



**NTGK6317 New Testament Advanced Greek
Exegesis: James (Online Fall 2019)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division**

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Seminary Mission Statement

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary mission is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

Core Values

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The core value for NOBTS this year is Spiritual Vitality.

Key Competency

The seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

Catalogue Description of the Course

An advanced course considering text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis in a variety of genres. The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying the text in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat the course for non-reduplicating books.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Biblical hermeneutics; Exploring the New Testament; Introduction to Greek Grammar; and Intermediate Greek Grammar.

Student Learning Objectives

This course will consist of a thorough study of every verse in the Greek New Testament. Consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and interaction with the major literature and commentaries will be conducted. The student will translate the passages considering morphology, syntax, diagramming, and exegesis. The course will emphasize proper methods for utilizing the information discovered through exegesis to make application to teaching and preaching the text of the New Testament.

Student Learning Objectives

To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Apply Greek vocabulary recognition and grammatical and syntactical analysis for translation and interpretation to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.
2. Value working with the original Greek language.
3. Exegete the New Testament with the help of resources.
4. Translate the Greek text of the New Testament.

Knowledge (cognitive)

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know more thoroughly the significance of Greek grammar for translation of the James
- Increase knowledge of the basic methods of studying Greek grammar that will contribute to a regular application of Greek grammar in teaching and preaching of James
- Solidify knowledge of basic principles of Greek grammar that lead interpreters to discover the meaning intended by the biblical author
- Master the major areas of Greek morphology, especially regarding both verb and noun systems, including so-called “irregular” verbs
- Increase vocabulary acquisition to words occurring 15 or more times in the New Testament to facilitate reading and use of the Greek New Testament
- Understand more thoroughly the major theories and the basic principles dealing with issues of translation of James
- Understand syntactical issues as they relate to the exegesis of James
- Learn the basic principles of textual criticism to understand the textual variants in James

Attitudes (affective)

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the richness of the Greek language
- Recognize the importance of original language for sound exegesis in James

- Be more confident in interpreting the biblical text of James

Skills (psychomotor)

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Increase skills for translating New Testament Greek
- Increase his/her understanding and grasp more deeply grammatical issues in translation that affect an understanding of the biblical text James for preaching and teaching

Required Texts

Class Textbooks

Blomberg, L. Craig and Kamell, Mariam J., *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: James*, Clinton E. Arnold, Gen. ed., Zondervan, 2008.

This commentary phrases the text in English and will be very helpful for the student in phrasing the exercises in the class workbook.

Dauids, Peter H. *The Epistle of James*, in *The New International Greek Testament Commentary*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Martin, Ralph P. *James*, *Word Biblical Commentary*. Vol. 48, gen. eds. David A. Hubbard, Glenn W. Barker. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1988.

Price, Craig. *Biblical Exegesis of New Testament Greek: James*. Eugene, OR: 2008.

Greek Text

United Bible Society's 5th rev. ed. of the *Greek New Testament with Dictionary*.

OR

Nomum Testamentum Graece, 28th ed. (NA 28), ed. Barbara and Kurt Aland.

Recommended Texts

Lexical

Danker, Frederick William. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2000.

This lexicon is the current standard for Greek studies. It is thorough and extremely helpful for the student. Most Greek software packages offer it as an add-on resource. It is very helpful and should be in every serious Greek student's library.

Text Critical

Metzger, Bruce M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. New York: American Bible Society, 1994.

This little commentary is expensive, but details Metzger's decisions for selecting many of the variant readings found in the Greek text. This book will assist you in answering many of the questions in the class workbook.

Greek Grammars

Mounce, W. D. *Basics of Biblical Greek*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

A standard among Greek grammars. Now in its third edition, this work is used for most college and seminary introductory Greek courses. This work is a great edition for every serious Greek student's library. The book is inductive in approach to learning Greek.

Stevens, Gerald L. *New Testament Greek Primer*, 2nd ed. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2007.

This Greek grammar is published by NOBTS Greek guru, Dr. Jerry Stevens. The grammar is deductive in approach and is loaded with detailed information for using the Greek language. The exercises are systematically keyed for programmed learning of the language. It is a very helpful resource for serious Greek students.

_____. *New Testament Greek Intermediate*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008.

This intermediate grammar extends the process of the Primer above. This is also very helpful for Greek studies and should be in your library.

Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax: An Intermediate Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Wallace's grammar is now a standard in the field. Although it does not replace Robertson's grammar, it is a working grammar that you will use regularly in advanced Greek studies. This is a must have for every serious Greek student's library.

Schedule and Assignments

The student will be expected to complete the lessons in the textbook each week during the semester. Read the appropriate sections of the class required commentary for the portion of Scripture covered in that week's lesson.

(Note: Entry to your Blackboard Class Shell is restricted until your account has been cleared by the Business Office. Once cleared, the Business Office notifies the Information Technology Center and they place your name in the Blackboard class shell)

For purposes of this course, each week will begin on Sunday (except for the first week) and end on Saturday (except for the last week). **Application exercises are due in the Lesson Assignment Upload by each Saturday night for on-time work**

Week 1 Lesson 1	Aug 19-24
Week 2 Lesson 2	Aug 25- Aug 31
Week 3 Lesson 3	Sept 1-7

Week 4 Lesson 4	Sept 8–14	*Background Paper Due Saturday
Week 5 Lesson 5	Sept 15-21	
Week 6 Lesson 6	Sept 22-28	
Week 7 Lesson 7	Sept 29- Oct 5	
Week 8 Lesson 8	Oct 6-12	

Fall Break Oct 13-19 (we recommend you use this week to work ahead)

Week 9 Lesson 9	Oct 20-26
Week 10 Lesson 10	Oct 27-Nov 2
Week 11 Lesson 11	Nov 3-9
Week 12 Lesson 12	Nov 10-16
Week 13 Lesson 13	Nov 17-23

Thanksgiving Break Week

Week 14 Lessons 14-15	Dec 1-7	
Finals Week	Dec 8-12	Exegesis Paper Due Thursday Dec 12 by 11:59 PM Central Time (you lose access to the shell at this time)
Graduation	Saturday, Dec 14	

Exegesis Paper Due: Dec 12 (online in the assignment box; or if mailed, postmarked this date)

Attention Graduates!!

If you are planning to graduate this semester, please let our office know via email or phone prior to the last day of class. This will enable us to have your work graded and grades turned in to the Registrar before their deadline for graduating seniors.

Grading Percentages

Grades will follow the Graduate School Catalog grading scale. See below for instructions on submitting all projects for grading. Grades will be based upon the following break-down:

Greek Workbook & Parsing Lessons (weekly)	40%
Background Paper	20%
Exegesis Paper	40%

1) Greek Workbook Lessons 40%: Due Date: Weekly Uploads

The weekly lessons are in the class textbook authored by Dr. Price. The phrasing and sermon outline portions may be hand written into the workbook OR the student may download the Greek text from Blackboard. We recommend that the student download the Greek text from your Bible language software and cut and paste the passages for phrasing each lesson. The student will discover that working with the text in a word processor is easier. These sheets are then easily inserted into the student’s Workbook along with the

sermon outline for each lesson. Convert your work to PDF before submitting them into Bb. Bb often changes formatting of Word docs.

We recommend that you check your work by consulting Blomberg's Zondervan Exegetical Commentary where he phrases the passage in English. You will phrase the passage in Greek for this course, but the English phrasing will help you learn the technique.

2) Background Paper 20%

Due Date: Sept 14

This paper is to be **5-7 pages of single spaced** using Turabian or SBL style. The page requirement does not include bibliography and frontal pages. The bibliography is to contain a minimum of **6 sources**. Include the required texts for the course and four other critical type commentaries that deal with the Greek text. The use of devotional type commentaries may be used in the application exercises, but a minimum of six critical commentaries must be utilized. Convert your work to PDF before submitting them into Bb. Bb often changes formatting of Word docs.

3) Exegesis Paper 40%

Due Date: Dec 12

The student will write a paper on a selected passage of his/her choosing. The passage will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. This section will be **8-15 pages** of text, **single spaced** and footnoted to Turabian or SBL style. The page requirement excludes bibliography and frontal pages. The bibliography is to contain a minimum of **8 sources**, using commentaries that focus on grammar, language, and syntactical issues (see the detailed description below). *Convert your work to PDF* before submitting them into Bb. Bb often changes formatting of Word docs.

Guidelines for Writing Class Papers

1. Background Paper

The student will write a historical background paper on James. This information is contained in the front matter of most commentaries, NT introductory texts, and other reference materials. Be sure to include all the information in this guide. The historical background study will include the following:

- 1) background information on James
- 2) information on the setting, authorship, readership, James' connection to his readers, date and place of his writing of the letter, etc.
- 3) information on the critical issues of the letter; and
- 4) a discussion of the theological issues covered in the letter.

Outside sources (such as Bible commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or histories) *should* be used here.

2. Exegesis Paper

The exegesis paper is a thorough exegetical study that is to follow the guidelines below. The order of the first chapter is exactly as follows, each section about one to two, single-spaced pages in length, except as noted:

- a. Text. Write out your translation of the passage chosen, *single-spaced*, including verse numbers *and* indications of your own paragraph divisions. Make footnote reference to problematic words, syntax, or textual variants.
- b. Phrasing and Sermon Outline of the text. Phrase your passage based upon Mounce's principles presented in the class and workbook. From your phrasing, construct a sermon or teaching outline which reflects your phrasing. Phrasing instructions are included in Dr. Price's workbook.
- c. Literary Context. (1) Discuss the *placement* of the passage in its immediate and larger contexts within the book, and (2) justify the paragraph divisions you have provided above. Look for clues in the immediately preceding and following contexts (the surrounding paragraphs and chapters) that show how the passage you are considering fits into its context (i.e., why it is where it is).
- d. Paragraph Analysis. Identify the theme of each paragraph in one sentence per paragraph. This may be a key sentence taken directly from the text *or* a statement in your own words of the paragraph's theme. Justify your judgment in each case (i.e., give your reasons for it).
- e. Verse Analysis. Comment here on important features of individual verses. (In a longer passage, focus on each paragraph instead of each verse.) *Do not* merely summarize each verse (or paragraph) or re-state the obvious. *Do* comment on the flow of the argument or story-line from verse to verse (or paragraph to paragraph), including commenting upon why certain things may be stated in the way that they are, why certain statements are included where they are, why there may be omissions of expected materials, etc. Comment as needed on important theological words or ideas. Notice where else in the book or in other Biblical books certain words or ideas are found. You may use concordances or theological wordbooks here, including any cross-referencing guide you like (such as that found within most Bibles themselves).
- f. Theme. Provide a one-sentence statement of the theme of the entire text (i.e., what is the author's main point in this section?). This should be based upon the various stages of your detailed analysis above, especially building upon

your statements of theme for each paragraph. Please explain the basis of your decision.

- g. Word Study. Select a minimum of (3) three key words from your passage. Once you have determined these, perform a diachronic analysis and a synchronic analysis on each word. The *diachronic analysis* involves the etymologic and historic discussion of the use of the word through time. The *synchronic analysis* involves the contemporary and contextual analysis of the word within the New Testament. (see below)
- h. Outline. Write an “exegetical” (“historical”) outline of the text, reflecting the theme. Base your outline upon your phrasing of the passage. Express this outline using *past tense* statements.
- i. Commentary Comparison. Include here any additional essential insights gleaned from five exegetical commentaries.

Examples of publications *not* acceptable for the exegesis paper are preacher’s sermons, “notes” included with individual Bible translations, or devotional materials, such as Matthew Henry, Maclaren’s, Charles Swindol, John MacArthur, Pulpit Commentary, NIV Application Bible, The Bible Speaks Today series, etc.

Examples of works acceptable for this part of the chapter would be Anchor Bible Commentary, Harper’s (or Black’s) New Testament Commentaries, The New Testament Commentary, New International Biblical Commentary, New Century Bible Commentary, Pillar New Testament Commentaries, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Word Biblical Commentary.

At the end of this stage, the student should have gathered all the essential knowledge from the text and be ready to begin the task of constructing a sermon or a teaching lesson for the third paper.

Submission of the Papers

Submit your papers in the Assignment Uploads located in your Bb main menu. Include your Name in your file title with an identifying name like 'Price-James Background Paper', 'Price-James Exegesis Paper,' etc. This will help us keep track of your files on our computers when we download them to grade them. Corrections will be made and the papers will be sent back to you.

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Professor’s Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. The grade for late

assignments may be reduced by 5% per day late.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew. If you are on campus, you can go by the Write Stuff Office in the Student Center for "in person" assistance.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Application Exercises, or any other course requirement.

Classroom Parameters (if applicable)

Please arrive on time.

Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, Self-Serve, or other technical support, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance.

- Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
- For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#)
- On-Line Resources: <http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/general-resources-and-databases.html>

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Application Exercises or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Catalog Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Web-based Course Reminder/Warning

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Recommended Computer Software

The student is strongly encouraged to purchase Bible software for his/her use in biblical exegesis. At this level of study, a software program capable of producing the text, performing sophisticated morphological searches, with available lexicons, commentaries, and other helpful supplemental works is an absolute necessity. The software packages listed below are capable of intense, complex searches required for biblical studies research purposes and/or sermon preparation. The purchase of this kind of software is indispensable at this level of language study. The major software packages all run on either PC or Mac platforms.

Accordance offers various collections with many other add-on texts available and they offer student discounts. We recommend that Biblical Studies students purchase the level that includes the Greek and Hebrew texts. Compare their collections by going to their website. Call their customer service for questions and student discounts. (accordancebible.com)

BibleWorks (bibleworks.com) provides discounts for our students when purchased in bulk orders (see your professor for more information). BibleWorks costs about \$350 for their basic software program which includes many supplemental works. Ordered in bundles of 10 or more, the price is reduced to \$250 for NOBTS seminary students. Bulk orders are placed through the local NOBTS LifeWay Store. Call their customer service for questions and student discounts. (bibleworks.com)

Logos 7.0 is offered at varied package prices, but we recommend that you consider a minimum of the Bronze Level package that has the Greek and Hebrew texts for NOBTS language courses. NOBTS offers a training course called PREA6230/6330 Technological Applications for Bible Study and Preaching. Students who take this course may purchase the software at a 30% discount. Current NOBTS students who purchase the software directly from Logos receive a 20% discount. Call their customer service for questions and student discounts. (logos.com)

GUIDE TO WRITING A BACKGROUND STUDY FOR BIBLICAL EXEGESIS PAPERS: This Guide Is Used in NOBTS Hermeneutics Courses

1. Research the broader or general historical context/background.

Technique: Study the general world setting and historical context or developments that create the background for your text.

New Testament. The background for the NT extends from at least 400 BC to 4 BC, that is, the intertestamental period. Potential topics would include the return from exile (Persians, Cyrus), the reformation of the Jewish nation politically and religiously (Nehemiah, Ezra), the impact of world empires (Greeks, Romans), the changing regional powers (Egypt and the Ptolemies, Syria and the Seleucids), Hellenization, Maccabean Revolt, Hasmonean Dynasty, Herod the Great. Also, one would want to follow changes in Judaism, including literature, groups, and movements. Begin with general resources, such as Ferguson or Russell.

Basically, for this step one should read the text asking historical questions. For example, if the text mentions Herod, ask, who is he? What power does he represent? When did he live? How is he connected to Israel's history? Or again, if the text mentions Sadducees, ask, who are they? What do they do? Be curious: why are Sadducees never mentioned in the Old Testament? Thus, one might want to ask, where do they come from? If they seem to have some type of power or to function

politically, ask, whom do they represent? What is their base of power?

2. Research the immediate historical context/background of the book that contains your passage.

Technique: Study the composition of the document containing the text in question, asking questions such as authorship, date, and audience.

New Testament. First, ask specific *historical* questions about the book that contains your passage. The most immediate questions are those of authorship, recipients, date, and occasion. Second, ask *literary* questions about this book. For example, what is the genre of the material? How does this genre affect the way the material is written? Where does your specific passage come in the order of the book? Use the same resources for this step as for OT: dictionaries, encyclopedias, introductions, and comprehensive commentaries.

3. Research the specific social and cultural features within the text that affect your passage.

Technique: Study the specific social and cultural issues within the text in question that impact the original setting as determined in Step 2 above.

New Testament. Ask specific *social* and *cultural* questions. The most immediate sociological questions are those of honor/shame, patronage, and dyadic personality. Cultural questions relate to way of life, daily living, economy, work, and family. Ask, what ancient customs and practices enlighten our understanding of a text? For example, what were Jewish marriage customs of the first century that set the context for Joseph's relationship with Mary? What clothing styles are behind the image "gird up the loins of your mind" in 1 Pet. 1:13? What was the world of the traveling businessman behind James 4:13? How does the patronage system between the Roman emperor and social elites in Asia Minor affect our understanding of the social pressures brought to bear on the seven churches in Revelation? Use specialized resources, such as Jeremias, Barrett, or Vermes, for example.

HOW TO DO WORD STUDIES

Dr. Craig Price

Step One: Decide Which Word to Study

1. Look for words that are *repeated* by the author
2. Look for *theological* terms
3. Look for words that are *central* to the passage
4. *Compare* your selected word in different English translations

Step Two: Identify the Greek Word Behind the English Word

A. If you are using computer software:

- For PC Microsoft Windows Users:
BibleWorks- fairly inexpensive, but powerful to do word searches
NIV Study Bible- by Zondervan, fairly inexpensive but limited
Logos- library base, language package; very expensive, but excellent
- For Mac users:
Accordance by Oaktree Software
(newer Macs now have a Windows platform to run the programs above)

B. If you are using books:

1. Look up your English word in a concordance

Concordance = lists all English words & gives references

Exhaustive concordance = lists *every* word in the Bible

Partial concordance = many Bibles have an abbreviated listing in the back

Note: You must use a concordance that matches the English translation you are using. Here are some examples:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance- lists every English word in KJV translation;
REF BS 425 S776 2001

NIV Exhaustive Concordance- lists every English word from the NIV translation

NASB Exhaustive Concordance lists every English word from the NASB translation

Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament- lists every place the Greek word behind your English word is used in the NT and then gives you the English translation! REF BS 2302 K646 1997

2. Locate the verse you are studying in the concordance

3. Find the reference number for your English word in that reference

4. Locate your reference number in the dictionary of your concordance

Note *Strong's* has one set of numbers for Hebrew (OT) and another for Greek (NT)

5. Read and record the definitions of your English word in the Hebrew or Greek dictionary provided in *Strong's* dictionary

Now you can locate the Hebrew or Greek word behind any English word without knowing the the biblical language!

Step Three: Determine the Range of Meaning for Your Word

Semantic Range: Different possibilities of meanings for a word

The semantic range gives the entire range of possible meanings for a particular word. Look at all the different definitions in your *Strong's* dictionary to get an idea of the range of

meanings for your word. Check different translations of your verse to get a feel for the ways your word might be used.

You can also look at your English word in Hebrew (OT) or Greek (NT) and look it up in a lexicon (dictionary).

Etymology: History of how a word was used:

Diachronic (through time)

This is a word's origin and developmental history. Words change in meaning over time and in different contexts. Etymology of a word may have nothing to do with the word's usage in a particular passage. Avoid the "root fallacy," which assumes the basic root meaning is the same in every context.

Contextual usage of the word: How the word is used by your writer/book:

Synchronic (within time)

Determine the use of your word in the immediate context of your passage, the usage in the larger context of the book, and how it is used in the genre you are studying. For example, "fear" takes on a different flavor when used in Wisdom literature.

Step Four: Decide What the Word Means in Your Verse

Now you are ready to write the word study in your paper/sermon based upon your research.

New Testament Word Study Resources

New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology (4 vols.) has several indices for looking up words (user-friendly)

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (10 vols.) has extensive research into meaning, background, and usage in OT, NT, and Apocrypha. Several indices in vol. 10 to locate word in other volumes (somewhat user-friendly)

Theological Lexicon of the New Testament requires reader to locate word in Greek alphabetically. (Not user-friendly)

Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament (3 vols.) has index in volume 3 to help locate words (user-friendly)

Robertson's Word Pictures (6 vols.) is set up by biblical book, chapter, and verse; it does not assume the reader has knowledge of Greek and gives the part of speech and definition of the word in the context of the NT book (user friendly)

Recommended Computer Software

The student is strongly encouraged to purchase Bible software for his/her use in biblical exegesis. At this level of study, a software program capable of producing the text, performing sophisticated morphological searches, with available lexicons, commentaries, and other helpful supplemental works is an absolute necessity. The software packages listed

below are capable of intense, complex searches required for biblical studies research purposes and/or sermon preparation. The purchase of this kind of software is indispensable at this level of language study. The major software packages all run on either PC or Mac platforms.

Accordance offers the Original Languages Package starting around \$300 with many other add-on texts available and they offer student discounts. Accordance has a PC emulator as well. Responses have been varied on this emulator. Call their customer service for questions and student discounts. (accordancebible.com)

BibleWorks (bibleworks.com) provides discounts for our students when purchased in bulk orders (see your professor for more information). BibleWorks costs about \$350 for their basic software program which includes many supplemental works. Ordered in bundles of 10 or more, the price is reduced to \$250 for NOBTS seminary students. Bulk orders are placed through the local NOBTS LifeWay Store. Call their customer service for questions and student discounts. (bibleworks.com)

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR JAMES

Bibliography Helps

www.Denverseminary.edu has an annually updated bibliography for both OT and NT located in their Library section of their website.

www.bestcommentaries.com is another great website for finding commentaries.

Annotated Biblio from David Nystrom, *NIV Application Commentary: James*

James B. Adamson. *The Epistle of James*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. Adamson studied under both C. H. Dodd and C. F. D. Moule, and his commentary reflects the careful study expected of one with this pedigree. Adamson argues that the style, content, and structure of the letter reflect the teaching of Jesus as transmitted through James, his brother. The letter betrays not only the environment of Palestine, but also “the home bond between James and Jesus.” This is a good commentary, but is beginning to feel dated.

Peter H. Davids. *The Epistle of James: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NICGT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. This is a stimulating commentary, bristling with insights, particularly concerning the Jewish backgrounds relative to the thought of James. Davids argues that the letter reflects the conditions of Palestine before the Jewish War of A.D. 66-70. It was composed of homilies and maxims that originated with James, the brother of Jesus. He is less certain than most that James is trying to combat a Pauline or misunderstood Pauline position. Davids sees the letter organized around three great themes introduced in the double opening: rich and poor; tongue and speech; trials and wealth. While there is much to commend this view, we must admit that much of what Davids claims relates to the tongue in 3:1-4:12 is of a far more varied nature. Nonetheless, this is a splendid commentary.

Peter H. Davids. *James*. Good News Commentary. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983. A shorter, more popular commentary than his 1982 publication. Given its limitations, it is a fine work; if only one of Davids' commentaries can be chosen, the other is preferable.

D. E. Hiebert. *The Epistle of James: Tests of a Living Faith*. Chicago: Moody, 1979. Hiebert's fine commentary is intended for the student who does not know Greek but who is nonetheless serious. Hiebert sees James's chief emphasis as the testing of faith. He argues that the letter was written by James, the brother of Jesus, about A.D. 46.

Sophie Laws. *The Epistle of James*. Black's New Testament Commentaries. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1980. While hardly brief (273 pages), this spare commentary conveys an enormous amount of helpful information and observations with a minimum of extraneous material. Laws argues for a relatively late date and pseudonymous authorship. She believes the letter was written from Rome and is reacting to a misunderstood Pauline position on the matter of faith and deeds. Laws provides no outline for the letter, following Dibelius in seeing it as a collection of ill-fitting Lessons of material. She does argue for a theological basis upon which its rigorous ethical teaching rests, and sees a chief contrast between the doubleness of human beings and the singleness of God. In general this is an insightful and fair-minded resource.

Ralph P. Martin, *James*. WBC. Waco, Tex.: Word, 1988. This commentary from a distinguished scholar and former professor at Fuller Theological Seminary is richly knowledgeable and luxuriantly detailed. Martin is taken with the theory that James represents a tension involving the poor (with whom he has great sympathy) and the rich (whom he condemns); but James does not go far as to embrace the violent revolutionary plans of the Zealots. Martin has surveyed all of the relevant material and offers the benefit of his shrewd and balanced judgment. This is a first-class commentary.

C. L. Mitton. *The Epistle of James*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966. This dated commentary is nonetheless able to yield worthwhile observations. Mitton points out

that James has been subjected to dismissive treatment and seeks to rehabilitate the letter. He does so by pointing out connections between the teaching of James and that of Jesus, Paul, and even John. He also believes that the letter was written by James, the brother of Jesus, and for the benefit of Jewish Christian visitors to Jerusalem. Like others who wish to be responsible for the evidence in James that supports an early composition as well as that which supports a late composition, Mitton argues for a two-stage development.

J. A. Motyer. *The Message of James: The Test of Faith*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1985. Motyer offers the intriguing observation that the control of the tongue is introduced in 1:26 and then expanded in 3:1-12, and the care of the needy is introduced in 1:27 and then expanded in 2:1-26, thus forming a chiasmic structure. This is a serviceable commentary, but one that places too much emphasis on the role of biological metaphors in James.

Craig Price. *Biblical Exegesis of New Testament Greek: James*. A workbook designed to help students review their introductory Greek skills in an inductive approach. Students will also learn grammatical and exegetical concepts through an inductive approach in each lesson. Students will perform phrasing on the text and formulate outlines for sermons and teaching purposes.

Douglas J. Moo. *The Letter of James: An Introduction and Commentary*. TNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. This is a brief but helpful commentary based on the NIV text. Moo teaches at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

J. H. Ropes. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle of St. James*. ICC. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1916. This commentary remains a good resource for investigations of the Greek text of James. Commentary on the argument and thematic content of James, already sparse, is now out of date. Ropes argues for late pseudonymous authorship.

E. M. Sidebottom. *James, Jude, 2 Peter*. NCBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. This commentary by a well-known scholar takes the position that James was written in the context of the flood tide of Pauline Christianity. Sidebottom argues that James, the brother of Jesus, is responsible for the letter, and that it was written in the decade before the Jewish War of A.D. 66-70.

George M. Stulac. *James*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993. This recent effort by the pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis is both fresh and helpful, although it is directed towards those who have not mastered Greek. The series is intended for use in the church by “pastors, Bible teachers, and small group leaders.”

GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

New Testament Background Study

Primary Resources (in English)

Barrett, *The New Testament Background*
Charles, *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*
Danby, *The Mishnah*
Goodenough, *An Introduction to Philo Judaeus*
Hennecke and Schneemelcher, *The New Testament Apocrypha*
Lightfoot, *The Apostolic Fathers*
Robinson, *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*
Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*
Whiston, *Josephus: Complete Works*

Secondary Resources

Achtemeier, *Harper's Bible Dictionary*
Beitzel, *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*
Blaklock and Harrison, *The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archeology*
Bromily, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
Bruce, *New Testament History*
Butler, *Holman Bible Dictionary*
Charlesworth, *Jesus Within Judaism*
Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*
Freedman, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
House, *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*
Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*
Kee, *The New Testament In Context: Sources and Documents*
Reicke, *The New Testament Era*
Russell, *Between the Testaments*
Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*

General Resources

New Testament introductions, commentaries, dictionaries
Various *critical commentaries* could be helpful, especially *introductory material*. A commentator may summarize distinctive ideas of the author being studied in the introductory section. For helpful commentary information, consider suggestions from:
Carson, *New Testament Commentary Survey*; Fee and Stuart, Appendix, *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*, pp. 219–24; Klein, Blomberg, Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, Commentaries, pp. 487–91

Other Resources

Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels, English Edition*
Aune, *The New Testament in Its Literary Environment*
Bailey and Broek, *Literary Forms in the New Testament*
Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*
Carson, Moo, and Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*

Green, McKnight, Marshall, *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*
Hawthorne, Martin, Reid, *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*
Kümmel, *Introduction to the New Testament*
Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*
Polhill, *Paul and His Letters*
Ryken, *Words of Life: A Literary Introduction to the New Testament*
Stein, *The Method and Message of Jesus' Teaching*

Social Resources

Hengel, *Judaism and Hellenism: Studies in Their Encounter in Palestine during the Early Hellenistic Period*
Keener, *Bible Background Commentary*
Malina, *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*
Mathews, *Manners and Customs in the Bible*
Meeks, *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*
Stambaugh and Balch, *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*
Thiessen, *Sociology of Early Palestinian Christianity*
Tidball, *The Social Context of the New Testament: A Sociological Analysis*

How Can I Learn Time Management?

1. Use a personal calendar

As simple as this may sound, many ministers have not mastered the use of their calendar. Use a paper calendar or electronic calendar of your choice on your phone or computer--but use it! Here is one method for learning how to use your calendar:

- a. Mark your Project Due Date:
Take your syllabus, right now, and mark EVERY assignment due date. Simply transfer this step to your professional project due dates as well. Do this immediately when you receive a due date of *any kind*.
- b. Calculate your Project Start Date:
Give consideration to how long you think the assignment/project will *realistically* take to complete and 'back up' on your calendar that amount of time.
- c. Add about 10-15% more time to allow for foreseen events that *always* come up:
In ministry, unforeseen events *always* occur. Learn to build in a *time cushion* that will absorb these events and keep your project on track.
- d. Mark the adjusted, calculation for the *Project Start Date* on your calendar.
- e. Discipline yourself to start the project on your calculated date.
This is the most critical and difficult part of time management. Discipline yourself to start on the timetable you set for yourself.
- f. Adjust as needed

2. Use a "To Do List"

This is crucial for time management. Once you have your Project Start Dates on the calendar, your To Do List helps you visualize what you need to accomplish this particular day during your busy schedule. This is

3. Look at your calendar first thing as you start your day.

No exceptions! You MUST learn to view your calendar daily. You may miss deadlines and responsibilities if you fail simply to look at your calendar.

4. Prioritize your “To Do List”

Ask God during your morning prayers to help you prioritize and accomplish your tasks to His glory!

5. Work down your prioritized list

After step 4, discipline yourself to do each item! Check them off as a small reward for accomplishing each task.

6. Carry over unfinished items to the next day’s “To Do List”

Some days you just cannot get it all done and sometimes God rearranges your day. Be realistic and move unfinished items to the next day.

Mastering calendar use is primarily a self-discipline issue. Once you learn to mark your deadlines and follow your calendar, you will feel a wonderful sense of freedom. You will not miss any deadline in your life. All of your responsibilities will be right in your calendar and all you have to do is follow it. You will also have confidence to know that you will meet all of these deadlines in a professional manner. Much success in your ministry hinges upon three imperatives: “Show up!” “Show up on time!” “Show up prepared!”

Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or need more information than you see here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, contact us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283.

Advising - Graduate	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/student-services/graduate-advising.html
Advising - Undergraduate	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Dean of Students	deansec@nobts.edu	504.282.4455, ext. 3283	www.nobts.edu/dean-of-students
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financial-aid
Gatekeeper	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	www.nobts.edu/gatekeeper
Graduate Dean	graddeanasst@nobts.edu	504.282.4455, ext. 3327	www.nobts.edu/graduate-program/welcome.html
Information Technology	itcsupport@nobts.edu blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu nobts.blackboard.com

Center			
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Guest Housing	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
PREP finances program	Preassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/lmccc
Undergraduate Dean	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504-282-4455, ext. 3366	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women
Writing Center	writingcenter@nobts.edu	504.816.8193	www.nobts.edu/writing

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students