

Bible Study Tools – Cross-References

Bible Study Tools activities are designed to give students practice in basic Bible study skills: the use of Bible maps, cross-reference systems, concordances and lexicons.

Cross-Reference Systems

Cross-references identify biblical connections for us. Here are five kinds of connections that commonly occur in the Bible:

- (1) Direct Quotations. A later passage quotes an earlier passage.
- (2) Prophecies and Fulfillments. What is foretold in one place is also foretold or fulfilled in another.
- (3) Parallel Accounts. A story is told in more than one place, often with different details.
- (4) Related Subjects. The subject of one passage is connected in some way to that of another passage.
- (5) Repeating Principles. The fundamentals of God's plan for mankind are repeated in many places throughout the Bible.

The use of cross-references expands our knowledge and understanding of the Bible. This activity focuses on Direct Quotations. It uses the cross-reference system that was developed for the English Revised Version of 1881/1885 and is found in many modern study Bibles.

Bible Study Tools – Cross-References Direct Quotations

It is common for passages in one part of the Bible to be quoted in another part of the Bible. For example, Old Testament passages are commonly quoted in the New Testament. Cross-references tell where the quotations are found or where they come from. Here are two examples to study. Answer the questions that go with each example.

Example 1

2 Samuel 22

⁴⁷ “The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be ^d my God, ^e the rock of my salvation, ⁴⁸ the God who gave me vengeance and ^f brought down peoples under me, ⁴⁹ who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from ^g men of violence. ⁵⁰ ^h “For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. ⁵¹ ⁱ Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to ^j his anointed, to David and his offspring ^k forever.”

Cross-References:

- ⁴⁷ ^d ver. 3, 32.
- ^e Deut.32:15;
Ps.89:26; 95:1.
- ⁴⁸ ^f Ps.144:2.
- ⁴⁹ ^g Ps.140:1.
- ⁵⁰ ^h Cited Rom.15:9.
- ⁵¹ ⁱ Cp. Ps.144:10.
- ^j Cp. 1 Sam.16:12-13; Ps.89:20.
- ^k Ch.7:12-13;
Ps.89:29.

- 1 – Where is 2 Samuel 22:50 quoted in the New Testament?

- 2 – Write out the New Testament verse in which 2 Samuel 22:50 is quoted.

- 3 – What is the underlined word nations changed to in the New Testament quotation?

- 4 – Why is 2 Samuel 22:50 quoted in the New Testament? What point is the New Testament writer making?

- 5 – Read the verses that immediately follow the New Testament cross-reference. What other Old Testament passages does the writer quote to drive home the point he is making?

- 6 – Why do you think the New Testament writer quotes so many Old Testament passages to prove his point?

Example 2

Psalm 112

⁶ For the righteous will ^r never be moved; ^s he will be remembered forever. ⁷ He is not ^t afraid of bad news; his ^u heart is firm, ^v trusting in the LORD. ⁸ His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. ⁹ He has ^w distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his ^x horn is exalted in honor.

Cross-References:

- ⁶ ^r Psalm 55:22.
- ^s Cp. Proverbs 10:7.
- ⁷ ^t Proverbs 1:33.
- ^u Psalm 57:7.
- ^v Psalm 11:1; 64:10.
- ⁹ ^w Cited 2 Cor. 9:9.
- ^x See Psalm 75:10.

- 1 – Where is Psalm 112:9 quoted in the New Testament?
- 2 – Write out the New Testament verse in which Psalm 112:9 is quoted.
- 3 – Read the New Testament verse in context (i.e., read the verses that come before and after it). What will God do for the generous person who gives freely to the poor?
- 4 – What key word is used with a cross-reference to indicate that the passage is quoted elsewhere in the Bible? Circle the word in the cross-references for 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 112.