

How to Read the Scripture References Found in This Program

Perhaps the easiest way to learn how to read scripture references is by illustration. The following examples illustrate the kinds of references you will encounter in this program.

Example 1: 1Co 4 refers to *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 4.

Example 2: 1Co 4:9-12 refers to *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 4, verses 9 through 12.

Example 3: 1Co 4:9-12,15,21-22 refers to *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 4, verses 9 through 12, verse 15, and verses 21 and 22. Notice that there are no spaces typed between the verse numbers when they apply to a single chapter.

Example 4: 1Co 4:9-12; 2Co 3:1-2 refers to *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 4, verses 9 through 12; and *The Second Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 3, verses 1 and 2.

Example 5: 1Co 4:18-5:2 refers to *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 4, verse 18 through chapter 5, verse 2.

*

*

*

Letters of the alphabet are occasionally used to refer to only a part of a verse.

Example 6: Mt 9:2b refers to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 9, the second half of verse 2. Because the verse consists of two sentences, the letter *b* would indicate the second sentence.

Example 7: Ps 36:1a refers to Psalm 36, the first part of verse 1. Because the verse consists of one compound sentence (two parts) separated by a semi-colon, the letter *a* indicates all the text before the semi-colon.

Example 8: Is 22:21d refers to the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 22, verse 21, line 4 of the 6 lines comprising verse 21. Usually when the letters *d*, *e* or *f* are used, they refer to the 4th, 5th or 6th poetic line of a verse. The letter *c* may indicate a third portion of prose or the third line of verse, depending upon the reference.

In reading scripture verses indicated by letters of the alphabet, always look at the punctuation used. Periods, semi-colons and colons help indicate divisions, especially in prose text, because these kinds of punctuation indicate the completion or end of a thought.