

Using Cross-References

Four Types of Cross-References

1. Quotations or explicit connections of other texts, especially New Testament quoting the Old Testament.
2. Other places a key word or phrase is used.
3. Other places the same theme is referenced.
4. Places where there is a less direct reference to another place in Scripture. These are sometimes put in [brackets].

Example: Romans 8:3

Sample Interpretive Questions for Romans 8:3

- What could the law not do?
- What does it mean that the law was “weakened by the flesh”?
- What does it mean that the Son was in the likeness of sinful flesh?
- What does it mean that the Son was a sin offering?

Romans 8:3 (CSB)	Cross-References
“What the law could not do ^p since it was weakened by the flesh, ^q God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ^r as a sin offering” ^s	Romans 8:3 ^p Acts 13:39; Heb 10:1-2 ^q Rom 7:18; Heb 7:18 ^r Phil 2:7; Heb 2:14, 17; 4:15 ^s Lev 5:6-7, 11; 14:31; Isa 53:10

“What the law could not do^p...”

Acts 13:38-39: ³⁸ Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers and sisters, that through this man forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Everyone who believes is justified through him from everything that you could not be justified from through the law of Moses.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Hebrews 10:1-2: ¹ Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the reality itself of those things, it can never perfect the worshipers by the same sacrifices they continually offer year after year. ² Otherwise, wouldn't they have stopped being offered, since the worshipers, purified once and for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

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“...since it was weakened by the flesh,⁹ God did.”

Romans 7:18: For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Hebrews 7:18-19: ¹⁸ So the previous command is annulled because it was weak and unprofitable ¹⁹ (for the law perfected nothing), but a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

“He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh^r...”

Philippians 2:7-8: Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Hebrews 2:14, 17: ¹⁴ Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the devil...¹⁷ Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

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“...as a sin offering”

Leviticus 5:1, 6-7, 11: ¹ “When someone sins in any of these ways: If he has seen, heard, or known about something he has witnessed, and did not respond to a public call to testify, he will bear his iniquity...⁶ He must bring his penalty for guilt for the sin he has committed to the LORD: a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin. ⁷ “But if he cannot afford an animal from the flock, then he may bring to the LORD two turtledoves or two young pigeons as penalty for guilt for his sin—one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering... ¹¹ “But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he may bring two quarts of fine flour as an offering for his sin. He must not put olive oil or frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Leiticus 14:31: ³⁰ He is to then sacrifice one type of what he can afford, either the turtledoves or young pigeons, ³¹ one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, sacrificing what he can afford together with the grain offering. In this way the priest will make atonement before the LORD for the one to be cleansed.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

Isaiah 53:10: Yet the LORD was pleased to crush him severely. When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the LORD’s pleasure will be accomplished. ¹¹ After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Romans 8:3?

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In-Class Exercise: 1 Timothy 5:17-18

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV)	Cross-References
¹⁷ Let the elders ^z who rule well be considered worthy of ^a double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “ ^b You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “ ^c The laborer deserves his wages.”	1 Timothy 5:17 ^z Rom 12:8; 1 Thess 5:12 [1 Cor 12:28] ^a Deut 21:17 1 Timothy 5:18 ^b 1 Cor 9:9; <i>cited from</i> Deut 25:4 ^c Matt 10:10; Luke 10:7 [Lev 19:13; Deut 24:15; 1 Cor 9:4, 7-14]

For each set of cross-references, underline the place in the cross-referenced verse to that might help to explain or interpret the idea in 1 Timothy 5:17-18. Then answer the questions to the right. I have included some context in verses where it is especially necessary, but even so you may want to look the verses up to see more about the immediate context.

“Let the elders ^zwho rule well...”

Romans 12:8: ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: ... ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: ¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

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[1 Corinthians 12:28]: And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

“...be worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in ^apreaching and teaching.”

Deuteronomy 21:15-17: ¹⁵ If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, ¹⁶ then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn, ¹⁷ but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

“For the Scripture says, ^bYou shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain’...”

1 Corinthians 9:9–11: ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

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Deuteronomy 25:4: You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

“...and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’

Matthew 10:9-10: ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Luke 10:7: And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

[Leviticus 19:13]: “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

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[1 Corinthians 9:4, 7-14]: ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink?...⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?⁸ Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

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Homework Exercise: Using Cross-References for Philippians 2:9-11

Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)	Cross-References
<p>⁹ ^xTherefore ^yGod has ^zhighly exalted him and bestowed on him ^athe name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus ^bevery knee should bow, ^cin heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and ^devery tongue confess that Jesus Christ is ^eLord, to the glory of God the Father.</p>	<p>Philippians 2:9 ^x John 10:17 [Isa 52:13; 53:12; Heb 2:9] ^y See Matt 28:18 ^z Acts 2:33 ^a Eph 1:21; Heb 1:4 [Acts 5:41] Philippians 2:10 ^b Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11 ^c [Rev 5:3, 13] See Eph 1:10 Philippians 2:11 ^d [Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3] ^e [Rom 14:9] See John 13:13</p>

For each set of cross-references, underline the place in the cross-referenced verse to that might help to explain or interpret the idea in Philippians 2:9-11. Then answer the questions to the right. I have included some context in verses where it is especially necessary, but even so you may want to look the verses up to see more about the immediate context.

“⁹ ^xTherefore...”

John 10:17: For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

[Isaiah 52:13]: Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

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[Isaiah 53:12]: Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

[Hebrews 2:9]: But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

“...yGod...”

See Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

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“...has ²highly exalted him...”

Acts 2:32-33: ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

“...and bestowed on him ^athe name that is above every name...”

Ephesians 1:20-21: ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

Hebrews 1:3-4: ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

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[Acts 5:41]: Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

“¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus ^bevery knee should bow...”

Isaiah 45:22-25: ²² “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³ By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’ ²⁴ “Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. ²⁵ In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

Romans 14:10-11: ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

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“...in heaven and on earth and under the earth...”

[Revelation 5:3, 13]: ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it... ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

See Ephesians 1:10: ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

“¹¹ and ^devery tongue confess...”

[Romans 10:9]: ...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

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[1 Corinthians 12:3]: Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

“...that Jesus Christ is ‘Lord, to the glory of God the Father.’”

[Romans 14:9]: For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?

See John 13:13: You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

What type of cross-reference is it? (#1, 2, 3, 4?)

What might it help explain in Philippians 2:9-11?