

## Research Guide: Bible Background Information

Summit Pacific College, Hudson Memorial Library (<http://www.summitpacific.net>)

Purpose: To locate background historical, geographical and cultural information for the Bible, the Old Testament, the New Testament or on a particular Bible book or books of the Bible.

### A. Biblical Historical, Geographical & Cultural Background:

#### 1. Historical Background

First, locate histories of the Bible by searching in Library World by keywords: BS621; BS[Space]621; BS635; BS[Space]635; Bible archaeology history Biblical events; contemporary events. Then from your hit lists, select resources that appear most relevant for your desired topic.

#### 2. Geographical Background

First, locate geographies and atlases of the Bible by searching in Library World by keywords: BS630 and BS[Space]630. Also, search by keywords: Bible maps; Bible geography. From your hit list select books that include Bible geography or maps and/or resources that are in map format. From the rest of your hits, select resources that appear most relevant for your particular topic.

#### 3. Cultural Background

First, locate cultures of the Bible, that include customs, government and politics, by searching in Library World by keywords: BS670 and BS[Space]670; BS[Space]679; BS635 and BS[Space]635. Then select from your hit lists the desired items. Also, you can search by keywords: Biblical sociology Bible. From your hit lists, select resources that appear most relevant for your desired topic.

### B. Old Testament Historical, Geographical & Cultural Background:

#### 1. Historical Background

Because archeology is a background for history, Old Testament Biblical archaeology is a background for Old Testament Bible history. Search in Library World by keywords: Bible history Biblical events (Note records catalogued BL, BM and BS. Select from those resources that appear to be relevant); Bible history contemporary events. Your hit list includes, e.g. James B. Pritchard (ed.) *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Search by keywords: ref Middle East civilization. Your hit list will include, e.g. Jack M. Sasson's *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. 2 vols. Also, search by keywords: Bible Old Testament history Biblical events; Bible Old Testament history contemporary events; Bible Old Testament archaeology; or, Bible Old Testament archeology; Bible Old Testament archaeology history. From your hit lists, select resources that appear most relevant for your particular topic.

## 2. Geographical Background

First, locate geographies or atlases of the Old Testament by searching Library World by keywords: Bible Old Testament maps; geography; atlas. Also, search by keywords: G2230. From your hit lists, select resources that appear to be most relevant for your desired topic.

## 3. Cultural Background

First, locate cultures of the Old Testament that include customs, government and politics by searching in Library World by keywords: Bible Old Testament Biblical sociology; DS112 or DS[Space]112. From your hit lists, select resources that appear to be most relevant for your particular topic.

### C. New Testament Historical, Geographical & Cultural Background:

#### 1. Historical Background

First, locate histories of the New Testament by searching in Library World by keywords: Bible New Testament history biblical events; Bible New Testament history contemporary events; BS2407; BS[Space]2407; BS2410; BS[Space]2410. From your hit lists, select resources that appear the most relevant for your desired topic.

#### 2. Geographical Background

First, locate geographies or atlases of the New Testament by searching Library World by keywords: Bible New Testament maps; Bible New Testament geography; Bible New Testament atlas. Also, search by keywords: BS630; BS[Space]630; G2230. From you hit lists, select resources that appear most relevant for your particular topic.

#### 3. Cultural Background

First, locate cultures of the New Testament that include customs, government and politics by searching Library World by keywords: Bible New Testament sociology; Bible New Testament sociology biblical; Bible New Testament government; Bible New Testament politics. From your hit list select resources that appear most relevant for your desired topic.

### D. Locating Relevant Resources Online:

Access the ATLA Serials Database through the library's website

Take a look in the Web Resources section of the library under Religion

Take a look in the Starting Places also and look for desired subject areas for your topic on websites that look relevant. Download or print relevant page(s).