

7 How to use Greek & Hebrew

Citing Greek and Hebrew words in assignments

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

With regard to citing Hebrew and Greek words in Carey assignments at *undergraduate level* Carey recommends the following:

Unless you know the biblical language in question, the citation of Hebrew or Greek words is **not recommended**.

However, commentaries discuss the meaning of certain words in their original context from time to time and in referring to such a discussion you may wish to include them in your essay. In this case you are recommended to put the biblical word in **dictionary entry form** in brackets.

For Hebrew, you should use the simple transliteration¹ given in *Tyndale's Step Bible* (<https://www.stepbible.org>) for example, creeping (*re.me.s*). The dots indicating syllable breaks are taken out, *remes*.

For Greek, you should also use transliteration, for example, kingdom (*basileia*).²

MASTERS LEVEL

With regard to citing Hebrew and Greek words in academic essays at *master's level* Carey recommends the following:

For essays that do not focus on a specifically biblical topic and only touch on biblical material the citation of Hebrew or Greek is **not recommended**.

However, discussion on the meaning of a word in the original language may be illuminating from time to time (e.g. if there is no easy one-to-one equivalence for a word in context). In such cases if you wish to cite the word in the original language you should put it in lemma form (i.e. dictionary entry form) in brackets and reference a suitable source (lexicon or commentary where the issue is discussed).

For Hebrew, you should use the simple transliteration given in *Tyndale's Step Bible* (but with the dots indicating syllable breaks taken out).

For Greek, you may use either transliteration or Greek characters including breathings and accents (if you do not understand breathings and accents you should probably transliterate).

For essays that are predominantly in the area of biblical studies, the knowledge of the original languages is essential.

For Hebrew, you must use unpointed Hebrew characters.

For Greek, Greek characters including breathings and accents.

¹ *Transliteration* is the conversion of a text from one script to another

² Greek and Hebrew transliterations are always in *italics*.