

REVIEW



Accordance 9: Scholar's 9 Premiere Level, with twenty-nine Additional Modules (listed below). Altamonte Springs, FL: Oak Tree Software, Inc., 2010. \$1,829.00. www.accordancebible.com

Bible Software has, in my opinion, become a critical, if not essential, tool for the biblical scholar. Not many in modern research function capably without it—although, I do know a (quite gifted) few. And while many platforms have been made available, Accordance has stood in a class of its own as the preferred option for Macintosh users for over a decade now.

But before getting underway with the review of this newest installment of Accordance's software; at the outset, I should say that I approach this software distinctly from the perspective of my discipline—Biblical Studies—and specifically, New Testament Studies. And I remain particularly interested in how this tool can aid me in my academic research. In fact, when I spoke with the kind and generous people at Accordance about doing this review, I mentioned that to work effectively as a New Testament scholar within the context of their software, I would need their *Scholar's 9, Premiere Level*, which includes the following resources:

Product	Category
NET Bible and Notes Group	English Studies
Greek Study Group	Greek & Hebrew Tools
Simplified Guide to the BHS (Scott)	General Tool
Brenton English LXX	English Text
Greek New Testament NA27 (tagged)	Greek Text
GNT Tischendorf	Greek Text

GNT-Textus Receptus (tagged)	Greek Text
GNT Westcott & Hort	Greek Text
Greek Septuagint (Rahlfs) revised	Greek Text
BHS with Westminster Hebrew Morphology	Hebrew Text
Louw & Nida Semantic Domain Lexicon	Greek Tool
Spicq Theological Lexicon of the NT	Greek Tool
New Testament Greek, Second Edition	Greek Tool
Thayer's Greek Lexicon	Greek Tool
UBS Greek Lexicon	Greek Tool
Brown-Driver-Briggs Abridged Hebrew Lexicon	Hebrew Tool
Jenni-Westermann Theological Lexicon	Hebrew Tool
Introducing Biblical Hebrew	Hebrew Tool
Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament	Hebrew Tool
Starter Collection of free modules with version 9	Primary

In addition to this base package, I also requested the following ‘modules’ in order to review what is available in the software for ‘Original Language Texts and Tools for New Testament Study’:

Product	Category
An Index of Qumran Manuscripts	Commentaries
Apocryphal Gospels	Greek Text
Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)	Greek Text
Apostolic Fathers Third Edition (tagged)	Greek Text
Christian Apologists	Greek Text
Codex Sinaiticus	Greek Text
Codex Vaticanus	Greek Text
Codex Washingtonensis	Greek Text
The Mishnah: A New Translation by Jacob Neusner	English Text
GNT Papyri	Greek Text

Product	Category
Scholar's 8 Premier Level	Primary
Qumran Non-Biblical Manuscripts: A New English Translation	English Text
Greek Pseudepigrapha	Greek Text
Qumran Non-Biblical Manuscripts (Hebrew, tagged)	Hebrew Text
Josephus and Notes	English Text
Josephus Tagged Greek	Greek Text
Judean Desert Corpus	Hebrew Text
Kaufmann Hebrew Mishna (tagged)	Hebrew Text
New English Translation of the Septuagint	English Bibles
Pseudepigrapha (New English)	English Text
Philo English with Notes	English Text
Philo Tagged Greek	Greek Text
Pseudepigrapha (Charles English)	English Text
NRSV with Strong's Group	English Studies
Accordance 9 (upgrade from version 8, code for download)	Other
Grammatical Syntax add-on to GNT-T	Greek Text
Grammatical Syntax add-on to BHS-W4	Hebrew Text
ESV with Strong's Group	English Studies
HCSB with Strong's Numbers	English Studies

I have my lexicons, commentaries and monographs in various other formats so mostly what I wanted from Accordance was primary texts and a collection of texts—currently only available digitally on Accordance—designed for first-hand text-critical study. That is obviously reflected in my choice of modules listed above. However, most of the standard lexica and grammars are available in the program if users desire to make Accordance their primary hub for biblical research. The fact that I needed to request many additional models speaks to the very bare bones framework with which the *Scholar's*

Premiere package equips the user interested in academic research. The designers should, in my view, consider more comprehensive packages with the increased economic benefit of buying their software in bulk.

Two broad categories help in the evaluation of software designed for biblical study, such as Accordance. And these are the evaluative classifications that I have begun to think of in my assessments of all Bible software, not just Accordance (for an evaluation of Logos according to these criteria, see <http://bit.ly/e28wHy>). Broadly speaking, it is important to see how it functions (1) as a piece of Bible *software* and (2) as a tool for biblical *research*.

Software Analysis

Four criteria help assess the quality of Accordance 9 as a piece of Bible software: (1) Interface and Usability, (2) Integration, (3) Technological Sophistication and (4) Compatibility and Installation.

1. *Interface and Usability*. With most software there exists a delicate economy of aesthetics and efficiency. High resolution readers and visually ornate interfaces come at a cost. What you gain in an elegant

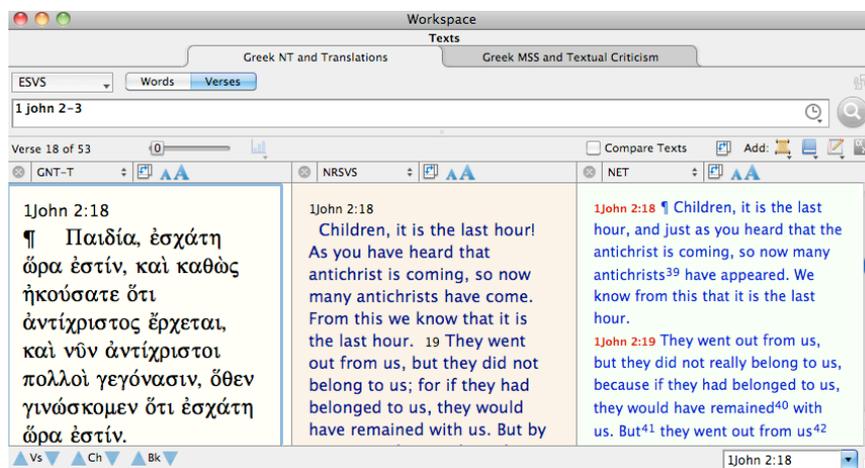


Figure 1: Customizable Interface

display platform is often at the expense of speed, efficiency, and functionality. The more aesthetic interfaces result in slower,

more sluggish programs. And the faster, higher utility software tends to be hard on the eyes. This applies across the board—not just with biblical research programs. There is a give and take here that is often difficult to balance. Accordance, however, has lived into this tension better than most programs I have seen.

Given the efficiency and speed of the program, Accordance 9 exhibits a very nice look and feel. The beautiful Accordance-designed original language fonts display at a high resolution with a customizable interface at just about every level. As Figure 1 illustrates, Accordance places a wide range of display options before the user. One can rename tabs, change the color of text and text display backgrounds, adjust the fonts and/or display text in differing formats: paragraph with verse divisions; simple verse divisions only; etc. This level of interface flexibility equips the user with the ability to construct a very visually pleasing e-reader, if they so desire—certainly, there remains great potential to move beyond the rather pedestrian default display settings.

The highly aesthetic display becomes all the more impressive when the significant levels of Accordance’s functionality are taken into consideration. As with several other Macintosh applications, the program designers have organized Accordance with a ‘workspace’ and several floating, removable ‘palettes’. Structuring the program in this way allows easy access to other applications that are visible in the background since the program does not dominate the entire screen. In addition to the workspace, the default set up has three palettes activated: the **library** (technically a ‘window’ that functions like a palette), **resource** and **instant details** palettes.

The **library** window (located to the left of the workspace) contains all of the user’s modules and tools. This window comes set up according to tool types. To activate any of these tools (Texts, Greek Tools [e.g. lexica], Hebrew Tools, etc.), one simply clicks on the relevant resource to activate it within workspace. When you do so, the program opens up an entire Workspace tab devoted to studying that text or, in the case of a tool, a new ‘Zone’ devoted to that tool. Zones are, in fact, a new feature of version 9 that help the researcher keep texts and tools distinct for comparison and reference purposes. The + symbol at the bottom of the

library window allows users to easily add modules right from the library window. My favorite feature of the library window is the ability to customize the classification of texts that have been purchased. The blank folders are not the most

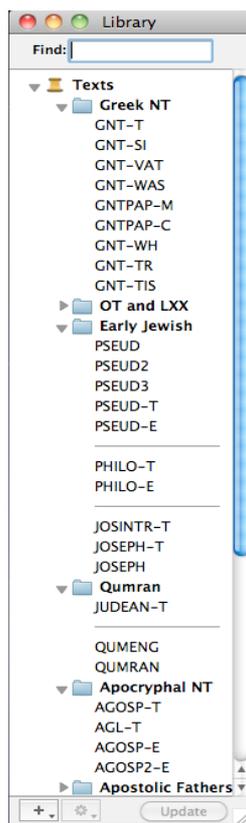


Figure 2:
Library Window

aesthetically or modern looking organizational tabs, but they get the job done. When the user does make custom changes to the library window, the ‘Update’ button must be pressed to save the changes.

The **resource** palette (located to the right of the workspace) provides a more direct, graphically stimulating way of accessing texts, tools and other functions within Accordance. One may view English (A), Greek (α) or Hebrew (י) texts from this palette. The context for verses displayed within the workspace can also be displayed in a zone from the ‘context’ (the double arrow icon) function of the resource palette. The customizations made by the user in the library window conveniently transfer over to the resource palette as well. The user can access tools, background resources (maps, charts, etc.) and their personalized notes or user tools (‘My stuff’) in the same way. The note taking tool still remains a bit primitive unfortunately, whereas the user tool function allows for the construction of texts within

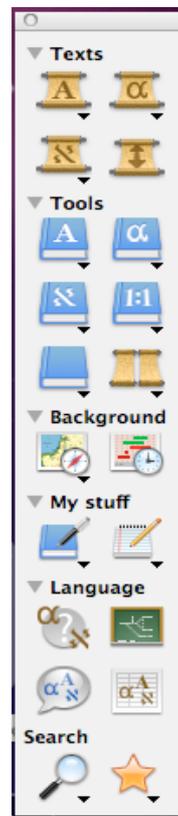


Figure 3:
Resource
Palette

the program that the user derives from public domain resources. In addition to the visual representation of text and tools from the library window, you can also access several useful language tools. These include a parsing guide, a diagramming tool, a digital pronunciation feature and a word chart. The parsing guide and word chart have some overlap, mostly differing in the way that similar information is presented. The unique feature of the word chart is a ‘function’ column that allows users to fill in functional information beyond the morphological level as they work through the text. Beyond the obvious uses, I imagine such tools could be helpful for teachers who desire to produce pedagogical aids for their students, offering ways to fill in data they may deem helpful for the classroom. The pronunciation guide is based on a digital reader and so the pronunciation is far from precise. A good improvement here, to future editions, could involve more accurate voice-over readings of the text.

Finally, the **instant details** (located below the workspace) palette

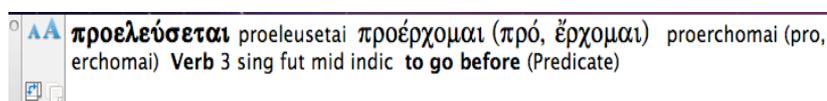


Figure 4: Instant Details Palette

provides
parsing
details
below the

workspace so that original language terms that the user may not be familiar with can be displayed easily and conveniently. The user can easily adjust the font size or the location of the panel according to their preference. As with the other tools and palettes, the instant details palette is quite fast, offering literally instant results as the cursor hovers over the original language text. One can access original language information by placing the cursor over English language text as well. One limitation of this palette is that you can hold down shift to freeze the information but when the cursor is on the palette, it disappears; and you cannot copy this information individually (e.g. just the lexeme). You can only—as far as I can tell—copy the content of the entire window, definitions, etc. When studying a text, it is often handy to be able to copy only the lexical form. For example, when writing a commentary, I often just want a convenient, one-step procedure for copying the lexical form.

You can easily add a number of further palettes to the default display. These include a **highlight palette**, **text palette** and **character palette**. The highlight palette offers a fairly wide range of customizable options, including, but not limited to, the ability to adjust the color, shape, intensity and pattern of the highlighting tool. The text palette functions in tandem with the notes tool and allows a nice range of editorial functions for note taking, e.g. the ability to change fonts, justification, and so on. I think more work still needs to be done in

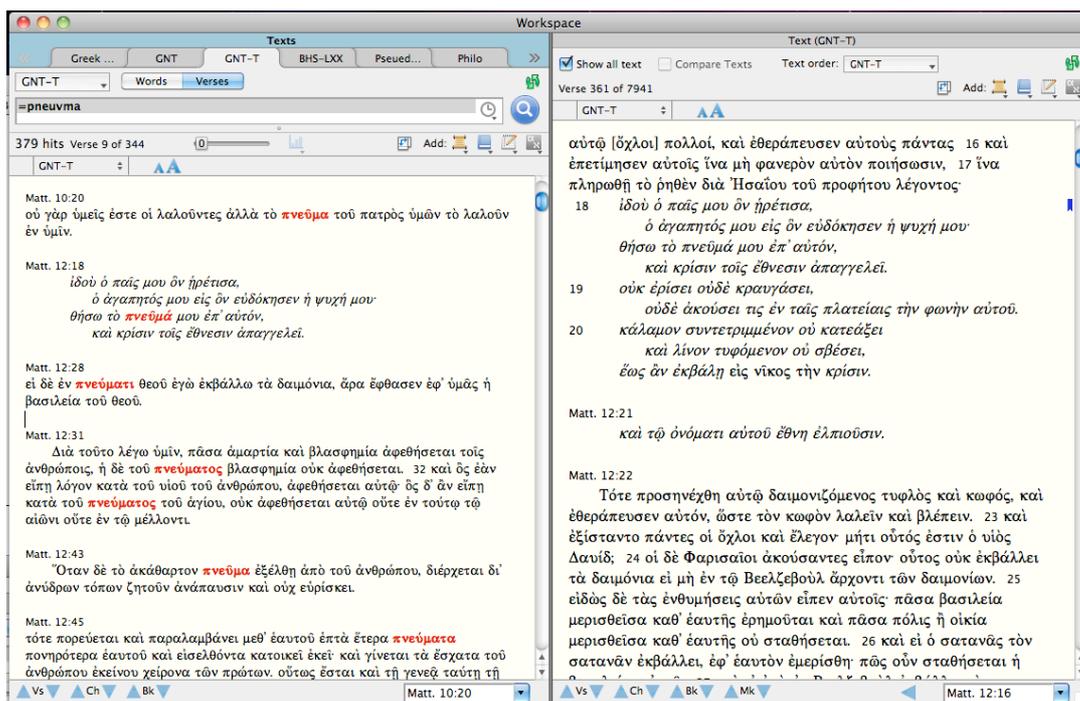


Figure 5: The Context Tool Zone

order for this part of the program to work at highest levels of efficiency. Perhaps the text palette and notes tool could open in a separate zone rather than dislodging from the interface as it currently does—a small tweak, but nonetheless, one worth considering I think. Finally, the character palette provides a quick reference guide to the original language keyboard maps.

We come lastly, then, to the primary dimension of the Accordance 9 interface, the **Workspace**. Accordance has organized their software, at least up until version 9, primarily according to windows and tabs. With this newest installment of the software, ‘zones’ have been added. These zones provide users with a distinct component of the interface devoted to tools and resources while leaving the tabbed panels primarily for text analysis. This can be extremely useful in displaying search results. For example, if I search on the lemma πνεῦμα, Accordance will display all of the individual verses where πνεῦμα or its cognates occur. If I desire to view more of the context, I can adjust the context display so that each verse has anywhere from 0 to 10 verses of preceding and subsequent context displayed with it in the main display panel (e.g. the hit on Mt. 10.20 will display 10.19-21 if ‘1’ is selected). However, in certain situations, this can result in a rather crowded interface—say, if the user just wants to scan through several individual verses and only becomes curious regarding the context on certain occasions. The context tool, which displays in a zone, is perfect for this kind of situation since you can display the entire context alongside the search results. The **tabbed interface** itself is quite functional as well. Moving from top to bottom (see Figure 6 below), you can note that the various texts from the library display in a conveniently organized tabbed interface, an important multi-tasking feature of most newer applications. As noted above, each tab can be renamed according to the user’s preferences. This feature remains very helpful for those desiring to work on multiple parallel texts within the same tab while having several other parallel texts open at the same time.

The Workspace itself can also be renamed, saved and re-opened at a later time. One of the only areas of the program that still lags a little in speed involves these more complex workspaces. When you save a workspace with numerous texts under several tabs, restarting the program can take over a minute—depending upon the number of texts on the workspace—since the program takes a few seconds to open each text. Once the workspace is up and running though, it flies. Accordance

competes with the fastest, most efficient Bible research applications on the market—for Mac or PC. With this exception, it is at least as fast and functional as anything else available, if not more so. Crashes remain at a minimum but did occur two or three times when running especially taxing tasks in my use of the program for over a year now—not a bad track record.

Within each tab, the ‘Add Text’ button provides a **Parallel Texts Tool** in which one can compare several parallel versions or texts. In

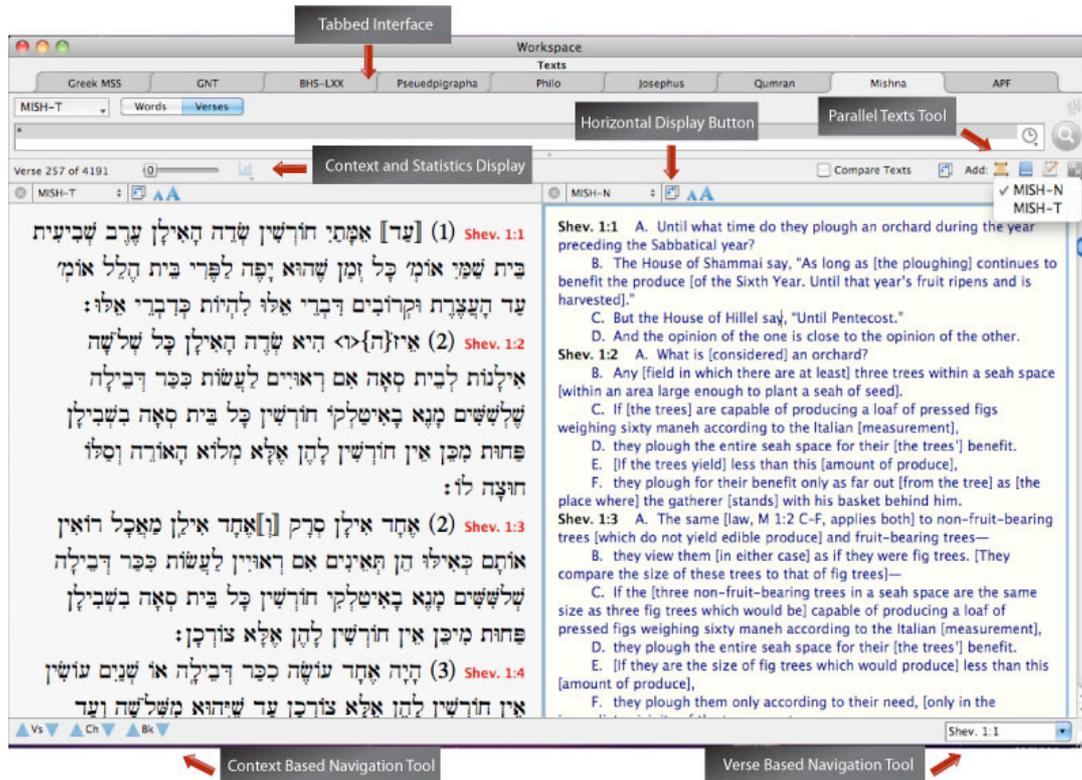


Figure 6: The Accordance Workspace

Figure 6, the MISH-T (Mishna original language text) parallels the Neusner Mishna translation (MISH-N) and so Accordance pulls these two sources when I have the MISH-T open. When the user opens the resource from here, rather than from the library, it opens within the same tab rather than within a different tab.

The **Context and Statistics Display** buttons featured in Figure 7 can also come in handy when navigating or searching

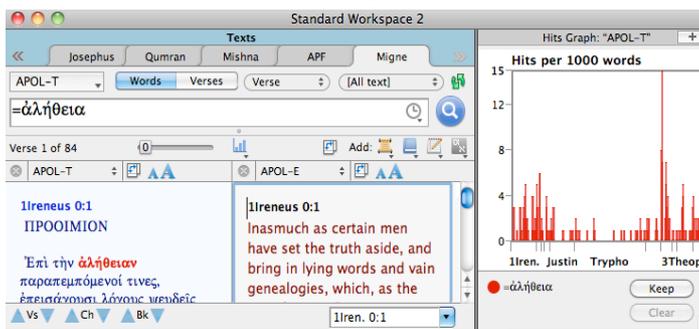


Figure 7: Statistics Display

text in Accordance. The context display was discussed above with the workspace. The statistics button next to it models search results graphically according to the user's preferences as you can see here in this example from Migne's classic edition of the Greek fathers.

Many recent converts to Mac will be used to Accordance's PC equivalent (no formal relation between the programs, merely a

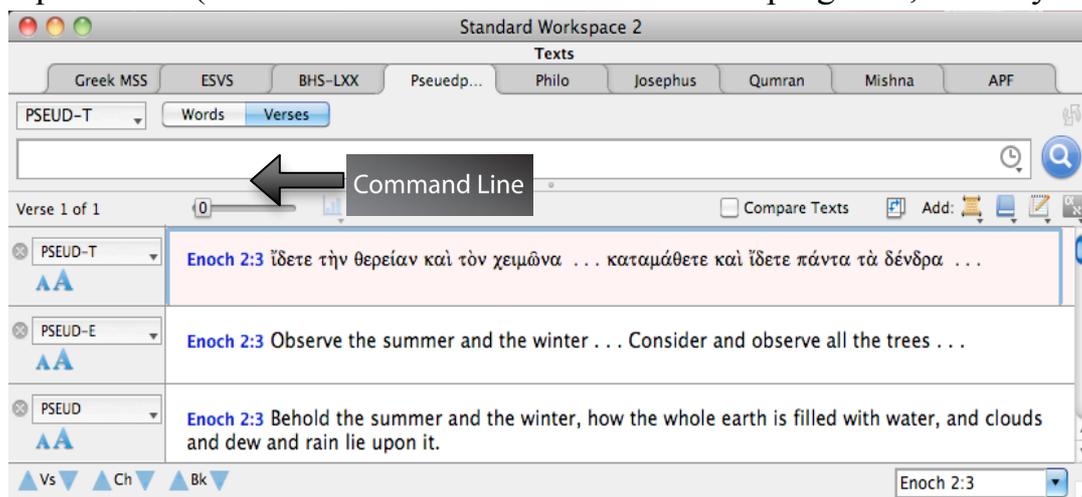


Figure 8: Horizontal Orientation

functional one), *BibleWorks* (for my review of *BibleWorks*, see <http://bit.ly/fJJ3uc>), which now stocks a range of modules very similar to those provided by Accordance in its base package. But while both of these programs have widely respected reputations as highly efficient Bible software on their respective platforms, many differences remain. One significant difference that native *BibleWorks* users may find difficult to adapt to involves the default display of the program itself, which essentially presents search results, texts and other key information as a horizontal display whereas Accordance is organized vertically. However, Accordance does allow the researcher to easily rearrange the workspace according to a horizontal rather than vertical orientation, giving a similar—though not exactly parallel—feel to *BibleWorks*. As you may note in **Figure 8**, the user can compare multiple texts and/or translations in a linear display with the search terms, whether one wants to browse a particular verse or passage or search on words/ phrases, from the **Command Line**. To search a text simply choose ‘Words’; to view a passage, choose ‘Verses’—note that ‘Verses’ is highlighted above in blue. The user may employ the **Context Based** or **Verse Based Navigation Tool** to scan through or shift their results.

As the display indicates, I have three Pseudepigrapha texts here through the use of the **horizontal display button**: a critical Greek text (Evans/OCP) (PSEUD-T), the Evans/OCP (PSEUD-E) translation and the Charles translation (PSEUD; an oldie but a goodie!). I like this linear orientation. And I think it could help *BibleWorks* users in the process of weaning off of their PCs or just in those cases where a researcher desires a more horizontal display of the text—and there are other uses of this display in combination with the vertical orientation that I will highlight later. I do think, however, that the font adjustment feature could be toggled or placed in-line with the text browser for a more economic use of interface space.

I think what I have said so far about the interface features Accordance as an extremely functional program designed for maximum efficiency. Nearly every result one desires to assess is drawn virtually instantly. Things get slightly slower with more complex construct or syntax searches, but not significantly so. If one desires speed and functionality in their Bible software, Accordance is unmatched on the Mac platform. Accordance is a highly responsive, extremely stable application. And the highly custom-izable interface only enhances this utility. Since the user can choose from several differing layouts through combining vertical and horizontal orientations in tabs with various zones, the interface can be adjusted to fit the research style of the individual or project. All this is without much loss of aesthetic appeal—very impressive.

Well that about covers interface and usability, for which Accordance receives very high marks. A few words should still be said about

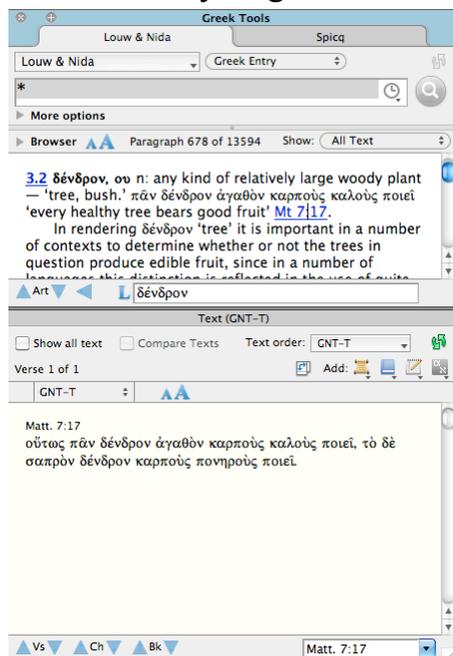


Figure 9: Internal Integration

Integration; Technological Sophistication; and Compatibility and Installation. These will receive relatively less attention given that the Interface and Usability are the most important features at this level of the review.

2. *Integration.* The integration in Accordance 9 remains primarily internal, meaning that it mainly integrates with itself, but is not sufficiently linked up with external sources, such as the web. At the internal level, users can look up

original language terms in their default dictionary (Louw-Nida's domain dictionary is set as the default). The Scholar's Premiere also comes with Spicq, a decent word dictionary. I have stocked up on my lexica and dictionaries in other formats and I had no need to acquire them again here, but it certainly would be useful to have BDAG as a default for this function. Passages are also key-linked within the lexica. You can create a 'User Tool' in Accordance, which allows public domain texts, even original language Unicode ones, to function as part of the program. However, they do not fully integrate as regular Accordance texts so they will not be as helpful as the modules purchased from Accordance. Accordance in my view could be improved, especially with some of the texts they have like, Siniaticus (<http://codexsinaiticus.org/en/>) or OCP (<http://bit.ly/fvQqJE>), with external online integration. The former has free images available and the latter has online critical apparati for which it would be beneficial to provide external associations.

3. *Technological Sophistication.* Accordance is a well written program. Again, the ability of the designers to combine a beautiful display with a highly responsive interface speaks volumes for the thoughtfulness of the software engineers in putting this application together. The tabbed interface, originally developed in 1988 as part of web-browsing technology, but only made popular in the last several years, indicates the intentions of the programmers to maintain a contemporary feel for Accordance. Their commitment to the Mac platform was technologically prophetic, as it seems now that many of the best technologies are emerging from Apple. We have yet to see a widescale use of Macs among biblical scholars (mainly due to Semitic font issues—see below), but we do see signs of this, especially among many younger scholars (at least, if my circle of biblical scholars is any indication). They now have an iPhone and an iPad application. The Accordance modules you own download directly to your device and while they do take up some memory space, they function much better than similar web based applications. However, I would love to see more interfacing with advancements in Web 2.0 technologies, such as the integration features I mention above.

4. *Compatibility and Installation.* One problem—not as much with Accordance as with Microsoft Word for Mac—is the use of RTL

complex scripts within the standard word processor (Microsoft Word) in the Macintosh environment. Hebrew, Aramaic and other RTL scripts are not supported by Word which mounts a serious obstacle for copying such text from Accordance into Word. I have spent years familiarizing myself with Word and have no desire to learn a new Word Processor, like Mellel, just for font support. This is a serious compatibility issue that Microsoft needs to correct, but with which Accordance users should be familiar. I have found that the easiest work around is to use a cloud based program like Dropbox or now Google Drive to sync my Word documents with my PC—an artifact I am using less and less these days. I basically create my articles and books on my Mac and then, if I need Hebrew, I fill in the Hebrew fonts in the synced PC version of the file. It's not ideal, but it works pretty well and is not terribly inconvenient for a New Testament scholar like myself since my use of Hebrew and Aramaic is mainly limited to Rabbinic Literature, Dead Sea Scrolls and New Testament uses of the Old Testament, at least for now. The new version of Accordance does, however, convert to Unicode when copy-ing and pasting so if you are not working much with RTL scripts, you should be good as far as compatibility and fonts are concerned.

Another compatibility issue worth at least mentioning—though it may seem obvious enough—involves platform. Again, migrators to the Mac platform may be tempted to run *BibleWorks* on an immoderator or vice versa. I do not recommend running software of any type through a non-native environment. The result is typically a sluggish, poorly performing version of the program. If you want to use Accordance, you need a Mac. And if you hope to do quick, efficient biblical research on a Mac, you need Accordance. Whatever extra it costs to buy Accordance, you gain back in time and frustration by running exclusively native software on your machine. That was my experience, at least.

In Accordance 9, the installation process has been drastically improved from Accordance 8. The 'Easy Install' is an online account based way of installing your Accordance purchases that works excellently. Once the updates have been downloaded, you basically reinstall a new version of the program.

Efficiency for Academic New Testament Study

The world of academic New Testament study continues to be an increasingly interdisciplinary field, especially with the recent applications from fields of the social sciences. Nevertheless, three domains of analysis remain foundational: (1) textual criticism; (2) grammatical study; and (3) historical context. My assessment of Accordance, then, will depend upon how successfully, in my view, the software enables support for scholars in these three realms of critical investigation.

1. *Textual Criticism*. I am extremely excited about what Accordance has to offer biblical students as an aid in reconstructing the manuscript history of the New Testament. No software available on Mac approaches what Accordance offers at this level. For those whose principle study involves text criticism or early manuscripts of the New Testament, there is no question that Accordance provides the most comprehensive set of resources available, many of which have only been made available in their format. Of course, the standard kinds of tools are available. One may purchase the Tischendorf, NA²⁷, or the more recent CNTTS apparatus, but where real steps toward providing powerful tools

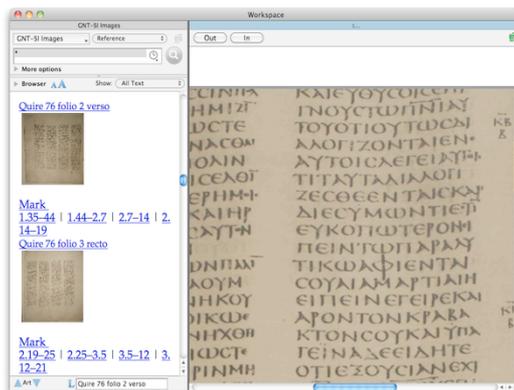


Figure 10: *Codex Sinaiticus Images*

for text-critical research have been made is in supplying digital replicas of the primary manuscripts for the reconstruction of the New Testament. In my view, it is too often the case in recent commentaries that real primary textual research is traded for summarizing the results of Metzger's *Textual Commentary*. More significant firsthand engagement with the original manuscripts must be undertaken and an overreliance upon secondary sources' evaluation of those manuscripts should be discouraged. That is why I deeply appreciate Accordance focusing their efforts on reproducing the manuscripts themselves rather than remaining content with the standard apparati. When I received my copy, I got the following Greek manuscripts in Accordance's platform: the New Testament Greek Papyri, Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Washingtonensis. Bezae is also available and Codex

Alexandrinus has recently been released. So, overall, this is a pretty impressive assortment of the earliest Christian manuscripts. Also recently available are associated images for each of these major codices. These make a perfect complement to the digitally tagged editions. A great feature of these digitized MSS in Accordance is the programmers' special MS uncial font and that these MSS have been parsed and are, therefore, just as accessible to the wide range of students who may interested in looking at these as are the standard digital editions of the GNT.

Through using the digital copies of the earliest Christian manuscripts, the user can create a very helpful apparatus based on looking at these digitized replicas of the manuscripts as displayed in Figure 11. If the user holds the cursor over the relevant Greek term, Accordance highlights the corresponding term in the manuscripts for quick and convenient comparison. You will note in the example from Jn 1:18 there is a variant between the two nomina sacra $\Upsilon\Sigma/\Theta\Sigma$. Notice the variant readings between W and), B, \mathfrak{P}^{66} , \mathfrak{P}^{75} . A quick scan shows the wide support for $\Theta\Sigma$ (), B, \mathfrak{P}^{66} , \mathfrak{P}^{75}) against $\Upsilon\Sigma$ (W). These and other variants can then be checked against the manuscript images if one so desires, and should be checked in serious study of the textual tradition since transcription often involves interpretation, especially due to issues of fragmentary MSS. Accordance now encourages first hand

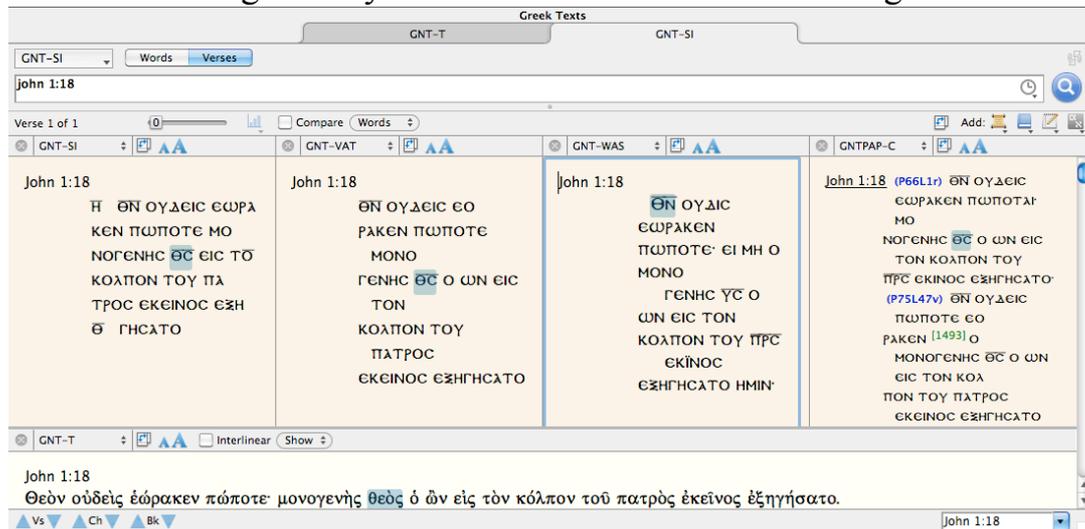


Figure 11: Ancient Manuscript Analysis of John 1:18

engagement with the earliest manuscripts of the New Testament and a movement away from an unhealthy reliance on critical tools. An interesting quirk occurs in W here where θεός is not accounted for due to the textual variant and so it seems to highlight the shared lexeme in

θεός in the first word of the verse instead of zeroing out or highlighting the variant reading.

You can also add to this collection various apparati, including the CNTTS Apparatus and the Göttingen LXX. The former is an exclusively digital publication from the Center for New Testament Textual Studies, which—although not yet complete—aims to be comprehensive in its digital, searchable representation of textual variants. The Göttingen LXX is an amazing tool for assessing variants in the Greek Old Testament and will be especially useful for scholars studying the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament who are interested discovering the Vorlage that underlies the New Testament citation of any given Old Testament text. Given these unique apparati and the special ability to consult the manuscripts themselves, Accordance 9—certainly on the Mac platform (*BibleWorks* has now released some of these resources)—remains by far the superior biblical software for doing textual criticism.

2. *Grammatical Study.* Accordance 9 offers the standard morphologically tagged texts but syntactic annotation occupies the focus of electronic biblical study nowadays. And Accordance 9 has sought to join in precisely this stream of linguistic advancement with the addition of Hebrew and Greek searchable syntactic databases. The limitations of traditional morphological representation will be obvious to those with significant backgrounds in both Greek language and modern linguistics. Studies in language over the last several decades have proceeded from the assumption that meaning is not located at the word level, but in the higher levels of language including the phrase, clause, paragraph and levels beyond. While paragraph level annotation and discourse has not yet been attempted in any formal way (if it even can be in any systematic way), contemporary syntactic databases do seek to capture relations within the phrase and clause structure of the Greek New Testament.

The Accordance 9 syntactic database attempts to display both clause and phrase level

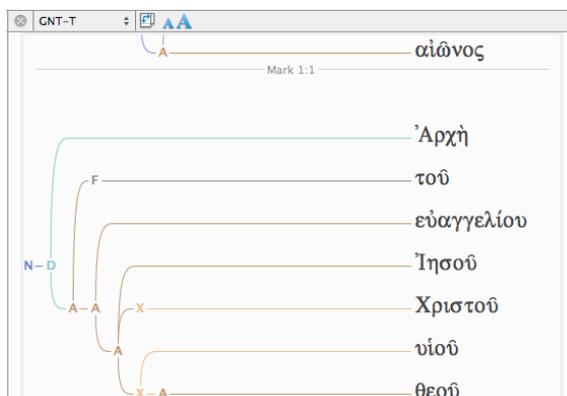


Figure 12: *Syntactic Representation*

annotation in a vertical orientation. Currently, only the Gospels and Acts are complete, but new books are added with many of the downloads. Within the clause a user can access information regarding Subjects, Predicates, Compliments, Adjuncts and Vocatives. Their model is explained briefly in the ‘Getting Started with Syntax Handout’ available on their website (<http://www.accordancebible.com/downloads/documentation>).

Unfortunately, this document is pretty light on actual theoretical linguistic background and gets right into the application, but the method seems to rely heavily on a relational dependency model, a model similar to the one my colleagues and I have implemented in applications in association with the OpenText.org project. There are some real differences, however. For example, the phrase level representation is clearly not differentiated from clausal categories (i.e. ‘Specifiers’ are included among the same list as ‘Adjuncts’) in the handout, nor is it comprehensive. The Specifier is the only exclusively phrasal level component within the annotation so that the analysis remains almost exclusively at the clause level, even though it gives a nod here and there to phrase level considerations. This is not a flaw as much as it is perhaps a limitation. A comprehensive assessment of the modification structure of phrasal syntax is simply not presented. There are phrase level searching abilities, however, in which phrase types can be analyzed. But these phrase ‘types’ are unclear. We have Subject phrases, Adjunct phrases, and so forth, but are these really phrase types or phrase functions, or, as I think, the clausal level component within which a phrase happens to be located? In traditional linguistics, phrases are categorized by the type of term that occupies the head slot in the phrase not the clausal component in which they occur—so for example noun phrase or verb phrase, and from there accusative phrase or whatever kinds of classification may be appropriate to describe the head term grammatically. I suppose in future additions of the database, more comprehensive phrase level analysis would be a helpful addition. The clause level analysis is very good though. And through the construct search, you can search order relations, syntactic constructions, participial relations and many other higher level structures.

Overall the syntactic databases added by Accordance are a welcomed addition and will put the program on the cutting edge of Greek linguistic study as it continues to make advancements and additions in these arenas.

3. *Historical Context.* Accordance 9 also possesses the potential to acquire some very important source material for research into the historical contexts of the New Testament. In terms of Jewish literature,

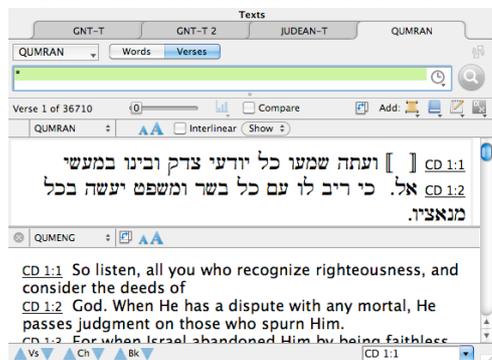


Figure 13: *Dead Sea Scrolls*

it is pretty well stacked, with the Evans edition of the Pseude-pigrapha as well as the classic edition by Charles. The Apocrypha, Philo, Josephus and Dead Sea Scrolls can be acquired to round out the main base of Second Temple Jewish texts. I got both the documents from the Judean Dessert and the Non-biblical Dead Sea Scrolls in Hebrew and in English

and those two modules form a pretty comprehensive set for doing the kind of Dead Sea Scrolls research important for New Testament study. I also thought it important to add the Mishna to my collection for study of later Rabbinic traditions. Accordance has some very unique tools, only available on their platform, for the study of early Christianity as well. In addition to the quite significant edition of the Apocryphal Gospels, edited by Craig Evans, they also have the Apostolic Fathers and the early Greek apologists, which includes the writings of Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Athenagoras and Theophylus of Antioch. I have enjoyed having access to these important texts over the last year in both Greek and English since they form significant searchable databases for linguistic and historical study.

If Accordance 9 lacks anything in supporting historical study of the New Testament with their program, it is in Greco-Roman material. Many of the most significant Jewish texts are available on the Accordance platform, but equally important for understanding the linguistic and social world of the earliest Christians are Greco-Roman primary sources. Initiatives to stock more significant primary texts from the Hellenistic world and its authors will be gladly welcomed by New Testament scholars in future editions.

Evaluation and Conclusions

Accordance 9's primary strengths as a piece of software exhibit themselves in a unique ability to marry form and function, elegance and

efficiency, in an aesthetically pleasing yet also highly responsive program. At the level of New Testament research, its distinctive contribution among the available biblical software programs lies in its unique text-critical tools. By far, it has the most efficient and widest ranging set of tools for textual analysis available on Mac and rivals anything available on PCs. But users who want to make Accordance their single go-to Bible software will not be disappointed. Accordance has the potential to meet a wide range of needs for academic biblical study, including a rich selection of commentaries, background works, grammatical tools and critical apparatus. If Accordance has a significant flaw, it is not in quality but economy. Most of the materials New Testament scholars will need in Accordance, they will have to buy as separate modules. And these modules get very expensive when compared to their availability in other software packages or even independently. For example, the 67 volumes of the Göttingen LXX range from \$49 to \$99 apiece in Accordance. Even if they were all priced at \$49, the cheapest price, the entire set would come out to \$3,283. Yet, you can get the entire set, all 67 volumes, for \$349 with the academic discount at Logos.com. Translations are comparatively quite expensive as well. To get what you do with other programs in Accordance will in many cases be double the price, on my estimation. I understand the point of not diminishing the value of the print versions of the books and that it takes significant financial backing to pay for the time and skill needed to produce these books. However, economic considerations will be important for most biblical scholars—at least all the ones who are not independently wealthy! Accordance has many incredible features, but the price point is a significant one.

The economic concern notwithstanding, Accordance provides a powerful, functional, beautiful Bible software with several unique features that cannot be found elsewhere, especially within a Macintosh environment. Serious New Testament scholars who wish to work with the efficiency that the digital age has provided cannot afford to neglect this important piece of software in their biblical research.

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