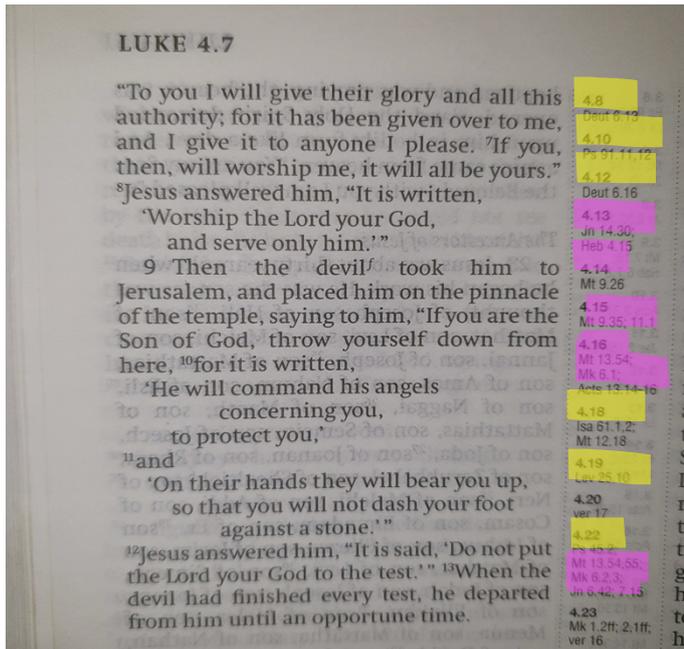


Scripture on Scripture: Bringing to mind



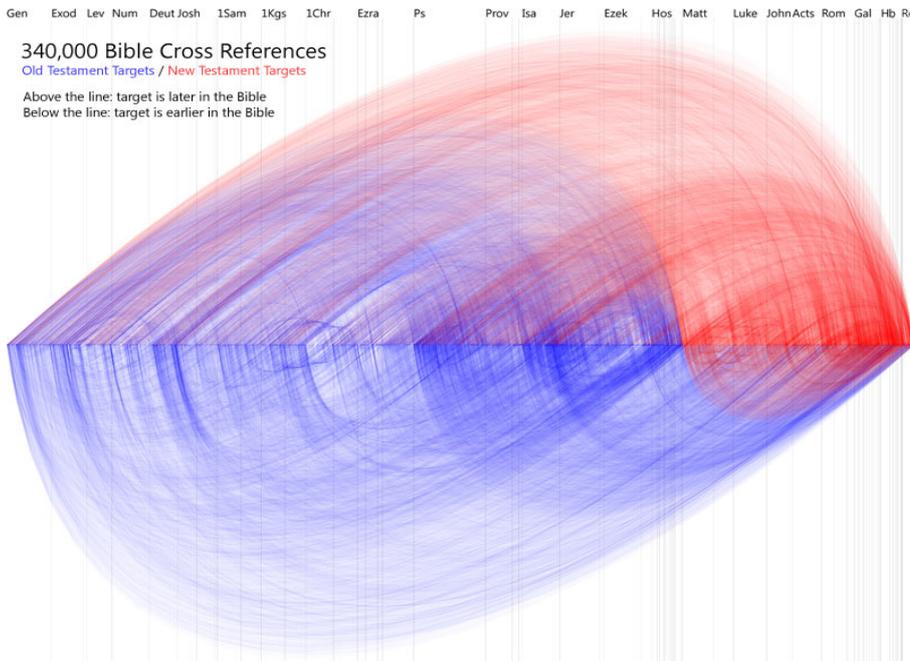
Most modern Bibles will have a number of references in them to other parts of the Bible. In the picture here the references take up a small middle column in the text.

Those references can be split into two sections, Old Testament and New Testament. New Testament references will often indicate two writers making reference to the same event or may indicate in the case of the synoptics a common source.

References to the Old Testament will be scriptural allusions or quotes in the same way as modern writers may reference aspects of the Bible or in the way theologians will reference the Bible. The attached Graphic

indicates the large number of references¹ that can be found. Not all references will be quotes but would include paraphrases and allusions.

The reason modern writers will include references is often to call to mind a scene or an idea that is found in the part of the Bible that is being referenced. In the Picture of Dorian Gray the opening scene is set in an idyllic natural space before the creation of the new man². J K Rowling does a similar thing in Harry Potter placing 1 Corinthians 15.26 into the story indicating that Death can be overcome³.



Modern theologians continue to work with Scriptural references in varied ways, including by posting thoughts and reflections to Facebook.⁴ Miroslav Volf is one of the better modern theologians working in both the popular and academic spheres.



Miroslav Volf

10 July at 19:58 · 🌐

On Lectionary

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace." Many today go out in fear and return full of disquiet. But the future need not be extension of the present. Through the Word (Isaiah) and the Spirit of life (Romans) the trees can come to clap their hands.



1 comment 5 shares

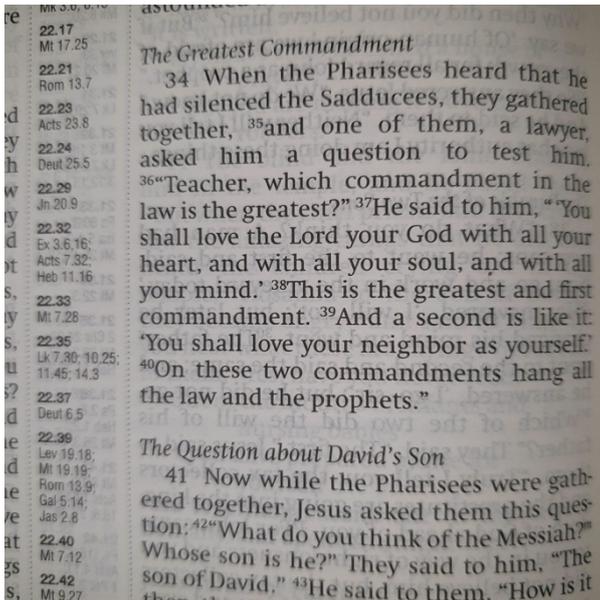
¹ <https://www.openbible.info/blog/2010/04/bible-cross-references-visualization/>

² <https://paperap.com/biblical-allusions-in-oscar-wilde-s-the-picture-of-dorian-best-essay/>

³ <https://phoenixweasley.wordpress.com/category/biblical-quotations-in-harry-potter/>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/miroslav.volf.12>

Scripture on Scripture: Yes, Yes and, But



Yes

In this excerpt from Matthew 29 we see Jesus quoting from Deuteronomy 6.5 and Leviticus 19.18. This is Jesus quoting from scripture, affirming the meaning of the text he is quoting, and choosing not to expand on it.

Paul uses scripture in this way at times as well.

Romans 4.3 *For what does the scripture say?*

'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

Genesis 15.6 *And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

It is my suspicion that this is the way that most modern Christians feel scripture should be read.

Yes and...

In improv comedy and in business there is a technique called, 'Yes, And...' in which an idea is affirmed, but there is also an extension of the idea⁵. There is a similar technique that can be used both within Scripture, and moving beyond the internal world of the Bible.

Luke 10.30-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of Yes, and..., in which Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment (as in Matthew 29), but then is asked to expand or deepen that idea and he tells the parable known as the Good Samaritan.

I recall a lecture from Revd. Richard Burridge on Ethical Principles in which he spoke about a process for making scriptural ethical decisions, which relied on this technique when applied to modern questions, that have not direct corollary to Scriptural circumstances⁶.

Yes, but

This is often the hardest for Christians to apply on a regular basis, however we do see Jesus do it.

Matthew 5:43-44 *'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*



We have seen how powerful an example that can be when Muslims⁷ and Christians protect each other, or when protestors have worked to protect the police⁸, but to take that principle and apply it in daily life is hard for those who take scripture seriously. 1

Timothy might give an example in which we would comfortably apply the 'yes, but' principle. **1 Timothy**

6.1 *Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed.* Many modern believers would affirm (yes) that slavery was a part of the world of Paul, but that it is not proper for Modern Christians to be involved in slavery, AND, by extension perhaps to be cautious of

systems of exploitation.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yes,_and...

⁶ https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/content.gresham.ac.uk/data/binary/2884/2018-11-08_RichardBurridge_PP.pdf

⁷ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/muslims-form-human-chain-pakistan_n_4057381

⁸ <https://caldronpool.com/protesters-form-human-shield-to-protect-police-officer-separated-from-his-unit/>