

## 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 Prophecies and Fulfillments. 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 Prophecies and Fulfillments

The Bible is full of prophecies. Some have already been fulfilled, some are yet to be fulfilled, and some that were fulfilled in the past will be fulfilled again in the future. Cross-references help us identify prophecies and fulfillments. Here are two examples to study. Answer the questions that go with each example.

### Example 1

#### ***Matthew 1***

<sup>22</sup> <sup>b</sup> All this took place <sup>c</sup> to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> <sup>d</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name <sup>e</sup> Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

#### Cross-References:

<sup>22</sup> <sup>b</sup> ch. 21:4; 26:56;  
John 19:36.

<sup>c</sup> ch. 2:15, 23; 4:14;  
Mark 14:49.

<sup>23</sup> <sup>d</sup> Cited from Isa.7:14.  
<sup>e</sup> Isa.8:8, 10.

- 1 – Read Matthew 1:22-23. What was prophesied in the Old Testament?
- 2 – Where is the prophecy found in the Old Testament?
- 3 – Which of the following is true about this prophecy? Explain.  
 It has been fulfilled.  
 It is yet to be fulfilled.  
 It was fulfilled in the past and will be fulfilled again in the future.
- 4 – The cross-references for Matthew 1:22 also direct us to other things that were prophesied about Jesus in the Old Testament. Look up the cross-references and make a list of these things. Wherever possible, identify the Old Testament passages in which these things are foretold.
- 5 – The Old Testament was written long before the birth of Jesus. How do you account for the fact that Old Testament prophets wrote about him and spoke of important things that would take place in his life?

## Example 2

### **Acts 4**

<sup>23</sup> When they (Peter and John) were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices <sup>p</sup> together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, <sup>q</sup> who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, <sup>r</sup> 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and <sup>s</sup> the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his <sup>t</sup> Anointed'—<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your <sup>u</sup> holy servant Jesus, <sup>v</sup> whom you anointed, both <sup>w</sup> Herod and <sup>x</sup> Pontius Pilate, along <sup>y</sup> with the Gentiles and <sup>z</sup> the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> <sup>a</sup> to do whatever your hand and <sup>b</sup> your plan had predestined to take place.

#### Cross-References:

- <sup>24</sup> <sup>p</sup> See ch.1:14.  
<sup>q</sup> Ex.20:11;  
2 Chr.2:12;  
Neh.9:6;  
Ps.102.25; 124:8;  
134:3; 146:6.
- <sup>25</sup> <sup>r</sup> Cited from Ps.2:1,2.
- <sup>26</sup> <sup>s</sup> ver.5.  
<sup>t</sup> ch. 10:38; Luke 4:18; Heb.1:9;  
Cp. Dan.9:24;  
Rev.11:15.
- <sup>27</sup> <sup>u</sup> ver. 30.  
<sup>v</sup> ver. 26.  
<sup>w</sup> Luke 23:7-11.  
<sup>x</sup> Matt.27:2.  
<sup>y</sup> See Matt.20:19.  
<sup>z</sup> Matt.26:3.
- <sup>28</sup> <sup>a</sup> Cp. Isa.46:10.  
<sup>b</sup> See ch. 2:23.

- 1 – Read the Acts passage carefully. What was prophesied in the Old Testament?
- 2 – Where is the prophecy found in the Old Testament?
- 3 – Which of the following is true about this prophecy? Explain.  
 It has been fulfilled.  
 It is yet to be fulfilled.  
 It was fulfilled in the past and will be fulfilled again in the future.
- 4 – Read Psalm 2 in entirety. What indications are there that this Psalm looks forward to the return of Christ?
- 5 – Herod, Pilate, and many others opposed Christ when he came the first time. Do you think "the kings of the earth and the rulers" will oppose him when he comes again? Why?