

How to Find a Scriptural Reference

Name: _____

Read the following information and follow the instructions:

- 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 than just one chapter and one verse. 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.
- **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. **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. instructions for building 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. thirst 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. faithfulness in a fiery furnace |

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