



HOW TO CITE THE BIBLE

The Bible, unlike other sources, often has its own special citing needs. Given below are the guidelines on how to cite the Bible using the three main styles: Turabian, MLA, and APA.

ABOUT UNDERLINING

Unlike other books, the Bible is never underlined, italicized, or put in quotation marks. It is simply left plain. This general rule also applies to all the various books of the Bible.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT BIBLIOGRAPHY AND WORKS CITED PAGES

Because information regarding the facts of publication is not required when citing scripture, a bibliographic entry for the Bible is not required. If, however, you are citing editorial material from a study Bible, a bibliographic entry would be required. Therefore, all information given below relates only on how to cite the Bible itself, and it does not tell how to create a bibliographic entry.

HOW TO CITE

First, give the name of the book. When giving the name of the book, use abbreviations. Then give the chapter and verse information. The chapter and verse information is separated either by a colon or a period; though either the colon or the period are acceptable, be consistent and use only one or the other. The numerals are in arabic form. Identify the version being used in your first citation.

TURABIAN (CHICAGO STYLE)

Example:

¹ Ps. 103:6-14

² 1 Cor. 13.1-13 NIV (New International Version)

MLA (MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION)

Example:

(1 Chron. 21.8, RSV)

(Rev. 21.3)

APA (AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION)

1 Cor. 13:1 (Revised Standard Version)

ABBREVIATIONS

Gen.	Genesis	Matt.	Matthew
Exod.	Exodus	Mark	Mark
Lev.	Leviticus	Luke	Luke
Num.	Numbers	John	John
Deut.	Deuteronomy	Acts	Acts
Josh.	Joshua	Rom.	Romans
Judg.	Judges	1 Cor.	1 Corinthians
Ruth	Ruth	2 Cor.	2 Corinthians
1 Sam.	1 Samuel	Gal.	Galatians
2 Sam.	2 Samuel	Eph.	Ephesians
1 Kings	1 Kings	Phil.	Philippians
2 Kings	2 Kings	Col.	Colossians
1 Chron.	1 Chronicles	1 Thess.	1 Thessalonians
2 Chron.	2 Chronicles	2 Thess.	2 Thessalonians
Ezra	Ezra	1 Tim.	1 Timothy
Neh.	Nehemiah	2 Tim.	2 Timothy
Esth.	Esther	Tit.	Titus
Job	Job	Philem.	Philemon
Ps.	Psalms	Heb.	Hebrews
Prov.	Proverbs	Jas.	James
Eccles.	Ecclesiastes	1 Pet.	1 Peter
Song Sol.	Song of Solomon	2 Pet.	2 Peter
Isa.	Isaiah	1 John	1 John
Jer.	Jeremiah	2 John	2 John
Lam.	Lamentations	3 John	3 John
Ezek.	Ezekiel	Jude	Jude
Dan.	Daniel	Rev. (also Apoc.)	Revelation (also Apocalypse)
Hos.	Hosea		
Joel	Joel		
Amos	Amos		
Obad.	Obadiah		
Jon.	Jonah		
Mic.	Micah		
Nah.	Nahum		
Hab.	Habakkuk		
Zeph.	Zephaniah		
Hag.	Haggai		
Zech.	Zechariah		
Mal.	Malachi		

Works Consulted

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