

# Columbia Bible College Library

## Library Resource Guides

### Biblical Exegesis

See “The Exegetical Paper” on pages 3-19 in the [Columbia Bible College Term Paper Guide](#) for guidelines and format requirements.

**Step 1: Definitions: A Clear Understanding of the Task**

**Exegesis** means to explain the meaning of a text as its original writer intended and its audience would have understood it. [From Greek “exegeesthai = to interpret -- where “ex” = out and “hegeesthai” = to lead or guide] Such a study then takes into account: (a) Biblical languages (b) type of literature represented (c) the cultural, historical and geographical contexts (d) the life setting, i.e. the people encountered --- and is done to ascertain direction and meaning.

*The following books are helpful in explaining the exegetical process:*

<i>A Beginner’s Guide to New Testament Exegesis</i>	225.601 E68 2005
<i>A Handbook of New Testament Exegesis/Blomberg</i>	225.601 B653 2010
<i>Elements of Biblical Exegesis/Gorman</i>	220.601 G653 2009
<i>How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth/ Fee</i>	220.6 1 F295 2003
<i>Interpreting the Old Testament: a Guide to Exegesis/ Broyles</i>	221.601 I61 2001
<i>New Testament Exegesis / Fee</i>	225.6 01 F295 2002
<i>Old Testament Exegesis/ Stuart</i>	221.6 01 S929 2001

**Step 2: Precise Text Selection**

Select the precise text to be exegeted. Avoid the temptation of taking on too much.

**Step 3: Biblical Variants:**

Read the text in at least three reputable translations and note textual variations. Consider using these versions:

<i>ESV Study Bible (ESV)</i>	Ref 220.5 208 B582 E58 2008
<i>The New International Version (NIV)</i>	Ref 220.5 2081 B582 H761 1996
<i>The New American Standard Bible (NASB)</i>	Ref 220.5 2041 B582 R995 1978
<i>The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)</i>	Ref 220.5 2043 B582 N961
<i>The Complete Parallel Bible with the Apocryphal.....</i>	Ref 220.52 B582 C7371993
<i>Today’s New International Version (TNIV)</i>	Ref 220.5 2081 1 B582 T634 2005

**Step 4: Consult Reference Works:**

4.1 *For Biographical, Cultural, Geographical, Historical, background:*

<i>All the People and Places of The Bible</i>	Ref 220.95 A416 1982
<i>All The Trades and Occupations of the Bible</i>	220.8 337 L818 1969
<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary (6 volumes)</i>	Ref 220.3 A539 1992
<i>Backgrounds of Early Christianity</i>	270.1 F352 1987
<i>Bible Background Commentary (Genesis - Deuteronomy)</i>	Ref 220.7 I96
<i>Bible Background Commentary (New Testament)</i>	Ref 220.7 I96
<i>The Biblical Illustrator</i>	Periodical shelves

<i>Daily Life at the time of Jesus</i>	Ref 220.95 V216 2000
<i>Dictionary of Biblical Imagery</i>	Ref 220.3 D554 1998
<i>Dictionary of New Testament Background</i>	Ref 225.9503 D554 2000
<i>Dictionary of the Later New Testament &amp; its Developments</i>	Ref 225.3 D554 1997
<i>Dictionary of the Old Testament</i>	Ref 221.03 D...
<i>Dictionary of Paul and his Letters</i>	Ref 227.03 D554 1993
<i>Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters</i>	Ref 220.609 D554 2007
<i>Dictionary of Theological Interpretation</i>	Ref. 220.3 D554 2005
<i>Everyday Life In Bible Times</i>	220.9 N277 1967
<i>Encyclopedia of Bible Characters</i>	Ref 220.9203 N532 2001
<i>Encyclopedia of Christianity</i>	Ref 230.03 E92
<i>Encyclopedia Judaica (16 vol)</i>	Ref 909.04 924 E56
<i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>	Ref 220.3 E26 2000
<i>Great People of the Bible and How They Lived</i>	Ref 220.9 2 G786 1974
<i>Great Events of Bible Times: New Perspectives on the People,</i>	Ref 220.9 5 G786 1987
<i>Handbook of Biblical Social Values</i>	220.9 5 03 H236 1998
<i>Handbook of Life in Bible Times</i>	Ref 220.95 T473 1986
<i>Harper Atlas of the Bible</i>	Ref Atlas 220.91 H293 1987
<i>Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life</i>	Ref 220.95 M649 1978
<i>Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps...</i>	Ref 220.95 H747 1993
<i>The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (4 vol)</i>	Ref 220.3 I61 1978-1988
<i>Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus</i>	225.9 1 J55 1975
<i>The Jewish World: History &amp; Culture of the Jewish People</i>	Ref 909.04 924 J59 1979
<i>Macmillan Bible Atlas</i>	Ref 220.91 O223 A285 1977
<i>New Bible Dictionary (IVP Press)</i>	Ref 220.3 N532 1996
<i>The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB) (vol 1 some background articles)</i>	Ref 220.77 N532 I61 vol. 1
<i>The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times</i>	Ref 220.95 G723 1987
<i>New Encyclopedia of Judaism</i>	Ref 296.03 E56 2002
<i>Oxford Guide to Ideas &amp; Issues of the Bible</i>	Ref 220.3098 2001
<i>Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion</i>	Ref 296.03 098 1997
<i>Women in Scripture: a dictionary of named and unnamed women</i>	Ref 220.92 082 W872
<i>Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes</i>	Ref 220.3 Z87 M286 1999

#### 4.2 For Contextual/Literary Analysis:

<i>Berit olam: Studies in Hebrew Narrative &amp; Poetry (Genesis-Malachi)</i>	Ref 220.7 B511
<i>The Bible As Literature: An Introduction</i>	809.93522 G112 1990
<i>Introduction to the New Testament / Harrison</i>	225.61 H318 1971
<i>Synopsis of the Four Gospels:</i>	226.065 B582 1982

#### 4.3 For Textual (Word) Study:

See also "[Library Resource Guides](#)" on display in the library for: [Old Testament Word Studies](#) and [New Testament Word Studies](#), and [New Testament Word Studies – Introductory Guide](#)

##### (a) Old Testament

<i>Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance</i>	Ref 220.5 2081c G655 N734 2004
<i>The Hebrew English Concordance to the Old Testament</i>	Ref 221.44 K79 1998
<i>New International Encyclopedia of Bible Words :</i>	Ref 220.3 R516 N532 [1998]
<i>The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew &amp; English Lexicon</i>	Ref 221.4403 B877 1979
<i>The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament</i>	Ref 225.4 8 Z84 1993
<i>The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament</i>	Ref 221.44 B582 I61 1987
<i>The Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros</i>	Ref 221.4403 L697 1958
<i>A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the OT</i>	Ref 221.4403 H733 1971
<i>New International Dictionary of OT Theology &amp; Exegesis (5 vol)</i>	Ref 221.3 N532
<i>New International Encyclopedia of Bible Words</i>	Ref 220.3 R516 N532 [1998]
<i>New Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies.</i>	Ref 221.44 W754 1987
<i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament</i>	Ref 221.447 T391
<i>Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (2 vol)</i>	Ref 221.44 T391

(b) *New Testament*

<i>Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance</i>	<i>Ref 220.5 2081c G655 N734 2004</i>
<i>The NIV English-Greek New Testament/ Mounce</i>	<i>Ref 225.48 B582 N734 2000</i>
<i>The NIV Theological Dictionary of NT Words/Verbrugge</i>	<i>Ref 225.3 N734 2000</i>
<i>A Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament</i>	<i>Ref 225.48 K78 1997</i>
<i>Greek and English Interlinear New Testament (TNIV/NLT)</i>	<i>Ref 225.48 B582 E58 2008</i>
<i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>	<i>Ref 225.48 A747 1979</i>
<i>The New Internat. Dictionary of New Testament Theology (4 vol)</i>	<i>Ref 225.3 N532</i>
<i>The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words</i>	<i>Ref 225.4803 V782 1874</i>
<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (10 vol)</i>	<i>Ref 225.4803 T391 1964</i>
<i>Encyclopedia of Bible Words</i>	<i>Ref 220.3 R516 N532</i>

4.4 *Commentaries:*

**Are you wondering which commentary to use? For an indication on their emphases, viewpoints, strengths, weaknesses and evaluation see the following guides:**

<i>New Testament Commentary Survey / Carson</i>	<i>Ref 016.2257 C321 2007</i>
<i>New Testament Exegesis / Fee (pages 173-177)</i>	<i>225.6 01 F295 2002</i>
<i>Fee recommends the 3 best commentaries for each NT book</i>	
<i>Old Testament Commentary Survey / Longman</i>	<i>Ref. 016.2217 L856 2007</i>

**Recommended commentary series located in the Reference Collection - arranged by the book of the Bible:**

*The Anchor Bible (AB)*  
*Believers Church Bible Commentary (BCBC)*  
*The Bible Speaks Today (BST)*  
*Expositor's Bible Commentary (EBC)*  
*Holman New Testament Commentary*  
*Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching (Interpretation)*  
*IVP New Testament Commentary (IVPNTC)*  
*New American Commentary (NAD)*  
*New International Biblical Commentary (NIBC)*  
*New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT)*  
*New International Greek Testament (NIGTC)*  
*Pillar Commentaries (Pillar)*  
*Old Testament Library (OLT)*  
*NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC)*  
*Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary (SHBC)*  
*Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (TOTC)*  
*Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)*

**Other commentaries written for specialized purpose:**

<i>"Socio-rhetorical" commentaries by Ben Witherington</i>	<i>Ref collection by book of Bible</i>
<i>Africa Bible Commentary</i>	<i>Ref 220.7096 A258 2006</i>
<i>The IVP Women's Bible Commentary</i>	<i>Ref 220.7082 I96 2002</i>

**Step 5:**      **Search for appropriate journal articles.**

**On-Line Resources - Full Text Journal Databases**

Go to the [CBC Library webpage](http://www.columbiabc.edu/library/). (*www.columbiabc.edu/library/*)  
Click on [Journal Articles](#)

- *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*
- *Proquest Religion Database*

**Step 6:**      **Synthesis:**

After you have examined particular details within your text, write your paper indicating that you have understood the message of your text within its context.

See “*The Exegetical Paper*” on pages 3-19 of the [Columbia Bible College Term Paper Guide](#) for guidelines and format requirements.

The library also has a sample exegetical paper handout.

*If you would like help or further suggestions for research, please ask the librarian for assistance*