Accordance Version 6.4. Oak Tree Software.

Since its release in 1994, Accordance has had its enthusiastic followers. Now the software, developed and distributed by Oak Tree Software (www.OakSoft.com), is available also for the PC user through the inexpensive Macintosh Emulator device. The Scholar's Collection CD-ROM offers a selection of Greek and Hebrew texts as well as scholarly reference works and translations. The unlock system makes it possible for each user to add specific tools of his or her choice. Critical for the serious Bible student is access to grammatically tagged Greek and Hebrew texts. The Accordance leads the way in making available tagged texts of the Mishnah, the Pseudepigrapha, the Targums, Inscriptions, Dead Sea Scrolls, Josephus, and the Apostolic Fathers. Other specialized research tools include the MT/LXX Parallel and the Qumran Index, as well as many lexicons (see further below).

At least at present, Accordance is designed only to run on the Macintosh operating system. PC users, however, may acquire the Basilisk II software program that emulates a Mac environment for Windows. Once installed, one becomes immersed in the Mac OS world and will discover a virtual exegetical goldmine in form of the Accordance program. Those not accustomed to the Mac OS, however, may want to take some time to acquaint themselves with the program in order to get the most out of their research. Once they gain proficiency in navigating through both the Mac environment and Accordance, they will discover their overall user-friendliness.

The main utility of the Accordance program is that it enables the serious Bible student to conduct detailed searches in a variety of Greek, Hebrew, and English texts. Amid the basic drop-down menus and floating dialogue boxes the search entry box allows the user to search verses, words, phrases, and even grammatical constructions with ease and accuracy. Advanced syntactical studies are made possible by Accordance's graphical searches. The Greek construct window, for example, furnishes several lexical elements that can be connected by an arch that delimits items such as agreement or disagreement between words separated in the text. Thus, one could search for the anarthrous aorist infinitive followed by a dative or accusative within five words.

As mentioned, the distinguishing aspect of the Accordance program is most apparent in the massive databases of primary texts (if unlocked). It includes the fully tagged Hebrew Bible, Greek NT (in the case of the Gospels, also the GNT text-critical apparatus), LXX, and all the major English translations. More significantly, it also includes the fully tagged Dead Sea Scrolls (as well as the Qumran Index), Apostolic Fathers, Josephus, Targums, the Mishnah, the Samaritan Pentateuch, Hebrew Inscriptions, and the Greek OT Pseudepigrapha. In addition, the Apocryphal Gospels will be available in the near future. These primary texts are searchable in their original languages, and in most cases also in English translation. Thus scholars may conduct first-rate, cutting-edge research in a highly accessible format. Those interested in the use of the OT in the NT now have the tools at their disposal to investigate rather quickly how a given OT passage was interpreted during the Second temple period.

Another distinctive feature of Accordance relates to the abundant reference and analytical modules available. Accordance contains a number of lexical resources such as BDB, *HALOT*, Liddell & Scott, Thayer, *TNDT*, Louw and Nida, BDAG, and Wallace's Greek grammar (in the case of grammatically tagged texts, but not in the reference and

analytical lexicon modules, the full parsing is revealed by moving the cursor over a given word). One also finds parallel MT/LXX databases, Synoptic parallels in Greek or English, and perhaps most notable of all, the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, the most extensive collection of ancient Greek texts from about 800 BC to the present. However, the TLG must be purchased separately and then imported into Accordance. Aside from these lexical tools, Accordance also references a variety of OT and NT commentaries, including the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *The Essential IVP Reference Collection* (including such volumes as the *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*), and the Theological Journal Library. Finally, one can make use of a number of maps, charts, and statistical details on word usage.

Hours of laborious study are now reduced to a fraction of the time it would have previously taken to conduct them owing to the arsenal of texts and tools available through this technological marvel. A network of searches, cross-references, comparatives studies, semantic field analyses, and syntactical data maximizes one's time and energy. All research may be saved, printed, and exported into a word processing program. Simply by pressing Alt-Tab one can switch back and forth between the Mac OS and another program such as MS Word. Those who primarily use a Windows-based word processor can easily incorporate the results of the Accordance research. However, the Basilisk II emulation program does place a strain on one's system resources, so that it is best not to have too many programs running at once.

As any other program, Accordance 6.4 requires frequent and consistent use before the user is fully able to enjoy all of its many functions. Depending on their computer savvy, it may take some longer than others to learn how to use this program. Although Accordance is user-friendly overall, the abundance of options and features may prove overwhelming to some. The User Guide provides step-by-step instructions for operating the software, but this also demands time and patience for the user if he or she is to derive maximum benefit. Accordance is primarily marketed for scholars and pastors, though the software is also marketed to lay users in form of a different Library series with English-only works, whose cost is significantly less than for the Scholar's CD. The program does require a certain measure of familiarity with using software; those not committed to serious and intensive study may want to find a less sophisticated program.

Such a high-powered program translates into a high-cost purchase. In order to have access to most of the distinctive modules that makes this program so amazing, one must be willing to spend close to fifteen hundred dollars. Although the "Core Bundle" costs about two hundred dollars, this only contains very basic Bible databases (a little less than BibleWorks). Therefore, most individuals may have to start with the "Core Bundle" and gradually add more modules as their finances allow. This said, Accordance stands head and shoulders above their competitors as the most comprehensive and versatile Bible program on the market. All those dedicated to world-class biblical studies will benefit greatly from the resources offered by this program.

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