

WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT

Handout 5 BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

Bible Study Tools

- A very brief overview of the many available published and online study tools for persons wishing to study the Bible.
- Steps in establishing a structured Bible reading plan.
- Brief comments on inductive Bible study as commonly taught in tertiary courses.

Typical Bible Study Tools

1

Study Bible
Interlinear Bible
Parallel Bible

2

Bible Commentary

3

Bible Concordance

4

Bible Dictionary

5

Bible Encyclopedia

6

Lexicon

7

History

8

Websites

Typical Bible Study Tools

1

Study Bible: notes
Interlinear Bible: languages
Parallel Bible: versions

2

Bible Commentary:
systematic explanations
and interpretations

3

Bible Concordance: list of
alphabetical Biblical words
and where each occurs

4

Bible Dictionary: defines
words and proper names
referenced by verse

5

Bible Encyclopedia: articles
and definitions to words
and terms in Scripture

6

Lexicon: English meaning of
words in the original Bible
languages

7

History: historical writings,
archaeology and context
relating to Biblical matters

8

Websites: useful online
Bible study tools

Online Bible Tools & Apps



BLUE LETTER BIBLE
blueletterbible.org



Study Tools
bible-history.com



All About Bible
allaboutbible.com




Bible Study Tools
Biblestudytools.com

YouVersion
youversion.com



BibleGateway.com



BibleStudyTools.com



Bible Hub
biblehub.com

My personal favourite – BLUE LETTER BIBLE



Home Page
www.blueletterbible.org

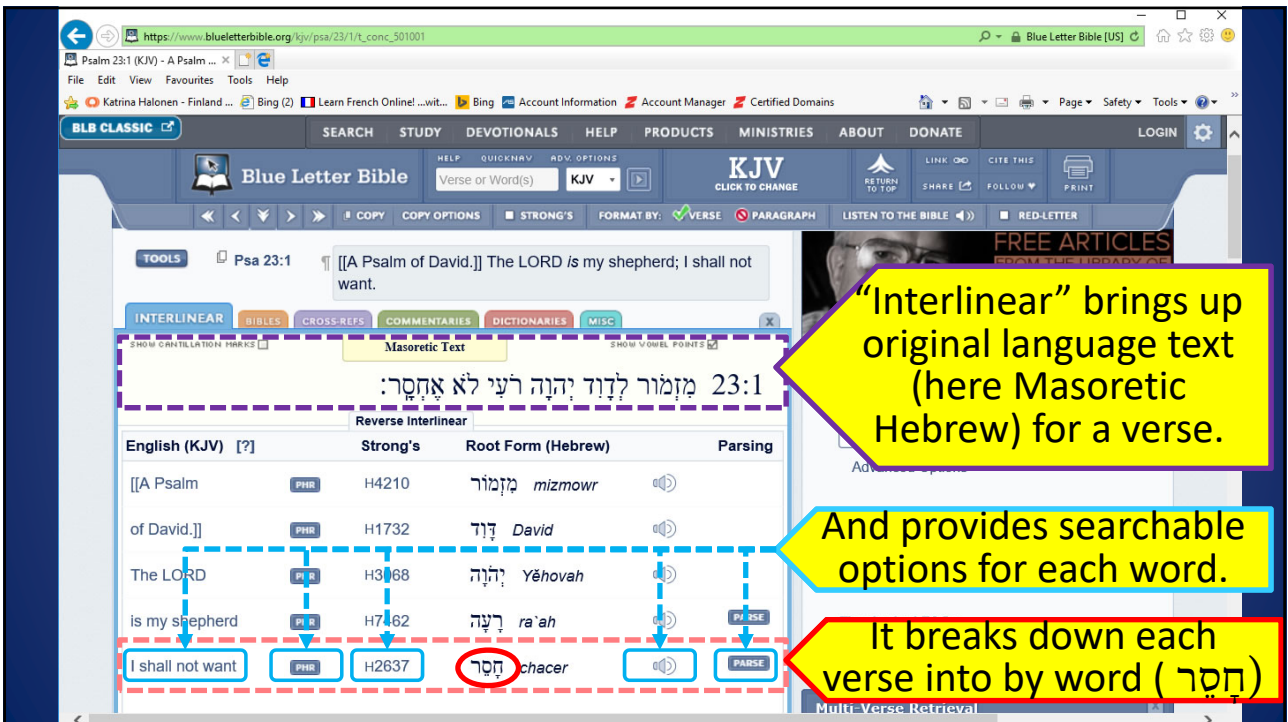
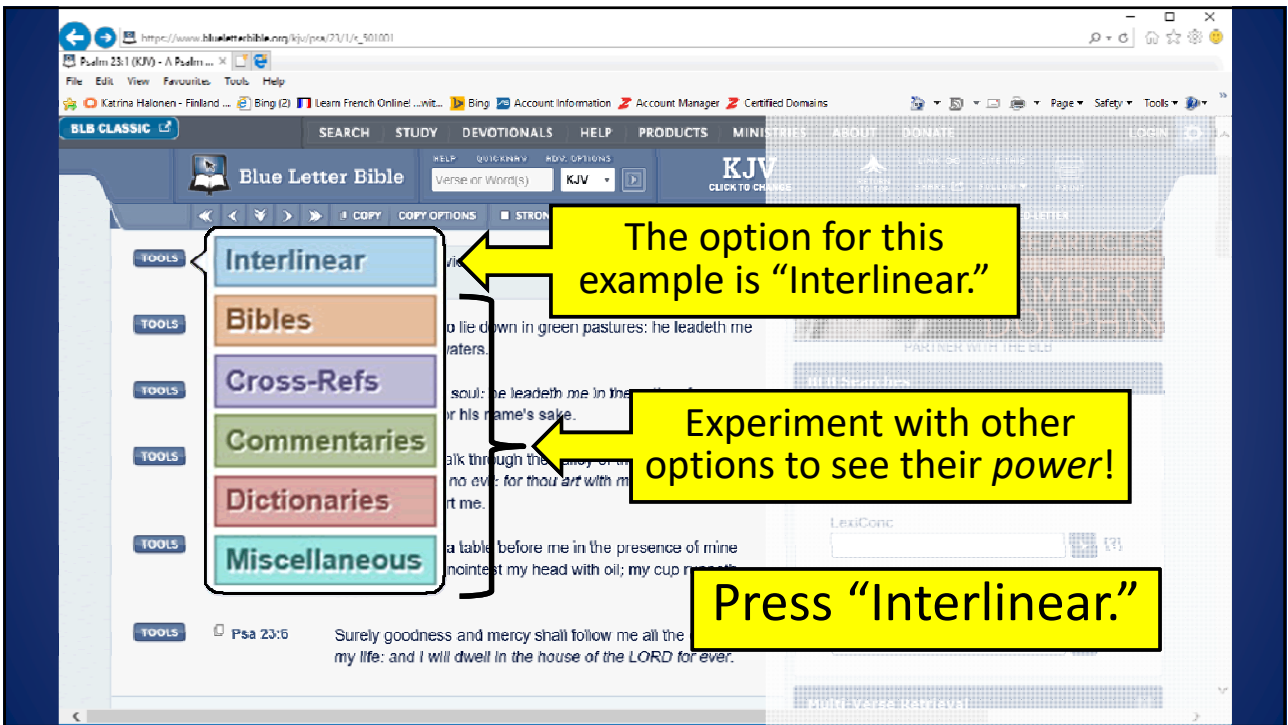
Scrolls down

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for SEARCH, STUDY, DEVOTIONALS, HELP, PRODUCTS, MINISTRIES, ABOUT, and DONATE. The main content area features a search bar with the text "SEARCH THE BIBLE" and a dropdown menu set to "KJV". Below the search bar, there are sections for "News" with a "CARRY THE LIGHT IN YOUR POCKET" banner, "Multiple Verse Retrieval" with a text input field and "Retrieve" button, and a "STUDY WEEKLY GROW DAILY" banner. On the right side, there is a vertical sidebar with various resource links and images. A red arrow points downwards from the top right of the page towards the sidebar, indicating the scrolling action.

My personal favourite – BLUE LETTER BIBLE

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible search interface. A search box contains 'Psalm 23'. Callout 1 points to the search box with the text 'Type in desired verse'. Callout 2 points to a 'Reset Bible version if desired' button. Callout 3 points to a search button with the text 'Press search'. Callout 1a points to the search results area with the text 'or desired passage or group of verses'. The page header includes 'Home Page' and 'www.blueletterbible.org'. The navigation menu includes 'SEARCH', 'STUDY', 'DEVOTIONALS', 'HELP', 'PRODUCTS', 'MINISTRIES', 'ABOUT', 'DONATE', and 'LOGIN'.

The screenshot shows the search results for Psalm 23. The text of the psalm is displayed in a large font. Callout 1 points to a 'TOOLS' button next to the first verse with the text 'Press TOOLS for deeper study of a verse'. Callout 2 points to the search results area with the text 'Options appear' and 'The desired verse or verses appear for reading'. The page header includes 'Blue Letter Bible' and 'KJV'. The navigation menu includes 'SEARCH', 'STUDY', 'DEVOTIONALS', 'HELP', 'PRODUCTS', 'MINISTRIES', 'ABOUT', 'DONATE', and 'LOGIN'. The search box contains 'Psalm 23:1 (KJV)'. The search results area includes 'Verse or Word(s)', 'KJV', and 'Format by: VERSE, PARAGRAPH'. The search results area also includes 'Listen to the Bible' and 'Red-Letter' buttons.



Blue Letter Bible website interface showing search results for Strong's H2637. The page displays the Masoretic Text and a Reverse Interlinear table. A yellow callout box points to the number H2637 in the table and says "Press Strong's number". Another yellow callout box points to the Hebrew word חָסַר and says "to bring up a new page about the word חָסַר."

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Root Form (Hebrew)
[[A Psalm of David.]]	H4210	מִזְמוֹר <i>mizmowr</i>
of David.]]	H1732	דָּוִד <i>David</i>
The LORD	H3068	יְהוָה
is my shepherd	H7462	
I shall not want	H2637	

Lexicon :: Strong's H2637 - chacer

How many times? (points to KJV Translation Count)

Where it's used. (points to Outline of Biblical Usage)

How it's used. (points to Outline of Biblical Usage)

What חָסַר means? (points to Strong's Definitions)

Strong's Definitions [?]
 חָסַר *châcêr*, khaw-sare'; a primitive root; to lack; by implication, to fail, want, lessen:—be abated, bereave, decrease, (cause to) fail, (have) lack, make lower, want.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon [?]
 חָסַר fut. יִחְסַר plur. יִחְסְרוּ ["TO DIMINISH, TO CUT SHORT"]—(1) TO BE DEVOID OF anything, TO LACK, TO BE WITHOUT, followed by an acc. (like verbs of plenty and want), Deu. 2:7; 8:9; Ps. 34:11; Pro. 31:11. Gen. 18:28, וְיִחְסְרוּ הַמְּקִשִּׁים הַדְּרָקִים, אֵלֶּי יִחְסְרוּ הַמְּקִשִּׁים הַדְּרָקִים

Click Here for the Rest of the Entry

Word / Phrase / Strong's Search
 « Previous Strong's H2636 Next Strong's H2638 »
 H2637 KJV Search

Concordance Results Using KJV
 Strong's Number H2637 matches the Hebrew חָסַר (*chacer*), which occurs 21 times in 21 verses in the Hebrew concordance of the KJV
 Click here to view results using the NASB Hebrew concordance
 Click here to view results using the HCSB Hebrew concordance

TOOLS Gen 8:3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually; and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. H2637

TOOLS Gen 8:5 And the waters decreased H2637 continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

Set up a Bible Reading Plan

- 1 Choose a good Bible version for study!
- 2 Invest in a study Bible of your selected version.
- 3 Record thoughts and questions in a journal.
- 4 Plan your Bible reading. Then follow the plan.

One Method – Inductive Bible Study

- 01 **Observation**
Discover what the Bible says.
- 02 **Interpretation**
Discover what the Bible means.
- 03 **Application**
Discover how the Bible works.

Observation – what to look for

Terms, not just words

- Kingdom
- Kingdom of God
- Kingdom of Heaven

Structure

Emphasis

Repetition

Cause-and-effect

- Logic (if – then)
- Questions & answers

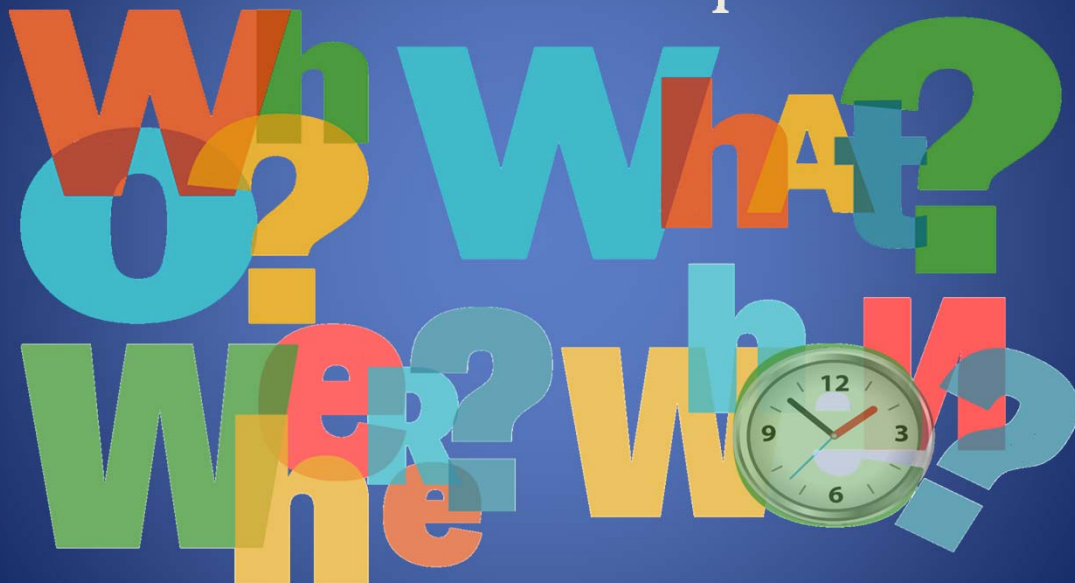
Relationships of ideas

Comparisons & contrasts

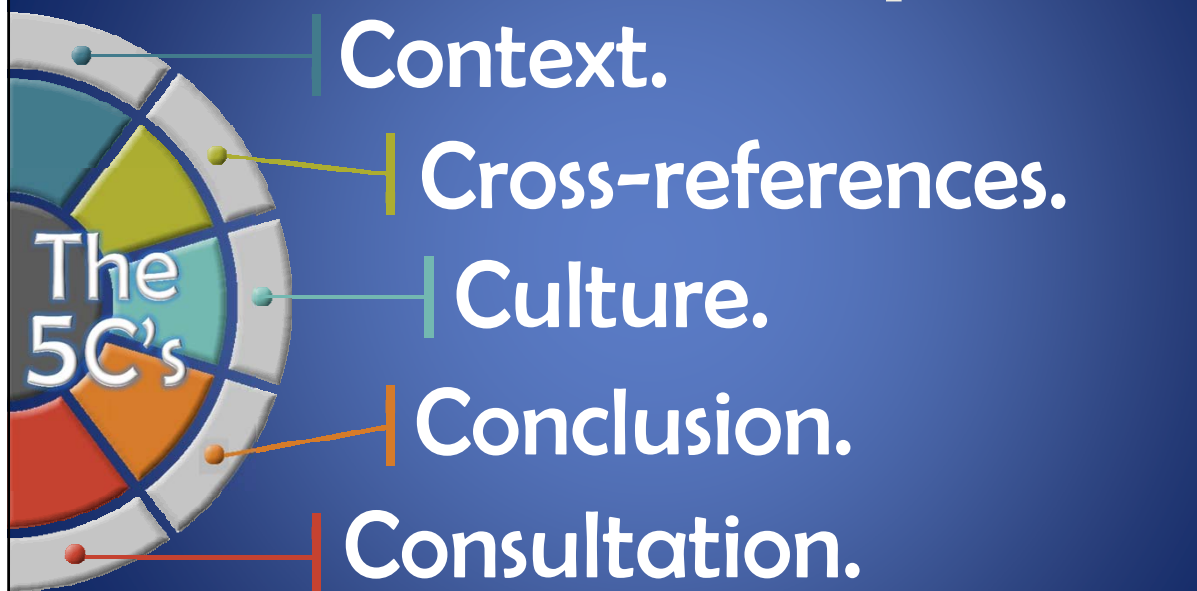
Literary form

Atmosphere

Now answer these questions



Five clues to Bible interpretation



Ask, "How does this apply to me?"

1

My worldview

?

2

My life and work

?

3

My relationships

?

Now apply what you've learned.
That's the essence of Bible study.

For those wanting a bit more

The Hebrew approach to hermeneutics (the theories of interpretation) views four levels of interpretation:

Rabbis teach the acronym **PaRDeS** (pardes, which means "garden" or "paradise" to remember them.

Peshat

the literal, direct meaning

Remez,

an allegorical significance; a hint of something deeper

Derash,

the homiletical, or practical application

Sod,

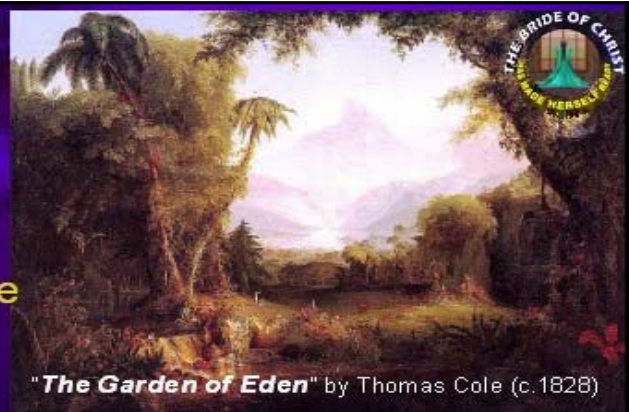
the mystical or hidden meaning

1 Peshat. "*plain*" ("*simple*") or the direct, *literal* meaning.

2 Remez. "*hints*" or the *deep* (allegoric) meaning beyond just the literal sense.

3 Derash. From Hebrew *darash*: "*inquire*" ("*seek*"). The comparative (*midrashic*) meaning, as given through similar occurrences.

4 SOD. "*secret*" ("*mystery*") or the mystical **KABBALAH** meaning.



"The Garden of Eden" by Thomas Cole (c. 1828)

PaRDeS example: Proverbs 30:1

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

אגור Agur	Agur ("to collect") is the author of this Proverb. Solomon (aka Koheleth ("preacher", "assembler")) collected wise ("dark) sayings.	1
בן־יָקֵה Son of Jakeh	Jakeh ("carefully religious," "obedient," or "pious") was the father of Agur (Solomon), and would thus be David .	2
הַפֶּשֶׁא נְאֻם הַנָּבִי The burden of the prophet	" Even the prophecy the man spake ": the Hebrew is <i>ha massa</i> (the burden) <i>ne'um</i> (oracle or prophecy) <i>ha-gebber</i> (the mighty)	3
יְחִיאל Ithiel	Ithiel , "God comes, arrives, is with me;" is equivalent to Immanuel, "God with us," a name of Jesus .	4
אֶכָּל Ucal	Ucal seems to be a verb, <i>`ukhal</i> , which means "to be consumed."	5

PaRDeS example: *Sod* in Proverbs 30:1

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

Substituting names and words from our simplistic translation, we see a possible Messanic allusion:

*The words gathered of the wise son of the pious father,
the burden of the mighty prophecy, that El (God) arrives
to be consumed.*

This has several levels of deeper meaning:

- It can refer to the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross.
- It can refer to Jesus' Bread of Life discourse in John 6:51.

Can you think of any other possibilities?