

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:

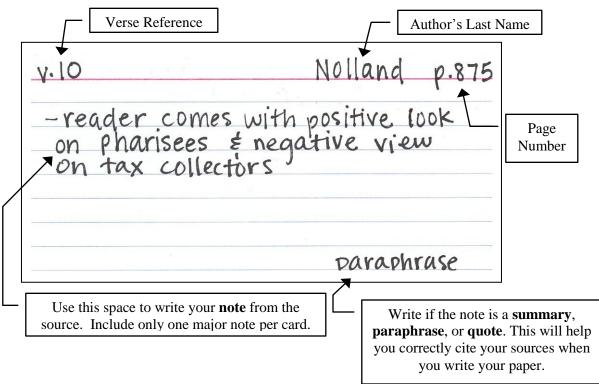
It is important to take notes while you read. Doing this **will help you avoid problems with plagiarism**. As you take notes, start with one source, such as a commentary, and read the section that discusses the verses in your passage.

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:



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Cultural and Historical References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. <u>New International Commentary on the New Testament</u>. 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:			