



Columbia Bible College Library

Library Resource Guides

Biblical Exegesis

See "The Exegetical Paper" on pages 3-12 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:

<u>The Act of Bible Reading/ Dyck</u>	220.6 01 A188 1996
<u>Biblical Exegesis: a Beginner's Handbook</u>	220.6 01 H417 1982
<u>Biblical Interpretation: a Roadmap</u>	220.601 T565 1996
* <u>How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth/ Fee</u>	220.6 1 F295 2003
<u>Interpreting the Old Testament: a guide to exegesis/ Broyles</u>	221.601 I61 2001
<u>New Testament Exegesis / Fee</u>	225.6 01 F295 N532 1993
<u>Old Testament exegesis/ Stuart</u>	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:

<u>The New International Version</u> (NIV)	Ref 220.5 2081 B582 H761 1996
<u>The New American Bible</u> (NAB) available online	http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM
<u>The New American Standard Bible</u> (NASB)	Ref 220.5 2041 B582 R995 1978
<u>The New Revised Standard Version</u> (NRSV)	Ref 220.5 2043 B582 N961
<u>The Complete Parallel Bible with the Apocryphal/ Deuterocanonical Books</u> (NRSV, REB, NAB, NJB)	Ref 220.52 B582 C7371993
<u>Today's New International Version</u> (TNIV- New Testament) (the TNIV Old Testament is not yet published)	Ref 225.5 209 B582 T633 2002

Step 4: Consult Reference Works:

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

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



<u>Daily Life at the time of Jesus</u>	Ref 220.95 V216 2000
<u>Dictionary of Biblical Imagery</u>	Ref 220.3 D554 1998
<u>Dictionary of New Testament Background</u>	Ref 225.9503 D554 2000
<u>Dictionary of the Later New Testament & its Developments</u>	Ref 225.3 D554 1997
<u>Dictionary of Paul and his Letters</u>	Ref 227.03 D554 1993
<u>Everyday Life In Bible Times</u>	220.9 N277 1967
<u>Encyclopedia of Bible Characters</u>	Ref 220.9203 N532 2001
<u>Encyclopedia Judaica (16 vol)</u>	Ref 909.04 924 E56
<u>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</u>	Ref 220.3 E26 2000
<u>Great people of the Bible and how they lived</u>	Ref 220.9 2 G786 1974
<u>Great events of Bible times : new perspectives on the people, places, and history of the biblical world</u>	Ref 220.9 5 G786 1987
<u>Handbook of Life in Bible Times</u>	Ref 220.95 T473 1986
<u>Harper Atlas of the Bible</u>	Ref Atlas 220.91 H293 1987
<u>Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life</u>	Ref 220.95 M649 1978
<u>Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps...</u>	Ref 220.95 H747 1993
<u>The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (4 vol)</u>	Ref 220.3 I61 1978-1988
<u>Jerusalem in the time of Jesus</u>	225.9 1 J55 1975
<u>The Jewish world: history & culture of the Jewish people</u>	Ref 909.04 924 J59 1979
<u>Macmillan Bible Atlas</u>	Ref 220.91 O223 A285 1977
<u>New Bible Dictionary (IVP Press)</u>	Ref 220.3 N532 1996
<u>The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB) (vol 1 some background articles)</u>	Ref 220.77 N532 I61 vol. 1
<u>The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times</u>	Ref 220.95 G723 1987
<u>The Biblical Illustrator</u>	(Periodical shelves)
<u>Women in Scripture: a dictionary of named and unnamed women</u>	Ref 220.92 082 W872
<u>Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes</u>	Ref 220.3 Z87 M286 1999

4.2 *For Contextual/Literary Analysis:*

<u>The Bible As Literature: An Introduction</u>	809.93522 G112 1990
<u>Introduction to the New Testament / Harrison</u>	225.61 H318 1971
<u>Synopsis of the four Gospels:</u>	226.065 B582 1982

4.3 *For Textual (Word) Study:*

See Library Resource Guides on display in the library for: O.T. Word Studies and N.T. Word Studies

(a) *Old Testament*

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

(b) *New Testament*

<u>Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance</u>	Ref 220.5 2081c G655 N734 2004
<u>The NIV English-Greek New Testament/ Mounce</u>	Ref 225.48 B582 N734 2000
<u>The NIV Theological Dict of NT Words/Verbrugge</u>	Ref 225.3 N734 2000
<u>A Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament</u>	Ref 225.48 K78 1997
<u>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</u>	Ref 225.48 A747 1979



<u>The New Internat. Dictionary of New Testament Theology</u> (4 vol)	Ref 225.3 N532
<u>The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words</u>	Ref 225.4803 V782 1874
<u>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</u> (10 vol)	Ref 225.4803 T391 1964

4.4 *Recommended Commentaries:*

.....for everyone. (for example: <i>Matthew for everyone</i>)	<i>not yet catalogued</i>
<u>The Anchor Bible (Commentary)</u>	Ref 220.77 A539
<u>Believers Church Bible Commentary</u>	Ref 220.7 B431
* <u>The Expositor's Bible Commentary (EBC)</u>	Ref 220.77 E96
<u>Holman Old Testament Commentary</u>	Ref 220.7 H747
<u>Holman New Testament Commentary</u>	Ref 220.7 H747
<u>The IVP New Testament commentary (IVP NT Commentary)</u> see call numbers for individual books of the bible	
<u>Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching</u>	Ref 220.7 I61
<u>The New American Commentary (NAC)</u>	Ref 220.77 N532
<u>The New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT)</u>	Ref 225.77 N532 I58
<u>The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT)</u>	Ref 220.7 7 N532 I58
<u>The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB)</u>	Ref 220.77 N532 I61
<u>The NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC)</u>	Ref 220.77 N734
<u>Interpretation</u>	Ref 220.7 I61
<u>The Pillar New Testament commentary (Pillar NT commentary)</u>	Ref 220.7 7 P641
<u>The Tyndale Old Testament commentaries (TOTC)</u>	Ref 220.7 T987
<u>Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)</u>	Ref 220.77 W924

Many of the above resources are also available on the Libronix Digital Library System (Logos Bible Software) installed on 2 computer stations in the Library.

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 3-12 of the [Columbia Bible College Term Paper Guide](#) for guidelines and format requirements.

The library also has exegetical sample papers as handouts.

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