

Introduction to the Biblical Truth Seekers Website

These studies are presented as substantially completed works although still in progress as new information is received. The studies are an attempt to draw together the many Scriptures that have a bearing on various Bible subjects. This is on the basis of the statement in Psalm 119:160 which says regarding God: “the sum of your word is truth.” This means that one does not have biblical truth until all the texts have been brought to bear on the particular subject. Scholar Robert Van Kampen explains it in the following way:

Assume you have six passages dealing with a particular topic. Using the face-value hermeneutic, passages 1, 3, and 5 say one thing, while passages 2, 4, and 6 appear, on the surface, to be saying something quite different. Those who prefer what 1, 3, and 5 have to say conclude that the common denominator that pulls these three passages together is 15, and on 15 they will stand and give their life if necessary, sweeping passages 2, 4, and 6 under the rug, so to speak. On the other hand, those who prefer what passages 2, 4, and 6 have to say come to the common denominator of 12, and they, like their counterparts, are willing to die for their position, irrespective of what the other three passages might have to say on the issue at hand. Which answer is right? 12 or 15? Actually, neither is right! If you want truth, you cannot ignore any of the passages that deal with the same issue, no matter how contradictory they may seem. However, if you refuse to be sidetracked by the [apparent] contradiction and keep looking for the resolution you will eventually find that all the passages fit perfectly into one common denominator: 60. Now you have correlation without contradiction. Now you have truth!

Although these studies present mainly single or partial verses it is strongly recommended that the reader examine from his or her own Bible the context in which these verses are set. Of course, the reason for the single or partial verses is to focus on the point the text makes and hence to gain clarity. At times it will be necessary to examine an interlinear translation where there are issues with the standard translations.

Also it is hoped that the sub-headings, the highlighted key words and the comments will help to connect the related information and act as a guide to bring out the teaching of the Bible on each subject. The approach taken here is to use the plainly understood texts as the basis to understand the more difficult texts. However, no claim is made of being correct on all points, in spite of every effort having been made to express what is factual.

Although often dismissed by some truth-seekers, the up-to-date work of Bible scholars which is contained in bible encyclopaedias, dictionaries and commentaries can be very valuable toward gaining a correct understanding of Scripture. In fact, Jesus said that he would make such a scholarly provision: “I send you prophets and wise men and scribes” (Matthew 23:34). Such scribes were not public speakers with little scholarly background but, in Bible times, were a class of professional Bible scholars. We, too, need to take advantage of the up-to-date work of such professionals today. This helps in the areas of Bible translation, greater understanding of Jewish culture and ways of Jewish expression, more accurate definitions of Bible terms and analysis of the meanings in English. However, there is the warning for us to be discerning with such scholarly works.

We also make acknowledgement of the fact that many non-professional individual seekers of truth have also researched these subjects and have revealed numerous points that are set out in these studies. Many of their scriptural presentations are to be found on the internet as well as in books.

Basic Definitions of Theological Terms

Anthropomorphism the attribution of human characteristics to God.

Christology the study of the origin and nature of Christ.

Consubstantiality ---- the idea that two or three persons all share the same substance or essence of God.

Cosmology ---- the study of the origin, processes, and structure of the universe.

Docetism ---- the belief that Jesus was not human but rather was a spirit in a human shell.

En sarki ---- the Greek term meaning ‘in the flesh’ i.e. being human.

Eschatology ---- the study of the details concerning the time-of-the-end.

Exegesis ---- the critical analysis and explanation of Scripture.

Exegete ---- one who critically analyzes and explains Scripture.

Eisegesis ---- reading into a text one’s own ideas rather than drawing out the ideas from the text

Gnosticism ---- heretical beliefs based on secret knowledge linked with Docetism.

Hypostasis ---- an individual within a class - any one of the persons in the trinity.

Hypostatisation ---- interpreting an idea as an existing being in contrast to a personification. To misconstrue the object of a figure of speech as if it were a reality.
 Hypostatic Union ---- the union of Christ's human and divine natures in one hypostasis/person.
 Incarnation ---- changed into a human – enfleshment – embodiment.
 Kenosis ---- the belief that a spirit Son of God emptied himself of his substance.
 Metaphysics ---- abstract, speculative philosophy concerning ultimate reality.
 Ontology ---- the branch of metaphysics concerning the essence of things.
 Ousia ----- the essence of something. This became distinct from hypostasis after Nicea.
 Prolepsis ---- figure of speech. The present/past tense verbs used in anticipation of future things.
 The Shema ---- the words “Hear O Israel...Yahweh is one” in Deuteronomy 6:4.
 Soteriology ---- the study of things concerning salvation.
 Strophe ---- a rhythmic system constituting a section of a poem.

Bible Translations Referred To:

Bible Translations referred to:

Amp	The Amplified Bible
Barclay	The New Testament by William Barclay
BBE	Bible in Basic English
CEB	Common English Bible
ERV	Easy-to-Read version
ESV	English Standard Version
GWT	God's Word Translation
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible
ISV	International Standard Version
KGV	Kingdom of God Version – The New Testament
KJV	King James Version
KNT	Kingdom New Testament by N.T. Wright
LXX	The Septuagint (Greek Version of the Old Testament)
MEV	Modern English Version
NAB	New American Bible
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCV	New Century version
NET	New English Translation
NKJV	New King James Version
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NIV	New International Version
NLT	New Living Translation
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
MOFF	The Moffat Translation of the Bible
REB	Revised English Bible
ROTH.	The Emphasized Bible by J.B Rotherham
S&G	Smith and Goodspeed – An American Translation
UBS	United Bible Societies Interlinear
Williams	The New Testament by Charles B. Williams
YLT	Young's Literal Translation
	J.N Darby – A New Translation
	R.F. Weymouth's New Testament

In the following Studies the primary translations used are the ESV, the NASB, and the NKJV.

Main Reference Works Used

GREEK

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament - 3rd Edition. Walter Bauer
 New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology - Edited by Colin Brown
 Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words
 Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.

The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament - Wigram.
 The Basics of Biblical Greek - William D. Mounce
 Greek Grammar - Beyond the Basics - Daniel B. Wallace.
 An Idiom book of New Testament Greek - C.F.D. Moule. Cambridge University press.
 New Testament Words. William Barclay - Westminster John Knox Press.

HEBREW

A Hebrew and English Lexicon - Brown, Driver, and Briggs.
 Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English - Kohlenberger. Zondervan
 The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis - Edited by VanGemernan

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia - 4 volumes revised '79, '82, '86, '88.
 Hastings Dictionary of the Bible - 5 volumes (difficult to obtain) or 1 volume
 The Anchor Bible Dictionary - 6 volumes
 Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties - Gleason Archer
 Hard sayings of the Bible - Kaiser, Davids, Bruce and Brauch

COMMENTARIES

Word Biblical Commentary - 54 volumes on CD Rom.
 The Expositor's Bible Commentary - Volumes 8-12 cover the NT
 The Anchor Bible - The Gospel According to John I - XII - Raymond E Brown.
 The IVP Bible Background Commentary - Old Testament Walton, Matthews, Chavalas
 The IVP Bible Background Commentary - New Testament Craig Keener
 The NIV Genesis Application Commentary - John H. Walton
 Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament - 1 Volume
 Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament - Beale and Carson.