Edwards’ Use of Scripture:
Some Practices
Notebooks: Canonical “Reviews” of Scripture as Collecting and Organizing Principle

From “Catalogue” of Reading, showing early biblical reading projects

[1.] Bible

[107.] then the Rest of the Epistles
[108.] Part of Ezechiel–Isaiah
[109.] Isaiah
[110.] the short prophets
    That is, the twelve minor prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

[111.] the Psalms
[112.] the Evangelists
[113.] Revelation
[114.] Acts
[115.][115] Proverbs
[116.] the twelve
    That is, the twelve minor prophets (see no. 110).

[117.] Judges
[118.] Ezra
[119.] Nehehiah
[120.] Chronicles make table of Kings
[121.] Romans
[122.] a Corinthians
[123.] Galatians &c
[124.] Job
[125.] Jeremiah
[126.] The bible in Course

[127.] Luke observe the instances of the exercise of virtue in X life
    Probably “Christ’s Example” (begun in 1728) in Works, 21, 511–119, which lists examples of Christ’s virtue, as attested in all four Gospels.

[128.] to Read the Evangelists once observing those things those things which show a degree of understanding beyond Common men and even the whole new testament observing the knowledge the apostles had of God, of morality, mans nature & true happiness &c--
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“Christ’s Example,” p. 1: shift from thematic treatment to canonical
“Subjects of Enquiry,”
pp. 18-19
Sermon Notebook "14"

Sermons:
Text to Doctrine,
Doctrine to Text
Study Patterns: Scripture Text “Clusters”

Doctrines flowed from Scripture texts, and here too we see an important transformation. Sometimes Edwards cited a verse that was to be used as the text of the next sermon or one to come in the near future. In the sermon on Job 31:3 (110) preached in the late summer of 1729, he refers to the Scripture phrase, ”With the froward thou wilt show thyself froward.” Within two or three weeks, this very phrase appeared as the text for his sermon on Psalms 18:26 (111). . . . [T]his example illustrates how Edwards used Scripture to shape his ideas even as they appeared with novel clarity. First, it is clear, from both the sermons themselves and his private notebooks, that at any given time Edwards was focusing on certain scriptural “clusters,” or collections of verses, which he felt were related. Second, his choice of proof texts was very deliberate, so that they acted to link his sermons together. In referring to verses that had been alluded to or used as the texts of previous sermons, he hoped to make his listeners relate what they had heard earlier to what they were then hearing.
Favorite books of the Bible for Edwards?

Psalms, Major Prophets, Matthew, Revelation

Favorite texts of Edwards’?

II Sam. 23:5

Eccles. 9:10

II Cor. 3:18

II Cor. 4:18

Gal. 2:20

II Pet. 1:19

Others?
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Q & A