

Balaam's experience with "dictation" (Num 23:12) is similarly unique rather than normative for canonical literature.

The commentary is well written, well documented; it is sober but stimulating. Serious students of the intertestamental era will value it highly.

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SOFTWARE REVIEW

Logos. Logos Research Systems, 26 W. Route 70 - Suite 270, Marlton, NJ 08053. Tel. 609-983-5766 or 1-800-87 LOGOS. \$149.00.

The introduction of *Logos* marks a new turn in Bible software. Indeed, *Logos* is the first Bible study program specifically designed for Windows, which exploits the program's most important features. A few other Bible search programs for Windows are available (e.g., *Word of God for Windows*); so far none matches *Logos*.

Logos comes with two English versions of the Bible, the KJV and the RSV. The "Book Scroll" and "Chapter Scroll" buttons illustrate the user-friendliness of *Logos*: they allow the user to switch from one chapter or book of the Bible to another. Keyboard short-cuts are available to perform those commands, most helpful for those who are making the transition from DOS-based Bible programs to *Logos*.

Logos' most interesting feature is probably the search command which includes four modes: (1) The well-known Strong's Concordance search allows the location of all occurrences of a given Strong number. (For instance, the word "Thessalonians" is defined as number 2331 and occurs 4 times in the NT.) (2) The "Approximate Search" is the slowest method but a remarkably powerful one in that it gives the user the ability and flexibility to adjust the search sensitivity via a sliding button. By using this method, approximate wordings or misspellings will still allow the location of the words searched. (3) The third method is the "Phrase Search." Although this method is not fast, it allows the user to search for expressions or specific phrases. Whether the search is case sensitive or not is a user-defined option. (4) The fourth method is by far the fastest, most efficient, and most precise. Wildcard searches are possible (e.g., a search for the string "kind*" would display all the occurrences of the words "kind," "kindness," "kindly," etc.). Boolean searches allow the use of AND, OR, ANDNOT, and XOR operators. A combination of the different methods produces an extremely complex and highly precise search, which, as far as I know, is not available yet in any other affordable Bible program.

Ibycus (Packard Humanities Institute) may have a better performance, but it costs \$5000. Searching of notes is also possible.

One particularity of *Logos'* iconbar is the presence of bookmarks numbered from 1 to 9. These numbers function as macros that recall the book and chapter assigned to them. An extra option recalls the last book and chapter used.

The program has a notepad or text editor where notes and comments (which can be attached to any verse of the Bible) are entered and formatted (indents, italics, and paragraphs are supported). Also, *Logos* can create cross references which can be activated or deactivated by clicking on a button in the iconbar. Another feature worth mentioning is the ability to create a topical index, which gives the freedom to create a personal topical concordance. Also, one can "link" two or more passage windows so that they can be synchronized when scrolling up and down.

Furthermore, *Logos* exploits the Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) capability of Windows. This powerful data linking—which allows different applications to call data from other applications and automatically update their own—adds flexibility to *Logos*. One would not be surprised if a future version of *Logos* would support Object Linking and Embedding capability.

Unfortunately, the manual is not sufficiently explicit. It is a 5.5" x 8.5" booklet with very concise explanations. Certain commands are not even described. For instance, the manual does not say what the command, "Save Workspace," does (Fortunately, the Help command, which is well documented, allowed finding the use of this feature.) Also, no explanation is given on how to jump to a specific book of the Bible. An index would have been more than welcome to facilitate the finding of references. Also, one would have expected more information on the use of the DDE; though not a totally new capability of Windows, it has remained an obscure feature for most common users.

The great concern of all Windows users is, of course, speed. Compared to other programs running under Windows, *Logos* can be qualified as a high-speed program. A point of reference would be the Windows version of Wordperfect, which runs noticeably slower than the DOS version. *Logos* Research System has already announced the release of the Greek version. The Hebrew version will soon be available, along with some reference tools. All these additions make *Logos* a very promising product.

One can strongly recommend this program to all serious students of the Bible. It constitutes a powerful tool for preachers in the preparation of sermons and Bible studies. It is also a valuable resource for laypersons who want to explore God's word.