# How to Cite the Bible

## APA Style

**Parenthetical Citations:**
- For your first citation, identify the version which you used.
    - Example: (John 3:16 New Revised Standard Version)
- As part of a sentence:
    - Example: In a sentence: In Psalm 36:1 (New Jerusalem Bible), David...
- After this, only include the scripture reference, unless you switch versions.

**Reference Page:**
- Well-known books such as the Bible do not need to be included on the reference page, unless a professor requires you to do so.

Information taken from *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., 2009, section 6.18.
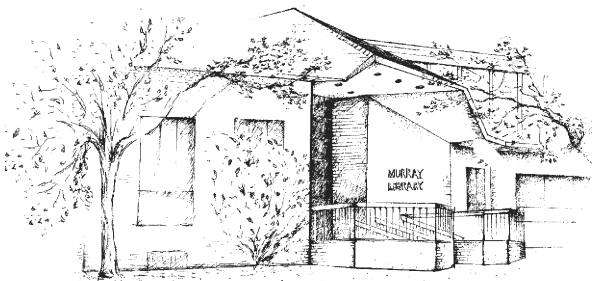
## MLA Style

**General Guidelines:**
- Versions of the Bible or individual books are not underlined, italicized, or placed in quotation marks. However, underline or italicize individual published editions of the Bible.
    - Example: The King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611.
    - Example: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* includes maps of the Holy Land.
- You do not need to identify the version in subsequent references unless you switch to a different version.

**Parenthetical References:**
- Books of the Bible are abbreviated; see the MLA Handbook for common abbreviations.
    - Example: (Phil. 3.8)
- A period, not a colon, separates chapter and verse.
- When you first refer to a particular version, include the name, a comma, and then the passage.
    - Examples: (New Revised Standard Version, John 3.16)
        - (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 2.6-8)
- After this, only include the scripture reference, unless you switch versions.



## Murray Library

**Works Cited:**
- Include the title of the Bible, the version, the publication information, and whether it is print or web, in the citation.

> Example: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: With the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*, New Revised Standard Version.  Michael D. Coogan, editor.  New York: Oxford UP, 2001. Print.

> Example: *Zondervan NIV Study Bible*.  Full ref. ed.  Kenneth L. Barker, gen. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. Print.

> Example: *New International Version*. [Colorado Springs]: Biblica, 2011. *BibleGateway.com*. Web. Mar. 2011.

Information taken from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., 2009, sections 6.4.8, 7.7.1, and 5.6.2.

## Chicago/Turabian Style*

**General Guidelines:**
- If you include the name of a book of the Bible in a sentence in your paper, do not italicize, underline, or abbreviate the title.

> Example: Matthew is the first book of the New Testament.

**Footnotes, Endnotes, or Parenthetical Citations:**
- You do not need to include the Bible in your bibliography.
- When citing a **passage of scripture**, include the abbreviated name of the book, the chapter number, and the verse number—never a page number.  Chapter and verse are separated by a colon.

> Example: 1 Cor. 13:4, 15:12-19.
> Example: Gn 1:1-2, 2:1-3; Jn 1:1-14.

- Chicago Style includes two lists of abbreviations for books of the Bible: a traditional abbreviation list and a shorter abbreviation list. (Abbreviation lists found in manual: p. 511-13.) You may use either list, but **be consistent throughout your paper**.
- Include the name of the version, and spell out the name in the first reference.  If you use abbreviations, such as NRSV, include no punctuation. (Abbreviations list found in manual: pp. 513-14.)

> Example of parenthetical reference: 1 Cor. 6-10 (New Revised Standard Version).
> Example of footnote or endnote: 1. Ps. 139:13-16 (NRSV)

- After this, only include the reference, unless you switch versions.

\* Turabian is the students' version of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Information taken from *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Turabian), 7th ed., 2007, sections 17.5.2 and 24.6.1-4.

Information taken from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th ed., 2010, sections 10.45 – 10.51 and 8.102 –8.106.

Adapted from materials developed by the Henry Buhl Library, Grove City College (http://hbl.gcc.edu/citingBIBLE.htm)