

# Bible Study Tools

## *Word-Based*

## *Verse-Based*

## *Topic-Based*

### Concordance

Contains each occurrence of each word in the Bible. It is organized alphabetically, so it is the best tool to find a verse from a word and to find all the occurrences of a word. It may also contain the Hebrew and Greek words behind each English word. Strong's is the best, for it is exhaustive with several helpful features and the Hebrew / Greek. A concordance is word based – here is its value and its limitations.

### Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

Contains over 500,000 cross-references to the verses in the Bible. Organized in Bible order, it provides verses helping explain the text under study. The verses were taken from conservative commentaries and Bibles before 1900. It is the best tool for finding explanatory verses that may not contain the key words of your subject text. The Treasury is verse based – here is its value and its limitations.

### Nave's Topical Bible

This topical handbook organizes Bible verses and passages by subjects. Using key verses more than once, it contains over 100,000 references in over 20,000 topics. The verses are fully printed, so you do not need a Bible to look them up. It also features a reverse look-up that allows you to find the topics where a verse has been used, in order to find related verses from that topic. It is topic based.

## **Bible Dictionary**

Organized alphabetically, it defines, describes, explains, illustrates, or cross-references most words in the Bible. By its nature, it may include the author's bias in defining some words. It is word based. Useful dictionaries include Davis, Smith, and Easton.

## **Bible Commentary**

Organized Scripturally, it gives the author's interpretation for each verse in the Bible. Due to its organization, you may quickly obtain an opinion on the interpretation of any verse. It is verse based. Good commentaries include Poole, Henry, Barnes, Clarke, and Gill.

## **Systematic Theology**

A handbook organized by the author's outline of theology with his opinion and references providing the material under each heading. It is topic based. Useful theologies include Gill, Dagg, Boyce, Berkhof, and Dabney. There are many more, but few add to these volumes.

*These tools are readily available and best used with the [Online Bible](#) computer program. We are blessed with better tools to study God's word than any generation.*

# Bible Study Tools

1. **CONCORDANCE.** Contains each occurrence of the 12,143 words in the King James Bible (783,137). Organized alphabetically, it is the best tool to find a verse from a word and to find all the occurrences of a word. It may also contain the Hebrew and Greek words underlying each English word. Strong's is the best, for it is exhaustive with several helpful features and the Hebrew and Greek. A concordance is word based – here is its value and its limitations.
2. **TREASURY OF SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE.** Contains over 500,000 cross references to the 31,101 verses in the Bible. Organized Scripturally, it provides verses helping explain the text under study. The verses were drawn from numerous conservative and Protestant commentaries before 1900. It is the best tool for finding explanatory verses that may not contain the key words of your subject text. The Treasury is verse based – here is its value and its limitations.
3. **NAVE'S TOPICAL BIBLE.** Organizes Bible verses and passages by over 20,000 well-known topics. By using meaningful verses more than once, it contains over 100,000 references based on the 31,101 verses in the KJV Bible. The Scriptures are fully printed, so you do not need another tool. It is topic based.
4. **BIBLE DICTIONARY.** Organized alphabetically, it contains most every noun in the Bible with a definition, illustration, description, historical reference, explanation, and/or cross-references. By its nature, it includes the author's or editor's opinion to a degree, which may vary from word to word. It is word based.
5. **BIBLE COMMENTARY.** Organized Scripturally, it provides the author's interpretation for each verse in the Bible. Due to its organization, you may quickly obtain an opinion on the interpretation of any verse. It is verse based.
6. **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.** A handbook organized according to the author's outline of theology with the author's opinions and references providing the material under each topical heading. It is topic based.

# Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

1. It is exhaustive. It includes every word and each occurrence of every word in the King James Bible. It is superior by this measure to Cruden's and Young's.
2. The words are listed in alphabetical order, and the verses are in Bible order for each entry. It is an indexed database of God's words for optimal use.
3. It supplies a brief phrase including the search word in italics, which helps to identify which verses using your word pertain to your search objective.
4. It provides alternate spellings and related words following the main entry i.e. the entry for Gideon is followed by Gedeon and Jerubbaal.
5. Proper names are defined and grouped by their unique meaning i.e. Jehu is the name of five different men in the Old Testament.
6. The "Appendix" summarizes less important and frequently occurring words to streamline the Main Concordance for faster and easier use.
7. All the words of Christ in the context lines are in boldface type.
8. It includes a Hebrew and Greek dictionary for the words translated in our King James. The numbering system allows elementary study of the Hebrew and Greek words without any knowledge of those two languages.
9. Since we use the Bible to interpret itself, this reference book makes studying each occurrence of a particular or related word an easy task.
10. Without computers or other electronic devices, James Strong (1822-1894) gave you a tool and great advantage over earlier Christians. It was first printed in 1890.

## *Using Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*

1. It is a **WORD** based reference tool. Therefore, it is used to study the Bible by studying words. It does not explain or interpret verses nor flesh out topics well.
2. IT CAN HELP TO FIND A PARTICULAR VERSE OF THE BIBLE.  
Example: Where is the prayer for a life without grief made by Jabez?  
Example: Where is agreement taught as necessary to walk together?
3. IT CAN HELP TO STUDY THE SPIRIT'S USAGE OF AN ENGLISH WORD?  
Example: Define "cherish" in Ephesians 5:29 with I Kings 1:1-4 and I Thes 2:7.  
Example: Define "scrip" in Luke 10:4 with I Samuel 17:40.
4. IT CAN HELP PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE NAMES AND THEIR MEANINGS.  
Example: Consider the list of alternative names for Joshua.  
Example: Checking "Easter" in Acts 12:4 confirms it as the Passover.
5. IT CAN HELP YOU PROVE A BASIC HEBREW OR GREEK ARGUMENT.  
Example: Noah, Abram, Lot, and Isaac all used the same intoxicating "wine."  
Example: The "word" of I Peter 1:23 is not the "word" of I Peter 1:25.
6. IT CAN HELP FIND RELATED VERSES USING THE SAME WORD.  
Example: Searching "water" in John 3:5 locates John 7:38-39 for the Spirit.  
Example: Searching "intercession" in Hebrews 7:25 locates Romans 8:34.
7. IT CAN HELP RESEARCH A PARTICULAR SUBJECT IN THE BIBLE.  
Example: Reviewing "vow" references begins research on oaths.  
Example: How often are the thirteen forms of "love" used in the book of Acts?

# Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

1. It is a large cross-reference index for studying VERSES. Cross-references are other verses of the Bible, which help interpret the verse being studied. Your Bible probably has a few in the center column or located at the end of the verse.
2. The Treasury has over 500,000 cross-references. This is an average of more than sixteen explanatory verses for each of the Bible's 31,101 verses.
3. The cross-references were taken from conservative Protestant commentaries and Bible written more than 100 years ago. We get their verses without their opinions.
4. It is arranged in Bible order. The cross-references for each verse are again in Bible order for each phrase within the verse – the phrases indicated by an italicized word.
5. Since the Bible is the best commentary on the Bible (I Cor 2:13; II Pet 1:20), this tool greatly helps finding other verses shedding light on the verse being studied. It is the most useful tool for determining a verse's sense (Nehemiah 8:8).
6. The Treasury helps us study a verse by its context and its sense. Strong's is limited in this process. For example, searching Strong's entries for the thirteen forms of "love" to study brotherly love is inefficient and incomplete. But the Treasury provides 52 cross-references for Hebrews 13:1.
7. It promotes exhaustive study. By reading cross-references of cross-references, you cover a great range of Scriptures dealing with a given text or subject. For example, studying regeneration in Titus 3:5 leads to being born again in John 3:3; which leads to quickening in Ephesians 2:1; which leads to the voice of the Son of God in John 5:25. Strong's does not suggest these different words for the same concept.
8. It is imperfect. The contributors sometimes suggest cross-references that promote their respective errors in doctrine. For example, the birth of water in John 3:5 is referenced by Mark 16:16 and Act 2:38, suggesting baptismal regeneration.
9. It was collected and collated by R.A. Torrey (1856-1928). Primary sources included Thomas Scott's commentary on the Bible and the Comprehensive Bible.

## *Using the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*

### 1. IT CAN HELP INTERPRET AND EXPAND THE SENSE OF A VERSE.

- Example: What does “bought” in II Peter 2:1 mean? See Deuteronomy 32:6.  
Example: What is baptism for the dead in I Cor 15:29? See Romans 6:3-4.  
Example: What is the abomination in Matthew 24:15? See Luke 19:43; 21:20.  
Example: Honoring parents (Eph 6:2) leads to Ex 20:12; Deut 27:16; and Prov 20:20; which leads to Ex 21:17 and Prov 30:11,17.  
Example: God sending delusion (II Thess 2:11) leads to I Kings 22:18-22; Isaiah 29:9-14; 44:20; and Ezekiel 14:9.  
Example: Sodom (Gen 13:13) leads to Romans 1:26-27; which leads to Deut 27:17-18 and I Cor 6:9.

### 2. IT CAN HELP TO MULTIPLY SCRIPTURAL WITNESSES FOR A POINT.

- Example: The Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:19) are exonerated by Rahab (Joshua 2:4), David (I Samuel 21:2), and a woman (II Sam 17:19-20).  
Example: The tongue as our glory (Ps 16:9) is repeated 30:12 and 57:8.  
Example: Ministerial support (I Cor 9:14) is in Gal 6:6 and I Tim 5:17.  
Example: Warning against slothfulness (Rom 12:11) leads to Prov 6:6-9; 13:4; 22:29; Eccl 9:9; Eph 4:28; and II Thess 3:6-12.

### 3. IT CAN HELP TO PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES.

- Example: The diligence of Proverbs 22:29 is exemplified in I Kings 11:28.  
Example: The courage of Proverbs 28:1 is shown by three in Daniel 3:16-18.  
Example: The dedication of Luke 14:26 is shown by Paul in Philippians 3:8.  
Example: The fidelity of Proverbs 5:19 is abused by David in II Samuel 12:4.

### 4. IT CAN HELP FIND SOURCES OF QUOTATIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

- Example: Hebrews 12:26 is a quotation from Haggai 2:6-7.  
Example: Mark 1:2 is from Malachi 3:1; and Mark 1:3 is from Isaiah 40:3.  
Example: The idolatry of I Cor 10:7 was the golden calf of Exodus 32:6.  
Example: The exploits of Hebrews 11:34 have 102 supporting verses.

## Nave's Topical Bible

1. It is a tool to study Bible **TOPICS**. Once you have chosen a topic or subject for study, you may find the related passages of Scripture to read under that heading.
2. Orville Nave (1841-1917), a Chaplain of the United States Army, organized this topical Bible over a period of fourteen years to provide an easy solution for finding verses on a given subject for the men under his care.
3. It has 20,000 topics organized alphabetically to help you isolate the particular topic or subject you wish to consider with many of the related passages of Scripture.
4. Using popular and key verses more than once, it contains over 100,000 Bible references to these topics, even though the Bible has only 31,101 verses.
5. The Scripture references are usually fully printed, so you do not need to refer to your Bible or another study tool.
6. An index in the back allows you to reverse your study and find all the topics that might be related to a particular verse.
7. At the end of each topical section, the author has provided a list of other related topics that might expand your study.
8. It includes a division of the Psalms by general category.
9. This tool like the Treasury requires some use to appreciate its usefulness.

## *Using Nave's Topical Bible*

1. IT CAN QUICKLY PROVIDE VERSES ON A SUBJECT BY MODERN NAME.  
Example: Finding “polygamy” provides numerous references to various aspects. Strong's does not have the word; and the Treasury would take hours.  
Example: Finding “demons” provides numerous references to various aspects. Strong's does not have the word; and the Treasury would take hours.  
Example: Finding “revivals” provides numerous references to several aspects. Strong's does not have the word; and the Treasury would take hours.
2. IT CAN QUICKLY SHOW VERSES ON A SUBJECT BY BIBLICAL NAME.  
Example: Finding “backsliding” gives numerous references to several aspects. Strong's has but a few references; and the Treasury would take hours.  
Example: Finding “minister” provides numerous references to several aspects. Strong's has but a few references; and the Treasury would take hours.  
Example: Finding “hospitality” provides numerous references to several aspects. Strong's has but a few references; and the Treasury would take hours.  
Example: Finding “miracles” provides numerous references to many aspects. Strong's has but a few references; and the Treasury would take hours.
3. IT CAN HELP YOU THINK OF TOPICS RELATED TO YOUR SUBJECT.  
Example: Finding “justification” suggests adoption; forgiveness; regeneration; sanctification; sin, confession of, forgiveness of.  
Example: Finding “diligence” suggests industry; zeal; idleness; slothfulness.  
Example: Finding “lasciviousness” suggests adultery; idolatry, licentious practices of; incest; lust; rape; sensuality; sodomy; whore; whoredom.
4. IT CAN HELP YOU THINK OF TOPICS RELATED TO A FAVORITE VERSE.  
Example: Psalm 37:4 in the index suggests spiritual desire, love for God, spiritual peace, promises for prayer, and promises to righteous.  
Example: Isaiah 26:3 in the index suggests faith, peace, promises to righteous, and spirituality.



## DRILLS TO TEST YOUR ABILITY

1. Where is that great verse about baptism being the answer of a good conscience?
2. My mother-in-law was not satisfied with Prov 22:15; I need five more such verses.
3. How many times does the word “Antichrist” occur in the Revelation?
4. What verse forbids men to wear women’s clothing?
5. I know there is a great verse in Lamentations dealing with the sovereignty of God?
6. Why haven’t I killed the swallows that have nested in my chimney?
7. Matthew 1:23 calls Jesus “Emmanuel,” where is that quotation found in the O.T.?
8. What does God say about accidental homicide?
9. I need the verses of the promises to Abraham and his Seed in Galatians 3:16.
10. What food is found in the book of Ruth?
11. Where is that “Who Killed Goliath in Your Bible?” verse?
12. Psalm 51 is great for a repenting sinner, but I want to read a few more.
13. Meteorology is a fascinating study. What does the Bible say about it?
14. I need a verse in Proverbs to help explain “two are better than one.”
15. What are the two verses proving the Book of Life was written before creation?
16. How should we understand the word “bought” in II Peter 2:1 against Arminians?
17. What are the options in Daniel to do what Jesus said to do in Matthew 24:15?
18. How many verses teach that the gospel went worldwide during the apostles’ lives?