

previously (pp. 30–36). This is Aitken's strategy to deal with the limitations and contemporary issues related to the usage of versional textual data in relation to OT and Hebrew language studies.

The fifth section deals with the analysis of the lexemes with reference to the relevant lexical/semantic field(s). As a given lexeme might fit into more than one semantic field, this discussion becomes relevant as the justification of the lexeme's placement. The section also sets the lexeme in perspective as well as exploring possible aspects of polysemy and diachronic semantic development (semasiology).

The sixth section, exegesis, takes advantage of the information and insight provided by the previous sections and discusses them in addition to any other relevant issues. The discussion is made against the backdrop of the literature review previously made in the general introduction of the book. Any relevant element from the reviewed approaches is noted.

Finally, at the end of every lexical entry, Aitken elaborates his conclusions, based on the evidence he has already provided. Aitken is careful in the way he works in this section as made evident from those instances when the evidence points toward a lexeme as performative (pp. 55, 177), declarative (pp. 116, 242, 249), apotropaic (p. 83) or just as the recognition of a condition (pp. 87, 158, 192, 205).

This is a reference book that requires the reader to have a working knowledge of intermediate Ancient Hebrew language and an awareness of the current issues on Ancient Hebrew linguistics. As a reference book, it is exhaustive, systematically organized, concise and represents the state of the art in its field.

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*Accordance Bible Software 8: Scholar's Standard Level*, by Oak Tree Software. Altamonte Springs: Oak Tree Software, 2008. Macintosh compatible software. DVD. US\$ 249.00.

I came to know about Accordance through my Greek professor who considered it the best Bible software. It was only after a year that I had the opportunity to test his claim. The present review offers a general and brief introduction to the Accordance software with a special focus on the *Scholar's 8 Standard Level* edition of Accordance. It will also point out the advantages and disadvantages. The final observations will include a personal recommendation.

There are five different versions offered by Oak Tree in order to make the use of the software convenient for the user. The *Starter Collection* con-

tains only a basic set of resources. Two more collections, i.e., the *Jewish Collection* and the *Catholic Collection*, include Hebrew and Catholic translations respectively and both have specific study tools. The sources for the Jewish collection include the *Tanakh* and the Mishnah, while the Catholic collection includes sources such as the Council of Trent, the Catholic Catechism, and the Douay-Rheims Bible. A variety of dictionaries, commentaries and basic Bible study tools are included in the *Library Collection* which is especially designed for studies using English texts. The *Scholar Collection* meets a need for a deeper study of biblical languages for any Bible student. The prices range from US\$ 49.00 to 2,800.00 (see the official homepage of Accordance at [www.accordancebible.com](http://www.accordancebible.com)).

At a first glance one can appreciate the space and structure that Accordance offers. Superfluous icons, buttons, and menu bars are not present. Another feature is a clearly laid out working space. Lexicons, Bibles, maps, or commentaries that have been added recently are arranged into different tabs. Furthermore, the use of logical symbols makes the search easy. Important functions, as well as basic, individual adjustments are not hidden in the obscurity of menu bars. Only one click clears the way to many tasks: changing texts, dictionary search, text comparison, details and map display, etc. Moreover, the search option in the menu bar shows all the available search commands and symbols. It is also possible to enter lexical forms, inflected forms, or grammatical tags quickly and conveniently.

In the center is the *Search Window* which has two floating windows next to it, i.e., the Resource Palette and the Instant Details Box. Through this particular placing, Oak Tree succeeded in emphasizing two of its basic concepts—the centrality of the Bible and the search within the Bible (see *Accordance Bible Software Version 7.4 User Guide*, 40).

The *Floating Window* which may be found on the right side of the page (the Resource Palette), allows for the addition of new texts, dictionaries, or commentaries. It is also possible to obtain parsing and syntax information of a selected text, although there are some limitations in this area. The price increases with the amount of options added and the access to more information.

The *Instant Details Box*, a floating window found at the bottom of the page, provides instant parsing information, a translation, and the pronunciation of the word at which the mouse points. It also contains Bible texts that are included in commentary articles.

The *Scholar's Standard Edition* comes with a good collection of materials that enables one to do research in the original languages of the Bible. The library contains four Greek texts of the New Testament (*Nestle/Aland*, *Tischendorf*, *Textus Receptus*, and *Westcott/Hortt*), one Hebrew Bible text (*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*), as well as four English versions of the Bible (ASV,

KJV, NET, and WEB). In order to assist with the biblical languages, Accordance provides four Greek/English dictionaries (*Louw/Nida, Thayer, Strong, and Newman*), as well as three Hebrew/English dictionaries (*Brown/Driver/Briggs, Harris, and Strong*) and one Biblical Aramaic Glossary (*Cook*).

It is clear that there is a greater emphasis on Greek, and therefore on the New Testament, for the Scholar's Standard version is well equipped with Robertson's *Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, Burton's *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek*, and Deissmann's *Bible Studies*. Hebrew equivalents are not yet present. Oak Tree includes also its own collections—for example, the parallels (Gospels, Epistles) or the Classic Passages—as well as open-source material such as *Eastons Bible Dictionary, Nave's Topical Bible*, etc.

One of the greatest strengths of the software is its search abilities. There are two ways to accomplish a search, namely, the search using the search window input, and the graphical search (construct window). Through the latter one can profit from the search features of the former, adding to it graphical and position-specific elements.

Accordance offers unique search commands through which one can link windows/tabs by performing parallel searches, and compare search results of two different windows/ tabs etc. Version eight has new commands called "fuzzy" and "infer." The fuzzy command assists the user if the verse is only partially known by adding one word in between in a formerly specified frame if necessary. The infer command looks for analogies and interferences of text A in text B. These similarities are graphically highlighted for an easy comparison. The very helpful "search back" command allows the user, after doing a particular search, to look for analogies and interferences in the other direction.

Particularly attractive to teachers, pastors and students is Accordance's ability of creating a slide show from the tabs that have been set up. Several dictionaries, commentaries, Bible passages, graphics, maps, pictures, etc. can be prepared beforehand and used in the lesson conveniently in a full-screen mode. This unique feature of Accordance will enrich every Bible-based class in a seminary.

There are also some weaknesses that need to be addressed. One would be the limited and not-well-selected access to different versions of the Bible. Even in the Scholar's 8 Standard edition there are only four English versions available of which two contain an antiquated English. The NKJV or the NASB would be very reasonable to expect of a program at such a level. The fuzzy search, for instance, is not useful if one remembers the text only in the wording of the NIV, the NKJV, or another more popular version, and not in KJV English. In research papers, as well as articles the versions used are generally not

the ones provided here. There are packages that can be bought which provide these missing Bible translations. However, there should be a representation of at least one or two of these common versions in order to call the collection *Scholar's Standard*. A collection that includes all the English Bibles is available at a cost of US\$ 480.00 (see <http://www.accordancebible.com/products/packages/details.php?ID=604>). Yet, the PC-based competing software package *BibleWorks 7* includes not only many unlocked English versions, but also several versions in German, French, Spanish, etc. and costs only US\$ 349.00.

Another weak point of Accordance is the imbalance concerning the amount of resources available to the NT scholars as compared to the resources available for OT scholars/students. Four Greek versions of the NT are available, as compared to the one Hebrew text. The same imbalance applies also to commentaries, grammars, and dictionaries. A look at the available products on the Accordance homepage will make NT students happy, for there are manifold options for them. The new user is very dependent on the User Guide of Accordance version 7.4. Although the help guide within the program has a chapter that describes the new features of Accordance version 8, these are only briefly explained. Tutorial videos can be ordered at Oak Tree Software Incorporation for a price of US\$ 15.00. However, for one who is not living in the USA this would be a more costly experience. Other programs provide these tutorials together with the program disc.

*Scholar's 8 Standard* is primarily recommendable for its powerful search engine, and its well-structured appearance to students of theology as well as scholars. The easy-to-learn features of Accordance will make the program also attractive to non-theologians that use the program sporadically. Limitations, however, can be felt in the available and sometimes unbalanced resources. In this regard, *BibleWorks* (or *Logos*) are stronger competitors, especially now that they also have access to the world of Macintosh through virtual machines.

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*Armageddon at the Door*, by Jon Paulien. Hagerstown: Autumn House, 2008. Pp. 223. ISBN 978-0-81270-477-8. Paper. US\$ 15.99.

Jon Paulien is presently the dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University, USA. He has been a professor of New Testament Interpretation at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, for more than 20 years