How to Study and Interpret the Bible
Study Tools and Resources

The Essentials

Bible Concordance
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (referenced to King James Version) – this is the most common, but there are a number of exhaustive concordances available for other translations such as the ESV, NIV and NASB.

Bible Dictionary
The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Revised and Expanded – there are a number of other good Bible dictionaries available such as The New Bible Dictionary (Tyndale), Nelson's Bible Dictionary, The Eerdman's Bible Dictionary, etc.

Topical Bible
Nave's Topical Bible (available in KJV and NIV)

More Advanced

Expository Dictionary (to expound in greater detail)
Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words – this reference is very easy to use and will help you expand your word studies without having to sift through a lot of theological jargon.

Encyclopedias
The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (4 Volumes) – this is very comprehensive (i.e., Bible dictionary on steroids); over 9,000 topics and 3,500 cross-references and contains articles on every person and place named in the Bible.

Commentaries – written by various scholars over the centuries, some of these references cover the entire Bible, Old or New Testaments, specific books in the Bible, or specific theological or historical subjects. Here are a few of the respected commentaries:
- *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown's Commentary on the Whole Bible*
- *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*
- *Barnes' Notes*

Free Online Study Tools

Bible Study Tools provided by www.biblestudytools.com

Software

PC Study Bible by Biblesoft (www.biblesoft.com) – also available online via www.biblesoftonline.com
Logos Bible Software (www.logos.com) – available on all operating systems
Olive Tree (www.olivetree.com) – available on all operating systems
E-Sword (www.e-sword.net) (This is an excellent Software program provided by Rick Meyers on an offering basis. This text of his Bible translations already have direct links to Strong's Concordance.)