

Bible SuperSearch

Version 1.5

User's Guide

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www.BibleSuperSearch.com
www.Alive-in-Christ.com

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life:
and they are they which testify of Me.

John 5:39

[T]hey received the word with all readiness of mind, and
searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every
word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

[B]ut the word of God is not bound.

2 Timothy 2:9

Introduction

Bible SuperSearch is a free, easy-to-use, web based Bible search and passage retrieval program. It includes a powerful search engine, which can search the entire Bible, or at your option, search only the requested book(s), chapter(s) or passage reference(s). Bible SuperSearch can also look up multiple passage references at once, including complex references. Bible SuperSearch 1.0 includes the entire text of the Authorized King James Version Bible.

Bible SuperSearch was developed because of the belief that all Christian websites should have a Bible search and look up tool to encourage Bible literacy. With Bible SuperSearch, the webmaster does not need to waste time and money generating their own search engine, nor have to link to an outside search engine website that they do not necessarily agree with. Bible SuperSearch was designed to produce text that is easy to read, encouraging people to read more, and easy to copy with little editing required, making it easy to quickly get Bible text for sermons and articles. It was designed to be easy and intuitive to use; you don't have to be a Bible scholar or computer geek to use it.

Bible SuperSearch is open source, PHP and MySQL based software, and is freely available for Christian webmasters and web developers. If you would like to install Bible SuperSearch on your website, please check out the official Bible SuperSearch website at www.BibleSuperSearch.com for downloading information. Bible SuperSearch installation is easy with the included installer.

Searches

Basic Searches

Enter a word or words into the “Search” text box, and click "search". The search is equivalent to an exhaustive concordance; it will return ALL verses with the given word(s).

By default, the system will display all verses returned, and will search for verses with ALL the words entered. The searches are NOT case sensitive.

Search Options

Search Type

The search type is selected by the radio buttons or drop down menu, if applicable, on the form:

- All Words Searches for verses containing ALL of the words entered. (Default)
- Any Word Searches for verses containing ANY of the words entered
- Exact Phrase Searches for verses containing the exact phrase entered.
- Boolean Search Boolean search with parentheses support. Allows you to specify advanced search queries using operators AND, OR, and NOT. Also allows grouping of terms with parenthesis (). See below for details.

Bible Version

The Bible version to search or look up passages can be selected from the “Bible” drop-down box. Bible SuperSearch will keep the selected version until you chose another. If only one Bible version is installed, the “Bible” drop down will be replaced by the name of the installed version.

Whole Words Only

Check “Whole words only” check box for searches for the exact word(s) only. Example: Searching for *work* does not return *worked*, *works*, *worker* or *working*.

Deselecting “Whole Words Only” will result in searches returning verses with words CONTAINING the requested words. Example: Searching for *one* returns *one*, *bone*, *stone*, *alone*, among other things. “Whole Words Only” is selected by default.

Seeing Verses in Context

You can easily see your search results in context by clicking on the VERSE reference for a particular verse. This will show the entire verse, plus two verses before it and two verses after it (in the same chapter.) Clicking on the Book and Chapter reference will show you the entire chapter for this verse.

Example, for Acts 4:12, clicking on “12” will give Acts 4:10-14; while clicking on “Acts 12” will give Acts chapter 12.

Since the search engine only displays the verses with the word(s) that you requested, this is a very useful feature to get the full meaning of a verse. This feature also works with all INDIVIDUAL verses that you look up (see below).

Boolean Searches

The Boolean search allows you to specify advanced search queries using operators AND, OR, and NOT. Also allows grouping of terms with parenthesis ().

A search term is defined as a word or phrase that is part of the search query.

- AND – returns verses with both words
- OR – returns verses with either word
- NOT – returns verses without the word (to be used only in conjunction with other search terms)

The operators work similar to mathematical operators. Order of operations is followed. Operations are performed starting at the innermost set of parentheses, progressing to the outermost set, then NOT, then AND, then OR.

Example: 'Jesus AND Lord OR Christ'

Returns verses with BOTH 'Jesus' AND 'Lord', and verses with 'Christ', and verses containing all three words, 'Jesus,' 'Lord,' and 'Christ'

Example: 'Jesus OR Lord NOT Christ'

Returns verses with either 'Jesus' or 'Lord' or both 'Jesus' and 'Lord', but only those that do not contain the word 'Christ'

Phrases and Quotations

You can also use phrases, enclosed with double quotations (“”) with the Boolean search.

Example: '“Lord Jesus” OR Christ'

Returns verses with either “Lord Jesus” (exact phrase) or 'Christ' or both the phrase “Lord Jesus” and the word 'Christ' (not in any particular order.)

Parentheses

Search terms can be grouped using parentheses.

Example: '(Lord OR Christ) AND Jesus'

Returns verses with 'Jesus' and 'Lord or 'Jesus' and 'Christ' or 'Lord' and 'Christ' and 'Jesus'

More examples:

'(preserved OR stand) AND (word OR truth)'

'((Lord OR Christ) AND Jesus OR God) AND disciples'

Implied AND

If an operator is not specified between terms, Bible SuperSearch interprets the query as if there was an AND between the terms.

Example: 'Jesus Lord OR Christ' interpreted as 'Jesus AND Lord OR Christ'
Example: '(Lord OR Christ) Jesus' interpreted as '(Lord OR Christ) AND Jesus'
Example: 'Jesus Lord Christ' interpreted as 'Jesus AND Lord AND Christ'

Operator Aliases

To make the Boolean search quicker to use, the following operator aliases have been developed. Any of these can be used in place of the operator, for the same results.

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Alias #1</i>	<i>Alias #2</i>
AND	*	&
OR	+	
NOT	-	!=
([{
)]	}

Wildcard Searches

You may specify wildcard characters in your Boolean searches using the following characters.

% Unlimited characters
_ Single character (WARNING: NOT YET IMPLEMENTED!)

The unlimited characters wildcard allows for any amount of characters, while the single character wildcard only takes the place of one character.

Example: stand% returns stand, standing, standeth, standard

Example: %stand returns stand, understand.

For a detailed description of Boolean searches, please visit this link:

<http://www.internettutorials.net/boolean.html>

This is an article on Internet Boolean searches, but the concept is the same. Please note that while the Bible SuperSearch Boolean search performs similarly to the searches described here, it may not function exactly as described.

Limiting Your Searches

Your searches can be limited to certain, predefined sections of the Bible by entering the following keywords in the “Look-up” textbox, or selecting them from the drop-down menu, if applicable. You may use either the name or any of the aliases. If one or more of the below limiters are not available in the drop-down menu, you may still use it by entering it into the look-up box.

(Note: submitting most of these shortcuts without a search will result in an error message because looking up multiple books at once will overload this server. Therefore, Bible SuperSearch will give an error. You must enter the EXACT WORD OR PHRASE as listed below.)

Name	Alias 1	Alias 2	Alias 3	Reference
Old Testament	OT	Tenakh	Old	Genesis - Malachi
New Testament	New	NT	New_Testament	Matthew - Revelation
Law	OT Law	Torah	Moses	Genesis - Deuteronomy
History	History			Joshua - Esther
Wisdom & Poetry	Wisdom	Poetry	Wisdom and Poetry	Job - Song of Solomon
Prophets	Prophets	All Prophets		Isaiah - Malachi
Major Prophets	Major_Prophets	Major	MajorProphets	Isaiah - Daniel
Minor Prophets	Minor_Prophets	Minor	MinorProphets	Hosea - Malachi
Gospels	Gosples	Gospel	Passion	Matthew - John
Epistles	NT Epistles	Doctrine	All Epistles	Romans - Jude
Pauline Epistles	Paul	Pauline	Pauline Epistles	Romans - Hebrews
General Epistles	General	General_Epistles	Epistles General	James - Jude
End Times Prophecy	Last Days	End	End Times	Revelation; Daniel; Matthew 24

Also see the “Custom Search Limitation” below.

Looking Up Passages

Basic Passage Retrieval

Enter the reference into the “passage” or “lookup” box, and click the “go” or “lookup” button. You may enter either the full name of the book, or any common abbreviation of it. You may also request whole chapters and books.

Example: Romans 8:2

Example: Rom 8:2

Example: Rom. 8:2 (with period)

Example: Ro. 8:2

Example: Jas 1:8 (James 1:8)

Example: James 3

Example: 2 Tim 2

Example: 2Tim

Example: Rev

Commas & Ranges

Multiple verses

You may request multiple verses from a chapter using commas and hyphens.

Example: Jas 1:1,2, 3

Example: Matt 1:1-3

Example: Jn 1:1-3, 5,6, 8-10 (Chapter 1, verses 1-3, 5 and 6, and 8-10)

Example: Rom 1:2, 5:8

Example: Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9,13;

Note: You may include spaces with your commas and hyphens, but they are not required.

Multiple books or chapters

You may also request multiple chapters and books in the same way. However, you may only request multiple books in conjunction with a search. (See Custom Search Limitation below.)

Example: Rom 1, 3

Example: Acts 2, 5-7

Example: Mark-John

Example: Dan; Rev

(Chapters 1 and 3)

(Chapters 2 and 5 through 7)

(Note, specifying individual books requires a semicolon (;), instead of a comma between the book names.)

Indefinite Ranges

You may request retrieval to the end of a chapter without knowing the number of the last verse by inserting a hyphen after the starting verse, but omitting the final verse.

Example: Phil 3:5- (Chapter 3, verses 5 through the end of the chapter)

Example: Titus 2:-10 (Chapter 2, verses 1 through 10)

Cross Chapter Lookup

You may look up verses across multiple chapters in the following manner:

Example: 1 Cor 4:8-5:2 (Chapter 4, verse 8 through chapter 5, verse 2)

Example: Dan 6:5-10:10 (Chapter 6, verse 5 through chapter 10, verse 10)

Starting and ending with a whole chapter.

If you want to start or end your request with a complete chapter, simply enter it with a colon but no verse reference like this:

Example: Rom 1:-2:5 (Chapter 1, verse 1 through chapter 2, verse 5)
Example: Acts 4:12-6: (Chapter 4, verse 12 through the end of chapter 6)

Whole chapter to whole chapter references:

Simply omit the verse reference and colon

Example: Mark 2-5

See also the “Multiple books or chapters” Section under “Commas and Ranges”

For convenience, the following entry methods will also work in the way they are noted below:

Example: Lk. 12-14:3 (Chapter 12, verse 1 through chapter 14, verse 3)
Example: Eph 1:8-3:- (Chapter 1, verse 8 through the end of chapter 3)

Note the following will NOT work as cross-chapter references:

Example: Gal 1:3-2 (interpreted as chapter 1, verses 3 through 2, will give error message)

Example: Ps 3:2-4 (will return chapter 3, verses 2-4)

Multiple Passages

To look up multiple passages, enter the separate references with a semicolon (“;”) between them. for You MUST use a semicolon, NOT a comma! You may add as few or as many spaces (before or after the semicolon) as you want.

Bible SuperSearch can handle complex requests with any combination of references in the forms listed above.

Example: 1 Tim 5:2; Rom. 5:8
Example: Romans 1:16;Acts 4:12; Ps 119:11; Rom 8:5-7
Example: Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9,13; Eph 2:8,9; Acts 4:12; Jn 8:31-32,36

Other Features

Book number

You may look up references using the two digit number of the book instead of the name. The books are numbered Genesis = 01, Exodus = 02 ... Jude = 65, Revelation = 66. Note: The book number MUST be entered as a two digit number for it to work.

Example: 19 91 (Psalms 91)
Example: 01 1:1 (Genesis 1:1)

Custom Search Limitation

You may search any selection of Bible passages using the custom search limitation feature. To use, simply enter the passage references to be searched in the “look up” box, and your search terms in the “search” box, and click the “look up” or “search” button. You may enter any reference as given above.

Examples

look up: Heb 11

search: faith

look up: 1 Cor 15

search: resurrection

look up: Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-13; Jn 3:15-; Acts 4:12-25

search: saved

Browsing the Bible

You may easily move between adjacent chapters and books using the browsing buttons as shown below. (Buttons may not look exactly as shown below.)

|← **Show Previous Book**

← **Show Previous Chapter** (May give last chapter of previous book.)

↔ **Show Entire Text of This Chapter** (If only some of the chapter is shown.)

→ **Show Next Chapter** (May give first chapter of next book.)

→| **Show Next Book**

Editing Requests

If you made a mistake in entering your reference and/or search, or you would like to edit it for any other reason, you may do so by using the “Edit search” feature.

Just click on the “edit search”, “Edit Request” or “Edit” button (whichever is applicable), and your last passage request and/or search will appear in the request form. You may then edit them and repeat your request. You may also edit your search by clicking the text after “You requested:” (if applicable).

Note: This also sets the “search type” and “whole words only” to the settings you entered last, although the form does not show it.

Clearing the form.

To clear all passage and search entries from the form, click the “clear form” button (if applicable).

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Appendix A: Future Version Functionality

This is not a guarantee that any or all of the following will be implemented in a future version of Bible SuperSearch. These are just suggestions that will be considered.

- **Advanced Search interface(s) over boolean search**
- **Single character wildcard**
- **Proximity Search**
- **Much better formatting.**
- **Chose formatting: EasySelect or NiceDisplay**
- **Many premade interfaces to choose from.**
- **Better icons for browsing books and chapters.**
- **Multiple Languages support for entire program**
- **Parallel Bible (Up to 4 versions)**
- **Categorical Searches (Gives only a limited selection of verses on a given topic, community-edited)**
- **Built-in Bible Commentary (if licensing is not an issue)**
- **Multiple pages for long results (choice between this and show all on one page)**
- **Cookies to remember user's preferences??**
- **Lookup by verse number?**
- **Random verse**
- **Random verse (from pool of verses)**
- **Random chapter**
- **Random chapter (from pool of chapters)???**
- **User suggestions?**
- **Support for PHP 3 (ONLY if requested by users)**
- **Bible SimpleSearch – PHP Bible search (does not require MySQL)**
- **HTML Bible – The KJV Bible formatted in HTML for easy browsing (will work on ANY website)**
- **Who knows?**