

## 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.

Cross-references are valuable, but they are easy to ignore. This activity encourages students to make better use of the cross-references in their Bible.

## **Bible Study Tools – Cross-References Cross-Reference Systems – An Introduction**

The internal harmony of the Bible makes it possible to find thousands of passages that are related to each other in some way. Cross-references identify many of these passages for us. They take us to additional passages that relate to the one we are reading.

### A useful analogy

Cross-references in the Bible are like links on a web page. Click on any link and it takes you to another page that is related to the one you are reading. That page probably has more links, and you can keep going. Bible cross-references work the same way. They link one passage to another and another.

Bible students have been identifying links between passages for centuries, long before anyone thought about web pages. Over the years, scholars have compiled lists of these links, and the result has been the development of cross-reference systems. A cross-reference system is, in fact, a kind of “Bible web.”

Bible cross-reference systems vary widely. In terms of the web page analogy, some Bibles have a lot of links on a page while others don't have many at all. Some links are also more valuable than others and we're glad when we've clicked on them.

Any cross-reference on a Bible page is an invitation to look at another passage and learn something. It is an invitation to understand the Bible better.

1 – The cross-references for Matthew 1:1 are shown in four different Bibles, starting on the next page:

*Hendrickson King James Wide-Margin Bible*

*Zondervan King James Reference Bible*

*Aletheia Interlinear AV & RV Wide Margin Bible*

*MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version*

In addition, the cross-references for Matthew 1:1 are shown in

*The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* is an entire book of Bible cross-references, first published around 1830. It lists cross-references for every verse of the Bible, starting in Genesis 1 and ending in Revelation 22. Altogether, it contains more than 500,000 cross-references. Many modern Bible apps include the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (TSK) as one of their cross-reference systems.

Notice the similarities and differences from one Bible to the next. Then answer the questions that follow.

- Hendrickson King James Wide-Margin Bible with end-of-verse cross-references:

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO**  
**St. Matthew**

**The genealogy of Jesus**

**1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Gn 22:18; Is 11:1; Rom 1:3

2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; Gn 25:26; Acts 7:8

3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; Gn 38:29-30; 46:12

15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. Luke 3:23

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to Jesus are fourteen generations.

- Zondervan King James Reference Bible with center-column cross-references:

**The Gospel According to**  
**ST. MATTHEW**

**1** THE BOOK of the <sup>a</sup>generation of Jesus Christ, <sup>b</sup>the son of David, <sup>c</sup>the son of Abraham.

2 <sup>a</sup>Abraham begat Isaac; and <sup>a</sup>Isaac begat Jacob; and <sup>a</sup>Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

3 And <sup>a</sup>Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and <sup>b</sup>Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Nahshon; and Nahshon begat Salomon; and Salomon begat Booz; and Booz begat Obed; and Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David; and David begat Solomon; and Solomon begat Salomon; and Salomon begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; and Ozias begat Joas; and Joas begat Amazias; and Amazias begat Manasse; and Manasse begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; and Josias begat Jechonias; and Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; and Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliud; and Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to Jesus are fourteen generations.

1:1 <sup>a</sup>Luke 3:23  
<sup>b</sup>Ps. 132:11; Is. 11:1; Jer. 23:5; ch. 22:42; John 7:42; Acts 2:30; Rom. 1:3 <sup>c</sup>Gen. 12:3

1:2 <sup>a</sup>Gen. 21:2  
<sup>b</sup>Gen. 25:26  
<sup>c</sup>Gen. 29:35

1:3 <sup>a</sup>Gen. 38:27  
<sup>b</sup>Ruth 4:18;  
<sup>c</sup>1 Chr. 2:5

1:6 <sup>a</sup>1 Sam.

- Aletheia Interlinear AV & RV Wide Margin Bible with center-column cross-references:

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO**

**S. MATTHEW.**

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**1**<sup>a</sup> THE book of the <sup>2</sup>gene-  
**I** ration of Jesus Christ, <sup>b</sup>the  
son of David, <sup>c</sup>the son of  
Abraham.

<sup>2</sup><sup>d</sup> Abraham begat Isaac; and  
<sup>e</sup>Isaac begat Jacob; and <sup>f</sup>Jacob  
begat Judah and his brethren;  
<sup>3</sup>and <sup>g</sup>Judah begat Perez and Zerah  
of Tamar; and Perez begat Hezron,  
and Hezron begat <sup>h</sup>Ram; <sup>4</sup>and <sup>i</sup>Ram  
begat Eliakim; and Eliakim  
begat Azor; <sup>14</sup>and Azor  
begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat  
and Achim begat Eliu;  
Eliud begat Eleazar; and  
Eleazar begat Matthan; and  
Matthan begat Jacob; <sup>16</sup>and Jacob  
the husband of Joseph the husband  
of whom was born Jesus  
is called Christ.

<sup>a</sup> Cp. Luke 3. 23-38.  
<sup>b</sup> 2 Sam. 7. 12-16.  
Ps. 132. 11.  
Isai. 11. 1.  
Jer. 23. 5.  
Luke 1. 32, 69.  
John 7. 42.  
Acts 2. 30  
& 13. 23.  
Rom. 1. 3.  
2 Tim. 2. 8.  
Rev. 22. 16.  
<sup>c</sup> Gen. 22. 18.  
Gal. 3. 16.  
Cp. Rom. 9. 5.  
<sup>d</sup> Gen. 21. 3.  
<sup>e</sup> Gen. 25. 26.  
<sup>f</sup> Gen. 29. 35.

- MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version, by Crossway, with center-column cross-references:

The Gospel According to

**M A T T H E W**

*The Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

**1**<sup>a</sup> The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
<sup>b</sup>the son of David, <sup>c</sup>the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup><sup>d</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and  
<sup>e</sup>Isaac the father of Jacob, and <sup>f</sup>Jacob the father  
of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and <sup>g</sup>Judah the  
father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez  
the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father  
of Ram, <sup>4</sup>and Ram the father of Amminadab,  
and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and  
Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon  
the father of Boaz by <sup>h</sup>Rahab, and Boaz the  
father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and  
and Jotham the  
father of Hezekiah,  
Manasseh, and  
and Amos the fa-  
ther of Oseas,  
the time of the  
<sup>12</sup>And after that  
<sup>13</sup>Jechoniah was  
<sup>14</sup>Shealtiel the fa-  
ther of Zerubbabel the  
the father of Eli-

**Chapter 1**  
<sup>1</sup><sup>a</sup>[Luke 3:23-38] <sup>b</sup>2 Sam.  
7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Isa.  
11:1; Jer. 23:5; Luke 1:32, 69;  
John 7:42; Acts 2:30; 13:23;  
Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev.  
22:16 <sup>c</sup>Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16

- The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge:

**The GOSPEL according to St. MATTHEW**

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B. C. 4.A.

**CHAP. I.**

*The genealogy of Christ from Abraham to Joseph, 1-17. He is miraculously conceived of the Holy Ghost by the Virgin Mary, when she was espoused to Joseph, 18. The angel satisfieth the doubts of Joseph, and declareth the names and offices of Christ: Jesus is born, 19-25.*

**1 generation, Ge.2.4.-5.1. Is.53.8. Lu.3.23, &c. Ro. 9.5. the son of David, ch.9.27.-15.22.-22.42.45. 2 Sa. 7.13,16. Ps.89.36.-132.11. Is.9.6,7.-11.1. Je.23.5.-33.15.,17,26. Am.9.11. Zec.12.8. Lu.1.31,32,69,70. Jn<sup>o</sup>.7.42. Ac.2.30.-13.22. Ro.1.3. Re.22.16. the son of Abraham, Ge.12.3.-22.18.-26.3.5.-28.13,14. Ro.4.13. Ga.3.16.**

*2 Abraham, Ge.21.2,5. Jos.24.2,5. 1 Ch.1.26. 18.51,2. Lu.3.34. Ac.7.8. Ro.9.7,9. He.11.11,17,18. Isaac begat, Ge.25.26. Jos.24.4. 1 Ch.1.34. Is.41.8. Mal.1.2,3. Ro.9.10.,13. Jacob begat, Ge.29.32,35.-30.5.,20.-35.16.,19.-48.8, &c.-49.8,12. Ex.1.2,5. 1 Ch.2.1, &c.-5.1,2. Lal. 3.33,34. Ac.7.8. He.7.14. Re.7.5. Juda.*

*3 Judas, Ge.38.27,29,30.-46.12. Judah, Pharez, Zarah.*

*29. Ac.3.26.-4.12.-5.31.-13.23,38,39. F. 1.20.,23. Tit.2.14. He.7.25. 1 Jn<sup>o</sup>.1.7.-1.5.6.-7.14.*

*22 that, ch.2.15,23.-5.17.-8.17.-12.4. 1 Ki.8.15,24. Eze.1.1. Lu.21.22.-24.44. 38.40.-15.25.-17.12.-18.9.-19.24,23,36. 13.27,29. Re.17.17.*

*23 a virgin, Is.7.14. they shall call his name shall be called, Emmanuel, Immanuel, God, ch.28.20. Ps.46.7,11. 1.7.-12.2. Jn<sup>o</sup>.1.14. Ac.18.9. Ro.1.3,4.-1 Ti.3.16. 2 Ti.4.17,22.*

*24 did, Ge.6.22.-7.5.-22.2,3. Ex.40.2. Ki.5.11.,14. Jn<sup>o</sup>.3.5.,8.-15.14. He.11.7. 21.,26.*

*25 she, Ex.13.2.-22.29. Lu.2.7. Ro.8. Lu.2.21.*

**CHAP. II.**

*The wise men from the east enquire at which Herod is alarmed, 3-8. The by a star to Bethlehem, worship h*

- Which cross-reference system offers the most cross-references for Matthew 1:1? Which one offers the fewest?
- Which of the Hendrickson cross-references for Matthew 1:1 are included in the Zondervan cross-references? Which one is not?
- Which two Bibles use the same cross-reference system (with one difference)?
- Zondervan, Aletheia, MacArthur, and TSK organize the cross-references for Matthew 1:1 into three groups according to the main ideas in the verse. What are the three main ideas of Matthew 1:1?
 

How do Zondervan, Aletheia, and MacArthur draw attention to these ideas?

How does TSK draw attention to these ideas?
- Is the identification of Bible cross-references an exact science? How do you know?

2 – Here is Psalm 8:4 in the Aletheia AV & RV Bible. It has four groups of cross-references, identified as *f*, *g*, *h*, and *i*.

**Ps. 8, v. 3]**

<sup>3</sup> When I <sup>a</sup>consider thy heavens,  
the work of thy <sup>e</sup>fingers,  
The moon and the stars, <sup>d</sup>which  
thou hast ordained;

<sup>4</sup> **What is man, that thou art**  
**mindful of him?**  
And **the son of man, that**  
**thou visitest him?**

<sup>5</sup> For thou hast made him <sup>hnt</sup>  
little lower than <sup>1/ God,</sup>  
And <sup>heast crowned</sup> <sup>the angels,</sup> him with <sup>g</sup>glory  
and honour.

<sup>6</sup> Thou madest him to have  
<sup>m</sup>dominion over the works  
of thy hands;

a. The cross-referenced passages that go with this verse are printed below. Read each one carefully and see if you can tell which part of Psalm 8:4 it relates to (*f*, *g*, *h*, or *i*).

The answers are shown in the box at the end. Check yourself when you are done and see if you agree with the scholars who developed this cross-reference system.

**Genesis 8:1** *And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark:*

*f g h i*

**Genesis 21:1** *And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.*

*f g h i*

**Genesis 50:24** *And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

*f g h i*

**Job 7:17** *What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?*

*f g h i*

**Job 25:6** *How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?*

*f g h i*

**Psalm 65:9** *Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.*

**f g h i**

**Psalm 80:17** *Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.*

**f g h i**

**Psalm 144:3** *LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!*

**f g h i**

**Hebrews 2:6** *But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

**f g h i**

- b. What important ideas do the cross-reference passages have in common with Psalm 8:4? How many can you identify?

Altheia AV & RV cross-references for Psalm 8:4:  
f = Job 7:17; Job 25:6; Psalm 144:3, and Hebrews 2:6.  
g = Genesis 8:1.  
h = Psalm 80:17.  
i = Genesis 21:1; Genesis 50:24, and Psalm 65:9.