

Helping the world to make a new

DISCOVERY

in reading the Bible



Introduction to the Discovery Bible

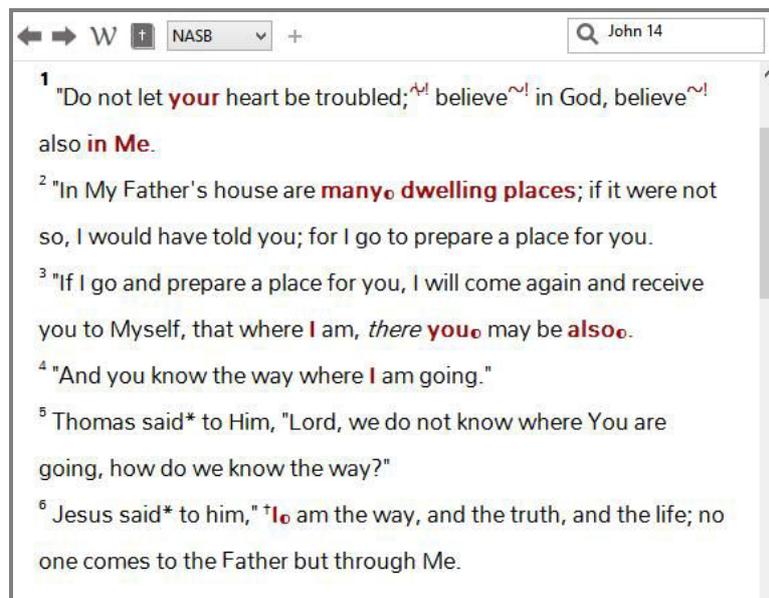
Discover the Depths

By God's grace, we believe the Discovery Bible is uniquely placed to bring a renaissance to the Church in reading, understanding and enjoying the Bible. The Discovery Bible is not a new translation, but a system that restores the original emphasis and verb tenses of Scripture to existing Bible translations. By overlaying emphasis and marking original verbs, the Discovery Bible aims to help any reader unlock the depths of Scripture.

The Discovery Bible has three key features: emphasis, verb tenses, and word studies.

Emphasis

Like most languages, Greek and Hebrew use **emphasis** to focus our attention and add more meaning to a statement. This use of emphasis adds **intensity** and clarity to the Scriptures. So when Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth and the life" He is really saying: "**I** am the way, the truth and the life." Emphasis lets us *hear* how the words of Scripture were spoken and *feel* the drama.



Previously, people have had to learn Greek and Hebrew to understand how the Bible use changes in word order and forms to emphasize key words. However, now the Discovery Bible lets any reader see the emphasis of Scripture by making emphasized words **bold** in the English translation. This lets anyone read the Bible and appreciate both the beauty and intensity of the Scripture that is present in the original text.

Verb Tenses

Scripture uses specific Greek verb tenses and Hebrew stems to add meaning that is lost when translated into other languages. Such tenses help us to discover new richness in Scripture and better understand the practical application of God's Word.

Examples

2 Timothy 2:22

Now flee^{~!} from youthful lusts and pursue^{~!} righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

The ^{~!} symbol used here represents a command that requires *ongoing* obedience. So in this passage Scripture calls the reader to *constantly flee* from youthful lusts and to make a habit of *constantly pursuing* righteousness, faith, love and peace.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified^{~)} with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."

Here Paul emphasizes that he has been **crucified** with Christ; he has died with Christ and so Jesus now lives in him. The ^{~)} symbol shows us that Paul's experience of being crucified with Christ occurred in the past but it has resonating or lingering effects in the present. By using this verb, Paul reveals that being crucified with Christ not only changed his life at the time, but that it continued to affect and shape his present life.

Luke 7:37-38

And there was a woman... weeping, she began to wet[~] His feet with her tears^o, and kept wiping[~] them with the hair of her head^o, and kissing[~] His feet and anointing[~] them with the perfume.

The [~] symbol represents a dramatic Greek tense that is intended to inspire the imagination and draw the reader into the scene. So to truly appreciate this passage we need to engage our imagination and watch the scene unfold like a movie in our mind. We need to hear the cries of a broken woman, see the tears, smell the perfume, and watch as she kisses Jesus' feet. As we take time to imagine the scene, we engage our hearts with Scripture and appreciate more of the power and drama of God's Word.



In the past, the privilege of discovering these insights has been limited to Bible scholars and speakers of Greek and Hebrew. Our goal is to make these insights available to anyone, regardless of language or learning through *The Discovery Bible*.

Unique Bible Words

Scripture is full of many unique words that cannot be exactly translated into other languages. To help people come to a greater understanding of Scripture, the Discovery Bible contains a comprehensive lexicon which looks at these unique words. Unlike many current lexicons, the word studies within the Discovery Bible are not only academic. As well as educating readers, the studies are designed to aid spiritual growth in God and so include sections such as “for reflection” and “working it out”.

Examples

Truth : 225 alētheia (from 227/alēthēs, "true to fact") – properly, truth (what is true to fact); reality. In ancient Greek culture, 225 (alētheia) was synonymous for "reality" (the opposite of illusion, i.e. fact) *continued on in software*

In this word study we learn that truth (*alētheia*) is synonymous for *reality*. Knowing this sense of alētheia, when we read that Jesus is the truth, we can see that Jesus is saying that He is the Reality. He is the ultimate source and substance of reality and so to live apart from Jesus is to live in a fantasy or false-reality.

In John 16, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth. In other words, one of the key reasons that Jesus gives us His Spirit is to lead us into Reality. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can experience the living reality of Jesus and come to know Him.



Repent 3340 metanoéō (from 3326/metá, "changed after being with" and 3539/noiéō, "think") – properly, "think differently after," "after a change of mind"; to repent (literally, "think differently afterwards"). *continued on in software*

The English word repent literally means “to be sorry again.” Yet in this word study we find that Biblical repentance is not just being sorry for sin or even seeking forgiveness. It is a change of mind that causes us to “think differently” and so act differently. In this way, the word metanoia focuses on the change of behavior that follows a change of thinking.

This word study goes on to explore the connection between repentance and faith. To truly change from within, we need to be empowered by God through faith. In the word study on faith (4102/pistis) we learn that faith is a gift from God, because it is the persuasion of His truth that He forms within us. So as God gives us faith and persuades us of His truth, we receive the grace to experience a lasting change in the way we think. His gift of faith changes our hearts and minds, and our behavior is then the evidence of the change that God has done in us.

Discovery Bible Vision

Over 30 years ago, Dr Gary Hill and Dr Gleason Archer began a project to unlock the richness of Scripture that is found in the original language texts. Their vision was to bless the body of Christ by enabling anyone, regardless of language or education, to access insights into Scripture that were previously only enjoyed by scholars and students.

Coming into the digital age, the vision has now grown significantly. The Discovery Bible team is now preparing a two-year online learning course that will enable students to use the Discovery Bible to come to a high level of functional understanding of Greek and Hebrew. This course is being designed especially for students and leaders in developing countries, and is not just focused on education but on *applied* learning. We believe that God has given us His word, not just so that we can *know* His truth, but so that we can *live* His truth. Our goal is to establish online learning centers in countries all over the world and to see many ministries launched, and many believers grow more in love with God through His word.

We are also making plans to release the Discovery Bible on tablets and smartphones. This is an essential step for us to get the Discovery Bible into Africa, Asia and South America. As tablets and smartphones drop in price we will see them being used in greater numbers in developing countries. If we are to reach people in these areas, we need to have the Discovery Bible available at low cost for these devices.

We realize that to effectively reach many of these nations we need to have the Discovery Bible working with different languages and the word study materials translated. We are currently working with people to produce a Spanish Discovery Bible, but we also have a burden to bring many other languages into the Discovery system, including Chinese, Arabic, Urdu, Swahili, Hindi, Rwandi and more.

Currently our team is very small, but we have a big vision that we believe is from God and we are giving it our all. In summary, the key goals as we work towards this vision are:

- Produce the Discovery Bible print edition
- Produce a full Old and New Testament downloadable edition for Mac and Pc
- Create a Discovery Bible tablet app for Apple, Android and Windows tablets
- Create an online application for mapping foreign-language Bible translations to the Discovery Bible system
- Create a repository for digital resources
- Create the online infrastructure to support the training centers

