

criticism of modern scholarship made by Wenham is quite pertinent. He rightly draws the reader's attention to the practices of scribal writing in the ancient world and the attendant difficulties of achieving some of the more involved literary relationships among the Synoptic Gospels (198-216).

In sum, this book will probably appeal to evangelicals with the facility to read Greek, who no doubt will cheer on one of their own as he takes on the scholarly establishment. The scholarly establishment itself may be intrigued by the comprehensive manner in which this new solution to the Synoptic problem is worked out, but is unlikely to adopt the book as one which "no New Testament scholar will be able to neglect."

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SOFTWARE REVIEW

TheWord Advanced Study System 3.0. Irving, TX: Wordsoft, Word Inc., 1992. \$99.99. Add-ons: Old Testament Hebrew Text, \$129; Greek New Testament Text, \$99.99.

TheWord Advanced Study System is a Bible-study software program that runs under DOS. It shares some features common to other Bible study software, such as: search using logical operators, with the possibility of performing both *ad hoc* and repeated searches; the scope of search limited to a chapter, a book, a combination of book and chapter, the Old or New Testament, or the entire Bible; jumping from one chapter or book to another; a text editor where study notes or comments can be saved and attached to any word or verse reference in the Bible—a symbol placed next to a word or verse indicates that a comment is inherently tagged to it.

However, a raft of other features makes *TheWord* a unique Bible software. It departs from the other Bible-study software with its dazzling color graphic interface. Windows and icons are particular to this program. As a window-oriented program with a graphic interface, *TheWord* has introduced a new way to relate computer technology to Bible study. Ten windows can be opened at a time; all are resizable, movable, and iconizable, thus adding flexibility, versatility, and workability. The frequently used commands—including search, print, navigation, and window management—are located around each window in a nice combination of button, bars and icons, providing a user-friendly environment.

The study tools that come with *TheWord* enhance the program. Even though the built-in text editor is very simple, it allows entering notes including Hebrew and Greek characters (with accents and vowels). The search feature is original and very efficient.

Printing has always been a frustrating experience with Bible software packages that support Greek and Hebrew characters. Printer selection has often been very restricted. *TheWord* changes that trend by providing a compatibility with more than 500 dot-matrix and laser printers. Printing is still

slow, but at least those who want to print files with mixed fonts (English and Hebrew/Greek) will have that option.

One of the features that characterizes *TheWord* is its expandability. Indeed, among many other options, it can be used in combination with Greek or Hebrew text, consisting of the Hebrew Bible (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, WST version), the Greek NT (UBS, 3rd ed.), and the LXX, yet to be added.

Displaying and scrolling of windows can be synchronized; this allows the user to see, for example, the English translation of the Greek or Hebrew text. Both the Greek and Hebrew language modules have the following databases in common: (1) the biblical text in its original form, in Greek or in Hebrew (distinction is made between the Hebrew and Aramaic sections); (2) the lexical roots database; and (3) the morphological tags database. Thus one can find instantly all the occurrences of a root and the parsing of any given word. The Hebrew add-on contains an additional database: the Hebrew Morphemes Text, which displays words as morphemes.

The combination of the different databases produces a powerful tool which allows specific and unique searches: for example, display all occurrences of שָׁרַב in hiphil; search for all verses where the string יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ appears; list all the verses that use the expression οὐ μὴ ἀπόλωνται; search for verses where יְהוָה is associated with the root שָׁרַב.

The initiated would have wished that typing the original Hebrew or Greek words were possible when performing a search—a feature that is available in other Bible software programs. A search in *TheWord* is accomplished by entering a transliteration of each word, sometimes a cumbersome task. Fortunately, a list of all Hebrew and Greek words along with their transliteration is accessible to facilitate the task. *TheWord* provides a feature which allows the user to perform a direct transfer of one or several words, and even an entire sentence, into the search prompt without having to type or to transliterate the word(s). This "cursor transfer" is time-saving and contributes to the ease of use of this program.

Although Wordsoft claims that *TheWord* will run on an 80286 machine (even on an 8088 machine), I recommend at least a 80386SX microprocessor. The drawback of any graphic-based program is reduction of speed (windows manipulation, redrawing of screen, etc., slow down the computer); so running this software on a slow processor may result in spending more time waiting for the program than using it.

In sum, one can say that with its innovative and unique features, *TheWord* has changed not only the look of Bible-study software, but also the use of these features for technical studies demanding accurate results. *TheWord* has shown what a Bible software program can do and be. This very promising package can change the way one studies the Bible; with the Hebrew and Greek add-ons it is certainly a powerful resource for those who wish to do a serious study with the original text of the Bible with a state-of-the-art graphic user interface. Indeed, of all the Bible software running under DOS, *TheWord* can be qualified presently as the ultimate study tool.