



73 Twenty Ministries
BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS

BUILDING A TOOLBOX FOR A LIFETIME OF BIBLE STUDY

73 TWENTY MINISTRIES

A TEACHING MINISTRY OF DR. ROBERT C CROWDER

73TWENTY MINISTRIES: CHARTING THE WORD, NAVIGATING FAITH

Rooted in a lifelong passion for teaching and guiding others in Biblical truth, 73Twenty Ministries is devoted to helping believers navigate the depths of Scripture with both clarity and conviction.

The name 73Twenty holds deep personal significance: it comes from my childhood home at 7320 Greenwood Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. It was here that the foundations of my faith, study, and service were first laid. With the majestic Rocky Mountains ever-present on my horizons, God's Word has been a constant guide and presence throughout my life. The logo of 73Twenty Ministries, with its three mountain peaks in gray, blue, and orange, symbolizes not only the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also the unwavering foundation of Biblical truth upon which our faith is built.

For more than twenty years, I've served as a pastor, teacher, mentor, and author, committed to making Biblical truths accessible and applicable. Through sermons, Bible studies, books, articles, and other teaching resources, 73Twenty Ministries exists to equip believers, strengthen churches, and proclaim the Gospel. Our mission is both simple and profound: to chart the Word, guiding faith, and helping others anchor their lives in Scripture.

At 73Twenty Ministries, we believe that faithful Biblical study should engage the mind, transform the heart, and shape daily life. Whether through exegetical teaching, character studies, theological exploration, or practical application, every resource is crafted to deepen understanding, strengthen conviction, and encourage obedience to God's Word.

As a ministry grounded in a conservative Baptist, dispensationalist approach, we focus on Biblical exposition, doctrinal clarity, and practical discipleship. We uphold the belief that Scripture is the authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, and it's our privilege to help others navigate its timeless truths.

I invite you to explore the resources at 73TwentyMinistries.com and join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and unwavering faith. Together, let's stand on the mountain of God's truths and proclaim His name to every generation.

For His glory alone,

Dr. Robert C. Crowder, Th.D.

Founder, 73Twenty Ministries

MY LIST OF ESSENTIAL BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

Through many years of preaching and teaching the Bible, I have developed what I consider essential tools to aid any Bible student in their pursuit of learning. My list has changed over time, especially as digital resources have become part of my study toolbox.

Before I share these tools, a word of caution: only the Word of God is perfect. No commentary, dictionary, or atlas is without its flaws. The goal is to surround yourself with trustworthy resources. Just because a book is on the “Best Sellers” list does not mean it is reliable.

Some insist that the Bible alone is all you need. While the Bible is sufficient, we must also recognize that the Holy Spirit is alive and active today, gifting men to write commentaries and study tools that help us dig deeper into God’s truth. These resources don’t replace Scripture; they simply help us see its riches more clearly.

Over my forty years of collecting Bible study tools, I have built both a digital library (LOGOS software with thousands of volumes) and a physical library of hundreds of books. You don’t need that much to begin. In fact, I believe 80% of solid Bible study can be done with just a few essential tools. The following six items represent a wise and lasting investment for any student of the Word.

1. Non-Reference Bible

A non-reference Bible contains only the text of Scripture—no notes, no commentary, no cross-references. This Bible is simply for reading. A clear, distraction-free text helps you hear God’s Word without outside voices.

2. Reference Bible

A reference Bible provides cross-references but avoids commentary. This allows Scripture to interpret Scripture, one of the safest and richest ways to study.

3. Pens, Pencils, and Highlighters

I prefer writing and marking in my Bible. It allows me to record insights, definitions, and notes directly in the text.

- Choose pens and highlighters designed for Bible paper.
- Avoid bleed-through. Wax-based highlighters work best.
- If using wax, gently wipe the excess with a tissue to prevent pages from sticking.

4. Bible Concordance

A concordance is an alphabetical index of words in the Bible with references for each occurrence. This is invaluable when you remember a phrase but not the passage. Classic choices include Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and Young's Analytical Concordance, both available in print and online.

5. Bible Dictionary

A Bible dictionary explains people, places, customs, and doctrines. It functions like a mini-encyclopedia. Want to know what Jesus meant by a "jot and tittle" in Matthew 5:18? A good Bible dictionary will explain it in its historical and linguistic setting.

6. Bible Atlas

Modern maps do not show biblical locations. Many sites mentioned in Scripture are now ruins, but a Bible atlas provides a clear visual of the lands Abraham, David, the prophets, and Jesus walked. This brings the text to life geographically.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONS

As you grow, you may want to add:

- A solid commentary (e.g., Wiersbe's *Be* series, or the *Bible Knowledge Commentary*).
- A word study tool (such as Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*).
- A study notebook or journal for recording insights, prayers, and reflections.

Closing Word

Study tools are valuable aids, but the true treasure is Christ Himself. Use what you have, grow as you can, and let the Spirit of God be your greatest Teacher. Surround yourself with trustworthy tools, but keep your eyes fixed on the Word of God itself. In the end, Bible study is not about filling your shelves; it is about filling your heart with the truth that transforms.