

## MLA Style 9<sup>th</sup> Guide – Citing Religious Works

### APSU Writing Center Handout

#### Citing Religious Texts

**Basic Format:** *Title of Work*. Edited by First Name Last Name, Publisher, Year. Edition or Version.

#### Examples

*The Bible*. Edited and with notes by Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett, Oxford UP, 1998.  
Oxford World's Classics. Authorized King James Vers.

*The Qur'an*. Translated by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, Oxford UP, 2005.

#### In-Text Citations

**Parenthetical Format:** (Religious Text Title Chapter)

- **Example:** (*New Jerusalem Bible* 1 Chron. 21.8)
- **Example:** (The Qur'an Joseph 12:69)

**Narrative Format:** Include the title of the work in the sentence; do not italicize generic references.

- **Example:** In the *New Jerusalem Bible*, 1 Chron. 21:8 describes the king's actions.
- **Example:** The Qur'an (Joseph 12:69) explains the moral lesson of patience.

#### Notes

Include edition or version at the end if relevant (Example: Authorized King James Vers.)

Do not italicize or use quotation marks for generic religious texts (e.g., Bible, Qur'an, Old Testament, Genesis, Gospels, Talmud, Upanishads).

Italicize specific published editions only when citing them directly (e.g., *The Interlinear Bible*).

Books of scripture are often abbreviated in in-text citations.

### **Religious Text Abbreviations for Books of the Bible in MLA**

Here are some of the most frequently used abbreviations for in-text citations:

- Genesis 1:1 → (Gen. 1.1)
- John 3:16 → (John 3.16)
- Romans 8:28 → (Rom. 8.28)

### **Below are more Abbreviations**

Genesis: Gen.

Exodus: Exod.

Leviticus: Lev.

Numbers: Num.

Deuteronomy: Deut.

Joshua: Josh.

Judges: Judg.

1 Samuel: 1 Sam.

1 Chronicles: 1 Chron.

Nehemiah: Neh.

Esther: Esth.

Psalms: Ps.

Proverbs: Prov.

## Works Cited

Columbia College, Canada. *MLA Citation Guide (9th Edition) Religious Texts*.

<https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/MLA9/religious texts>

Modern Language Association. "Citations by Format." [https://style.mla.org/works-](https://style.mla.org/works-cited/citations-by-format/)

[cited/citations-by-format/](https://style.mla.org/works-cited/citations-by-format/).