Introduction

This guide is intended to aid those seeking reference works dealing with theology, ethics, or philosophy. It is a listing of many of the reference works that are available for finding information regarding topics and issues of these areas.

All works included in this guide are part of the reference collection of the Library at Covenant Theological Seminary. Covenant’s call numbers appear to the left of each work.

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J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. Library
Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy
B  Containing over 4,000 entries, which are mostly short (one paragraph) though some run to several pages, the Cambridge Dictionary clearly and concisely defines both technical terms and crucial concepts. It includes substantial explanatory articles on all major philosophers as well as hundreds of minor figures. There are overviews of all the important sub-disciplines such as ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind and logic.

Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern & Western Thought
B  Contains over 4,000 short entries covering contemporary analytic philosophy, Continental and Asian philosophies, and the history of philosophy (including biographical entries on over 900 philosophers). It contains an extensive and detailed cross-reference system. A very useful one-volume introduction to philosophy.

Encyclopedia of Philosophy
B  The major English-language work in the field, this work covers the whole of philosophy. A good starting point when researching a topic in philosophy. The over 1,400 articles are generally on broad subject areas – you must use the index to find specific topics. The long signed articles include bibliographies, many with annotations. The supplement (put out in 1996) includes additional articles and a cumulative index for the entire set.

Chronological and Thematic Charts of Philosophies and Philosophers
BD  Intended as a ready-reference aid for those in need of essential information on philosophy, this work covers the problems of philosophy in three general areas (knowledge, the world, and values) and includes a separate section on the theories of representative philosophers. The indexes of names and topics provide a valuable entrance to the specific philosophers and ideas in the charts.
**BJ – Ethics**

See also, the sections on Science (p. 11) and Medicine (p. 11) for other works on ethics.

**Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics**

REF  

BJ  
Article length essays (10-15 pages) on topics within twelve subject areas: theories of ethics, ethical concepts, medical ethics, scientific ethics, environmental ethics, legal ethics, ethics in education, ethics and politics, business and economic ethics, media ethics, ethics and social services, and social ethics. Each essay contains an outline, glossary, defining statement, cross-references, and a bibliography in addition to the body of the entry.

**Encyclopedia of Ethics**

REF  

BJ  
Contains articles by distinguished academic philosophers, covering a wide variety of ethical concepts (e.g., theories of the good) as well as ethical questions raised by contemporary social issues (e.g., capital punishment). Substantial survey articles describe Eastern and Western ethical traditions as well as specialized areas such as environmental ethics. Includes a number of biographies. Each article contains a bibliography and references to related articles.

**Encyclopedia of Ethics**

REF  

BJ  
Aimed at the general reader (including high school and college students) to give them an introduction into ethics and a working vocabulary for the study of ethics. This work serves as a basic introduction drawing on the classical line of ethical inquiry and has a strong interest in contemporary ethical issues.

**Dictionary of Ethics, Theology and Society**

REF  
Paul Barry Clarke and Andrew Linzey, editors. New York Routledge,

BJ  
1996.

1199  
This work seeks to offer “a unique synthesis of Judaeo-Christian approaches to social and political issues of wide concern as well as analysing theological and secular positions on matters of religious practice and belief.” (cover) Each entry includes a brief definition of the term, a description of the principal ideas behind it, an analysis of its history, development and contemporary relevance, followed by a bibliography.
The Encyclopedia of Biblical Ethics
BJ Seeking to serve as a textbook for students as well as a practical manual for the
1199 average Christian, covers issues from the most current (e.g., cloning and computer
.E53 ethics) to age-old issues (e.g., chastity and apartheid) from a explicitly Christian
2003 viewpoint. In addition to the articles, a Scripture index and an index of all the
people cited in the work with the topics on which they spoke.

New Dictionary of Christian Ethics & Pastoral Theology
REF David J. Atkinson and David H. Field, editors. Downers Grove: IVP,
1199 Combines articles on ethics, psychology, and practical theology. Is formatted in
.N495 two parts, the first contains eighteen keynote articles giving a basic introduction
1995 to the main themes of Christian ethics and pastoral theology. The second part
consists of over 700 articles usually including bibliographies and when relevant
referring back to the keynote articles. Includes biographies of ethicists,
theologians, economists, psychologists, and British counselors.

Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics
REF James Childress and John McQuarrie, editors. Philadelphia:
1199 It contains 620 entries from a wide range of religious traditions and academic
.W47 disciplines that cover the major issues in ethics and morality. Most entries include
1986 a bibliography.

Baker's Dictionary of Christian Ethics
BJ Contains moderate length essays and numerous short entries on all aspects of
1231 Christian ethics by well-known evangelical scholars.
.B34
Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs
BR  A compilation of excerpts from the ante-Nicene church fathers on more than 700
66.5  moral, theological, and historical topics. It offers brief definitions of unfamiliar
.D53  terms and concepts as well as short biographies of the ante-Nicene church fathers.
1998  Its inclusion of the relevant biblical texts to the topics allows it to serve as a
topical concordance to the Scriptures as well as a topical index to the writings of
the ante-Nicene fathers.

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology
BR  A one-volume reference work that covers historical theology (including important
95  events and people in church history) as well as systematic and philosophical
.E87  theology and theological ethics.
2001

Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological & Ecclesiastical Literature
REF  John McClintock and James Strong. 12 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker,
BR  1981.
95  Combines breadth of scope with the detail of a specialized encyclopedia. An
.M35  excellent work originally published in the late 19th century that is still worth
1981  exploring. The Cyclopedia covers the Bible (books, manuscripts, themes, issues,
etc.), biblical and ecclesiastical geography, biography, theology (doctrines and
issues), and ecclesiology.

New Dictionary of Theology
REF  Sinclair Ferguson and David F. Wright, editors. Downers Grove, IL:
95  A one-volume reference that covers historical as well as systematic theology. The
.N38  articles treat theological themes, thinkers, and movements throughout the history
1988  of the church. Students of the Reformed tradition are well served by this work.
New Catholic Encyclopedia
REF  
BR   
This encyclopedia’s breadth of scope makes it an excellent Christian encyclopedia, despite its name. It covers many subjects in addition to all aspects of the Catholic Church. Volume 15 is a 600-page index that is necessary for finding specific topics and also includes the list of abbreviations used in the work. Unfortunately, though just updated with the addition of a number of new articles, many of the articles are unchanged from the previous (1967) edition.

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia Of Religious Knowledge
REF  
BR   
The encyclopedia covers the areas of biblical, historical, doctrinal, and practical theology and biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical biography. Volumes 1-13 are a reprint of the original encyclopedia published in 1949 and volumes 14 and 15 are a separate A-Z supplement originally published as the Twentieth Century Encyclopedia Of Religious Knowledge, edited by Lefferts A. Loetscher

Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms
REF  
BR   
Includes more than 6,000 terms from theology, biblical studies, church history, ethics, feminist theology, liberation theology, ministry, philosophy, social sciences, spirituality, worship, etc. Definitions are short and easy to understand. Includes some Greek and Latin terms.

Compact Dictionary of Doctrinal Words
REF  
BR   
Slightly longer entries than most dictionaries dealing with over 550 doctrinal terms. Written for the non-theologian – it is very understandable. Entries range from popular terms to some more technical terms.
Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms
BR Articles cover Greek and Latin terms that are meaningful in theology. All entries include a literal definition and, when necessary, a longer expanded definition and explanation is given. Most entries are quite short and include notes on historical usage and origin of term.

BS – Bible
➢ BS 440 – Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament
REF G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, editors. 11+ vols.
BS Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, continuing to be released.
440 A major, multi-volume reference work in which the key Hebrew and Aramaic words of the Old Testament are discussed in depth. With the emphasis on meaning, each word study starts from the narrower everyday senses of the word and builds to an understanding of theologically significant concepts. Included under each keyword is consideration of the larger groups of words related semantically, as well as detailed surveys of a word’s occurrences, both in the biblical material and elsewhere.

Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology
BS The only single volume dictionary of biblical theology from an evangelical perspective. Entries are based upon Greek and Hebrew, but do not require knowledge of the languages. Covers over 500 topics with signed articles by more than 125 contributors. Articles often contain short bibliographies for further research. Includes a Scripture index at the end.

New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis
BS
440 This work is includes a lexical dictionary similar to the one found in TWOT, preceded by the “Guide to Old Testament Theology and Exegesis” (11 essays covering introductory topics). A topical dictionary in volume four, giving articles of a more standard Bible dictionary scope follows the lexical dictionary. Volume five consists of indexes of semantic fields, Hebrew words, Scripture, subject, and the numbering system (converting Strong’s numbers to Goodrick-Kohlenberger – from the NIV Exhaustive Concordance).
Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament
BS 440 This translation of a German work is similar to both NIDOTTE and TWOT, this work seeks to cover the historical, semantic, and theological meanings of Old Testament concepts. Arranged by root, many words are covered in articles under synonyms, antonyms, or derivatives so it is best to look the word up in the index in volume three of all Hebrew and Aramaic terms covered by the set.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament
REF R. Laird Harris, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, editors. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
BS 440 Articles discuss every Hebrew word of theological significance in the Old Testament. Also provides the definitions of all other words. Articles stress theological, not linguistic, understanding and include bibliographies. For the English-only user, a cross-index from the "Hebrew word number" in Strong's Concordance to entries in this wordbook is appended.

Dictionary of Biblical Theology
BS 543 A translation of a French work, this dictionary was intended primarily for Roman Catholic laity and clergy and therefore takes a theological and pastoral approach. Arranged by broad topics, with extensive discussion and bibliographical references.

Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament
Theological Dictionary of the New Testament


The translation of a German work, TDNT treats more that 2,300 theologically significant New Testament words (arranged by their Greek forms). TDNT typically discusses the following for each word: its secular Greek background, its role in the Old Testament, its use in extrabiblical Jewish literature, and its varied uses in the New Testament. Some caution is required as many of the articles read theological meaning into the words themselves, whereas the theology often properly involves the words as employed in specific contexts.

New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology


Contains discussions on the major theological terms of the New Testament (arranged by their English form). These discussions cover the use of the term in classical Greek, the Old Testament, rabbinic writings, as well as the New Testament. The first volume also incorporates a glossary of technical terms; and the fourth volume is composed of five indices: a Scripture index; an index of extrabiblical literature; an index of Hebrew and Aramaic words; an index of Greek words; and a general index.

Theological Lexicon of the New Testament


Similar to both Kittel and Brown above, this three-volume translation of a French work seeks the religious meaning of the language used in the New Testament. Though similar in intent to Kittel more than half of the words covered are not included in Kittel. Like Kittel, this work is arranged by the Greek form.

BT – Doctrinal Theology

Dictionary of Historical Theology


Covers the key figures, theological movements, and significant texts that have shaped Christian thought from the early church to the present. The articles treat the intellectual antecedents and descendents of the figures and movements, as well as their influence on the wider development of the Christian theological tradition.
Charts of Christian Theology & Doctrine
BT Contains 89 charts covering all aspects of theology grouped in 10 categories: prolegomena, bibliology, theology proper, Christology, pneumatology, angelology, anthropology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology.

Taxonomic Charts of Theology & Biblical Studies
BT Contains 129 charts that seek to provide a visual tracing of all major areas of theology (e.g., Christology, soteriology, anthropology, etc.) and biblical studies and their interrelation as well as a glossary giving brief definitions.

Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism
BT Though it provides information on fundamentalism in all forms (e.g., the Taliban, Hasidic Jews, and the Bharatiya Janata Party in India), the primary focus of the encyclopedia is on American Protestant fundamentalism. The entries cover six general topics: fundamentalism in its religious context; major events in the history of fundamentalism; primary beliefs and institutions; major movements, denominations, sects, and churches; perspectives on political and social issues; and individuals who have been central to the rise of fundamentalist movements.

Dictionary of Feminist Theologies
BT Providing an entry into the fields of womanist, mujerista, Asian feminist, and white Euroamerican feminist studies in religion, the articles take a pluralistic approach to feminist theologies. It seeks to cover all areas of theology as they relate to feminism. Articles are followed by reference lists referring to the extensive bibliography at the end of the dictionary.
Dictionary of Premillennial Theology
BT  A practical guide to the people, viewpoints, and history of prophetic studies. This
dictionary seeks to explain the history, development, and major tents of
dispensationalism. All the articles are written from an overtly premillennial,
dispensational perspective. The articles typically include substantial recent
bibliographies. A good tool for understanding the dispensational viewpoint on a
given subject.

BX – Christian Denominations
➢ BX 8901 – 9255 Presbyterianism

Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith
BX  This work “provides a picture of the major events, persons, and theological
understandings of the Reformed Faith... It seeks to provide a circle of knowledge
indicating how events, persons, and concepts have been particularly significant in
the Reformed heritage” (preface).

Q – Science

Encyclopedia of Bioethics
QH  A widely acclaimed major work in the field, dealing with the major issues in the
area as well as specifics. The 300 articles, each with a bibliography, include the
latest scholarship and give thorough coverage to this topic. Fully cross-referenced
and indexed. Indispensable when working in bioethics.

R – Medicine

Encyclopedia of Medicine in the Bible and Talmud
R  Written from a Jewish perspective, this work covers medical ethics as well as
medicine itself. To this end a sizeable portion of the articles address ethical issues
– such as, abortion, cohabitation, marriage, sex (incest, adultery, homosexuality,
lesbianism, masturbation, etc.), lust, euthanasia, etc. To make it easier to find
topics, both a large table of contents and an extensive index are included.