

Referencing the Bible

If you are citing a book of the Bible without a chapter and verse reference, the source (Deuteronomy in the example) should be stated in the text:

Moses' teaching is reviewed in Deuteronomy.

Books of the Bible cited with the chapter can be abbreviated unless they come at the beginning of the sentence:

The passage in 1 Cor 5 is often considered crucial.

First Corinthians 5 is a crucial text.

Biblical references are normally inserted in brackets within the main text:

Paul saw his missionary activity as a priestly ministry (Rom 15:16).

If there are several references it may be preferable to put them in a footnote:

Acts records several speeches in which the new faith is explained.¹

¹ See e.g. Acts 2:14–40; 3:12–26; 4:8–12; 5:29–32.

When *quoting* from the Bible the reference will usually be in brackets after it:

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:16).

Unless you have already made clear where it is from:

Paul declared in Rom 1:16, “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”

When you quote from the Bible you need to *indicate which Bible translation* you are using. This may be done by including the abbreviation for the translation next to the reference:¹

(Rom 1:16 NRSV).

If you use the same translation throughout the assignment, it would make sense to specify the translation in a footnote with the first Biblical quotation instead of including the abbreviation with every quotation:

(Rom 1:16)²

² All quotations from the Bible are from the NRSV, unless otherwise indicated.

Do not include the Bible itself in a bibliography:

The exception is if you use a Study Bible that includes notes and articles along with the biblical text.² In that case give full bibliographical details of the Study Bible, including the main editor:

Baker, K.L. ed. *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

¹ Abbreviations for all major translations is in the SBL Guide, 8.2.1, pages 122, 123.

² The Carey preferred version for assignments is the NRSV. It is not expected that you will normally reference a Study Bible in a Biblical studies course. The exception may be an applied or field-work course.