

## Bible Study Aids

Here are some aids that you can use to enhance your bible study time. The list is only suggestive and is not meant to be exhaustive. There are always new works coming out all the time. Check online at [Christian Book Distributors \(www.christianbook.com\)](http://www.christianbook.com) for new resources. Before you buy anything, also remember that many works are available online. I also highly recommend some of the Bible software that gives you multiple works on one CD program. However, here are a number of works I recommend for all Bible students.

Todd Wendorff

### I recommend beginning with the following five items:

1. Two or three versions of Scripture
  - The New International Version should be one of them.
  - Also, at least one of the following: NASB, RSV, NKJV, KJV
  - And perhaps one of the following: Good News Bible, Living Bible, Phillip's, New English Bible, or the New Living Translation, or the Message.
2. A concordance – PC Study Bible, NIV complete Concordance, or get one online
3. A Bible handbook or good study Bible – Life Application Study Bible
4. A Bible dictionary – New Illustrated Bible Dictionary by Nelson
5. A good commentary on the book you are studying – Expositor's Bible Commentary by Zondervan

### Online Bible Helps

There are many online tools that are free of charge. Check these out.

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).  
[www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net) ;  
[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)  
[www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org)  
[www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)  
[www.lumina.bible.org](http://www.lumina.bible.org)  
[www.biblex.com](http://www.biblex.com)

### Study Bibles

Study Bibles use one of the above translations (or others) and give additional helps of various kinds, such as introductions to the books, charts, maps, concordances, notes at the bottom of the page, essays, etc.

- † Personal Study Bible:  
**The Life Application Bible** (Tyndale)
- † Topical Study Bible:  
**Thompson Chain Reference Bible** – NIV (Kirkbride)
- † Background Study Bible:  
**The NIV Study Bible** (Zondervan)  
**Archaeological Study Bible** (available in NIV or KJV)
- † Doctrine Study Bible:  
**The Disciples Study Bible** (Holman)  
**The New Geneva Study Bible**
- † Language Study Bible:  
**Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible** (available in NASB)

## Concordances

A concordance lists every word that appears in the Bible and all the verses it is found in. Using a concordance is a good way to find a verse that you only know part of, or you are interested in tracing a particular word or idea throughout the Bible. Many Bibles have limited concordances in the back, which give some of the important references for key words. An “exhaustive” or “complete” concordance gives every reference for every word. You will want to select a concordance for the Bible translation you use most often. Be aware that you can get many concordances online. See online sites.

- Cruden’s Complete Concordance (King James Version)
- New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance (NASB)
- NIV Complete Concordance (NIV)
- RSV Complete Concordance (RSV)
- Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (King James Version)
- Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible (King James Version)

## Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Bible dictionaries have articles on a wide range of biblical topics, including historical, cultural, biographical, and geographical issues.

### One Volume Dictionaries

- New Bible Dictionary
- New Compact Bible Dictionary
- Unger’s Bible Dictionary
- Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary

### Multi-Volume Encyclopedias

- Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible
- The Anchor Bible Dictionary
- The Baker Bible Dictionary
- The New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
- Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia
- Zondervan Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia

## Bible Handbooks

Bible handbooks give introductions to each of the books of the Bible and then briefly survey the contents, chapter by chapter. Some also give background material, maps, charts, etc.

- Eerdman’s Handbook to the Bible
- Haley’s Bible Handbook
- Illustrated Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Nelson
- The New Unger’s Bible Handbook
- Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge
- Richards Complete Handbook

## Introductions and Surveys

These are more detailed than handbooks, giving historical, cultural and social background and introductions to each of the books.

### Old Testament

- Introductory Guide to the OT, Merrill Unger
- Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament
- The Old Testament Speaks, S.J. Schultz

### New Testament

Encountering the New Testament, Walter Elwell  
Jensen's Survey of the New Testament  
New Testament Survey, M.C. Tenney

### **Bible History Books**

These books examine the historical background to the Old and New Testaments.

A History of Israel, John Bright  
Bible History – Old Testament, A. Edersheim  
New Testament History, F.F. Bruce  
New Testament Times, M.C. Tenney  
Survey of Israel's History, L.J. Wood

### **Bible Atlases**

Baker's Bible Atlas  
Hammonds Atlas of the Bible Lands  
Macmillan Bible Atlas  
Oxford Bible Atlas  
Rand McNally Bible Atlas  
Westminster Historical Atlas to the Bible

### **Greek and Hebrew Word Helps**

Analytical Greek Lexicon of New Testament, Wigram, Hendrickson  
New Englishman's Greek Concordance & Lexicon, Wigram-Green, Hendrickson  
Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament words, Nelson  
Word Pictures in the New Testament, A. T. Robertson, Baker