramentum Verbi</i>	BS 440 .B4313
<i>Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation</i>	BS 440 .D494
<i>Dictionary of Biblical Imagery</i>	BS 537 .D48
<i>Encyclopedia of Biblical Personalities</i>	BS 570 .C4813
<i>Women in Scripture</i>	BS 575 .W593

Also helpful:

<i>Encyclopedia Judaica</i>	DS 102.8 E496
-----------------------------	---------------

Next Steps: Searching for Books on GRACE

If you have already consulted Bible dictionaries and want to find more books, they may be identified with a SUBJECT search on GRACE. You can search for commonly asked for topics with the links on GRACE at http://grace.gtu.edu/screen/link_bibletopics.html

If what you are looking for is not on the list on GRACE, you can do a subject or keyword search on GRACE.

Examples of subjects you could enter include:

- Bible. N. T.--Theology
- Bible. O. T.--Quotations in rabbinical literature
- Bible and Feminism
- Jesus Christ--Parables
- Worship in the Bible
- Plants in the Bible

Next Steps: Searching for Journal Articles

There are many ways to find journal articles. The best way depends on your topic and your own research skills and preferences. The Information Sheet, *Journal and Indexes* or the tutorial at

<http://library.gtu.edu/tutorials/journals.html> will introduce you to this important skill. Also consider attending a library research workshop. See <http://library.gtu.edu/reference/workshops.html>.

There are many online databases indexing journal articles. These databases cover all religion/theology

topics, including Biblical studies. See a list and connect to them from the library website at

<http://library.gtu.edu/databases.html>

Other indexes of note:

- New Testament Abstracts*. Shelved in the Reference Collection, BS410.N35; NTA includes a scripture reference index. **Now Online!** (See above)
- Old Testament Abstracts*. Print version in Reference Collection, BS 410.O42; includes a scripture reference index. **Now Online!** (See above)
- International Review of Biblical Studies*. Reference Z7753 I5. The table of contents is in the *back*.
- Elenchus of Biblica* (formerly *Biblia* and *Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus*). In the Reference Collection at BS 410.E432. Includes a scripture reference index. This publication is slow in coming out; other indexes must be consulted for more recent material.

Bibliographies can also point you to journal articles:

- The series, *Bibliographies for Biblical Research*, (Reference BS2341.2 B5) contains a convenient list of journal articles and books.
- Index to English Periodical Literature on the Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies* (Reference Z7772. A1. H86) is especially useful for doctrine and for Dead Sea Scroll research.

Call number areas for Biblical materials

BS 1-699	Whole Bible
BS 1-399	Texts and versions
BS 410-699	Works about the whole Bible
BS 635.2	Life in Biblical times
BS 701-1686	Hebrew Bible
BS 701-1104	Texts and versions
BS 1110-1199	Works about the Hebrew Bible
BS 1200-1689	Individual parts (in canonical order, including both texts and commentaries)
BS 1691-1899	Apocrypha
BS 1901-2829	New Testament
BS 1901-2269	Texts and versions
BS 2280-2545	Works about the New Testament
BS 2547-2829	Individual parts (in canonical order)
BS 2831-2970	New Testament. Apocrypha
DS 101-122	Palestine; Jewish history
DS 112	Life in Biblical times
PA 700-895	Biblical Greek
PJ 4501-4845	Biblical Hebrew