

References For Bible Students

By Rod Reynolds

Please Note: While the references mentioned below are useful sources of valuable information, none is perfect. Some, while useful, also contain a number of serious errors. Indiscriminate use of any of these is not recommended.

The following is intended to be a guide to useful resources in addition to the Bible and material published by the Church. It is by no means exhaustive.

1. Valuable Books.

For background relating to Jewish customs, beliefs and practices at the time of Christ:

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

Jeremias, Joachim. F. H. and C. M. Cave (trans.). *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975.

Josephus, Flavius. William Whiston (trans.). *The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus*. New York. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Fine Lexicons for everyday use, both tied to Strong's Numbers:

Gesenius, William. S. P. Tregelles (trans.). *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1979.

Thayer, Joseph Henry. *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Christian Copyrights, 1983.

Lexicons often acclaimed as the best available, but more difficult to use:

Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2004.

Arndt, W. F., and E. W. Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. University of Chicago Press, 1979.

Concordance:

Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. New York. Abingdon Press,

1890.

Bible Atlas

Rasmussen, Carl G. **Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible**. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing House, 1989.

Dictionary of Important Hebrew and Greek Words:

Vine, W. E., Merrill F. Unger, and William White, Jr. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1985.

Excellent Commentary for the Pentateuch:

Keil, C.F., and F. Delitzsch. *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.

Three of the Best Books on the Creation / Evolution Controversy:

Hoyle, Fred, and N. C. Wickramasinghe. *Evolution From Space*. New York. Simon and Schuster, 1981.

Lubenow, Marvin L. *Bones of Contention*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Baker Book House, 1992.

Thaxton, Charles B., Walter L. Bradley, and Roger L. Olsen. *The Mystery of Life's Origin*. New York. Philosophical Library, 1984.

2. Basic Requirements for a Bible Student's Library.

First, I think a Bible student ought to be familiar with the reference section of the local library. There are likely to be reference sources many cannot afford to own themselves. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* and others, and various Bible commentaries, encyclopedias and dictionaries will usually be available for research. Also, he should know how to use the card catalog to find other available resources. Many books not available locally can be borrowed through the interlibrary loan service.

Basic to a Bible student's library besides the Bible could include the following: General historical surveys; historical sources from Biblical times, including those with original documents; surveys of intellectual history, including that of professing Christianity; sources which shed light on the religious customs of the world and how they developed; Hebrew and Greek lexicons; concordance; interlinear Bible; a Bible atlas; theological dictionaries; basic helps for Hebrew and Greek grammar. Many original historical sources are available on the internet.

In addition to the books named earlier, I would recommend the following:

General History.

There are many. One multi-volume series I'd recommend is:

Durant, Will. *The Story of Civilization*. New York. Simon and Schuster.

A good quick reference is:

Langer, William L. *An Encyclopedia of World History*. Boston. Houghton Mifflin, 1952.

Old Testament Historical Resources.

Angus, Joseph, and Samuel G. Green. *The Bible Handbook*. Westwood, New Jersey. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1961.

Gray, John. *Archaeology and the Old Testament World*. New York. Harper and Row, 1962.

Merrill, Eugene H. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1966.

Owen, G. Frederick. *Archaeology and the Bible*. Westwood, New Jersey. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1961.

Schultz, Samuel J. *The Old Testament Speaks*. San Francisco. Harper, 1990.

Thomas, D. Winton (ed.). *Documents from Old Testament Times*. New York. Harper Torchbooks, 1958.

Religious Customs.

Frazer, James G. *The Golden Bough*. New York. Macmillan, 1951.

Hislop, Alexander. *The Two Babylons*. Neptune, New Jersey. Loizeaux Brothers.

McMullen, Ramsay. *Paganism in the Roman Empire*. New Haven. Yale University Press, 1981.

White, J. E. Manchip. *Ancient Egypt*. New York. Dover, 1970.

Intellectual History.

Donner, Morton, Kenneth E. Eble, and Robert E. Helbing. *The Intellectual Tradition of the West* (Volume I, Hesiod to Calvin). Scott, Foresman, 1967.

Jones, W. T. *A History of Western Philosophy*. New York. Harcourt, Brace and World, 1969.

Neve, J. L. *A History of Christian Thought, Volume One: History of Christian Doctrine*. Philadelphia. Muhlenberg Press, 1946.

Hebrew and Greek.

With an interlinear Bible and the *Analytical Hebrew and Greek Lexicons* the grammatical form of any word in the original Bible text can be determined.

Analytical Greek Lexicon. London: Samuel Bagster & Sons, 1794.

Davidson, Benjamin. *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. Slough, Bucks (Great Britain). Hollen Street Press, Ltd., 1967.

Green, Jay P., Sr. (ed.). *The Interlinear Bible*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1986.

A guide to Hebrew and Greek for those who don't want to learn the languages.

Goodrick, Edward W. *Do It Yourself Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Multnomah Press, 1980.

A useful commentary on the grammar of the New Testament Greek.

Robertson, Archibald Thomas. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman, 1931.

Interesting word studies of the New Testament Greek.

Barclay, William. *New Testament Words*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1974.

One of the best grammars for beginning New Testament Greek.

Monce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan, 1983.