How to Cite the Bible

MLA In-Text Citation

♦ When creating the first parenthetical citation, cite the translation (italicize), book, chapter, and verse. **Ex.:** "Here am I. Send me!" (*New International Version*, Isaiah 6:8b).

♦ In the following citations you only need the book, chapter, and verse in the parentheses. **Ex.:** "And he said, 'Go and tell this people'"... (Isaiah 6:9a).

MLA Works Cited

♦ Italicize The Bible, then write the version used, the publishing company, and the date.
Physical Bible:

♦ *The ESV Study Bible.* Crossway, 2012.
Electronic Bible:

♦ *New International Version. Bible Gateway,* https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/#booklist. Accessed 10 September 2020.
Bible App:

♦ *English Standard Version. ESV Bible,* app version 4.1.1. Crossway. 2021.

MLA Source:
libguides.liberty.edu

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APA In-Text Citation

♦ For the first parenthetical citation, write the version of the Bible, the year it was released, the **book**, **chapter**, **verse**. **DO NOT** abbreviate the book. **Ex.:** "Here am I. Send me!" (*New International Version*, 2002, Isaiah 6:8b).

♦ You can also place the translation directly into your sentence. **Ex.:** In Isaiah 6:8b (*New International Version*, 2002), Isaiah says, "Here am I. Send me!"
If you do this option, you do not need to include a parenthetical citation of the book/chapter/verse.

♦ In the rest of your citations, you only need to include the book, chapter, and verse. It is assumed you are using the same translation. If you switch translations, include the translation and use the formatting from the first step.

APA Reference Page

♦ Italicize The Bible, then write the version used, the date, then the publishing company.
Physical Bible:

♦ *The ESV Study Bible.* (2012). Crossway.
Electronic Bible:

♦ *New International Version.* (2020). BibleGateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/#booklist. Accessed 10 September 2020.
Bible App:

♦ *English Standard Version. ESV Bible,* app version 4.1.1. (2021). Crossway.

APA Source:
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Turabian In-Text Citation

♦ For the first in-text citation, the footnote should be:
Unless otherwise specified, all Bible references in this paper are to the Title of Translation (Abbreviation of Translation) (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication).
Ex. Unless otherwise specified, all Bible references in this paper are to the New American Standard Bible, Updated Version (NASB) (La Habra: Foundation Publications, 1995).

♦ Only cite book, chapter, and verse in following footnotes unless you switch versions.

♦ At times, a biblical reference will flow naturally into the text of the paper (if this happens, you do not need a footnote):
1 Thessalonians 5:24 states, "The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

♦ When that approach does not work, you should quote the text and cite with a footnote.

Turabian Source:
Midwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary Style Manual, pages 38-39

Turabian Bibliography

♦ The Bible is **not** typically cited in bibliographies — only within the text of the paper.