EISENBRAUNS

BOOK REVIEWS

Accordance 11 Ultimate Collection. Altamonte Springs, FL: OakTree Software, 2014. $1,999.00.

Jesus highlighted how the smallest details of the biblical text matter when it comes to seeing and savoring him and his central place in redemptive history (Matt 5:17). Because of this, I am thrilled with Accordance 11. For more than 20 years, Accordance Bible Software has been at the forefront of biblical studies research tools for scholars and pastors, offering a user-friendly, text-focused platform matched by the fastest and most complex (and easy-to-use) original-language search-engine on the market. The latest upgrade adds exceptional enhancements that will serve not just the academic but also especially the student, and it is available for use with Mac, PC, iPhone, and iPad. If you are training others for ministry of the Word, you need to let your students know about Accordance 11!

Most users will be interested in one of the six main collections: Starter ($59.90), Bible Study ($199.00), Original Languages ($299.00), Essential ($499.00), Advanced ($999.00), and Ultimate ($1,999.00). Original-language users may also consider the Hebrew master ($2,699.00) or Greek master ($2,999.00) sets, which include all of Accordance's Hebrew or Greek texts and tools to date. Accordance has always focused on making available the most important tools for Bible study. The Ultimate Collection comprises the equivalent of more than $17,000 of print resources, including numerous biblical texts and translations, dictionaries, commentaries, an atlas, and many other reference and study helps to aid the scholar, pastor, and student alike. Among the 29 English Bibles are the KJV, NASB, NRSV, ESV, NIV, and HCSB, all with Strong's numbers that are tied to their respective Hebrew and Greek resources. You also get the BHS Hebrew, Rahlfs LXX, and NA28 Greek texts, all morphologically tagged with apparatuses. These are accompanied by other Hebrew and Greek texts, along with tagged original texts and English translations of the OT Pseudepigrapha, Philo, Josephus, the Apostolic Fathers, and the Apocryphal Gospels. Included are the best lexicons such as *HALOT, CDCH,* BDAG, Louw and Nida, along with many other useful word study tools. Commentaries include older works such as Calvin and Keil & Delitzsch, but one also gets the New American Commentary (38 vols.), the New International Greek Testament Commentary (13 vols.), the Pillar New Testament Commentary (14 vols.), the Tyndale Old and New Testament Commentaries (49 vols.), and the Bible Speaks Today: New Testament (22 vols., NT only). Among the dictionaries are the original *ISBE,* the *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible,* and 12 of the major IVP black dictionaries—now finally including page numbers for easier citation! To the above lists could be added dozens of other reference tools, preaching helps, devotionals, church historical and theological studies, and various international Bibles.

Accordance 10 boasted a suite of 25 major features, the make-up of which elevated Accordance in many ways above its competitors: customizable and intuitive work spaces and tool bar; a library; instant details; exact search; flex search; search all; amplify; analytics; devotionals; dynamic interlinear; parallel panes; compare texts; highlighting; user notes; user tools; sync; diagraming; speak; slide show; atlas; time line; graphics; syntax; online help. Accordance 11 improves the library, search all, and user notes features and then adds four new, very welcomed tools: quick entry, topic search, book marks, and info pane. Below, I overview these enhanced features, noting their usability for the academic, student, and pastor alike.

1. The Accordance *library* allows one to store, organize, customize, re-organize, search, filter, open, and amplify all resources within the program. The library's structure also dictates resource lists generated through searches. Accordance 11 will now organize all library resources according to preset, commonly titled categories that make the transition to Bible software easier for new users. There is still complete freedom, though, to create one's own structure or to adapt the Accordance proposals—merging, subdividing, and renaming categories and moving resources to categories of preference.

2. The *search all* command is now renamed "research," and it is smarter, faster, and more flexible. In the past, this option allowed one to search all texts and tools quite fast, sorting results alphabetically, by importance, or by library order. Now the new *research* browser also supports flex search so that word searches use the most common English variants and phrase searches locate words in any order. It ranks hits together and sorts by hit category. In less than two seconds, I found all instances of Zeph 3:17 in my resources, divided according to my own library structure: texts, dictionaries, commentaries, Greek lexicons, Hebrew lexicons, grammars, devotionals, cross-references, study Bibles, theology, writings, biblical studies, apparatus, journals, Greek studies, Semitic studies, translator notes. Hovering over any hit allows me to see its location, to expand to see its context, or to click in order to open it in a new pane.

3. For some time, Accordance users have been able to add personal, shar-able, verse-by-verse *notes* to any Bible or text. Accordance 11 now allows the same feature with any tool, and you can have multiple notes in any given paragraph because the notes are word-specific. The feature supports Unicode, so it works with any language, whether ancient or modern (including Chinese or Korean!). I have already added numerous notes to various dictionary and journal articles, and I anticipate that students could use this feature to add comments to electronic textbooks for college and seminary courses.

4. Along with these improvements, Accordance 11 boosts the program's usability, especially for beginning-level users, by adding *quick entry*, which allows for faster, more-reliable searches. Type one or more letters into the main search window, and a drop-down list appears that includes the most likely options for a search. For example, with the ESV open, typing "ang" in the search window draws up an alphabetized list including: "angel, angel's, angels, anger, angered, Angle, angry, anguish." Quick entry also works for phrases by way of the "command" features, and users can turn it off if desired.

5. *Topics search* is an easy way to locate many Scriptures on a given subject. It works with any biblical language and catalogs topically associated data quickly. With the tagged Biblia Hebraica open, I did a topic search for "king,"

and up came 412 passages in the Hebrew OT that address the subject. Four texts appeared in Genesis–Numbers, including the expected Gen 14:2, 18, which use מֶלֶךְ, "king." However, also present was Num 24:17, Balaam's messianic royal prophecy that uses only the image of a royal "scepter." The inclusion of Exod 30:31 was anomalous, for it only addresses the "anointing" oil of the priests, and missing were the 61 other instances of the noun מֶלֶךְ or verb מלך, "to rule, reign," in Moses' first four books. Clearly, the topics search is not a complete concordance study but is selective. Nevertheless, it will serve many for quick, relatively accurate reference. Accordance also assures me that they continue to improve the database based on user feedback like this.

6. *Book marks* allows one to easily flag a location in resources. The library remembers all marks, which also sync with other devices. With only a click you can return to where you left off in a given resource.

7. I have saved the best addition to Accordance 11 for last. It is the parallel *info pane*, which displays relevant information for the top verse in the search pane, along with quick links to important resources. With every new verse appear the most relevant commentaries, cross-references, topics (including links to key dictionary articles, the atlas, and the timeline), parallel passages, and apparatuses, structured in accordance with the tools from your own library. To unpack the information, simply hover over the source with your mouse to show in instant details, option + click (Mac) / alt + click (PC) to view the same information in a scrollable pop-up window, or click to open the source in a parallel scrollable pane. Since using the info pane, I and other users have found at least four important benefits: (1) better guidance to profitable lines of investigation, (2) faster access to more resources, (3) fewer custom workspaces and more dynamic use of the ones we do have, and (4) more effective use of screen space. The info pane is simply brilliant, allowing the user to never leave the text while uncovering all the most important resources at the click of a mouse.

Accordance is the most powerful and user-friendly Bible study software on the market, and with the enhancements found in Accordance 10 and 11, the program has become even more accessible and beneficial for English-Bible-only students. Training is always free, and the Accordance help feature and personal support are unmatched. In my 15 years using the software, major upgrades have only cost $50.00 about every two years, and all intermediate upgrades are free. The Accordance team continues to listen to its users, and I pray that I can be one of many who stewards this amazing resource for Bible study and research all for the glory of Christ and the good of his church.

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Seizo Sekine. *Philosophical Interpretations of the Old Testament*. Trans. J. Randall Short. BZAW 458. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2014. Pp. xi + 255. ISBN 978-3-11-034015-0. $98.00 cloth.

In his book, Sekine, president of the Society of OT Studies in Japan, deals with two major topics. The first topic is indicated by the book's title: Sekine's work engages the reader in a reflection of the relations between the historical-critical