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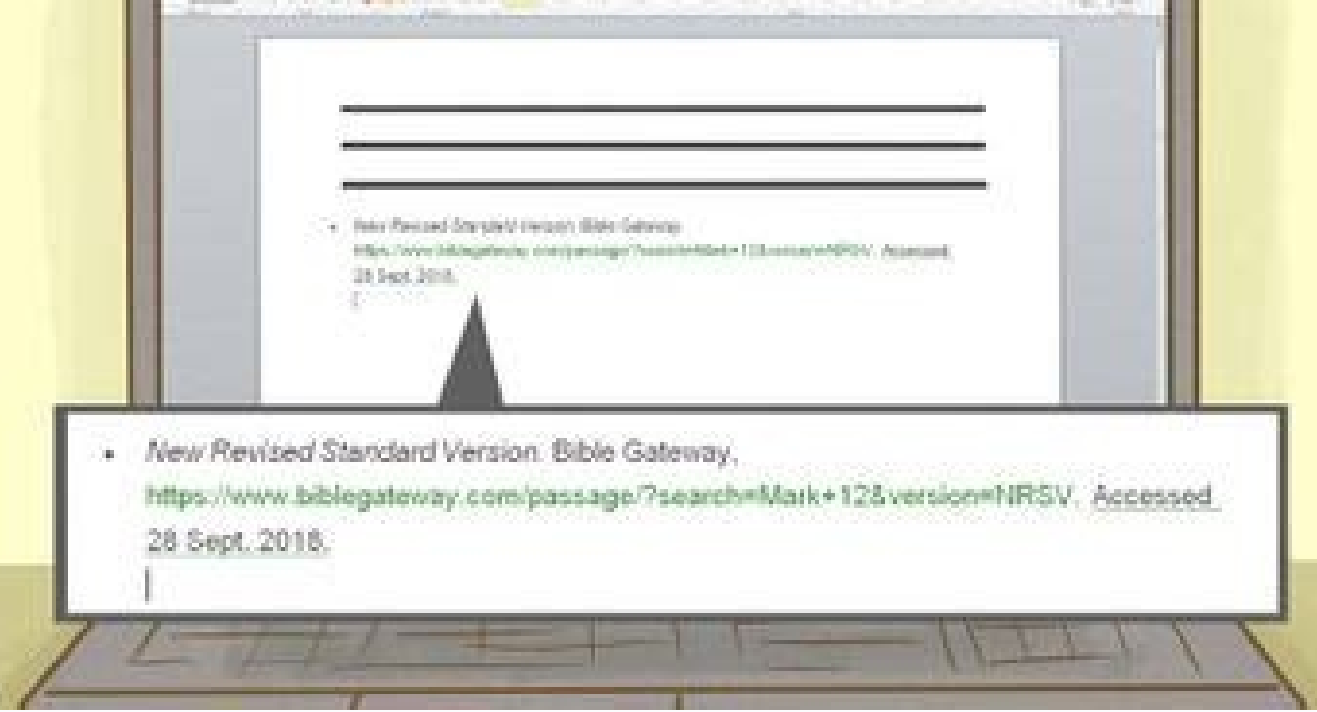
  
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If you switch back, you would add the version again.[3] For example, if you were comparing the language used in different translations, you would need to include each of the different versions in the parenthetical citations. 4 Incorporate the citation information into your text. A parenthetical citation is not required at all if you include all the information that would normally be in the parenthetical citation in the body text of your paper. If you include the chapter and verse but not the name of the version of the Bible you used, put the name of the version in parentheses immediately after the chapter and verse in your first citation to that version.[4] For example, you might write "John 3:16 (New Revised Standard Version) states that everyone who believes in God and believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be granted eternal life in heaven." Advertisement 1 Ask your instructor or advisor if a reference list entry is required.

**HOW TO CITE THE BIBLE™**  
Guide for Four Citation Styles: MLA, APA, SBL, CHICAGO

**MLA**  
[Refer to *MLA Handbook, 8th ed.* (2016), pp. 122-23.] Copy at Reference Desk. For guidelines for citing the Bible following *MLA 7a ed.*, see [here](#).

**General**

- Do not italicize, underline, or use quotation marks for books and versions of the Bible.
- Do italicize the titles of individual published editions of the Bible.

**Examples:** In Romans, Paul asserts that justification comes through faith (5:2).  
The King James Version of the Bible was originally published in 1611.  
The *New Oxford Annotated Bible* includes maps of the Holy Land.

**Works Cited**

- Identify the **core elements** of the edition of the Bible you are using as you would for any source.
- Generally, your citation will start with the title of the Bible used rather than a particular translator or editor. However, if you are focusing on the contribution of the translator or editor in your writing, it is appropriate to treat that contributor as the author. (C.f. discussion of translators on p. 23 and authorship in film and television on p. 24.)
- Typical Bible citations will include the title of the Bible, editor/translator (when relevant), the version (if different from the title) and/or edition, publisher, year, URL (for online editions).

**Examples:**  
*ESV Study Bible*. English Standard Version, Crossway, 2011.  
*Holy Bible*. King James Version, Reference ed., The Bible Radio, 1976.  
*New International Version*. Biblica, 2011. *Bible Gateway*.  
[www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/](http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/)  
Wright, N.T., translator. *The Kingdom New Testament: A Contemporary Translation*. 1st ed., Harper One, 2011.

**In-Text Citations**

- For a first parenthetical citation to a particular version, cite the element that begins the work cited entry (usually the title of the edition), followed by a comma, and then the passage.
- Abbreviate titles of books that are more than four letters long; use a period to separate chapter and verse. (See pp. 97-99 for lists of abbreviations of biblical books).

**Examples:** (*New International Version*, Gen. 3:15)  
(Wright, Rom. 8:28)

- For subsequent references, do not identify the version unless you use a different version.

**Examples:** (Gen. 1:1-2)  
(Phil. 3:8)

\*This guide addresses citations of the text of Scripture itself. If you are citing supplementary material in a published edition of the Bible, such as book introductions or study notes, consult your style guide of choice for guidance on citing material from reference books.

APA doesn't require a reference list entry for commonly known classical or religious works such as the Bible. However, your instructor may want you to include it anyway. If they do, create a reference list entry that follows the format for a book with no identified author:[5] If you're citing supplementary material in the Bible, such as an introduction or study notes, you would typically include a reference list entry citing that material as though it were an article or entry in a reference book, including the name of the author. 2 Start your reference list entry with the title. Provide the full title of the Bible in italics as listed on the title page. Use title-case, capitalizing all nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Place a colon after the title and include the name of the version as a "subtitle" after the title. Place a period at the end of the name of the version.[6] Example: Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. 3 Add the year of publication in parentheses. After the title of the book, list the year that particular version of the book was published. You should be able to find this information on the copyright page of the specific Bible you used. Place a period outside the closing parenthesis.[7] Example: Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1990). 4 Close with the place of publication and name of the publisher. For US publishers, type the city and state where the publisher is located, separated by a comma.

**Format:** Bible Version Title. (Year). Publisher. (Original work published Year)

**Reference Entry:** King James Bible. (2008). Oxford University Press. (Original work published 1769)

**In-text Citation:** (King James Bible, 1769/2008)

Abbreviate state names. If the version you used was published outside the US, use the name of the city and the name of the country as the location. Place a colon after the location, then add the name of the publisher. Place a period after the name of the publisher:[8] Example: Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1990). New York, NY: HarperCollins. APA Reference List Format Holy Bible: Name of Version. (Year). City, State: Publisher. Advertisement Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Doctor of Law, Indiana University This article was co-authored by wikiHow staff writer, Jennifer Mueller, JD.

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**IN CHICAGO STYLE**  
*Parenthetical Citations*

God assured Abraham that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:3 [New International Version]).

Chapter:Verse

So a citation of the seventh verse of the second chapter of the Book of Joshua looks like this: To cite a range of verses, use an en dash and do not repeat the chapter number: The Appearance Of Citations & References The format for references varies, but most use this general format: %Authors Last name, First initial. . Title. URL Researchers and scholars must look up the proper format for the source that they're attempting to cite. Books have a certain format, websites have a different format, periodicals have a different format, and so on. Scroll down to find the proper format for the source you're citing or referencing. If you would like help citing your sources, CitationMachine.com has a citation generator that will help make the APA citation process much easier for you. 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