

Studying the Bible

“Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.” – Psalm 119:18

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” – Romans 15:4

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Introduction to Bible Study

Introduction

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim 3:16-17

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword” Heb 4:12

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” Acts 20:32

When the United States constitution was written, the founding fathers included the right to bear arms among the basic rights of American citizens. Their purpose in doing so was not only to give the individual American the ability to defend himself and his family, but also to defend the entire country. Any army seeking to conquer the United States would meet resistance at every home in the country since every home would be armed and prepared. In the same way, the Lord desires not only the elders or missionaries but every one of His children to be “armed” with His word, the sword of the Spirit. In this way every believer is prepared to defend himself, his family and his assembly from the attacks of the enemy. How many of us have taken advantage of the Christian’s right to bear arms?

Probably all believers have, at one time or another in their Christian life, tried or desired to study the Bible. But sadly many believers have given up (or never even tried!) because of discouragement. How many times have we heard (or said ourselves), “I don’t know how to study the Bible!” “I’m not smart enough to study the Bible.” “I don’t have the education or training to study the Bible.” “I tried to study the Bible but I didn’t get anywhere.”

Hopefully these notes will be a help and encouragement to us as we seek to study the Bible. It has been well said, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” The goal of these notes is to help us to be able to study the Bible for ourselves.

Before going on, the following points are critical for us to keep in mind if we are going to learn to study the Bible:

1. **Spiritual character is more important than spiritual gift.** You don’t have to be gifted as a teacher or a shepherd to study your Bible. Any Christian who is living a godly life can expect to have profitable studies.
2. **The Holy Spirit is more important than our “natural” abilities and tools.** We don’t need education, training, cleverness, books, etc. to study the Bible.
3. **Reading and meditation are more important than study.** No special skills are needed to read the Bible or to think about it. For all that we will say about interpreting the Bible and studying it, please be assured that Bible reading and meditation are more important than Bible study. If we are reading and meditating we’ll find that much of our study is already done.

4. **Bible study is simple.** Learning to study your Bible isn't a complicated matter. Bible study shouldn't be complex or confusing, although regrettably many books or courses on how to study the Bible **make** Bible study complicated. This booklet is designed to present a method of Bible study that is simple enough that a Christian can learn it in one evening. You don't have to fear that you are incapable of studying your Bible or that you need a library or formal training to study it. If you're willing to try, you can learn to study the Bible. Don't let the length of this booklet intimidate you. Most of this booklet consists of examples or study tools and suggestions that you can safely ignore until you are comfortable with the basics. Here's a simple way to use this booklet:
 - Start with the section entitled "How to Study a Topic" (pp.10-11). It's only two pages long and it forms the core of the method of Bible study presented in this booklet. It is followed by an example to illustrate how the study works (pp.12-14).
 - Try some topical studies on your own. Although the first study or two will be hard, you will find that you quickly become comfortable with this method. Even if this is as far as you go and you ignore the rest of this booklet, the ability to do a topical study will enable you to have lots of profitable and encouraging studies. And if you do decide to go further, you will find that knowing how to study a topic is a crucial skill for any other type of study.
 - When you are comfortable with topical studies (whether that takes days, weeks or months), you can try out phrase studies and original language studies (which are really just different kinds of topical studies).
 - Lastly you can move on to passage studies.
 - The appendices are just for general interest and you can consult them (or ignore them) at any time.
5. **Bible study requires commitment, discipline and hard work.** Even though Bible study is simple, it requires a lot of hard work. Like all other skills, commitment and discipline are needed to learn to study the Bible. It may take months before you really start to see that your Bible study is becoming profitable. Don't give up if things don't seem to be going as quickly as you had hoped.
6. **Start.** One thing is certain: you'll never learn to study the Bible if you don't start. Lots of Christians intend to study the Bible but never get around to it – there is always some reason why they can't start today. But as C.S. Lewis has written, "The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavourable. Favourable conditions never come."

I don't claim to be an expert on Bible study, but I think I can sympathise with many Christians who desire to study the Bible and would like to know where to begin. That's what these notes are: a beginning. They don't describe the "best" or "only" way to study; they are just suggestions. You will likely modify them as you progress in studying the Bible. If I can be any other help to you don't hesitate to let me know. It's my prayer that we will all commit ourselves to growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through His word.

James Martin
james@thesword.ca
www.thesword.ca
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Requirements

It is refreshing to know that if you're saved you have the ability to understand and profit from the Bible. "The Bible was written by plain men, for plain men." You don't have to be a "scholar" to study your Bible; you don't need an extensive library; you don't need formal training. But here are some things that you **do** need:

A Holy Life

1. **Humility.** If we already know everything, there's no point in studying. **We must be teachable** (Pr 12:1). Don't simply come to the Bible looking to get something for yourself; come to find out what the Lord has to say – even if it's something hard. We need to be humble before the Bible for at least these reasons:
 - Sometimes we believe things that aren't true. When we find that the Bible shows us we're wrong, we need to be humble and accept it. (Pr 12:15; 18:2)
 - Many times as we read the Bible we see areas in our lives where we are sinning.
 - Sometimes we read things that we just can't understand. At those times it's good to be humble, confess that we don't know everything and move on, trusting that the Lord will explain those things to us when He wants us to understand them.
 - Humility before the word of God brings God's help. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word." (Isa 66:2)
2. **Obedience.** We must be willing to obey what we learn (Dt 29:29; Jn 7:17; Ezr 7:10). A.W. Tozer once said, "The difficulty we modern Christians have is not misunderstanding the Bible, but persuading our untamed hearts to accept its plain instructions."

Commitment

1. **Desire.** You have to want to know the Bible better and be willing to put in the effort.
2. **Hard work.** Learning to study the Bible is simple but so is ditch-digging. Being simple doesn't mean no work is involved.
3. **Perseverance.** Many people come approach the idea of Bible study with the preconceived idea that it's beyond them. So then when they try a study or two and find the results less than spectacular they throw up their hands and say, "I knew this was too hard for me!" Please keep in mind that you wouldn't approach any other skill this way. You wouldn't, for example, conclude that piano playing was beyond you if you couldn't play your favourite songs after only two lessons. If you wanted to learn to play piano you would expect to spend months of learning and practice with meagre results. Bible study will not be easy (2 Tim 2:15; Heb 5:14). The flesh will resist every step of the way. But we can be thankful that the rewards of perseverance greatly outweigh the challenges (Rom 15:4).
4. **Cost.** Getting to know the Bible will cost you (Pr 23:23). A Christian once approached August Van Ryn after hearing him speak and said, "Mr. Van Ryn, I'd give the world to know the Bible like you do." August Van Ryn replied, "That's what it cost me."

Dependence on the Lord

1. **Prayer.** Ask for the Author's help. The best way to understand a book is to ask the author. For a person to be able to understand the Bible they must be in touch with its author. Since God is the author of the Bible a person must have a relationship with Him in order to understand the Bible. God's word is "spiritually discerned" (1 Cor 2:10-16). Once we are saved we must constantly ask God in prayer to explain His word to us and depend on Him first – not on other people or books. We should pray before, during and after reading the Bible.
2. **Don't depend on man.** We need to avoid relying upon man in our Bible study. Are we going to rely on the Lord to help us in our Bible study or upon training, commentaries, cleverness, intellect, techniques, etc.?

Tools

1. Two or three good translations (NASB, NIV, KJV, NKJV, Darby)
2. An exhaustive concordance (make sure it is the same translation as your Bible); possibly computerized
3. Paper & notebook
4. Pens

Reading the Bible

We have the unspeakable privilege of holding in our hands something that came from heaven. But for it to be a benefit to us, we are going to have to know what it says. This starts with reading it. Before we can study it, memorize it, meditate on it, understand it or apply it we're going to have to read it. Here are some suggestions that may help us as we read our Bibles.

1. **Pray.**
2. **Be humble.**
3. **The more we read the Bible the better.** We should read the Bible every day. We need to eat our physical food several times a day every day. We don't have a huge meal on Sunday and expect it to get us through the week. The same is true of our spiritual food (Mt 4:4). It might be a good idea to have a small Bible that we can carry around with us to read when we have a few minutes. It is also a good idea to set aside a time each day when we will read. Our regular Bible reading should come before our Bible study.
4. **Read regularly.** Don't plan to read "when you get the chance" because you'll never get the chance. Set aside a time each day when you can read the Bible seriously. Reading early in the morning can be a good time since there are fewer distractions then and it helps prepare us for the day. Trying to read late at night tends to have predictable results.
5. **Read without distractions.** Having the radio or TV on while we read is a bad idea.
6. **Read entire books of the Bible.** Don't read a chapter from Acts and then a chapter from Genesis and so on. Like all books there are lines of thought that flow from the beginning of each book to the end. If we skip around we'll miss these thoughts. Many of the books of the Bible are letters. When we receive letters we don't read bits from each one. If possible, read through an entire book in one sitting.
7. **Read all of the Bible.** It's all profitable whether we appreciate it at the moment or not. It probably helps to just read from Genesis to Revelation (or from Matthew to Revelation and then back to Genesis). Complicated reading schemes can be distracting and discouraging. We will always benefit from reading through the Bible and the more times we do it, the more we will see how it all flows together. Don't be discouraged if the first couple times you don't seem to pick up much. It might seem as if you don't remember anything you read, but soon you'll start being surprised by what you remember. You might read a passage in Leviticus and say to yourself, "This reminds me of something in Hebrews." Then you'll be able to read the Hebrews passage and it will help you to understand Leviticus better.
8. **Meditate.** Think about what you've read all day. Don't just let things go in one eye and out the other.
9. **Get a notebook!** Keep the notebook with your Bible and write down anything that you find interesting. Write down verses that encourage you, questions you have, ideas for topics to study more carefully, ideas the passage gives you, etc. Then go through your notebook once in awhile.
10. **Remember that the Bible is complete.** We don't need a library of Christian books in order to understand the Bible, Christianity or life. Other books can be helpful and encouraging but they can also be dangerous. They can be wrong, we can read them more than we read the Bible, and when we have difficulties understanding a Bible passage we might use them to "cheat" to get the "answer" (which might be wrong) rather than looking to the Lord. Be very cautious in your use of books like commentaries.
11. **Be patient.** At first it will seem like we're getting nothing out of our Bible reading. But the more we read the more we'll learn to understand the Bible.
12. **Be Christ-centred.** Above all we should be looking to learn about the Lord Jesus as we read the Bible. He is the point of the entire Bible (Jn 5:39; Lk 24:27). Christ is on every page of the Bible and if He isn't the main point in our Bible reading, we've missed the point (see Appendix L).

Meditating on the Bible

**“How blessed is the man ... [whose] delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”
Ps 1:1-2**

Meditation isn't mystical or bizarre. To meditate on the word of God just means to keep running through a verse in your mind during the day. Meditating on the word of God is key to it being effective in our lives (Ps 1:2). In fact, there are many more commands in the Bible telling us to meditate on the word of God than to study it or even read it.

If we find a verse that really encourages us or challenges us or even a verse that we don't understand, we can meditate on it throughout the day and our understanding and appreciation of the verse will grow. If every Christian found one thing from the Bible each day that encouraged or interested them and then spent the day meditating on it, think of what the Breaking of Bread would be like.

Meditation is how the early Christians (or even Christians today) were able to grow spiritually without easy access to a Bible.

This is the thought of Php 4:8 where Paul writes, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”

Concentrating on the word of God all day long rather than feasting on the pollution of the world will be unspeakably good for us spiritually. This requires us to discipline our thoughts but the Lord will help us if we truly desire to.

Of course meditation may require us to memorize verses. Memorizing a verse means that we can meditate on it all day even at times when we can't read it. And there are other benefits of memorization (Ps 119:11; Lk 4; etc.).

Introduction to Bible Study

Study Tips

1. **Stay Christ-centred.** Keep our thoughts and hearts focused on Christ as we study.
2. **Pray.** We ought to pray before we study, while we're studying and after we study.
3. **Regular Bible reading.** Remember that regular reading of the Bible from cover to cover will be of immeasurable help to you in your study in at least three ways. First of all it will help you get an overall picture of the Bible. Secondly it will help you to make connections between related passages. Lastly you will find that your Bible reading frequently inspires Bible study as you come across topics or passages that you desire to know more about.
4. **Meditate.** Take time to do this while you're studying a passage. And if you come across a verse you cannot understand, spend the next day or two meditating on it.
5. **Write out your findings.** Instead of just breezing through a verse in your mind and concluding that you understand it, force yourself to write down on paper what the verse means. You'll be surprised at how this forces you to think about the verse much more carefully.
6. **Keep a notebook.** Keep a separate notebook where you can write down the following types of things:
 - Verses and thoughts that really strike you
 - Ideas for further study
 - Questions that you have

Steps in Study

1. **Preparation.** Prayer, notebook, pens, paper, light, table, quiet.
2. **Observation.** Collect your raw data.
3. **Meditation.**
4. **Interpretation.**
5. **Organisation.** Organize your notes and thoughts. Get rid of bad ideas.
6. **Application.**
7. **Communication.** Share it with others.

Types of Study

1. **Topical (or "Horizontal") Study.** The study of a word or topic in the Bible (e.g. prayer, propitiation). Most people find it easier to study a topic than a passage, so it may be helpful to not attempt passage studies until after you are fairly comfortable with topical studies.
2. **Passage (or "Vertical") Study.** The study of one passage of the Bible. The passage could be as large as an entire book of the Bible or as small as a phrase.

How to Study a Topic

How to Study a Topic

Types of Topical Studies

1. **Doctrine study** (e.g. the rapture, the sinlessness of Christ)
2. **Word study** (e.g. justification, holy)
3. **Phrase study** (e.g. the will of God, the right hand of God)
4. **Character study** (e.g. John the Baptist, Elijah)
5. **Geographical study** (e.g. Bethlehem, mountains)
6. **Theme study** (e.g. the testimony of Christ's enemies, appearances of Christ in the Old Testament)
7. **Symbolism study** (e.g. bread & wine, lions, the tabernacle)
8. **Topic study** (e.g. the local church, marriage)

Steps to Study a Topic

Before getting into the actual study get a separate piece of paper to use as your "idea sheet". As you go through the following steps, different thoughts may come to mind. They may be interesting things you learn about the subject, other Bible verses that relate to your subject, questions you have about the subject, etc. Write all these thoughts down on your "idea sheet" to ensure that you don't forget them.

1. **Find the words that relate to the topic you want to study.** Be sure to write down all the variations of each word you are studying. For example, if you were studying baptism you would want to consider "baptism", "baptisms", "baptizing", etc. Or if you were studying divorce you would want to make sure to look up "divorce", "divorces", "married", "marriage", etc. (If you're really ambitious you may want to consider words that have similar meanings as well. For example, if you were studying worship you may want to consider "praise", "homage", etc.)
2. **Using your concordance find each occurrence of each word and write out the verse or section of the verse where it's found.** For example, if you were studying worship, your notes would start off like this:
 - Gen 22:5 – I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship and return to you
 - Ex 3:12 – when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain
 - Ex 12:31 – Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said
 - etc.

As you write out the verses you'll have time to consider what each of these verses teaches you about the topic you're studying. Although this can be a lot of work, it is important to look up every verse on whatever topic you're studying. If we just pick our "favourite" verses on the topic we're studying, we're likely to get a lopsided view of the topic; we'll probably end up finding nothing more than we already know or think we know. Doing this by hand (instead of using a computer program) is a lengthy process but it is very valuable since it gives us time to meditate on the verses as we write them out.

3. **Identify the main ideas.** As you write down all the verses in the Bible about a given topic, you will begin to see some general themes about the topic you're studying and you'll notice that most of the verses related to one of those themes. For example, if you were studying worship, you would find that the 170 verses about worship break down into just a few categories like:

- The Definition of Worship
- The Requirements of Worship
- How Do We Worship?
- The Results of Worship

Write down each of these main ideas as headings on a new sheet of paper. (It is usually a good idea to start with what you discovered to be the definition of the word or topic you're studying.) There are several things to keep in mind about the headings you choose:

- Don't worry about getting every heading right off the bat. Just write down the headings that came to mind as the main points about the topic you're studying.
- Don't worry if you find this difficult. This is the hardest step at first but it gets easier quickly.
- There is no "right answer" to the headings you choose. Undoubtedly everyone who does a study will come up with different headings depending upon how the Lord burdens them.
- Try to avoid having too few or too many headings. Having one or two headings isn't very useful but having ten headings gets confusing.
- There are some headings that commonly occur. Along with a heading about the **Definition** of the topic you are studying, you also usually want to have a heading listing some practical **Applications** of the topic you're studying. And it is frequently helpful to list some **Examples** of the topic.

4. **Reorganize the verses.** Now that you have identified the main ideas about your topic, reorganize your verses from step 2 under each of the headings from step 3.

- Some verses may fit under more than one heading.
- Don't worry if you have some verses "left over". List them on your idea sheet until the end.
- Don't worry if there are some verses you don't understand. Leave them until the end and spend time thinking and praying about them.

5. **Add new headings as you need them.** As you go along you'll get to verses that don't fit under any of the headings you have so far. Just make new headings to fit those verses. Continuing with our example of studying worship, we may want to add the heading: "Examples of Worship". Occasionally you may find it necessary to change your headings and start over.

6. **Finish the verses.** Repeat steps 4 and 5 until all the verses from step 2 are under the appropriate headings.

7. **Finishing touches.** To finish up you may want to consider some of the following:

- If one of your headings is a definition of the topic you're studying, do you need to modify the definition you've written down in light of what you've learned about the topic?
- Add the points from your "idea sheet". If you wrote down any questions on your idea sheet see if you can answer them now that you're near the end of your study. If not, give yourself some more time to meditate on these things.
- Have you listed any practical applications of the study?
- Do you have any other thoughts, comments or clarifications to add?
- Most importantly, how does this topic relate to Christ?

Word Study Example: Reconciliation

Step 1: List the Words You Need to Look Up

- reconcile
- reconciled
- reconciliation
- reconciling

Step 2: Write Out the Verses with These Words in Them

- reconcile
 - Acts 7:26 – [Moses] appeared ... as they were fighting and tried to reconcile them
 - Eph 2:16 – that He might reconcile both in one body to God through the cross
 - Col 1:20 – through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross
- reconciled
 - Mt 5:24 – first be reconciled to your brother; then come and present your offering
 - Rom 5:10 – if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life
 - 1 Cor 7:11 – if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband
 - 2 Cor 5:18 – God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ
 - 2 Cor 5:20 – we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God
 - Col 1:22 – He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body, through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach
- reconciliation
 - Rom 5:11 – we exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received the reconciliation
 - Rom 11:15 – if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be
 - 2 Cor 5:18 – God who reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation
 - 2 Cor 5:19 – He has committed to us the word of reconciliation
- reconciling
 - 2 Cor 5:19 – God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them

Step 5: Add New Headings as you Need Them

- The Definition of Reconciliation
 -
- Examples of Reconciliation
 - Acts 7:26 – Moses tried to reconcile the two fighting Israelites
 - Eph 2:16 – man reconciled to God
- How Were We Reconciled?
 - Eph 2:16 – by the cross
 - Col 1:20 – the blood of the cross
- Who Is Reconciliation For?
 - Eph 2:16 – Jew and Gentile
 - Col 1:20 – all things in heaven and earth

Step 6: Continue Steps 4 and 5 For the Rest of the Verses

- The Definition of Reconciliation
 - Col 1:20 – make peace between two people who were at odds
- Examples of Reconciliation
 - Acts 7:26 – Moses tried to reconcile the two fighting Israelites
 - Eph 2:16 – man reconciled to God
 - 1 Cor 7:11 – husband and wife after separation
- How Were We Reconciled?
 - Eph 2:16 – by the cross
 - Col 1:20 – through the blood of the cross
 - Rom 5:10 – through the death of God’s Son
 - 2 Cor 5:18; Rom 5:11 – through Christ
 - Col 1:22 – in Christ’s fleshly body, through death
- Who Is Reconciliation For?
 - Eph 2:16 – Jew and Gentile
 - Col 1:20 – all things in heaven and earth (not those things “under the earth”)
 - Rom 11:15 – everyone in the world (although not everyone accepts God’s offer)
- Who Reconciled Us?
 - 2 Cor 5:18 – God
 - Col 1:22 – Christ
- Application
 - Mt 5:24 – be reconciled to your brother before worshipping God
 - 2 Cor 5:20 – salvation message
 - Rom 5:11 – it should cause us to exult
 - 2 Cor 5:18,19 – we should share the word of reconciliation with others

Phrase Studies

Another type of topical study is a study in which you look up each occurrence of a phrase in the Bible and see what you can find out about that phrase. This works largely the same as a word study except that it can be a little harder to use a concordance to look up a phrase. For instance, if you wanted to study “the will of God” which word would you look up in the concordance? A computer program such as **The Online Bible** can be helpful for this type of study but it isn’t necessary. You can use a normal concordance to look up a phrase, it will just take a little longer.

Some examples of phrase studies are:

- the will of God
- right hand
- blood of the covenant

Sometimes it’s interesting to study a common word or phrase in the Bible to see the different ways that the phrase is completed throughout Scripture. For instance, you might want to look up “blessed is the man who...” to see what things the Bible says will make a blessed man. Or you might want to look up all the occurrences of “the God of ...” to see what the Bible says He is the God of. These kind of “fill-in-the-blank” studies can be interesting even if you just use them to make a list. Frequently you can end your study when you have completed the list.

Some examples of “fill-in-the-blank” phrase studies are:

- the God of ... (e.g. the God of Abraham, the God of heaven and earth, etc.)
- the Judge of ... (e.g. the Judge of the living and the dead, the Judge of all the earth, etc.)
- living ... (e.g. living water, living bread, etc.)
- the true ... (e.g. the true vine, the true bread, the true light, etc.)
- ... faith (e.g. great faith, little faith, etc.)

Remember, depending on the study you’re doing you may very well end your study once you’ve completed your list. If you do want to go further you can continue with steps 3-6 of a normal topical study.

Phrase Study Examples

The Gospel of

- the kingdom – Mt 4:23; 9:35
- Jesus Christ – Mk 1:1
- God – Mk 1:14; Rom 1:1; 15:16; 2 Cor 11:7; 1 Th 2:2,8,9; 1 Pe 4:17
- kingdom of God – Lk 16:16
- the grace of God – Acts 20:24
- His Son – Rom 1:9
- Christ – Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 9:12; 2 Cor 2:12; 2 Cor 9:13; 10:14; Gal 1:7; Php 1:27; 1 Th 3:2
- the glory of Christ – 2 Cor 4:4
- your salvation – Eph 1:13
- peace – Eph 6:15
- our Lord Jesus – 2 Th 1:8

Pursue

- Rom 12:13 – hospitality
- Rom 14:19 – the things that make for peace and the building up of one another
- 1 Cor 14:1 – love
- 1 Th 5:15 – that which is good for one another and for all men
- 1 Tim 6:11 – righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness
- 2 Tim 2:22 – righteousness, faith, love and peace
- Heb 12:14 – peace with all men and the sanctification without which no man will see God
- 1 Pe 3:11 – peace

You may want to end your study there, or you may go further. For example, if you had done this study of what we are told to pursue you might have noticed that some of the verses that tell us what to pursue also tell us what to flee. This might lead you to look up what the Bible tells us to flee.

What We're Told to Flee

- 1 Cor 6:18 – immorality
- 1 Cor 10:14 – idolatry
- 1 Tim 6:11 – the love of money
- 2 Tim 2:22 – youthful lusts

Original Language Word Studies

Sometimes it is interesting to do a special type of word study called an original language word study. This is a word study of a Greek or Hebrew word instead of an English word. The only difference between this type of word study and the normal word study we've already considered is how we compile the list of verses that contain the word we're looking for.

This normally requires using the Greek and Hebrew dictionaries that are found at the back of an exhaustive concordance (see Appendix J). However these studies can also be done by using a computer program or the Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament and the Englishman's Hebrew Concordances of the Old Testament by G.V. Wigram (only available in KJV).

1. **Find the words that relate to the topic you want to study.** Look up the word you wish to study in your concordance. Next to the verse reference you will find a number which represents the original language word that this English word is translated from. Use the concordance dictionary in the back of your concordance to look up that number and write down all the different ways the word is translated. Be sure to look up Old Testament words in the Hebrew dictionary and New Testament words in the Greek dictionary.
2. **Look up all occurrences of the original word.** For each of the ways the word is translated use the main section of your concordance to write out a list of verses where the original word occurs. This will involve turning to an English word and scanning the list of numbers for the number you are studying.
3. **Follow steps 3-7 as before.**

See Appendix J for a fuller explanation of how to use the exhaustive concordance dictionaries and for a few words of warning concerning original language studies.

Original Language Example: Fellowship

Step 1: Concordance Dictionary

2842 [koinonia – fellowship] from 2844 [koinonos – a sharer]

- contribution (2)
- fellowship (12)
- participation(2)
- sharing (3)

Step 2: Look Up All Occurrences of the Original Word

contribution (2)

- Rom 15:26 – For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.
- 2 Cor 9:13 – Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

fellowship (12)

- Acts 2:42 – they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 1 Cor 1:9 – God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son
- 2 Cor 6:14 – Do not be bound together with unbelievers ... what fellowship has light with darkness?
- 2 Cor 13:14 – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- Gal 2:9 – James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we might go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.
- Phil 2:1 – If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
- Phil 3:10 – that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;
- Phlm 6 – and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ’s sake.
- 1 John 1:3 – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- 1 John 1:6 – If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and ...
- 1 John 1:7 – but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

participation (2)

- 2 Cor 8:4 – begging us with much entreaty for the favour of participation in the support of the saints,
- Phil 1:5 – in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

sharing (3)

- 1 Cor 10:16 – Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?
- Heb 13:16 – And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

How to Study a Passage

Step 1: Get The Big Picture

Before jumping into the details of a passage it's important to get the big picture. Being familiar with the passage as a whole is necessary if we are to properly understand its individual parts. Three steps are involved in getting an understanding of the passage as a whole.

1. **Context.** Do you understand the context of the passage? To whom was it written? What is the subject of the surrounding verses and chapters?
2. **Read, read, read.** Read the passage several times. If you're going to spend a long time studying the passage, you can certainly afford to spend the first few days reading it. And the more you read it the easier and more profitable your study will be.
 - Read the passage in a few good translations (NASB, NIV, KJV, NKJV, Darby)
 - Write down anything that strikes you as you read the passage.
3. **Make an outline of the passage.** Write short headings that break the passage down into its main sections. Then break each of these headings down into its main sections. Keep doing this until you have sections that are one or two verse each in length. Doing this has two advantages:
 - It's impossible to study an entire chapter at once. By breaking it down into its parts you end up with sections that are small enough to study.
 - Recognising the main ideas of a passage will help to understand the details.

Now you're ready to begin your detailed study.

Outline Examples

Revelation 2-3 (Step 1 – Context)

- Rev 1 – The things which you have seen
- Rev 2-3 – The things which are
- Rev 4-22 – The things which shall take place after these things

Revelation 2-3 (Step 2 – Main Points)

- 2:1-7 – Ephesus
- 2:8-11 – Smyrna
- 2:12-17 – Pergamum
- 2:18-29 – Thyatira
- 3:1-6 – Sardis
- 3:7-13 – Philadelphia
- 3:14-22 – Laodicea

Revelation 2-3 (Step 3 – Study Level)

- 2:1-7 – Ephesus
 - 2:1 – Names of Christ
 - 2:2-6 – Evaluation of the church
 - 2:7 – Promise to the overcomer
- 2:8-11 – Smyrna
 - 2:8 – Names of Christ
 - 2:9-10 – Evaluation of the church
 - 2:11 – Promise to the overcomer
- 2:12-17 – Pergamum
 - 2:12 – Names of Christ
 - 2:13-16 – Evaluation of the church
 - 2:17 – Promise to the overcomer
- 2:18-29 – Thyatira
 - etc.

When you get to this level you're ready to begin studying.

Ephesians 1 (Step 1 – Context)

- Eph 1:1-2 – Introduction
- Eph 1:3-3:21 – Doctrine
- Eph 4:1-6:20 – Practice
- Eph 6:21-24 – Conclusion

Ephesians 1 (Step 2 – Main Points)

- 1:1-2 – Introduction
- 1:3-14 – Our salvation
- 1:15-23 – Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians

Ephesians 1 (Step 3 – Study Level)

- 1:1-2 – Introduction
- 1:3-14 – Our salvation
 - 1:3-6 – God the Father and our salvation
 - 1:7-12 – God the Son and our salvation
 - 1:13-14 – God the Holy Spirit and our salvation
- 1:15-23 – Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians
 - 1:15-16 – Thanksgiving
 - 1:17-19 – Requests
 - 1:20-23 – Worship

Galatians 5:22-23

- The fruit of the Spirit
- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Against such things there is no law

Step 2: Examine the Individual Words

Once you have an outline you are ready to begin your detailed study. In making your outline you will have broken down the passage you're studying into small, manageable sections. You will now do an in-depth study of each of these small sections.

The first thing to do in your detailed study is to make sure you understand the individual words that are used in the passage and see what you can learn about them. You can use the following steps to study the words:

1. On a new sheet of paper write out all of the major words from the passage (one word on each line).
2. Use your concordance to look up the dictionary number for each of these words. Write the dictionary numbers down after the words (from step 1).
3. Use your concordance's dictionary to look up the meanings of the words. Write down the meanings after the dictionary numbers (from step 2). Most of the meanings will be exactly what you expect, but you will likely come across one or two words whose definitions teach us something extra.
4. Along with the definitions, write down the number of times each word is used in the Bible.
5. As much as you are able, do word studies of the appropriate words from the passage.
6. As always, keep a record of any other thoughts about the passage that come to mind as you are studying.

Please note that in this step we are just getting the raw material for our study. By the end of this step we may have a lot of information but we still have more information to collect and we still have to show how it all fits together.

Word Study Examples

Revelation 19:15

- mouth – 4750 [stoma – mouth] (75)
- comes – 1607 [ekporeuo – to (make to) go forth] (34)
- sharp – 3691 [oxus – sharp] (8)
- sword – 4501b [rhomphaia – a large broad sword] (7)
- smite – 3960 [patasso – to beat, smite] (10)
- nations – 1484 [ethnos – a race, nation] (163)
- rule – 4165 [poimaino – to shepherd] (11)
- rod – 4464 [rhabdos – a staff, rod] (12)
- iron – 4603 [sideros – of iron] (5)
- treads – 3961 [pateo – to tread (on)] (5)
- wine – 3631 [oinos – wine] (34)
- press – 3025b [laynos – a trough, wine vat] (5)
- fierce – 2372 [thumos – passion] (18)
- wrath – 3709 [orgay – impulse, wrath] (36)
- God – 2316 [theos – God] (1313)
- almighty – 3841 [pantokrator – almighty] (10)

sharp – 3691 [oxus – sharp]

- Rom 3:15 – their feet are swift to shed blood
- Rev 1:16 – out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword
- Rev 2:12 – the One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this...
- Rev 14:14 – ... one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand
- Rev 14:17 – another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle
- Rev 14:18 – another angel, the one who has power over fire, came from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle saying, “put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe”
- Rev 19:15 – from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations

rule – 4165 [poimaino – to shepherd]

- Mt 2:6 – out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel
- Lk 17:7 – which of you, have a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him...
- Jn 21:16 – shepherd My sheep
- Acts 20:28 – shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood
- 1 Cor 9:7 – who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?
- 1 Pe 5:2 – shepherd the flock of God among you
- Jd 12 – they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves...
- Rev 2:27 – and He shall rule them with a rod of iron
- Rev 7:17 – the Lamb in the centre of the throne will be their shepherd
- Rev 12:5 – she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron
- Rev 19:15 – and He will rule them with a rod of iron

Step 3: Study the Phrases

Once you have studied the individual words in a passage you are well on your way to finishing the study. However it is now important to see how the words fit together. The first step in doing this is to observe and study the phrases in a passage.

For example, if you were studying Rev 3:7 you would get to the following words: “He who ... has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”. You may learn a little from looking up the individual words in this passage, but you can see that even if you understand each individual word perfectly, you don’t necessarily understand what that part of the verse means. You would need to break the verse up into its phrases and consider each phrase individually. In this case you would probably break up the quoted section into the following phrases:

- “has the key of David”
- “who opens and no one will shut”
- “who shuts and no one opens”

Knowing the meaning of the individual words in those phrases helps but it will mean very little if you don’t understand the phrases themselves. It is necessary for you to break your passage into phrases and study each phrase individually. Use the following steps:

1. Rewrite the passage breaking it into words or phrases of one idea each. Leave enough space under each word or phrase to make notes.
2. Under each heading (the words or phrases from step 1) write everything you know about that heading. This will include the following:
 - Anything important you learned from your study of the words in the passage.
 - Anything you learn from other places this phrase is occurs in the Bible.
 - Anything you learn from the phrase itself. For example, when studying Rom 3:23 one of the phrases you will have is “all have sinned” – this phrase teaches you something that the individual words themselves didn’t teach you.
 - Any important links to the previous phrase. For example, if you are studying the phrase “therefore God highly exalted Him” (Php 2:9) it is necessary to go write down how this phrase links to the one before it. Why did God highly exalt Him?
 - Any practical applications of the phrase.
 - Suggestions for further study.
3. Meditate on the phrase and consider the information you wrote down about it in step 2 until you are comfortable that you understand what the phrase is teaching.
4. Finally, rearrange the information you’ve written down under each heading into a logical order. (You may find yourself adding things to make your notes clear.)
5. Repeat steps 2-4 for each word or phrase from step 1.

Phrase Study Example: Revelation 3:7-13

Step 1: Break the Passage Into Words/Phrases of One Idea

- “He who is holy”
- “who is true”
- “who has the key of David”
- “who opens and no one will shut”
- “who shuts and no one opens”
- “says this”
- “I know your deeds”
- etc.

Steps 2 & 3: Write Down What You Know About Each Idea

- “He who is holy”
 - holy = set apart, undefiled
 - pure & undefiled
 - impeccable
 - 1 Pe 2:22 – He did no sin
 - 2 Cor 5:21 – He knew no sin
 - 1 Jn 3:5 – in Him is no sin
 - Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8
 - Christ is the holy God (Isa 5:16), the holy One (Job 6:10), the holy One of Israel (2 Ki 19:22), the holy One of Jacob (Isa 29:23), the holy One of God (Mk 1:24), the holy offspring (Lk 1:35), the holy servant (Acts 4:27), the holy One of the LORD (Ps 106:16)
 - {good study: other holy things – place, garments, crown, anointing oil, Scriptures, calling, etc.}
 - there are many holy things and creatures, but He is supremely holy – “holy, holy, holy”
 - this goes beyond righteousness
 - God is completely set apart, completely “other”
 - the seraphim cover their eyes (Isa 6), the elders fall down and worship (Rev 4)
 - remember Rev 1:17 – the one who had once reclined on His breast now falls at His feet
- “who is true”
 - etc.

Step 4: Rearrange Your Thoughts in a Logical Order

- “He who is holy”
 - the definition of “holy”
 - when we think of holiness we think of purity
 - but although holiness includes purity, it goes far beyond that
 - holy = set apart, undefiled
 - Christ is holy
 - Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8
 - Christ is the holy God (Isa 5:16), the holy One (Job 6:10), the holy One of Israel (2 Ki 19:22), the holy One of Jacob (Isa 29:23), the holy One of God (Mk 1:24), the holy offspring (Lk 1:35), the holy servant (Acts 4:27), the holy One of the LORD (Ps 106:16)
 - {good study: other holy things – place, garments, crown, anointing oil, Scriptures, calling, etc.}
 - there are many holy things and creatures, but He is supremely holy – “holy, holy, holy”
 - Christ is pure and undefiled
 - 1 Pe 2:22 – He did no sin
 - 2 Cor 5:21 – He knew no sin
 - 1 Jn 3:5 – in Him is no sin
 - impeccable – He could not sin – He loathed sin – sin never appealed to Him in any way
 - Christ is totally “set apart”
 - the seraphim cover their eyes (Isa 6), the elders fall down and worship (Rev 4)
 - remember Rev 1:17 – the one who had once reclined on His breast now falls at His feet
- “who is true”
 - etc.

Step 4: Extra Things to Look For

Lastly you may want to consider some of the following questions in order to help you fill out the details of your study.

1. What does this teach about the Lord Jesus? (see Appendix L for Old Testament passages)
2. Is there a command for me to obey? A warning?
3. Are there compliments or criticisms in this verse? (e.g. Rev 2,3)
4. Are there promises in this verse?
5. Is there a reference to or illustration of the gospel in this verse?
6. What other Bible passages relate to this one?
 - Parallel passages (Gospels, Kings & Chronicles, etc.)
 - Old Testament / New Testament links (see Appendix M)
 - Other related passages. This is where our normal Bible reading comes in. The more we have read the Bible, the more we'll be able to find other related passages and ideas that we'll never find with a concordance (e.g. the two angels in the tomb & the two cherubim on the mercy seat – Jn 20:12).
7. Is this a picture of a New Testament truth? (If reading OT.) Are there any Old Testament “pictures” of this? (If reading NT.) Frequently we find that truths are taught in the New Testament and illustrated in the Old Testament (e.g. worship, judgment).
8. How does this verse relate to its context?
9. Do other translations help me to understand this verse?
10. What do the names in this verse mean? (See Strongs, NASC – e.g. Jebus, Demas, David, Benjamin/Benomi)
11. If people or places are mentioned, what else do I know about them in the Bible? (e.g. Moriah, Shinar)
12. If places are mentioned, where are they on a map?
13. Is there a good illustration of the truth of this verse?
14. What is the interpretation of this verse and what applications are there? For example, it is pretty easy to interpret Dt 25:4 – the meaning is obvious. However, Paul makes an application of that verse in 1 Cor 9:9.
15. Who? What? Where? When? Why?
16. What is emphasised in this passage?
17. What is repeated? Key words, phrases. (e.g. “to the praise of His glory” in Eph 1; “ungodly” in Jude)
18. What things are related (cause & effect, question & answer, general & specific)? (look for words like “since”, “therefore”, “as”)
19. What comparisons are made?
20. What contrasts are made? (e.g. Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:42-49)
21. Is there anything in this verse that will encourage others in my family? the assembly?
22. Meditate, meditate, meditate.
23. Do any other books you have shed light on this passage? (see Appendix C, especially the warning)

Appendices

Appendix A: Interpreting the Bible

Prerequisites

1. **The Author.** The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible (2 Pet 1:21). Therefore:
 - The Bible can only truly be understood by those in whom He resides: believers (1 Cor 2:14). The Holy Spirit desires to teach us what the Bible says and He has the power to illuminate us about its teachings (1 Jn 2:27).
 - We must constantly look to the Lord to help us understand, rather than trusting to our own intellect, so prayer and a dependent spirit are essential.
2. **Read.** The more we read the Bible the more we'll understand it. And since the Bible is a unified whole, reading in Genesis can help us understand our study in Revelation.
3. **Meditate.** This doesn't mean that we are to sit cross-legged and chant. This is simply the process of thinking about a passage over and over again (Ps 1:2; Php 4:8). We needn't expect to understand every verse the first time we read it. If the verse confuses us we ought to pray that the Lord will help us understand it and try thinking about it in our spare time over the coming days.
4. **Obey.** Understanding the Bible is not a purely mechanical or intellectual exercise. God teaches those who desire to obey Him (Ps 95:7; Jn 7:17; Ezr 7:10). A.W. Tozer once said, "The difficulty we modern Christians have is not misunderstanding the Bible, but persuading our untamed hearts to accept its plain instructions."

Principles

1. **The Bible is complete.** We don't need to appeal to outside sources to understand the Bible (2 Tim 3:17). Be careful: in almost all instances when a person appeals to extra-biblical sources to "interpret" the Bible they are really trying to explain away the Bible's clear teaching. Much danger lies in trying to interpret the Bible through outside history. The unchanging word of God is the only accurate, reliable source of interpretation. Of human history, no scholar knows even 1%, and most of what is known is slanted, speculative, fluctuating, and fragmentary. To apply it in a way which contradicts Scripture (e.g. 1 Cor 11) is extremely foolish.
2. **The Bible is inerrant.** If any difficulties in interpretation arise, we must confess that the problem is our limited understanding, not the Bible (Pr 30:5; Jn 10:35). The temptation to write-off sections may sound enlightened but is actually logically incoherent.
3. **Interpret personal experience in the light of Scripture.** This is a direct consequence of the previous point. Don't interpret Scripture in the light of personal experience. Our feelings, thoughts, and experiences can be misleading or dead wrong (Jer 17:9). Scripture is without error.
4. **Take the Bible at face value.** This just means to take the Bible literally unless we're reading a passage that is **obviously** symbolic (e.g. Dan 2:28, 36, "I am the vine", "this is My body"). "If the plain sense of a passage makes common sense, seek no other sense." Too often we can twist the Bible by "spiritualising" or explaining everything away (e.g. 1 Cor 11; 1 Tim 3:2). The disciples were unnecessarily confused by some things the Lord Jesus said simply because they refused to take them at face value (e.g. Mk 9:9f, 31f). Of course, the Bible contains figures of speech (e.g. "four corners of the earth" (Isa 11:12), "face to face" (Ex 33:11)). We use figures of speech today (e.g. sunrise & sunset) and nobody objects.

5. **Context.** The Bible is not a collection of verses randomly thrown together. Verses relate to the verses around them. Here are some of the things to consider about context:
 - Immediate Context. What do the verses immediately before and after this verse say? (e.g. Philippians 4:13 does **not** mean that Paul could leap tall buildings in a single bound; 2 Timothy 3:1-5 shows how terrible disobeying mom really is)
 - Passage Context. What events were happening before and after the passage you're considering? (e.g. Mk 5:25-34)
 - Topical Context. What is the main topic being addressed in the passage that this verse is in? (e.g. 1 Corinthians 13 isn't just a poem inserted in the Bible for fun, it actually relates to chapters 12 and 14)
 - Book Context. What do you know about the book this is in? (e.g. so much of what is said in Hebrews means far more when we remember that Hebrews is dealing with Christ's superiority over Judaism – e.g. 6:19) Who wrote the book? To whom was it written? What kind of book is it? Why was the book written? What period of time does the book deal with? Other examples of books whose context is generally ignored are James and Ecclesiastes.
 - Bible Context. How does this verse fit into the rest of the Bible? What does the rest of the Bible say about this topic?
 - Historical Context. What other events (in the Bible) were occurring at the same time as this? (e.g. Zec 6:9-15)
 - Quotation Context. Check Old Testament quotations. Many people misinterpret Romans 9:13 because they don't examine what the original Old Testament quotation meant.
 - All kinds of bizarre teachings flow from taking Scripture out of context. We can take a verse out of context (Php 4:13), a chapter out of context (1 Cor 13), a book out of context (Hebrews or James) or an entire Testament out of context (JW's).
6. **To whom was the passage written?** It is important that we distinguish between Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God (1 Cor 10:32). Isaiah 53 has wonderful application for today, but when we consider that it was written to Israel we learn things we might otherwise miss. We can't apply Leviticus to our lives in the same way that we can apply Philippians. Much of the confusion in cults comes from failing to distinguish between Israel and the church.
7. **Interpret Scripture with Scripture.** Instead of using a commentary or a Bible dictionary to understand a word, phrase, or verse, first look to other related Bible passages to understand it. A concordance can help with this.
 - Who is "him who overcomes" in Revelation 2 & 3? See 1 John 5:5 for the answer.
 - What is "the key of David" in Revelation 3:7? See Isaiah 22:20-25 for the answer.
 - What did Christ mean in Mark 15:34? See Psalm 22 for the answer.
 - What does Jude 11 mean? See the related Old Testament passages for the answer.
 - What does 1 Corinthians 14:21 mean? See Isaiah 28:11 for the answer.
 - What is the vineyard in Isaiah 5:1? See Isaiah 5:7 for the answer.
 - Do you want to know why the Lord Jesus told people not to tell others about Him (Mt 12:16-21)? See Isaiah 42:1-4 for the answer.
 - Christ interprets various parables for us (e.g. the parable of the sower).
 - Do you want a good commentary on the Old Testament? Try Hebrews.
8. **Biblical word meanings.** We must make sure we understand what a word means in the Bible. Many words mean something different in today's speech and that can confuse us (e.g. church, lead, son (Mt 1:1)).
9. **Consider all of the verses on a subject.** Don't build a doctrine on just one verse. Consider every reference to a subject before coming to a conclusion.
10. **Interpret obscure passages in light of clear ones.** If you make 1 Corinthians 15:29 your main passage for studying baptism, save yourself the trouble and give up now. When the Bible has dozens of passages that teach something clearly (for example, eternal security), don't be confused by one verse that at first glance seems to teach the opposite. Start with what you understand not with what you are confused by.

11. **Build on a solid foundation.** Take the time to learn the major doctrines of the Bible first (see Appendix D). This lays a firm foundation for studying the countless smaller doctrines. To rush into studying all of the details of the Bible before getting a grip on its foundational teachings is like trying to build a house by doing the decorating first and laying the foundation last.
12. **Grammar.** Carefully examine the grammar of a verse. In particular look for what is singular and what is plural.
 - Rom 12:1 – “bodies” (pl.) and “sacrifice” (sing.)
 - Rom 12:2 – “be transformed” is passive – we don’t do it ourselves, it is done to us
 - Heb 6:2 – “baptisms” (pl.)
 - Lev 16:5 – “two goats (pl.) for a sin offering (sing.)”
13. **Other translations.** Frequently a verse that is unclear in one translation will be clearer in another one (e.g. 1 Cor 4:4). The NASB, KJV, NKJV, NIV, and Darby are all good translations.
14. **Other books.** There are a variety of books that can be helpful as tools. But we must be careful. First of all, the vast majority of “Christian” literature is untrustworthy and unhealthy. Before buying a book, make sure it is by a trustworthy author. Secondly, keep in mind that not all books are equally objective. Quite apart from the inclinations of the authors, some books by nature are more objective than others. Someone who is utterly dependent upon a commentary will first of all fall prey to any errors in the commentary and secondly miss all the points that the commentary misses.
 - Concordances are perhaps the most objective extra-biblical books since they largely just index where words are found in the Bible.
 - Cross-references are somewhat subjective due to their selective nature.
 - Bible dictionaries can be objective if they are merely compiling Bible references rather than teaching doctrine.
 - Commentaries and doctrinal books are highly subjective. This doesn’t make them bad any more than listening to a speaker is bad. It just means that we should exercise appropriate caution.
15. **Compare.** Look up similar events, people, passages, teachings, etc. A good set of cross-references (e.g. The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge) can help in looking up similar passages.
 - Revelation 2 and 3 – each letter has a similar structure – you could, for example, study the promises of each letter or the names of Christ in each letter
 - Hebrews – Christ is compared to all of the aspects of Judaism – He is prophet, priest, sacrifice, etc.
16. **Contrast.** Just because two things are similar does not mean that they are identical. Frequently we learn more about a teaching from contrasts than we do from comparisons.
 - Hebrews – Christ is contrasted with all of the aspects of Judaism – He is superior to them
 - Romans 5:12-21 – here we’re told that Adam was a “type” of Christ (stressing their similarity) and yet the entire passage is devoted to showing their differences
 - 2 Samuel 7:4-17 & 1 Chronicles 17:3-15 – clearly these are parallel passages and yet there are significant differences since the 2 Samuel passage focuses on Solomon whereas the 1 Chronicles passage focuses on Christ
 - Israel and the Church – there are certainly similarities (e.g. adoption, a nation of priests, etc.) but there are significant differences (earthly vs. spiritual) – similarity does not mean identity
17. **Prophecy.** There are three extra things to keep in mind when studying Bible prophecy:
 - Some prophecies are placed in the past tense to emphasise that they are guaranteed (e.g. Heb 2:14)
 - Some prophecies have more than one fulfilment (e.g. Jl 2:28ff)
 - Sometimes the name of an Old Testament saint will be used of Christ in the future (e.g. Hag 2:23)

18. **Types.** When we consider Old Testament types and pictures we must be careful since “there’s a ditch on either side of the road.” On the one hand, we can make the mistake of ignoring types. This is regrettable since types can be very helpful in illustrating New Testament teaching. For example, the five levitical offerings show us five aspects of the work of Christ that we would be hard-pressed to see clearly with only the New Testament. On the other hand, we can make the mistake of becoming obsessed with typology and spend our time exercising our fertile imaginations. Types can be helpful in illustrating other biblical truth but we should be suspect of any doctrine whose only basis is a type.
19. **Parables.** Similar to types, parables are intended both to illustrate biblical truth (to the believer) and obscure it (from the rebel). In interpreting parables we must resist the temptation to let our imaginations run free and assign meanings to every element of the parable. The same is true of other illustrations in the Bible. For example, when Peter refers to the word of God as milk (1 Pe 2:2) we need to be careful we don’t become too fanciful in thinking of ways that it’s like milk. (e.g. “Milk is white and that speaks of the purity of the Bible.” Certainly the Bible is pure, but that’s not the point God was making when He likened it to milk.)
20. **Christ.** Keep these two points in mind:
- Christ is frequently “the exception to the rule” in the Bible. For instance, when Paul writes, “There is none righteous, not even one” (Rom 3:10) he clearly doesn’t mean to include Christ in that blanket statement any more than he intends to include the Father or the Holy Spirit.
 - Most importantly, remember that the Bible is a book about Him (Jn 5:39; Rev 19:10b). As such, the Bible can only be properly understood as it is related to Him (e.g. 2 Cor 3:14). Any understanding of the Bible divorced from Christ has missed the point. Whenever we read or study, we should do so in order to see Him. This should be our goal, our passion, and our focus. If it is, we can be assured of the Spirit’s help (Jn 16:14).

Appendix B: Suggested Study Topics

Topical Studies

Word	NASB	NIV	KJV
abound	28	18	30
adversary	84	23	58
approve	27	21	14
attitude	9	7	0
church	112	142	114
commandment	234	35	348
commend	17	24	20
common	25	26	21
companion	41	35	35
complain	26	23	18
confirm	40	29	34
conform	6	7	3
contend	41	18	25
destine	13	21	0
diligent	38	16	62
discern	43	34	25
discourage	5	19	7
divine	17	9	12
earnest	29	19	24
edify	11	5	20
encourage	42	63	9
engage	16	18	1
enslave	11	13	0
enthroned	10	21	0
entice	19	20	14
envy	21	22	30
example	18	22	9
excel	28	16	70
exhort	23	3	34
fellowship	13	12	17
firstborn	111	107	117
generous	11	22	0
gentle	30	32	11
godly	48	28	30
hospitable	6	8	4
imitate	9	10	0
impossible	11	13	9
incorruption	8	0	2
integrity	27	22	16
intercede	10	12	11

Word	NASB	NIV	KJV
justify	48	37	64
lawful	28	12	41
lawless	18	10	1
lazy	7	12	0
likeness	30	14	34
lofty	22	20	11
longing	17	17	3
manna	17	20	19
marvel	41	18	62
mediate	8	8	7
meditate	23	18	20
mortal	16	21	8
multitude	228	15	267
neglect	21	15	8
overcome	37	40	36
oversee	33	9	26
perfect	66	51	128
persevere	25	21	1
precious	66	48	76
purchase	22	12	17
refine	22	13	8
refresh	17	20	16
renew	15	20	16
resurrection	43	40	41
revere	27	43	15
revive	30	9	16
sceptre	23	28	16
self-control	9	18	0
signet	18	10	12
sincere	16	19	12
steward	22	10	20
surpass	15	11	0
sustain	28	23	10
tempt	33	27	73
tender	16	17	42
tradition	14	13	13
unbelief	33	26	26
ungodly	20	21	31
veil	57	22	46
wonderful	22	25	25

Phrase Studies

- the word of ____
- the Spirit of ____
- the gospel of ____
- the ____ gospel
- ____ hope
- holy ____
- ____ faith
- the ____ One
- eternal ____, everlasting ____

Original Language Studies

- redeemer
- justification
- edification
- leadership
- reverence
- conformed
- shepherd

Passage Studies

- Col 1:15-20
- Rev 2-3
- Gal 5:22-23
- Jude 11
- Ps 1
- Ps 2
- Jude
- Titus
- Isa 42:1-4

Appendix C: Recommended Books and Software

Title	Subject	Author	Publisher
NASB, NIV, KJV and/or NKJV			
Exhaustive concordance			
Vine's Expository Dictionary (keyed to Strong's numbering)		W.E. Vine	
Treasury of Bible Doctrine	Doctrine	John Heading	PSP (can be ordered from EPI or GFP)
Assembly Distinctives	The local church	H.G. Mackay	EPI
Church Doctrine and Practice	The local church	John Heading	PSP (can be ordered from EPI or GFP)
His Name ... The Mighty God	Christ	David Long	EPI
A Plant of Renown	Christ	Leonard Sheldrake	GFP
Here's the Difference	Biblical distinctions	William MacDonald	GFP
Believer's Bible Commentary	Commentary	William MacDonald	Thomas Nelson
What the Bible Teaches (multiple volumes)	Commentary		John Ritchie (can be ordered from GFP)
Explore the Book	Bible survey	J. Sidlow Baxter	Zondervan (can be ordered from GFP)
The New Unger's Bible Dictionary	Bible dictionary		Moody Press
Moody Atlas of Bible Lands	Atlas		Moody Press
The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge	Cross-references		Hendrickson
The Knowledge of the Holy	The person of God	A.W. Tozer	Harper & Row
The Birth of the Bible	How the Bible came to us	Bill McRae	EPI
Things to Come	Prophecy	Dwight Pentecost	Zondervan

A Warning About Commentaries, etc.

Commentaries and Bible dictionaries have a limited usefulness for anyone who is serious about studying the Bible themselves. If you are going to use a commentary it is best to use it sparingly and use it only **after** you have done all of the other studying that you possibly can on your own. There are a few reasons for saying this:

1. If you consult a commentary first, its ideas are likely to be firmly planted in your mind and you will find it very difficult to see anything else.
2. Discovering something on your own is far more rewarding than reading it in a commentary and saying, "I agree."
3. Quite frankly, commentaries are frequently wrong.

Commentaries can be helpful if used cautiously and in moderation, but if you find that a large portion of your study "results" are coming from the commentary and not from your own personal study, there is something wrong.

Bible Software

A wide variety of Bible software is available, much of it free of charge. The software can vary greatly in several areas:

1. Translations. Most software comes with at least the KJV, but often a great number of other translations either come with the original software or are available for downloading. You will be required to pay a fee to download certain translations.
2. Other books and tools. Some software includes an extensive amount of extra-biblical literature. This appeals to some, but it tends to increase the complexity of the software, make it more difficult to use, and slow it down.
3. Features. For example, some software comes with highly technical original language tools.

A few people might want to purchase one of the more complex Bible programs that are available. But it is likely more useful to get one of the more straight-forward programs that is strictly the Bible along with various English, Greek, and Hebrew search tools. This is not only simpler to use, but provides quicker access to the Bible itself.

Title	Location	Comments
e-Sword	www.e-sword.net	
QuickVerse 4	search for it with Google	No longer published, but all versions of QuickVerse up to 4 were distributed free of charge and it can be found online in a variety of places. QuickVerse 5 was cumbersome.
The Online Bible	www.onlinebible.net	Peculiar (and sometimes frustrating) user interface.
Bible Mapper	www.biblemapper.com	A freeware program that allows you to create maps of biblical places. It comes with a large database of places and allows you to select which cities, mountains, rivers, etc. you want included on your maps. The interface is a bit dated and awkward but, once you get used to it, it's an extremely versatile map-generating program.

Appendix D: Overview of Major Bible Doctrines

1. The Doctrine of the Scriptures

- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Inerrancy
- Authority & Sufficiency

2. The Doctrine of God

- Trinity
- Attributes
- Names
- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit
- Creation

3. The Doctrine of the Spirit World

- Angels
- Demons

4. The Doctrine of Man

- Man
- The Fall and Sin
- Relationships
- Morality

5. The Doctrine of Salvation

- Past
- Present
- Future

6. The Doctrine of God's People

- Covenants
- Dispensations
- Israel and the Remnant
- The Kingdom
- The Church

7. The Doctrine of Future Things

- The Rapture
- The Tribulation
- The Second Coming of Christ
- The Millennium
- Resurrections
- Judgments
- The Eternal State

Appendix E: Overview of Bible Chronology

Bible Chronology (dates are approximate)

Date	Event
4000 BC	Creation
3500 BC	Enoch
3000 BC	Noah born
2500 BC	The Flood
2000 BC	Abraham
1500 BC	Moses and the Exodus
1350 BC	The Judges
1000 BC	David and Solomon
933 BC	Israel divided into Judah (2 southern tribes) and Israel (10 northern tribes)
711 BC	Israel (northern kingdom) taken into captivity by Assyria
608-589 BC	Judah (southern kingdom) taken into captivity by Babylon
538 BC	Return to Jerusalem under Ezra
444 BC	Return to Jerusalem under Nehemiah (Daniel's 70 weeks begin)
3 BC	Christ is born
AD 27	Christ begins His public ministry
AD 30	Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension
AD 33	Stephen martyred, Saul saved
AD 47-48	Paul's first missionary journey
AD 49-52	Paul's second missionary journey
AD 56-58	Paul's third missionary journey
AD 59	Paul taken to Rome
AD 67	Peter & Paul martyred
AD 70	Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus
AD 96	Revelation written

Old Testament Chronology

Period	Date	Scriptures	Key Events	Key People
Edenic	4178 – ?	Gen 1-3	Creation, the Fall	Adam & Eve
Primeval	? – 2095	Gen 4-11	The Flood, Babel, Noahic Covenant	Cain, Abel, Seth, Noah
Patriarchs	2095 – 1809	Gen 12-50	Calling and testing of Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Joseph's dreams	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Melchizedek
Bondage	1809 – 1448	Ex – Lev	Exodus, the Law, Kadesh, the tabernacle	Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh
Wanderings	1448 – 1410	Num – Dt	Censuses, God's provision, the Rock, manna	Moses, Aaron
Conquest	1410 – 1395	Jsh	Spies & Rahab, Jericho, Ai, three campaigns, division of the land	Joshua, Caleb, Rahab, the elders who survived Joshua
Judges	1395 – 1053	Jdg – 1 Sam 8	Moral decline of Israel	Ruth, Boaz, judges, Eli, Samuel
United Kingdom	1053 – 933	1 Sam 9 – 1 Ki 11	Establishment of the nation, David & Goliath, building of the temple	Saul, David, Solomon
Divided Kingdom	933 – 608	1 Ki 12 – 2 Ki 25	Division of the kingdom, Assyrian & Babylonian captivities	Elijah, Elisha, kings, prophets
Babylon	608 – 538	Ezk, Dan	Fiery furnace, wall writing, lions' den	Ezekiel, Daniel & friends
Return	538 – 425	Ezr – Est	Three returns to Israel, rebuilding of the temple and Jerusalem, Esther	Zerubbabel & Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Appendix F: Overview of Bible Books

Old Testament	
Genesis – Deuteronomy	The Pentateuch
Joshua – Esther	History Books
Job – Song of Solomon	Poetry Books
Isaiah – Daniel	Major Prophets
Hosea – Malachi	Minor Prophets
New Testament	
Matthew – John	Gospels
Acts	History
Romans – Philemon	Paul’s Letters
Hebrews – Jude	General Letters
Revelation	Prophecy

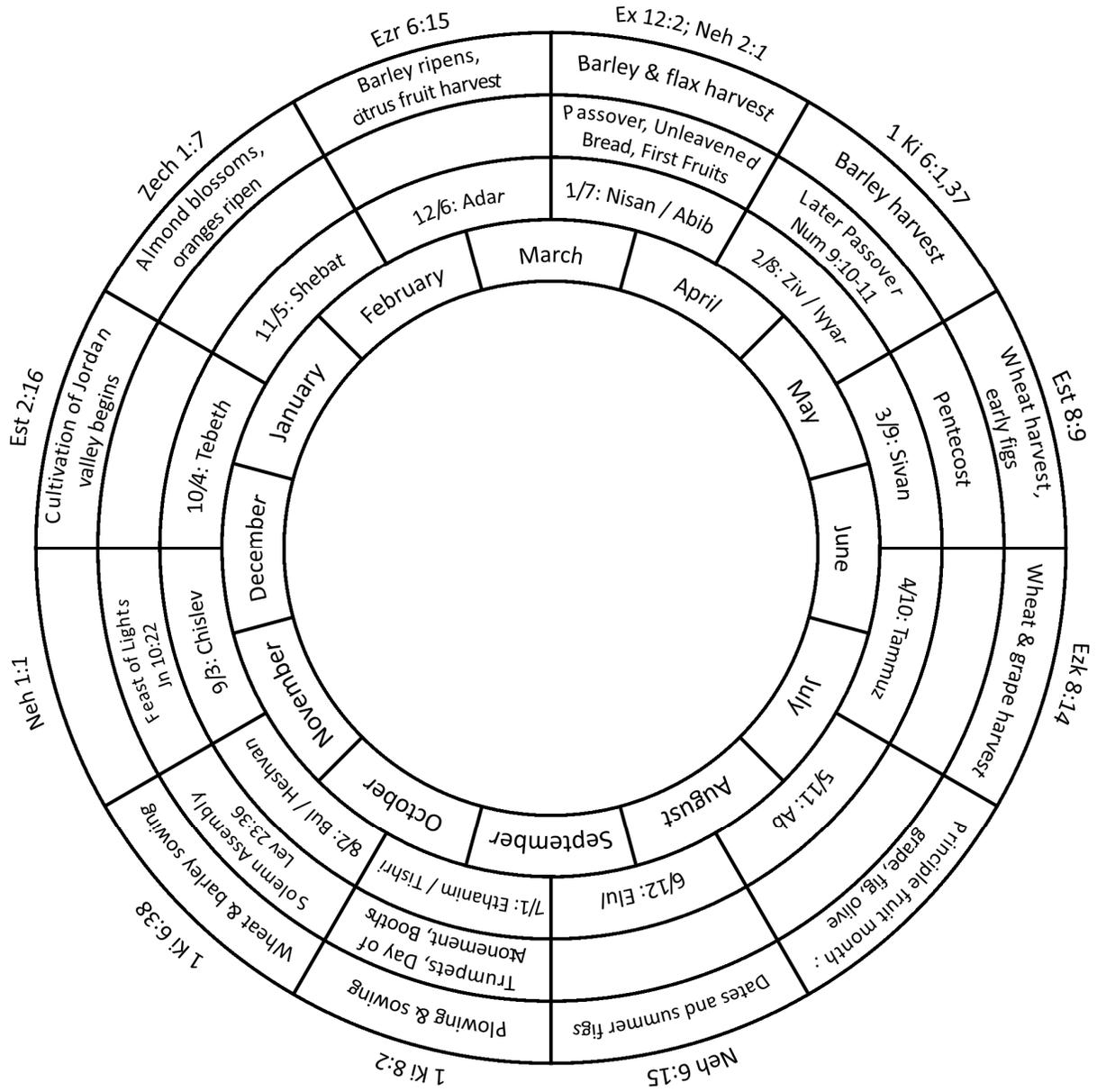
Old Testament	Type of Books	New Testament
Genesis – Deuteronomy	Foundation	Matthew – John
Joshua – Esther	History	Acts
Job – Song of Solomon	Writings	Romans – Jude
Isaiah – Malachi	Prophecy	Revelation

Studying the Bible

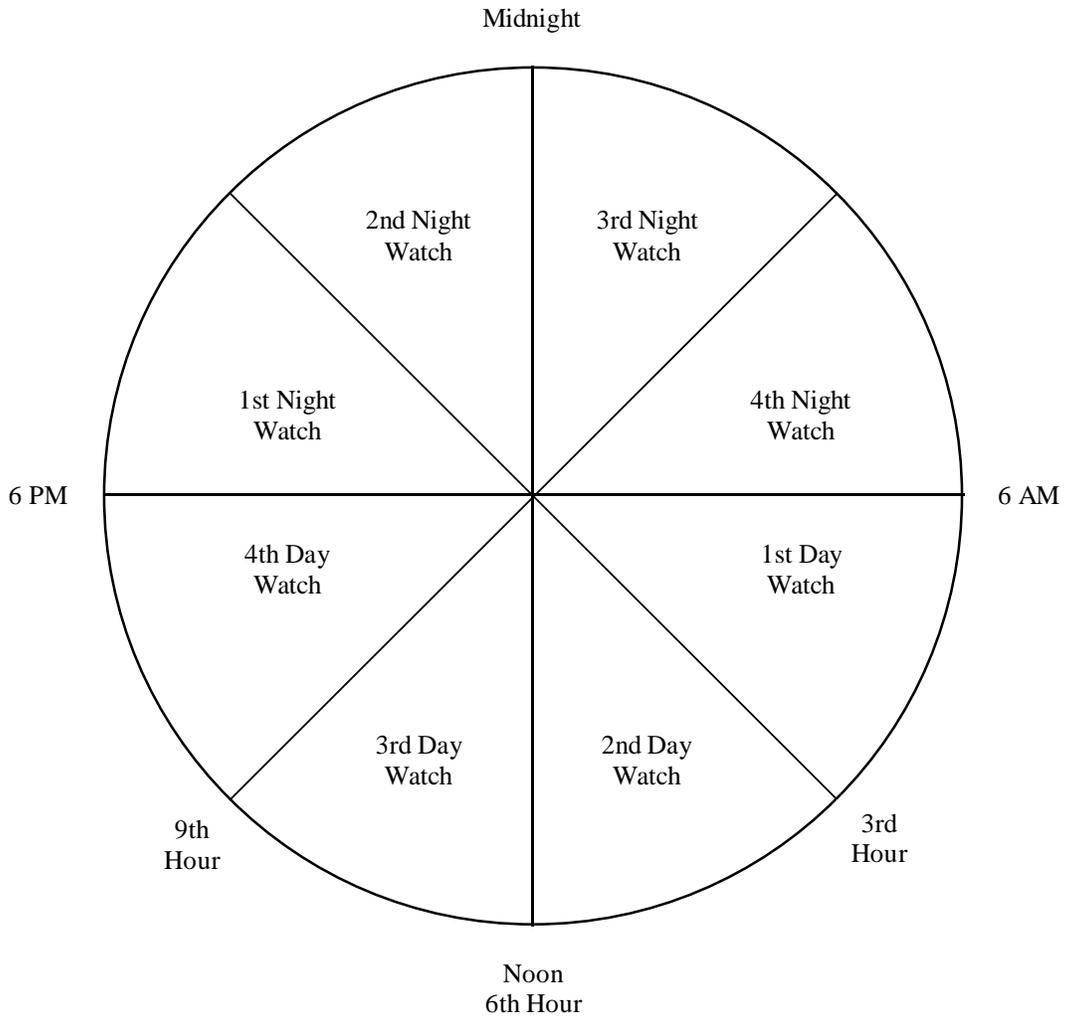
Old Testament Books

People & Events	History Books	Poetry Books – “The Writings”	The Prophets		
Creation – Egypt	Genesis	Psalms			
Exodus – Sinai	Exodus				
Sinai	Leviticus				
Wanderings	Numbers				
Preparation to go into the land	Deuteronomy				
Conquest of the land	Joshua				
Judges	Judges, Ruth				
Samuel	1 Samuel 1-8				
Saul	1 Samuel 9-31				
David	2 Samuel				
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11	1 Chronicles 11-29			
		2 Chronicles 1-9			
The divided kingdom	1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17		Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah		
Judah only	2 Kings 18-25			2 Chronicles 10-36	Nahum, Zephaniah, Habbakuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations
Exile in Babylon					Daniel, Ezekiel
Return to rebuild the temple	Ezra, Esther				Haggai, Zechariah
Return to rebuild Jerusalem	Nehemiah				Malachi
Inter-testament period – “400 Silent Years”					

Appendix G: Months and Seasons



Appendix H: Times of the Day



Appendix I: Map of Israel



Appendix J: How to Use Concordance Dictionaries

At the back of most exhaustive concordances you will find Hebrew and Greek dictionaries. With the use of these dictionaries you can discover which Hebrew or Greek word (or words) has been translated into what you have in your English Bible. These dictionaries are fairly simple to use.

For example, what if you wanted to know what Greek word is used for “fellowship” in Acts 2:42? Simply look up “fellowship” in the main part of your concordance and you will find something like this:

FELLOWSHIP		
We who had sweet <i>f</i> together,	Ps 55:14	5475
to the apostles’ teaching and <i>f</i> ,	Ac 2:42	<i>2842</i>
were called into <i>f</i> with His Son,	1 Co 1:9	<i>2842</i>
or what <i>f</i> has light with darkness?	2 Cor 6:14	<i>2842</i>
...		
etc.		

The first two columns are self-explanatory, but what are those numbers in the last column? Those numbers refer to the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries at the back of your concordance and tell you which Hebrew or Greek word was translated “fellowship” in each of those verses. (Note that the numbers for New Testament words are in italics.) So we see that “fellowship” in Acts 2:42 is a translation of the Greek word which is numbered 2842 (if you use the NIV Exhaustive Concordance the number is 3126). Now all we have to do is turn to the Greek dictionary (not the Hebrew dictionary since that is for Old Testament words) and look up word number 2842. When you do you will find one of the following (depending on whether you are using a NASB, KJV or NIV concordance).

NASB
2842. <i>κοινωνία</i> <i>koinōnia</i> ; from <i>2844</i> ; <i>fellowship</i> :— contribution(2), fellowship(12), participation(2), sharing(3).

“2842”	the number of the word
“ <i>κοινωνία</i> ”	the Greek word
“ <i>koinōnia</i> ”	the transliteration
“from 2844”	the origin or derivation of the word (in this case it comes from Greek word 2844)
“ <i>fellowship</i> ”	the general definition of the word
“contribution(2), ...”	the various ways and the number of times the word is translated

KJV

2842. **κοινωνία** *koinōnia*, *koy-nohn-ee'-ah*; from 2844; *partnership*, i.e. (lit.) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction* :— (to) *communicate* (-ation), *communion*, (contri-) *distribution*, *fellowship*.

“2842”	the number of the word
“ κοινωνία ”	the Greek word
“ koinōnia ”	the transliteration
“ <i>koy-nohn-ee'-ah</i> ”	the pronunciation of the word
“from 2844”	the origin or derivation of the word (in this case it comes from Greek word 2844)
“ <i>partnership</i> , ...”	the general definition of the word
“(to) <i>communicate</i> , ...”	the various ways the word is translated

NIV

3126 **κοινωνία** *koinōnia* (19)
 fellowship (10)
 sharing (3)
 participation (2)
 contribution (1)
 fellowship of sharing (1)
 partnership (1)
 share (1)

“ 3126 ”	the number of the word
“ κοινωνία ”	the Greek word
“ koinōnia ”	the transliteration
“(19)”	the total number of times this Greek word is used in the New Testament
“fellowship (10), ...”	the various ways and the number of times the word is translated

New NIV Concordance

3126 **κοινωνία**, *koinōnia*, n. [19] [v3123]. *fellowship*, the close association between persons, emphasizing what is common between them; by extension: *participation*, *sharing*, *contribution*, *gift*, the outcome of such close relationships :— *fellowship* (10), *sharing* (3), *participation* (2), *contribution* (1), *fellowship of sharing* (1), *partnership* (1), *share* (1)

“3126”	the number of the word
“ κοινωνία ”	the Greek word
“ koinōnia ”	the transliteration
“n.”	the part of speech (noun)
“[19]”	the total number of times this Greek word is used in the New Testament
“v3123”	the origin or derivation of the word (in this case it comes from Greek word 3123)
“ <i>fellowship</i> , the close ...”	the general definition of the word
“ <i>fellowship</i> (10), ...”	the various ways and the number of times the word is translated

Studying the Bible

Note that the NASB, KJV, and the new NIV concordances supply you with the origin or derivation of the word as well as the general definition of the word. Both of these can add to your understanding of what the word means. You can, for example, look up the root word(s) for the word. In this case we're told that the root word is 2844 and when we look it up we find it is the word "koinōnos" and it means "a sharer". So we see that fellowship is related to sharing.

Another thing we are now able to do is look up all of the occurrences of this Greek word in the New Testament. (This example is done with the NASB but the procedure is the same for the KJV or NIV.)

Since we know this is Greek word 2842 and since the dictionary tells us all of the ways the word is translated into English, all we have to do is turn to the main part of the concordance, look up each of the ways this word is translated into English, and then scan down the list of references for 2842.

For example, the dictionary tells us that in the NASB the word 2842 is translated as "contribution" 2 times, "fellowship" 12 times, "participation" 2 times, and "sharing" 3 times. So we would now turn back to the main body of the concordance and look up each of these four words. When we get to "sharing" we will find this:

SHARING		
and were s them with all,	Ac 2:45	1266
<i>to thresh</i> in hope of s <i>the crops</i>	1 Co 9:10	3348
bless a s in the blood of Christ?	1 Cor 10:16	2842
break a s in the body of Christ?	1 Cor 10:16	2842
do not neglect doing good and s ;	Heb 13:16	2842

So we see that "sharing" occurs five times, but only three of them are our word (2842). The first two occurrences of sharing are from other Greek words. So we would make a note that 2842 is translated as "sharing" twice in 1 Cor 10:16 and once in Heb 13:16.

If we also did this with all of the other ways 2842 is translated ("contribution", "fellowship", and "participation") we would have a list of all the occurrences of 2842 in the New Testament and how it is translated in each one. In most cases this would help us in better appreciating the meaning and use of the word in the Bible.

Of course there are some words of caution about this kind of study. The ability to use the concordance dictionaries doesn't make one a Greek or Hebrew expert. Just like in English, words in Greek and Hebrew aren't always used in identical ways. Many other factors are involved in properly understanding words. Nevertheless this kind of study can help to round-out our appreciation of how a word is used in Scripture.

Appendix K: Dispensations

Dispensation	Innocence	Conscience	Human Government	Promise	Law	Grace	The Kingdom
Other Names	Freedom	Self-determination, Moral Responsibility	Civil Government	Patriarchal Rule			The Millennium; the Fullness of the Times
Bible Passage	Gen 1-3	Gen 4-8	Gen 9-11	Gen 12 – Ex 18	Ex 19 – Acts 1	Acts 2 – Rev 19	Rev 20
Start	Creation	Eviction from Eden	Noahic Covenant	Calling of Abraham	Giving of the Law	Pentecost	Setting up of the Millennial Kingdom
Steward	Adam	Adam	Noah	Abraham	Moses	Paul (Eph 3:2,9)	Christ
People	Adam & Eve	All	All	Abraham and his seed	Israel	The Church	The Kingdom
Characteristics	Man was unfallen, innocent	Man was to be governed by his conscience (cf. Rom 2:15)	Animals to fear man; animals given to man as food; promise of no more world-wide floods	One nation instead of the whole world; the promises to Abraham (Rom 4:13ff; Gal 3:15ff; Heb 11:9)	The Law (613 commandments dealing with every facet of life)	The church; under grace not law (Jn 1:17; Rom 6:14); indwelling of the Holy Spirit	Edenic conditions; Christ ruling on the earth; Israel as chief of the nations; Satan bound; Abrahamic and Davidic covenants fulfilled
Responsibilities	Tend garden; be fruitful & multiply; subdue the earth; don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil	Be governed by conscience; bring acceptable sacrifices to God	Be fruitful & multiply; fill the earth; don't eat food with blood still in it; capital punishment for murder	Possess the promised land	Keep the Law	Live by the Spirit (Gal 5:25); the Great Commission; neither Jew nor Gentile	Obey and serve the King
Failure	Ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil	World-wide violence and corruption	Failure to "fill the earth" – gathered at Babel	Went to Egypt	Broke the Law; crucified the One who was the fulfillment of the Law	General rejection of Christ; world-wide acceptance of Antichrist	Armies of the world gather against Christ
Intervention	Coats of skin	The ark	The choosing of one man to build a nation from	God provided a deliverer (Moses) and judged their oppressors	The Messiah and Redeemer (witnessed to by the Law – Rom 3:21)	The Rapture	The destruction of the enemies of the saints
Judgment	Eviction from the garden; curses on man, woman and creation	The flood	The confusing of languages at the tower of Babel	Slavery in Egypt; the plagues on Egypt	The Cross; the Times of the Gentiles; Israel temporarily laid aside	The Tribulation	The Battle of Gog and Magog; the Great White Throne
Fulfilled in the Millennium (Eph 1:10a)	Edenic conditions with Satan bound	"I will put a new spirit within them" (Ezk 11:19) "They shall all know Me" (Jer 31:34)	"The government will rest on His shoulders" (Isa 9:6)	Israel inhabiting the entire land without opposition as chief of the nations	"I will put My law within them" (Jer 31:33); millennial sacrifices (Jer 33:14-18)	Christ glorified; the church reigning with Christ; indwelling of the Spirit (Ezk 36:24ff)	The Kingdom of God on earth
Fulfilled in Christ (Eph 1:10b)	The Last Adam; a proper theocracy where He subdues the earth	Has a perfect conscience (Jn 8:29); Grants perfect conscience (Heb 9:14; etc.)	"The government will rest on His shoulders" (Isa 9:6)	He is the One to whom the promise was made and who will fulfil it (Gal 3:16)	Fulfilled the Law; the Law testifies of Him; Christ is the consummation of the Law (Rom 10:4)	"The Law came through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (Jn 1:17)	The King of kings – God's King ruling the Kingdom (cf. Ps 2:6; Dan 2:44; 7:13f)
Related Covenants	Edenic	Adamic	Noahic	Abrahamic	Mosaic, Palestinian, Davidic	New	New

Appendix L: Christ in the Old Testament

Prophecy

- Prophecies related to His First Coming as the suffering Messiah: e.g. His birth (Isa 7:14; Mic 5:2), early life (Hos 11:1), character (Isa 42:1-4), ministry (Isa 61:1-3), triumphal entry (Zec 9:9), rejection (Isa 53:3-4), betrayal (Zec 11:12-13), crucifixion (Ps 22), resurrection (Ps 16:10), ascension (Ps 68:18)
- Prophecies related to His Second Coming as the reigning Messiah: e.g. the tribulation (Isa 24), Christ's return (Zec 14:3-8), His judgment (Ezk 20:34-38), His rule (Ps 72)
- Messianic Psalms: e.g. Ps 2,24,110, etc.

The Angel of the LORD

- The various appearances of "The Angel of the LORD" in the Old Testament are preincarnate appearances of Christ. And as we examine His work in each of those appearances, we see little pictures of His work today.
- e.g. He is still "the God who sees" (Gen 16:13) and the Angel who has redeemed us from all evil (Gen 48:16).

The LORD

- Christ shares the names of Yahweh: e.g. He is the "I AM" (Ex 3:14 & Jn 8:58), "the First and the Last" (Isa 44:6 & Rev 1:17), "the Lord of Lords" (Dt 10:17 & Rev 19:16)
- Christ shares the offices of Yahweh: e.g. He is the Shepherd (Ps 23 & Jn 10:11; Heb 13:20; 1 Pe 5:4) and the King (Jer 23:5-6; Jn 1:49; 12:13)
- Christ shares the work of Yahweh: e.g. He is the Creator (Isa 44:24 & Jn 1:3), He forgives sins (Isa 43:25 & Mk 2:5; Lk 5:24) and He is the object of worship (Ex 34:14; Dt 6:13 & Mt 2:1,2,11; 14:33; 28:17)
- Christ shares the attributes of Yahweh: e.g. He is unchangeable (Ps 102:21-27; Mal 3:6 & Heb 1:10-12; 13:8), eternal (Ps 90:2 & Isa 9:6; Mic 5:2) and omnipotent (Jer 32:17,27 & Mt 28:18; Rev 1:8)

Names

- Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)
- He is the Branch who is king (Jer 23:5), servant (Zec 3:8), man (Zec 6:12) and God (Isa 4:2)
- He is the God of Abraham (Gen 31:42), the Fear of Isaac (Gen 31:42) and the Holy One of Jacob (Isa 29:23)
- He is Immanuel (Isa 7:14), the Messenger of the Covenant (Mal 3:1), the Prince of Princes (Dan 8:25), the Redeemer (Isa 59:20) and the Light of the Gentiles (Isa 42:6)

Pictures

- There are people who picture Christ: e.g. Adam (Rom 5:14), Melchisedek (Heb 5:6), Isaac (Heb 11:19), Moses & Aaron (Heb 3:1), Boaz (the kinsman-redeemer), David (the beloved shepherd-king after God's own heart), Solomon (the wise, glorious, rich king), and the various Joshuas
- There are institutions which picture Christ: e.g. the priesthood (Heb 5-8), the levitical offerings (Heb 9-10) and the cities of refuge (Heb 6:18)
- There are ceremonies which picture Christ: e.g. the Sabbath (Col 2:16-17), the Passover (1 Cor 5:7) and the First Fruits (1 Cor 15:20)
- There are objects which picture Christ: e.g. the brass serpent (Jn 3:14), the rock (1 Cor 10:4), the lamb (Jn 1:29), the Ark and the Tabernacle

Appendix M: Old Testament Quotes in the New Testament

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		Job 5:13 - 1 Cor 3:19 41:11 - Rom 11:35
		Psalms 2:1,2 - Acts 4:25,26 2:7 - Acts 13:33; Heb 1:5; 5:5 2:9 - Rev 2:27; 19:15 4:4 - Eph 4:26 5:9 - Rom 3:13 8:2 - Mt 21:16 8:4-6 - Heb 2:6-8 8:6 - 1 Cor 15:27 10:7 - Rom 3:14 14:1-3 - Rom 3:10-12 16:8-11 - Acts 2:25-28 16:10 - Acts 13:35 18:49 - Rom 15:9 19:4 - Rom 10:18 22:1 - Mt 27:46; Mk 15:34 22:18 - Mt 27:35; Jn 19:24 22:22 - Heb 2:12 24:1 - 1 Cor 10:26 32:1,2 - Rom 4:7;8 34:12-16 - 1 Pe 3:10-12 34:20 - Jn 19:36 35:19 - Jn 15:25 36:1 - Rom 3:18 40:6-8 - Heb 10:5-7 41:9 - Jn 13:18 44:22 - Rom 8:36 45:6,7 - Heb 1:8,9 51:4 - Rom 3:4 53:1-3 - Rom 3:10-12 62:12 - Rom 2:6 68:18 - Eph 4:8 69:4 - Jn 15:25 69:9 - Jn 2:17; Rom 15:3

Studying the Bible

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