

# Tutorial 9 | Exegetical research: Finding Bible versions and scriptures in the library catalog and ATLA Religion Database

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## Finding Bible versions using Uniform Titles

A Uniform Title is assigned to a work—such as the Bible—that has been published under different titles, editions, variations, or languages. Uniform Titles provide an efficient means of finding a specific version of the Bible or for all editions of a specific version in a library collection.

Search for Uniform Titles using the **title search** in the library catalog.

### Uniform Title format for Bible versions

Bible. [language]. [version]

Examples:

<i>Version</i>	<i>Uniform Title</i>
NRSV	Bible. English. New Revised Standard
Authorized Version (King James Bible)	Bible. English. Authorized
Today's English Version (Good News Bible)	Bible. English. Today's English
Latin Vulgate Bible	Bible. Latin. Vulgate
Luther's German Bible	Bible. German. Luther

The search results will include a list of all editions of that version in the library collection. If you are searching for a version printed in a particular year, you can add the year to the search string:

Bible. English. Authorized. 1782

Note: The New Revised Standard Version appeared in 1989 but an updated version appeared in 2021. To find the updated version, look for NRSV Bibles published 2021 and after in the search results.

### Old Testament and New Testament versions

Uniform Titles can also be used to find versions of the Old and New Testaments:

Bible. [Old Testament or New Testament] [language]. [version]

Examples:

<i>Version</i>	<i>Uniform Title</i>
Greek Septuagint	Bible. Old Testament Greek. Septuagint
Old Testament in Hebrew	Bible. Old Testament. Hebrew
Greek New Testament	Bible. New Testament. Greek
Greek New Testament (Nestle-Aland)	Bible. New Testament. Greek. Nestle-Aland

## Parallel Bibles

To find Bibles with different translations in parallel columns, do a **subject** search using the following subject term:

Bible--Parallel versions

## Searching for scriptures using LC Subject Headings

Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings are standard descriptive terms catalogers assign to works. They provide a consistent way to search for works within the same or related subject areas.

Search using the **subject search** in library catalogs. A search will commonly return a list of related or more specific subjects which can further use in your search.

### Searching for specific books, chapters, or verses

Subject heading format:

Bible. [book of the Bible], [Chapter or Chapters], [Verse or verses]

Use Roman numerals to designate chapters and Arabic numerals for verses. Examples:

For Genesis, Chapter 1 (Genesis 1):

Bible. Genesis, I

For Genesis Chapter 1, Verses 26–27 (Genesis 1:26–27)

Bible. Genesis, I, 26-27

For Genesis, Chapters 1–2 (Genesis 1–2):

Bible. Genesis, I-II

For biblical books, such as First Kings or Second Corinthians:

Bible. [Book without “first,” etc.], [“1st, “2nd,” etc.] [Chapter], [Verse]

Examples:

For First Kings, Chapter 2, Verse 35 (1 Kings 2:35):

Bible. Kings, 1st, II, 35

Second Corinthians, Chapter 4 (2 Corinthians 4):

Bible. Corinthians, 2nd, IV

The Gospel of John vs. the Johannine Epistles (1, 2, 3 John):

For Gospel of John, Chapter 1 (John 1):

Bible. John, I

For First Epistle of John, Chapter 2, Verse 18 (1 John 2:18):

Bible. Epistle of John, 1st, II, 18

### **Biblical commentaries: whole Bible or Testament**

Bible--Commentaries

Bible. Old Testament--Commentaries

Bible. New Testament--Commentaries

Bible. Apocrypha--Commentaries

### **Biblical commentaries: specific books and citations**

The LC Subject format is the same for a scripture but add "--Commentaries".

Bible. Genesis--Commentaries

Bible. Romans, I-V--Commentaries

Bible. Corinthians, 2nd--Commentaries

Bible. Epistle of John, 1st--Commentaries

### **Other possible subject searches**

The LC Subject format is the same for a scripture but add one of the following phrases:

--Criticism, Interpretation, Etc.

--Criticism, Form

--Criticism, Narrative

--Social scientific criticism

--Study and teaching

--Hermeneutics

--Criticism, Textual

--Feminist Criticism

--Criticism, Redaction

--Translating

--Theology

### **Topical subjects**

[Topic] and the Bible

[Topic]--Biblical teaching

Examples:

Women in the Bible

Homosexuality in the Bible

Children--Biblical teaching

Women--Biblical teaching

Poverty in the Bible  
 Violence in the Bible  
 Poverty--Biblical teaching  
 Violence--Biblical teaching

Homosexuality--Biblical teaching  
 Money--Biblical teaching  
 Sin--Biblical teaching

### **Bible as canon**

Bible. Old Testament--Canon

Bible. New Testament—Canon

## **Finding scriptures in the ATLA Religion Database (ATLA RD)**

Two methods for finding articles on specific scriptures is available in the ATLA Religion Database.

### **Method 1: “Scriptures”**

At the top of the ATLA RD home page is a blue menu bar.

1. Click the “Scriptures” link to open a menu showing books of the Bible in canonical order.
2. Click “Expand” to open a page with chapters for that book.
3. Click “Expand” to open a page listing verses.
4. Clicking a verse citation will automatically search the database and present a list of articles pertaining to that citation.

### **Method 2: search using “SC Scripture Citation.”**

1. In the search box on the ATLA RB home page, select “SC Scripture Citation” from the dropdown menu labeled “Select a Field (optional).”
2. Type a citation in the search box. In general, the format is how one typically cites chapter and verse. Examples:

Genesis 1:26-27  
 Romans 1-5

For books such as 1 Kings and 2 Corinthians, state the title of the book first, followed by “1st,” “2nd,” etc. Examples:

1 Kings 2:35  
 Enter: Kings, 1st, 2:35

2 Corinthians 4  
 Enter: Corinthians, 2nd, 4

3. Click “Search.”