

# Tools for “Cutting It Straight”

There are two ways to take the biblical journey; either **through the experience of another person** or by **personally learning to interpret** (walk through) the Bible yourself.

It is this latter intimate involvement that will make trips through the pages of Scripture unforgettable.

For someone just starting out, I recommend a ‘**starter set**’ containing a basic minimum of tools for cutting it straight. This set includes:

\* **Bible atlas**

Barry Beitzel, *Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, Moody (Starter and Seeker)

\* **Bible dictionary**

*Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, Moody (Starter)

*The New Bible Dictionary*, Eerdmans (Student and Speaker)

\* **English concordance**

*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*

\* **Bible commentary**

J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, Zondervan (Starter)

*Everyman’s Bible Commentary* series, Moody (Student)

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (OT and NT), Victor (Student)

*The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* series, Zondervan (Speaker)

*Focus on the Bible* series, Christian Focus (Starter and Student)

\* **Theology volumes**

Stephen Swihart, *The Victor Bible Source Book*, Victor (Starter)

William Evans, *The Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Moody (Starter and Seeker)

John Walvoord and Lewis S. Chafer, *Major Bible Themes*, Zondervan (Student)

Emory Bancroft, *Christian Theology*, Zondervan (Speaker)

Henry Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, Eerdmans (Speaker)

As more money becomes available or your interest in the Bible grows, you can expand into the ‘**student’s set**.’ It is also possible that some would want to start at this level. This set includes the sort of books in the ‘starter set’ along with these additional volumes:

\* **Topical Bible**

*Nave’s Topical Bible*, Moody (Student)

Harold Monser, *Topical Index and Digest of the Bible*, Baker (Speaker)

\* **Bible encyclopedia**

*The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Zondervan (Student and Speaker)

\* **Bible backgrounds**

James Freeman, *Manners and Customs of the Bible*, Logos (Student)

Fred Wight, *Manners and Customs of Bible Lands*, Moody (Student)

Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Eerdmans (Speaker)

\* **Old Testament word helps**

W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*, Revell (Student)

*Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, Zondervan (Speaker)

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W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Moody (Student)

*Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, Zondervan (Speaker)

*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (abridged addition), Eerdmans (Speaker)

For those of you who want to take your study seriously and use your discoveries beyond a personal level, I recommend the ‘**speaker’s set**’. Most will want to grow into this set, having begun at the starter or student level.

In addition to the volumes recommended for the two previous sets, I would add:

- \* Greek helps
- \* English-Greek concordance
- \* Figure of speech helps
- \* Ethics volumes
- \* Cross-reference helps

Alfred Marshall, *The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*, Zondervan

J. Gresham Machen, *New Testament Greek for Beginners*, Macmillan.

### **Bible Study Software, Online Resources, and Apps**

\* **E-Sword**

\* **Logos Bible Software (desktop software and app)**

\* **Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org and an App)**

*Great resources like inter-linear Bibles, Strongs Concordance, Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (word & category searches), and some commentaries*