

# How to Find a Scriptural Reference

- The Bible is composed of books.
- Each book is composed of chapters.
- Each chapter is composed of verses.

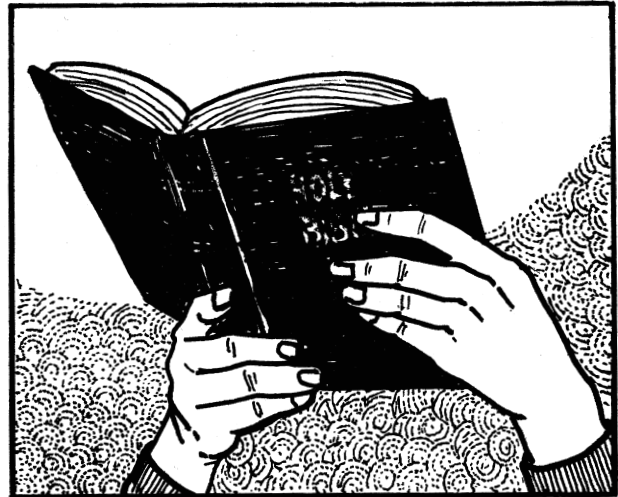
A scriptural reference provides all the information you need to find a particular passage. Take, for example, the reference **Genesis 1:31**.

- The name of the book comes first. Here the name is Genesis (often abbreviated Gen.).
- The chapter number appears directly after the name of the book. The example gives the number 1, meaning chapter 1.
- The last number, separated from the chapter number by a colon, indicates the verse. The example refers to verse 31. (In some versions of the Bible, a comma, rather than a colon, separates the verse number from the chapter number.)

Look up **Gen. 1:31**. What does it say? Write it down on a separate piece of paper.

Scriptural references generally contain more detailed information. Here are some examples:

- Gen. 1:1–8 means Genesis, chapter 1, verses 1 through 8.
- Gen. 1:3,6,9 means Genesis, chapter 1, verses 3, 6, and 9. (Notice the comma between separate verses from the same chapter.)
- Gen. 2:8–10,18–25 means Genesis, chapter 2, verses 8 through 10 and verses 18 through 25.
- Gen. 1–3 means Genesis, chapters 1 through 3. (For clarity, your textbook does not use dashes between chapter numbers in scriptural references. In your book, Gen. 1–3 would be written Genesis 1:1–31; 2:1–25; 3:1–24, listing all the verses. But you will encounter dashes in your Bible's footnotes and in future scriptural study.)
- Gen. 1:31–2:3 means Genesis, chapter 1, verse 31, through chapter 2, verse 3.



- Distinct references to different chapters are separated by a semicolon. Gen. 1; 3 means Genesis, chapters 1 and 3 (but not chapter 2). Similarly, Gen. 2:4–7,14; 3:1–3,8 means Genesis, chapter 2, verses 4 through 7 and verse 14, then chapter 3, verses 1 through 3 and verse 8.
- A long verse may be broken up into parts. To designate the first part of a verse, the letter *a* is used; for the second part of the verse, *b* is used. Gen. 1:9a means Genesis, chapter 1, the first part of verse 9.
- Some books of the Bible share the same name. For instance, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel mean “the First Book of Samuel” and “the Second Book of Samuel.” (Sometimes these are written I Samuel and II Samuel.) Notice that the number of the book comes before the name of the book. So 2 Sam. 1:11–12 means the Second Book of Samuel, chapter 1, verses 11 through 12.

Look up **Exod. 5:22–6:1,11; 7:6**. What does it say? Write it down on a separate piece of paper.

## Matching

In your Bible look up each scriptural reference from the left-hand column. Then match the reference with its summary on the right, writing the letter of the summary in the blank next to the reference.

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|---------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Ruth 1:16–18       | a. Jerusalem’s destruction                    |
| ___ 2. Dan. 3:13–24       | b. a pledge to stay with Naomi                |
| ___ 3. Josh. 3:14–17      | c. the anointing of Saul, Israel’s first king |
| ___ 4. Prov. 28:15        | d. choosing life                              |
| ___ 5. Gen. 12:1–3        | e. how to build an ark                        |
| ___ 6. Ps. 51:3–4         | f. the Ten Commandments                       |
| ___ 7. Exod. 11:4–7       | g. the fate of Egypt’s firstborn              |
| ___ 8. 1 Sam. 9:26b—10:1a | h. a wicked ruler                             |
| ___ 9. Deut. 30:15,19b    | i. the prayer of a guilty person              |
| ___ 10. Eccles. 3:1–8     | j. crossing the Jordan River                  |
| ___ 11. Gen. 6:14–16      | k. thirsting for God                          |
| ___ 12. Ps. 63:2–4        | l. a time for everything                      |
| ___ 13. Exod. 20:1–17     | m. Abram’s call to a new land                 |
| ___ 14. Jer. 52:12–14     | n. fidelity in a fiery furnace                |