



Narrow focus: 2 of 2

Christian Scriptures II: Analyzing a Passage Verse-By-Verse

Find this information in:



Bible Commentaries

- Organized by set in the Reference Collection (first-floor)
- Organized by book of the Bible in the circulating collection (3rd-floor Religion Room)

Taking Notes Verse-By-Verse:

It is important to take notes while you read. Doing this **will help you avoid problems with plagiarism**. As you take notes, start with one source, such as a commentary, and read the section that discusses the verses in your passage.

A note card system is perfect for exegesis research because note cards provide enough space for you to record necessary information and are easy to organize later.

Things to Do:

1. Start with one source, take notes on all of the information
2. Be sure to take notes on special attributes or information about your verses
3. Once you are finished with the first source, repeat process with the second source, third source and so on until you have sufficient data on each verse
4. Organize your notes, verse by verse
5. Now you're ready to begin writing!

Sample Note Card:

Verse Reference	Author's Last Name	
v.10	Nolland	p.875
- reader comes with positive look on pharisees & negative view on tax collectors		Page Number
paraphrase		
Use this space to write your note from the source. Include only one major note per card.		Write if the note is a summary , paraphrase , or quote . This will help you correctly cite your sources when you write your paper.

Questions to Guide Your Verse-By-Verse Analysis

These questions will help you identify some of the information that you should be looking for when you are creating your verse-by-verse analysis. Remember: *Not every source will give you all of the necessary information. Use multiple sources to find as much as you can about each verse.*

Word Choices and Style

- Is the Biblical author emphasizing a particular word?
- Is the way the Biblical author phrases his sentences unique?
- Is the Biblical author's writing sarcastic? Encouraging? Other rhetorical strategy?

Cultural and Historical References

- Does the Biblical author refer to any cultural practices? What does he say about them?
- Does the Biblical writer refer to any other writings that the original readers would have read?
- Are there any unusual teachings being introduced to the audience?
- Does the passage refer to any historical events that the reader would have been aware of?
- Does the Biblical writer refer to his personal life or previous/upcoming interactions with the original readers?

Similarities and Differences Between Other Verses and Other Manuscripts

- Does the Biblical scholar point out any parallel verses (in theme or structure)?
- Does the Biblical scholar note other verses that emphasize the same idea or a contrasting thought.

Significance to the Passage

- Is the verse positioned as the climax of a section or passage?
- Does it present a significant idea or provide a foundation for one?
- Does the verse explain the meaning of other verses? Does it apply the meaning of another verse to life?

Sample MLA Style for a commentary (treat it as part of a collection):

Bruce, F. F. "The Book of Acts." rev. ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Ed. Gordon D. Fee. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. 115-118.

Sources Used: Use consistent citation style for all of the sources that you have used for your verse-by-verse analysis. That way, you won't forget what sources your note cards are referring to.

Source: _____

Source: _____

Source: _____

Source: _____
