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# ***Which Bible is best for me?***

***A guide to buying the perfect bible for you***

## Which Bible is best for me?

A Bible is a very personal thing, and so choosing the right one for you is a very important decision. The Bible is at the heart of Christadelphian beliefs and so we have produced this free guide to help you choose a Bible which will be helpful to you and a pleasure to read. We have a small supply of copies of the main 4 translations of the Bible, but through our ordering service, we can get hold of any of the Bibles listed here.

We hope you find this guide useful and get the most out of your Bible.

NB: Prices correct at time of going to press (Feb 2011). If you have a specific combination of features you would like in your Bible but are not listed here, we will endeavour to find it via our suppliers.

## Different Translations

The original Bible manuscripts were written in Hebrew (the Old Testament) and Greek (the New Testament). Over the years the Bible has been translated into hundreds of different languages with dozens of versions within each language. They all use similar texts, but the way they are translated are subtly different. There are 2 key types of translation:

**Word-for-word** (or literal) versions try to stick closely to the original – better, if we really want to study the Bible. Examples: King James Version, New King James Version, English Standard Version.

**Paraphrases** give us the sense of the message in modern English – fine, if we want the general meaning, but only if the translators' opinions are right. Examples of paraphrases: Good News Bible, Living Bible, Today's New International Version.

## Translational errors

If you translate from one language to another, then some of the subtleties and meaning of words and language will be lost. If you were to use a concordance (which we also sell) this takes each word in English back to its Hebrew and Greek original. From this you can see, for example, that over half a dozen different Hebrew and Greek words have simply been translated as "love" in English. As a result every version of the Bible suffers slightly from the bias of the translator whether it was translated 400 or only a few years ago.

# Bible Features

Bibles feature many aids to help you to study it and learn more. You may want a Bible which has some of these features.

## Centre Margin

The Bible is an incredibly complex and interlinked book. A centre margin lists references to other verses in the Bible which relate to the verse you are reading. E.g. if you are reading about an event in the Gospels which is recorded in two or more of them, then the reference to the other accounts will be listed here. This is very useful for following themes through the entire length of the Bible.



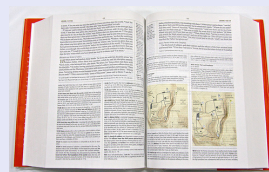
## Wide Margin



A wide margin Bible has wide blank columns on the left and right sides of the columns of texts for you to write your own notes. This is very useful when you are listening to a talk and want to remember a point which the speaker has made.

## Study Bible

If you would rather read someone else's notes than your own, then a study Bible may be more suitable for you. This will often come with a commentary on each book, maps, charts and illustrations.



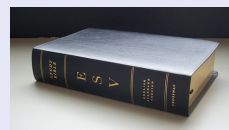
## Thumb Index



The Bible is made up of 66 books some of which are many chapters (such as Isaiah) and others which have only a few (such as Jonah or Philemon). A thumb index is a series of little grooves in the side of the Bible which help you find the books quicker. This is very useful if you are new to reading the Bible and don't really know your way around it too well.

## Leather or Hardback Cover

Many people like to have leather bound Bibles. They are much lighter to carry around and look nicer. Bibles are usually either "bound leather" or "Genuine Leather" (which is softer but more expensive). The advantages of a hardback Bible is that they are cheaper and can be harder wearing; but are heavier.



# King James Version

Date Translated: 1611  
Type of translation: Literal  
Advantages: A traditional Bible in old English which many see as being the definitive version of the Bible.  
Disadvantages: The old English language can make it tricky to understand and there are translation errors of some words.  
Ideal for: People who like their Bibles in a traditional form and who are not put off by the language.  
Bibles available to order:

## First Schofield Study Bible

Code: FS50 (Black Bonded Leather) / FS9BG (Burgundy Genuine Leather)  
Binding: Black Bonded Leather / Burgundy Genuine Leather  
Size: 22.5 x 15.5 cm (9 x 6 in)  
Publisher: World  
References, concordance, index of scriptural themes and of proper names, glossary, topical study section, Schofield's 'Rightly dividing the word of truth', maps, red letter

Bonded Leather £19.99  
Genuine Leather £33.99

## The Companion Bible

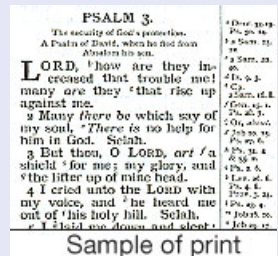
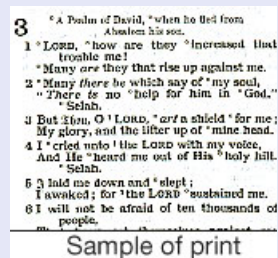
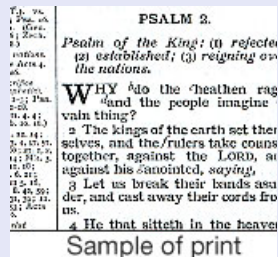
Binding: Burgundy Hardback / Burgundy Bonded Leather  
Size: 24.5 x 16.5 cm (9.75 x 6.5 in)  
Publisher: Kregel  
In-depth study Bible with extensive marginal notes, 198 appendices by Ethelbert Bullinger covering a variety of topics, 10 point type

Hardback £42.50  
Leather £60

## Brevier Reference Bible - Wide Margin

Code: W1794sxy  
Binding: Black Calfskin Leather  
Size: 23.5 x 19.5 cm (9.25 x 7.75 in)  
Publisher: Oxford University Press  
Wide margin, 8/9-point type, references, maps, ruled and unruled writing paper. - The Brevier layout and print is also available without the wide margin

Price: £130.00







# New International Version

- Date Translated: 1973-1984  
 Type of translation: Literal but with some paraphrasing for ease of reading  
 Advantages: The world's most popular version and the easiest and clearest to read.  
 Disadvantages: The NIV and ESV use later manuscripts to the KJV which don't include some verses found in the KJV so some see this as being an "incomplete Bible".  
 Ideal for: People who are new to the Bible or people who just want an easy version to read.

Bibles available to order

## Pocket Reference Bible

Binding: Printed Hardback, with dust jacket  
 Size: 16.5 x 11.5 cm (6.5 x 4.5 in)  
 Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

References, maps

Price: £15.99

## Study Bible - Hardback

Binding: Printed Hardback, with dust jacket  
 Size: 24 x 16.5 cm (9.5 x 6.5 in)  
 Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

References, concordance, extensive study notes, subject and notes indexes, maps, 8/9-point type

Price: £29.99

## Wide Margin Reference Bible

Code: WM380 (Hardback) / WM381 (Imitation Leather) / WM763 (Leather)  
 Binding: Printed Hardback, with dust jacket / Black Hardback Imitation Leather / Black French Morocco Leather  
 Size: 24 x 19 cm (9.5 x 7.5 in) - Hardbacks / 24.5 x 20 cm (9.75 x 7.75 in) - Leather  
 Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Wide margin, references, footnotes, maps, 8/9-point type

Imitation Leather £19.99  
 French Morocco Leather £54.99



## Other Books

### KJV/NIV Parallel Bible

Binding: Printed Hardback

Size: 24.5 x 17 cm (9.5 x 6.75 in)

Publisher: Zondervan

Text only, NIV footnotes, KJV and NIV concordances, 8-point type

Price: £25.95



### Strong's Complete Word Study Concordance

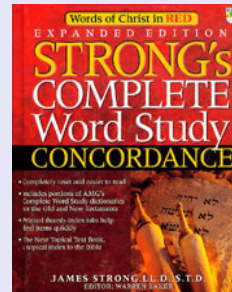
Author: James Strong

Binding: Hardback, 2,421 pages

Publisher: AMG

Comes complete with CD-ROM.

Price: £22.00



### Candle Atlas of the Bible

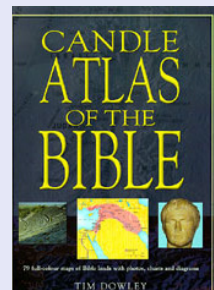
Author: Tim Dowley

Binding: Paperback, 96 pages

Publisher: Candle Books

A completely new Bible Atlas for the Bible reader and student, with 79 full-colour computer-generated original maps of Bible lands.

Price: £6.99



## How to order

To order one of these books simply ask one of our members, or contact us via our web site [OrmskirkChristadelphians.org.uk](http://OrmskirkChristadelphians.org.uk)