

ATLA Religion Database

Harding School of Theology

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This database contains indexing to material representing all areas of theological studies, including biblical studies, church history, Christian doctrine, ministry, preaching, and pastoral counseling. It contains author, subject, and book review indexing from more than 1,800 journals titles (over 700 of which are currently being indexed) from 1949 to the present; this represents over 672,200 journal article records. A retrospective project indexed 47 titles predating 1949 that are currently or have been indexed in *Religion Index One*, the print counterpart for the database. Among the journals in this group were *Biblica* (1920-39), *Biblical Archaeologist* (1938-48), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1939-48), *Church History* (1932-48), *Evangelical Quarterly* (1929-48), *Hebrew Union College Annual* (1919, 1924-48), *Interpretation* (1947-48), *Journal of Biblical Literature* (1881-1948), *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (1937-48), *Scottish Journal of Theology* (1948), *Studia Theologica* (1947-48), *Theological Studies* (1940-48), *Theology Today* (1944-49), *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* (1945-48), and *Westminster Theological Journal* (1938-48). The old *Andover Review* (1884-1893) is also indexed in this database. The ATLAS project provides the full-text of more than 530 of these indexed periodicals for the last 50 years. The ATLA Religion Database also provides subject and author indexing to multi-author works and festschriften published since 1960.

If a full text of the article is available, a notation will appear at the bottom of the entry on the results list. Click on notation to retrieve the full text of the article.

Access the online database through the HST website. Click on “Library,” “find articles,” “access EBSCO,” and “EBSCOhost Research Databases.” Choose ATLA Religion Database by clicking on box to left. Click on **Continue**.

In **Advanced Search** there are search options. The default search mode is the **Boolean/phrase search mode**. In searching more than one subject simultaneously the subject headings must be entered in separate search fields or connected by the Boolean “AND” in one search field. Boolean operators (and, or & not) are only considered Boolean operators if entered in all caps. In the **find all my search terms** mode subject terms can be entered in the “subjects” search field without a connecting “and” or titles can be searched by keyword. The **All Text** field allows keyword searches of all parts of the entries: titles, abstracts, etc. Note when searching for information on a person, there is a search field **Subject Name**. To obtain the full record that includes editor for a multi-author work, click on the chapter title from the results list, and then on the blue ATLA number following the page numbers of the chapter. Click on title of periodical article to see subject entries made for that article. Clicking on one of the subject headings will retrieve all articles entered under that heading in the database. Search limitations will have to be re-entered to narrow search.

Author search in ATLA Religion database.

In this database an author’s name may appear in several forms (e.g., with full name, with initials, with first name and middle initial, etc.). To retrieve records of all works by one author, search in the “author” field from the “Advanced Search” screen. Type in the author’s last name, a comma, and the first initial followed by an asterisk, e.g., Oster, R*. Such a search will retrieve all works by this author regardless of how the name was entered in the database. In the case of a

more common last name a large number of records will appear necessitating a careful scanning of the list to ascertain which entries are by the particular author of interest.

Book Review Search in ATLA Religion database.

To locate a book review, enter the author's last name in the author field and two or three keywords from the title in the book title field. A search will retrieve reviews of that book.

Subject Search in ATLA Religion Database

Enter the subject or subjects in the "subjects" search field from the "Advanced Search" screen using the **find all my search terms** search mode, or using the **Boolean/phrase** search mode enter phrases or single subjects joined by the Boolean "AND" in the "subjects" search field. A search will retrieve all records with the term or terms anywhere in the subject entries. Open a few detailed records (click on the blue article title) from the list to ascertain the subject entries for the records found. You may find a more specific or the exact subject entry for the subject you are interested in. Click on that blue subject entry to retrieve all the records in the database with that heading. Return to the "Advanced Search" screen to reset any limitations put on the original search and re-enter the search.

It may be helpful to browse the subject entries to get an idea of the proper subject entry to use. Click on **More** and then **Indexes** in blue strip above the search screen. From the "browse an index" box select **subjects all**. Type in subject in "Browse for" box and click on "Browse." Click on box to left of desired subject. Click on **add** to transfer this subject to the search field. Click on **search**.

Sometimes the "official" subject entry for a topic may be a synonym for the term searched and will not show up on the browse list. A keyword or title search may help identify the "official" subject entry. For example, "flood" is not the subject entry in the database for the Genesis flood. A keyword (all text) search under "flood" will retrieve many records. Scanning these will quickly reveal works on the biblical flood. Looking at the detailed records (by clicking on the title of the article) will reveal that "deluge" is the official subject entry for the biblical flood. Click on one of these blue "deluge" subject entries to retrieve material about the flood.

Scripture search in ATLA Religion Database.

1. Enter "Scripture Citation" in search field from the "Advanced Search" screen. Type in the Scripture (spelling out the book of the Bible) and the chapter or chapter & verse with a colon between chapter & verse. Enter books of the Bible with more than one book as follows: Samuel, 1st; Samuel, 2nd; John, 1st; John, 2nd, 3rd, etc. Execute search.

2. It may be helpful to browse to ascertain if there are articles/essays on a particular Scripture in the database. Click on **More** and then **Indexes** in blue strip above the search screen. From the "browse an index" box select **Bible citation**. Type in Scripture. For a range of verses within the same chapter, enter chapter & verse for beginning verse with a dash and the chapter & verse for last verse in the section (e.g. Genesis 3:13-15 would searched as Genesis 3:13-3:15) and click on "Browse." Click on box to left of desired Scripture. Click on **add** to transfer this Scripture to the search field. Click on **search**.

Indexing for passages of Scripture was not consistent throughout the years, particularly for 1949-1959 and 1975-1984. An entry for a specific verse might be entered in several ways:

1. Scripture citation

2. Scripture citation” for a range of chapters for longer biblical books (e.g., the chapters in 1 Corinthians were grouped, 1-4, 5-10, 11-14, & 15-16; John, 1, 2-4, 5-12, 13-21)
3. In the “subjects” field with biblical book and Scripture (many times under the range of chapters from the longer books). Books of the Bible with more than one book are entered as follows: Corinthians I, Corinthians II, except for the epistles of John, which are entered Epistle of John I, Epistle of John II, and Epistle of John III (e.g., a search for a passage in 2 Corinthians 12 might be under “Bible. Corinthians II 10-13”).
4. To narrow the search, it may be helpful to search 1949-1959 and 1975-1984 in two separate searches.

ATLA has Scripture search tutorials on its Web page at: atla.com/blog/new-tutorial-video-series

It would be wise to supplement the ATLA search for material on particular biblical verses from bibliographies on the “Bibliographies in Biblical Studies” handout and from Old Testament Abstracts and New Testament Abstracts, both of which have Scripture indexes in the back of each volume.