



Library Tools for Biblical Exegesis

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I. Overview

Exegetical Steps

Exegesis - the process by which one comes to understand a text

These are the typical steps involved in an exegesis; your professor's instructions for your exegetical paper may include a variation of them.

- A. Establish or orient the context of the pericope in the Biblical book as a whole
 - a translation from the original Greek or Hebrew may be required
 - read the text in several different English versions
- B. Examine the historical context or setting
- C. Analyze the text
 - Literary analysis (what type of literature is it?)
 - Textual analysis (to reconstruct the precise words of the original writer)
 - Grammatical analysis (classify words by their part of speech)
 - Lexical analysis (determine meaning(s) of the words)
- D. Critical analysis: employing various critical methods to ask questions of the texts, ex.:
 - Canonical
 - Form
 - Historical
 - Liberation/Black/Feminist
 - Literary
 - Narrative
 - Poststructural
 - Reader-Response
 - Redaction
 - Rhetorical
 - Social-Scientific
 - Source
 - Structural
 - Tradition-Historical
- E. Theological analysis
- F. Your analysis and/or application

Exegetical Handbooks

Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
(BS2331 .F44 2002; stacks and reference)

Hayes, John H. and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
(BS476 .H35 2007; stacks)

Stuart, Douglas K. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster Press, 2001.
(BS476 .S83 2001; stacks and reference)

II. Groundwork

Bibles

English Language Versions

English language versions of the whole Bible are found between call numbers BS135 and BS198. Listed below are a few of those found in the reference room; you will find many more in both the Reference Room and the circulating stacks:

HarperCollins Study Bible : New Revised Standard Version, including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.
(Ref. BS191.5.A1 2006 .S26)

Zondervan NASB study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1999.
(Ref. BS195 .N35 1999e)

New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha: Revised Standard Version. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.
(Ref. BS191.A1 1977 .N43)

NIV Study Bible, New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1985.
(Ref. BS195 .N37 1985)

Westminster Study Edition of the Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments in the Authorized (King James) Version. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1948.
(Ref. BS185 1948 .P5 1948)

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

James, M.R., *Apocryphal New Testament.* Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1924.
(Ref. BS2832 .J3 1924)

Charles, R. H., ed. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English.* Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1913.
(Ref. BS1692 .C45 1963)

Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha.* 2 vols. Garden City, N.Y. : Doubleday, 1983-1985.
(Ref. BS1830 .A3 1983)

Charlesworth, James H., *The New Testament apocrypha and pseudepigrapha : a guide to publications, with excursions on Apocalypses.* Metuchen, N.J. : Scarecrow, 1987.
(Ref. BS2840 .C437 1987)

Greek and Hebrew Texts

Biblia Sacra Utriusque Testamenti Editio Hebraica et Graeca. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1994.
(Ref. BS3.5 1994)

Novum Testamentum Graece. 27th ed. Stuttgart : Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 2001.
(Ref. BS1965 2001)

Septuaginta; id est, Vetus Testamentum Graece Iuxta LXX Interpretes. Stuttgart, Privilegierte Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1935.
(Ref. BS741 .R3 1952)

Septuaginta : Vetus Testamentum Graecum. Gottingen : Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1931-
(multi-volume work still being published).
(Ref. BS741 .H3)

[Torah, Nevi'im u-Khetuvim] = Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984.
(Ref. BS715 1984)

Interlinear Testaments

Kohlenberger, John R., ed. *The Greek New Testament : UBS4 with NRSV and NIV.* Grand Rapids, Mich. : ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1993.
(Ref. BS1965.5 I5845 1993)

Green, Jay P., ed. *The Interlinear Bible, Hebrew-Greek-English.* 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1976-1979.
(BS3.5 1976)

Kohlenberger, John R., ed. *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament.* Grand Rapids: Regency Reference Library, 1987.
(Ref. BS715 1987)

Parallels

Complete Parallel Bible : Containing the Old and New Testaments with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books: New Revised Standard Version, Revised English Bible, New American Bible, New Jerusalem Bible. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
(Ref. BS125 .B5 1993)

JPS Hebrew-English Tanakh: The Traditional Hebrew Text and the New JPS Translation. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1999.
(Ref. BS895 .J4 1999)

Kohlenberger, John R., ed. *The Precise Parallel New Testament: Greek text, King James Version, Rheims New Testament, Amplified Bible, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, New American Bible, New American Standard Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
(Ref. BS2025 1995 .K6)

Layman's Parallel Bible: King James Version, New International Version, Living Bible, New Revised Standard Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1991.
(Ref. BS125 .B5 1991)

Throckmorton, Burton H., Jr., ed. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels with Alternative Readings from the Manuscripts and Noncanonical Parallels*. 5th ed. Nashville : T. Nelson, 1992.
(Ref. BS2560 .T48 1992)

Digital Bibles

BibleWorks compact disk. A searchable database of 93 versions of the Bible in English, Greek, and Hebrew plus 26 other languages. It is found on the public computers and in the computer classroom by clicking on the 'BibleWorks' icon. An instructional brochure is available.

Bible Gateway. Searches may be performed on passages or words in one or more versions. Among the English versions included are *Darby, King James, New American Standard, New International, New King James, Worldwide English, Young's Literal Translation*. It also includes Bibles in over 30 other languages.
<<http://www.biblegateway.com>>

Bible Study Tools. Searches may be performed on verses or word/phrase. The versions include: *American Standard, Bible in Basic English, Douay-Rheims, King James, King James with Strong's Numbers, Latin Vulgate, New American Standard, New Living, New Revised Standard, Revised Standard, Today's English, Webster's, Young's Literal Translation*. Interlinear as well as parallel displays are possible. Strong's Concordance and Greek and Hebrew lexicons are also included.
<<http://bible.crosswalk.com/>>

Blue Letter Bible. Versions include *American Standard, King James, Revised Standard* and the *Vulgate*. Greek and Hebrew as well as multiple version displays are possible. Also includes hymns, maps and images keyed to verses.
<<http://www.blueletterbible.org>>

The Text This Week. This site is maintained by Jenee Woodward, a UMC pastor. It includes links to a wide variety of contemporary and historical scripture study resources. It is searchable by scripture index or lectionary date.
<<http://www.textweek.com/>>

Dictionaries

Anchor Bible Dictionary. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
(Ref. BS440 .A54 1992; also on cd-rom)

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2000.
(Ref. BS440 .E44 2000)

HarperCollins Bible Dictionary. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
(Ref. BS440 .H235 1996)

Hayes, John H., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. 2 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.
(Ref. BS500 .D5 1999)

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. 4 vols. plus supplement volume. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.
(Ref. BS440 .I63)

New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. Nashville : Abingdon Press, 2006-
(Ref. BS440 .N445 2006)

Soulen, Richard N. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
(Ref. BS511.3 .S68 2001)

Atlases

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. Jerusalem: Carta, 2002.
(Ref. G2230 .A2 2002)

Dowley, Tim. *Atlas of the Bible and Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.
(Ref. G2230 .D68 1997)

Curtis, Adrian. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.
(Ref. BS630 .O96 2007)

Pritchard, James B. *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.
(Ref. Atlas Case G2230 .H47 1987)

III. Textual Analysis

Concordances

A concordance enables you to identify the correct book, chapter, and verse in which a word appears in Scripture and to trace a particular topic through the Bible. A particular concordance matches a unique version of the Bible. The titles below are a sample of the concordances held by the library.

Goodrick, Edward W. and John R. Kohlenberger. *The NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

(Ref. BS425 .G62 1990)

Hatch, Edwin and Henry A. Redpath. *A Concordance to the Septuagint*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

(Ref. BS1122 .H3 1998)

Kohlenberger, John R. *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

(Ref. BS2302 .K657 1997)

Kohlenberger, John R. *The Hebrew English Concordance to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

(Ref. BS1121 .K65 1998)

Metzger, Bruce M. *NRSV Exhaustive Concordance*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991.

(Ref. BS425 .N453 1991)

Moulton, W. F. *A Concordance to the Greek Testament*. 6th edition. London: T.&T. Clark, 2002.

(Ref. BS2302 .M8 2002)

Strong, James. *The strongest Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zondervan, c2001.

(Ref. BS425 .S8 2001b)

Whitaker, Richard E. *The Eerdmans Analytic Concordance to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

(Ref. BS425 .W48 1988)

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Greek Concordance : Numerically Coded to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.

(Ref. BS2302 .W495 1979)

Wigram, George V. *The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance: Coded to Strong's Concordance Numbering System*. Peabody: Hendrikson Publishers Inc., 1984.

(Ref. BS1125 .W662 1984)

Lexicons and Wordbooks

Lexicons and wordbooks define the meaning of specific words in their original language as well as providing grammatical information. In general lexicons are one volume and wordbooks multi-volume in size. Found below is a sampling of the lexicons and wordbooks held by the library.

Lexicons

- Bauer, Walter (revised by Arndt, Gingrich, Danker). *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed., rev. and edited. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
(Ref. PA881 .B38 2000)
- Brown, Francis. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.
(Ref. PJ4833 .B76 1996)
- Holladay, William. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
(Ref. PJ4833 .H6 1978)

Wordbooks

- Botterweck, G. Johannes. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. (ongoing set) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-.
(Ref. BS440 .B5713 1974)
- Brown, Colin. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. rev. ed. 4 vols. Exeter, Devon, U.K.: Paternoster Press, 1986.
(Ref. BS2312 .N48 1986b)
- Jenni, Ernst. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.
(Ref. BS440 .T4813 1997)
- Kittel, Gerhard. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964-1976.
(Ref. BS2312 .K5813 1964)
- Spicq, Ceslas. *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. 3 vols. Peabody: Hendrickson. (Ref. PA875 .S613 1994)
- Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
(Ref. BS440 .T49 1980)
- VanGemenen, Willem A. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
(Ref. BS440 .N438 1997)

IV. Analysis by Others

Online Catalog

For best results in locating call numbers for books on a particular book of the Bible follow the Library of Congress subject headings format, using the Biblical book title that you are seeking. The examples below are in the form to be used as a "**Subject begins with...**" **basic search** in the online catalog:

bible n.t. Corinthians, 1st
bible o.t. genesis

To find a particular work in a commentary series do an **keyword search** following the form below and substituting the biblical book and series title you are seeking:

jeremiah and hermeneia

Commentaries

There are many commentaries on individual books of the Bible - some are published as individual monographs and others as volumes within a particular commentary series. Some commentary series are classified so that all volumes sit together on the shelf and others are classified separately by the biblical book. Listed below are the commentary series which are located in the Reference Room with duplicate copies of those found in the stacks.

Anchor Bible (Ref. BS192.2.A1 1964 .G3)
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/New Testament (Ref. BS2341.2 A535)
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/Old Testament (Ref. BS1151.52 A535)
Forms of Old Testament Literature (classified separately)
Hermeneia (classified separately)
International Critical Commentary (Ref. BS 491 .I5847)
Interpretation (classified separately)
JPS Torah Commentary (classified separately)
New International Commentary on the New Testament (classified separately)
New International Commentary on the Old Testament (classified separately)
New Testament Library (classified separately)
Old Testament Library (classified separately)
Sacra Pagina (BS 2341.2 S237 1991)
Word Biblical Commentary (Ref. BS 491.2 W67 1982)

One Volume Commentaries

The HarperCollins Bible Commentary. rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper, 2000.
(Ref. BS491.2 .H37 2000)

The New Jerome Biblical Commentary. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1999.
(Ref. BS491.2 .N485 1999)

Journal Articles

Journal articles on your topic or scripture passage are found by using indexes or databases. Search the online catalog to determine if the library has a subscription to the journal should the article not be available full-text in the database.

ATLA Religion Database. An electronic database indexing journal articles and essays from multi-author works; it includes some full-text articles. It is linked on the library's home page: <<http://library.duke.edu/divinity>>. The primary database to use.

TIP: the best way to search for **biblical passages** in the *ATLA Religion Database* is to browse and choose entries from the Scripture Reference index using the **SCRIPTURES** button found in the middle of the upper green banner.

New Testament Abstracts. 1956 - present.

(Ref. BS410 .N35; located on index shelves). A web version covers 1985 to date and is found under "Divinity School Databases" on our home page.

Old Testament Abstracts. 1978 - present.

(Ref. BS410 .O42; located on index shelves). A web version covers 1978 to date and is found under "Divinity School Databases" on our home page.

Index to Jewish Periodicals. 1963 – present.

(Ref. DS101 .I534; located on index shelves). A web version covers 1988 to date and is found under "Divinity School Databases" on our home page.

RAMBI: Index of Articles on Jewish Subjects. 1966 – present.

<<http://jnul.huji.ac.il/rambi/>>

V. Steps for Word Study

Old Testament

Two numbering systems are used to identify the Hebrew and Greek words from which English translations have been derived and can be helpful in utilizing the textual analysis tools. The *Strong's numbers* [S] are keyed to the King James Version and the *Goodrick/Kohlenberger numbers* [GK] are keyed to the New International Version.

1. Find the number matching the ENGLISH word you're researching:

S = Look up the word in *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Ref. BS425 .S8 1984]. Note the Strong's number.

GK = Look up the word in *The NIV Exhaustive Concordance* [Ref. BS425 .G62 1990]. Note the G/K number.

2. Find other Bible verses using the same HEBREW term:

S = Look in the *New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* [Ref. BS1125 .W662 1984]. Arranged numerically by Strong's number.

GK = Look in *The Hebrew English Concordance to the Old Testament* [Ref. BS1121 .K65 1998]. Arranged numerically by G/K number.

3. Brief definitions of the term can be found in *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* [Ref. PJ4833 .B76 1996].

S = Look in the back under the Strong's number to locate the correct page.

GK = No index by G/K number.

4. Lengthy articles in English on the Hebrew word can be found in:

- *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* [Ref. BS440 .T49 1980].

S = Use the Strong's number in the index at the back of volume 2 to locate the entry number of the article.

GK = No index by G/K number.

- *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis* [Ref. BS440 .N438 1997].

S = Use the Table of Conversion in vol. 5 to locate the entry by Strong's number.

GK = Volumes 1-4 are arranged by the G/K number.

- *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* [Ref. BS440 .B5713 1974].

This is an ongoing set, without an index, arranged by the Hebrew alphabet so you must know Hebrew to find the article.

New Testament

Two numbering systems are used to identify the Hebrew and Greek words from which English translations have been derived and can be helpful in utilizing the textual analysis tools. The *Strong's numbers* [S] are keyed to the King James Version and the *Goodrick/Kohlenberger numbers* [GK] are keyed to the New International Version.

1. Find the number matching the ENGLISH word you're researching:

S = Look up the word in *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Ref. BS425 .S8 1984]. Note the Strong's number.

GK = Look up the word in *The NIV Exhaustive Concordance* [Ref. BS425 .G62 1990]. Note the G/K number.

2. Find other Bible verses using the same GREEK term:

S = Look in *The Englishman's Greek Concordance* [Ref. BS2302 .W495 1979]. Arranged numerically by Strong's number.

GK = Look in *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament* [Ref. BS2302 .K657 1997]. Arranged numerically by G/K number.

3. Brief definitions of the term can be found in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* [Ref. PA881 .B38 2000].

An index to the 1979 edition [Ref. PA881 .B38 1979] is arranged by scripture verse and can be helpful in locating the page in the main work.

4. Lengthy articles in English on the Greek word can be found in:

- *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament [Kittel]* [Ref. BS2312 .K5813 1964].

S = Volume 10, page 61+, has an index to the set by Strong's number.

GK = No index by G/K number.

- *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* [Ref. BS2312 .N48 1986b]. Arranged in English by broad terms. Volume 4 includes scripture and detailed word indexes which assist in locating specific terms.

- *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* [Ref. BS2312 .E913 1990]. Use the index of English words in volume 3 to locate articles.