

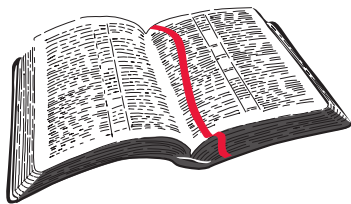
STUDYING THE BIBLE

BIBLE STUDY PRAYER

Dear God, We believe what your word says about you. We believe what your word says about itself. Let it be a lamp unto our feet and a light into our path as we seek not to conquer your word but to be conquered by it. Amen.

CHAPTERS AND VERSES

STEPHEN LANGTON ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY



NATHAN
JEWISH RABBI

ROBERT ESTIENNE
(AKA STEPHANUS)

1227 - CREATED CHAPTER/VERSE
DIVISIONS
(1382 WYCLIFFE ENGLISH BIBLE)

1448 - DIVIDED THE HEBREW OLD
TESTAMENT INTO THE OFFICIAL
VERSES

1555 - DIVIDED NT INTO THE OFFICIAL
VERSES

“DEPTHS” OF STUDYING



Reading

1. Open the bible
2. Read it



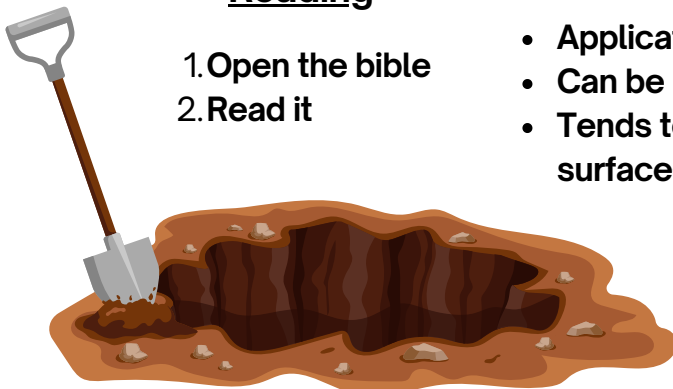
Devotional

- Application based
- Can be reflective
- Tends to be fairly surface-level



Studying

- More systematic
- Looks to find meaning in the text
- Takes substantially more time



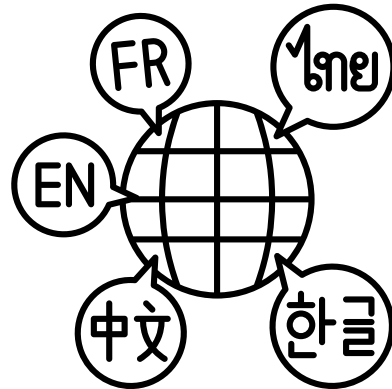
STUDYING THE BIBLE

YOUR BIBLE

It is incredible important that you have a Bible translation that you can actually utilize.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD TRANSLATION?

- Translated from the original languages
 - OT - _____ / _____
 - NT - _____
- Translated by a committee or a team or a council
- Reliability and Readability
 - Does it adhere closely to the original language?
 - Can you understand what it's saying.



TYPES OF TRANSLATIONS

Word-for-Word

Thought-for-Thought

Paraphrase



PRO: THE TRANSLATOR IS TAKING LITTLE OR NO LIBERTIES WITH THE TEXT.

CON: YOU CAN MISS OUT ON EUPHEMISMS AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

PRO: THEY ARE EASIER TO READ AND THEY

CON: THEY DO SOMETIMES TAKE LIBERTIES WITH THE ORIGINAL TEXT THAT CAN MISS THE ORIGINAL INTENT.

PRO: THEY TEND TO BE EASIER TO READ.

CON: THEY CAN GET VERY LOOSE IN INTERPRETATIONS AND HAVE THE TENDENCY TO BE PROBLEMATIC FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE ANY BACKGROUND IN THE SCRIPTURES.



STUDYING THE BIBLE

TRANSLATION CONCERNS

ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT: GENESIS 1:1

שׁוּלֹם

NTHBGNNNGGDCRTDTHHVNSND
THRTHNDTHRTHWASFRMLSSND
MPTYDRKNSSWSOVRTHSRFCF
THDPNDTHSPRTFGDWSHVRNG
VRTHWTRS

ORIGINAL GREEK TEXT: JOHN 1:1

ΑΒΣΔ

INTHEBEGINNINGWASTHEWORDANDTHEWO
RDWASWITHGODANDTHEWORDWASGODHE
WASWITHGODINTHEBEGINNING

TRANSLATIONS THAT HELP AND HURT

MASORETIC TEXT (MT)

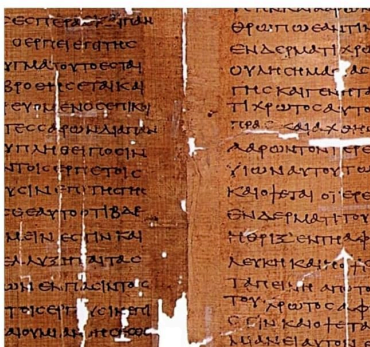
THE STANDARD, AUTHORITATIVE HEBREW BIBLE TEXT USED IN RABBINIC JUDAISM, CODIFIED BY JEWISH SCHOLARS (MASORETES) BETWEEN THE 7TH AND 10TH CENTURIES CE TO PRESERVE THE WRITTEN TORAH

SEPTUAGINT (LXX)

THE ANCIENT GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT, PRODUCED FOR THE JEWISH DIASPORA WHO NO LONGER SPOKE HEBREW

DEAD SEA SCROLLS (DSS)

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT FRAGMENTS, DATING FROM THE 3RD CENTURY BCE TO THE 2ND CENTURY CE, DISCOVERED IN CAVES NEAR THE DEAD SEA BETWEEN 1947 AND 1956

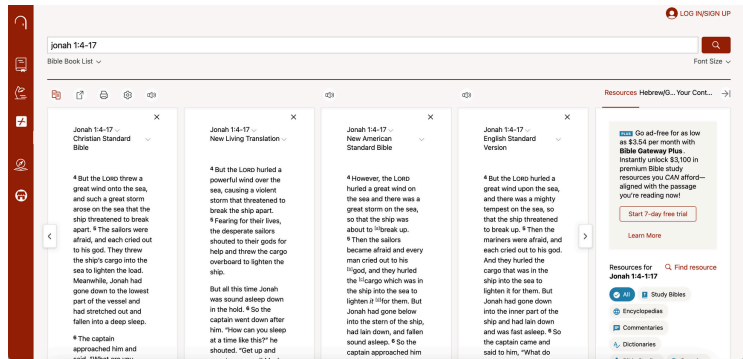


STUDYING THE BIBLE

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

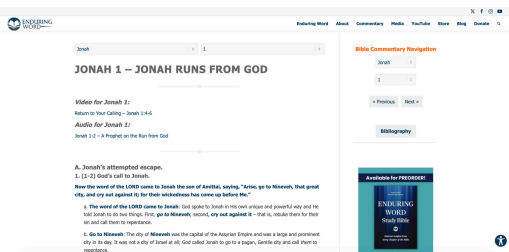
Bible Gateway

- You can place various translations side by side and read them literally one after another to see variances in translations.



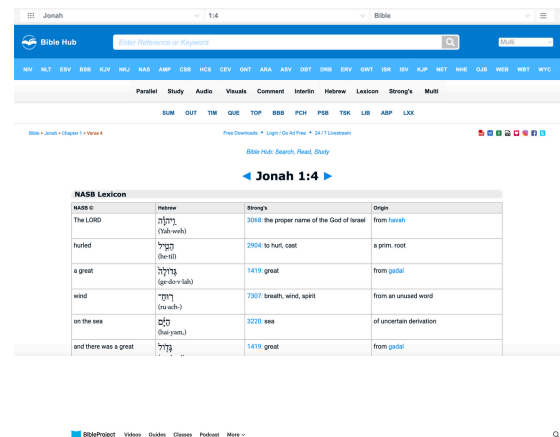
Enduring Word

- Free commentary



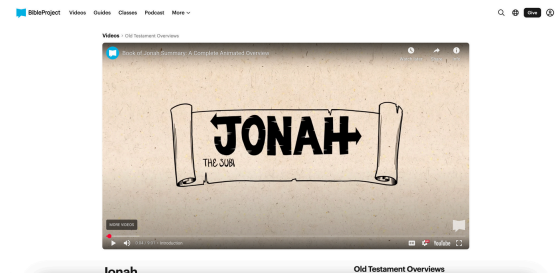
Bible Hub

- Free lexicon and Bible dictionary



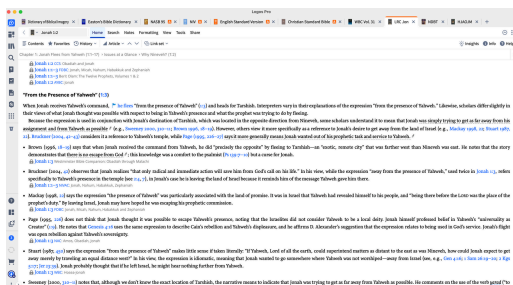
BibleProject

- Has a lot of useful videos for overviews on the books and different themes of the Bible



Logos Bible Software

- Literally everything I've mentioned, but multiple sources and you can build an online library that the program knows how to search through based on what you're studying.
- It has AI capabilities for bible study creation and sermon writing.



AI (ChatGPT)

- Can create or give you ideas to create literally anything you want multimedia.
- It can provide insight and information, but it does have a tendency to lie about quotes from sources that are not open to the public.

STUDYING THE BIBLE

PRESUPPOSITIONS & PREUNDERSTANDINGS

Presuppositions: Underlying ideas or assumptions you bring to the Bible when you attempt to explain its meaning

Handling your presuppositions:

- Admit that you have them
- Identify the ones that you have
- Evaluate or assess the extent of the presupposition
- Embrace the ones that you believe are valid
- Do what you can to put away the ones that are invalid.



Preunderstanding: the things a person interpreting the Bible brings to the text

Categories of Preunderstanding:

- Informational: info you already possess about subject
- Ideological: the way we view reality as well as a specific subject
- Attitudinal: the disposition you have when approaching a topic (prejudice/bias)
- Methodological: the approach you take to explain a subject

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Immediate Context

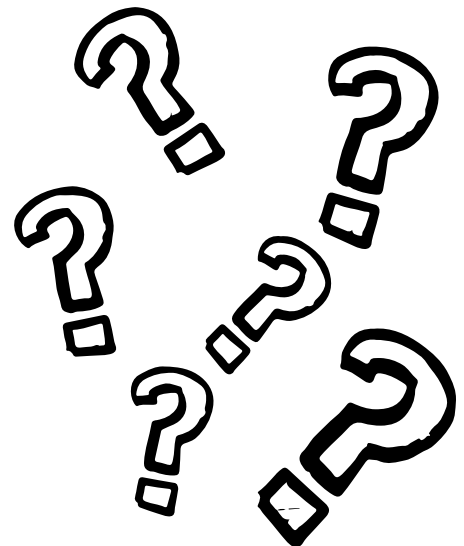
- What is happening in this passage/chapter/book?

Historical Context

- Who is speaking or writing?
- To whom is it spoken or written?
- From where is it spoken or written?
- When was it spoken or written?
- Why was it spoken or written?

Scriptural Context

- What does the rest of scripture have to say about the subject?



STUDYING THE BIBLE

HOW DO I STUDY?

1. Begin with an awareness of the type of literature the passage is.
2. Read the passage I'm studying out
 - a. If I'm studying a random passage, I will read the passage or chapters before and after the passage I'm in.
 - b. If I'm just reading through a book, I will just read the passage I'm in.
3. Read the passage again.
4. Read the passage and highlight/note key items
 - a. Repeating words or phrases
 - b. Words that stand out that need defined
 - c. Characteristics of God (find God in the text)
 - d. Do we know who is writing?
 - e. People/people groups
 - f. Places/Settings
 - g. Theology
 - h. Questions that I have
5. Use a couple commentaries to begin adding some depth to what I read
 - a. Plus I might answer some of those questions I had
6. Use a bible dictionary to study out the meaning of the words noted.

