Biblical Allusions Help Sheet Biblical Allusions in Literature

**Popular Phrases/Concepts Biblical Sources**

My brother’s keeper Genesis 4:9-10

Eye for an eye; Tooth for a tooth Exodus 21:24-25

The apple of his eye Deuteronomy 32:10

God save the king 1 Samuel 10:24

Out of the mouths of babes Psalm 8

To eat, and to drink, and to be merry Ecclesiastes 8:15

A drop in the bucket Isaiah 40:15

Holier than thou Isaiah 65:5

Salt of the earth Matthew 5:3

Lilies of the Field Matthew 6:20

The signs of the times Matthew 16:3

Be of good cheer John 16

Doubting Thomas John 20:24-25

All things to all men 1 Corinthians

The love of money is the root of all evil 1 Timothy

Do not give in to temptation Genesis chapters 1-3 Garden of Eden

Hope is the answer to unforeseen and Pandora’s box

 unmanageable problems

Jealousy is not a virtue Genesis chapter 4 Cain and Abel

Build your future on high ground Genesis chapters 6-9 Noah and the Flood

Understanding is the key to cooperation Genesis chapter 11:8-9 The Tower of Babel

Corruption often leads to destruction Genesis chapters 18-19 The Destruction of

 Sodom and Gomorrah

The true test of humankind involves

 Faithfulness, obedience, unwavering trust Genesis chapters 21-22 Abraham and Isaac

The gift of life is not given without struggle Genesis chapter 25 Jacob and Esau

Strength of character helps overcome Genesis chapter 37 Joseph, his brothers,

 obstacles the coat of many colors

**More Biblical Allusions**

 **Interpretation**

Adam’s rib Genesis 2:18

Alpha and Omega Revelation 1:7-8

Ark of the covenant Exodus 25:10-22

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust Genesis 3:17-19

Be fruitful and multiply Genesis 1:22-23

Bitter as Wormwood Proverbs 5:4

Burning Bush Exodus 3:1-2

Cast the first stone John 8:4-7

By their fruits shall ye know them Matthew 7:20

Water into wine John 2:1-11

Chariot of fire 2 Kings 6:8-23

Consider the lilies of the field Matthew 6:28

Crown of thorns Matthew 27:27-29

David and Goliath Samuel 17:4, 8-9

Daniel in the lion’s den Daniel 6:16

Golden calf Exodus 32:4

Word made flesh John 1:14

Camel through the eye of the needle Matthew 19:23-25

Forty days and forty nights Genesis 7:4

Harden your heart Exodus 4:21

Jonah and the whale Jonah 1 and 2

Horsemen of the Apocalpyse Revelation 6:1-15

Lamb to the slaughter Isaiah 54:6-7

Let my people go Exodus 5:1

Gain the whole world but lost your own soul Mark 8:36

Loaves and fishes Matthew 14:15-18

Manna from heaven Exodus 16:14-15

Gold, frankincense and myrrh Matthew 2:11

Mark of Cain Genesis 4:15-16

Ye cannot serve God and Mammon Matthew 6:24

Methuselah Genesis 5:25-27

Noah’s ark Genesis 6:13-16

Parting of the waters Exodus 14:15-17

Pearls before swine Matthew 7:6

Prodigal son Luke 15:11-14

Sackcloth and ashes Genesis 37:34

Seven pillars of Wisdom 1 Kings 3;16-28

Thirty pieces of silver Matthew 26:14-16

This is my body Luke 22:19

Tree of knowledge Genesis 2:9, 16-17

Turn the other cheek Luke 6:29

Voice crying in the wilderness Isaiah 40:3, John 1:23

Water into wine John 2:7-10

Way of all flesh 1 Kings 2:2, Genesis 6:12

Whited sepulchers Matthew 23:27

Wisdom of Solomon Book of Solomon

**Symbols often used with Biblical Allusions**

Fox slyness; cleverness

Lamb gentleness, purity; sacrifice, innocence

Lion nobleness; ferocity; royalty

Barrenness infertility (trees, plants, land)

 Birds: Bird on the wind freedom

 Caged bird imprisonment

 Cock crowing morning; warning

 Dove peace; purity; peaceful person

 Eagle power; vision; protection

 Falcon greed; vanity

 Hawk war

 Owl wisdom

 Robin spring

 Vulture evil waiting to devour

 Blood life, sacrifice

 Bread life

 Chaff foolish ideas or people

 Chains imprisonment; binding together

 Colors: Black death; poverty; famine; evil

 Green envy; vegetation; fertility; nature

 Grey(Gray) sickness; frailty

 Red passion; sensuality; revolution; violence; war;

 blood

 White purity; power; conquest; good;

 Yellow light; brightness; comprehension

 Cross crucifixion, Christianity

 Darkness mystery; gloom; confusion

 Fire/burning hell; punishment; passion

 Fisherman searcher for truth; Jesus

 Fountain/well life source

 Fruit fertility

 Gold wealth

 Hair: Long flowing freedom; femininity; sexuality

 Pulled back tightly prudish; prim

 Heart life force; love

 King father; authority

 Money labor; evil

 Nakedness naturalness; primitive instincts; savagery; innocence

 Numbers: One unity; unity with God

 Seven sacred; lucky

 Twelve sacred

 Thirteen unlucky

 Petals dropping from flowers life ebbing away

 Queen mother; authority

 Rain sadness; sorrow

 River journey journey of life

 Rose love; lips; kindness

 Sackcloth repentance; mourning

 Sapphire chastity; spiritual peace

 Scaffold justice

 Sea danger; evil

 Seasons: Autumn last few years of life

 Spring new beginnings; birth

 Summer prime of life

 Winter end of life

 Shadows ominous foreboding; mystery

 Shrine devotion

 Sun happiness; power; clearness of vision

 Thunderstorm impending danger; violence

 Warmth security

 Water birth; cleansing

 Wheat divine ideas or people; fertility

 Wine blood