Accordance 11 for Windows

Review by Dr AH Bogaards

A GREAT DISCOVERY

A few years ago I stumbled upon the Bible program Accordance. I happened to be on my iPad. It was a demo version, but I immediately realised: The is a very very special program.

I searched for it on the internet from my PC, what a disappointment when I discovered that it was only available for MAC.

However, with the advent of Accordance 10 a small miracle happened: The authors of Accordance now also made it available on Windows, and they did a fantastic job.

Accordance is not just another Bible program.

Accordance was so kind to give me the Essential Collection to review – what a wonderful present – and what an honour to review and introduce this great program to South Africa!

THE ACCORDANCE PHILOSOPHY

I want to start with the Accordance Philosophy.

In a video http://www.accordancefiles2.com/podcasts/p16_accordancephilosophy.m4v they explain their philosophy: who they are, what they do, and why they do it.

Amongst other goals they set out to produce software that is easy to understand, that addresses the needs of professional users, that it must be adaptable to everyone's needs and that it must never divert the attention from the Bible text itself.

Different Collections

Different Collections are available to suit your particular needs. To see what each collection offers, you can download the PDF at the following address:

http://www.accordancebible.com/content/common/common.download_file.php?action_special=download_file&sid=4b8262fd967cf1b82c24b9fc5cd681fa&download_file_path=files/documents/154547.pdf&download_file_title=Accordance+11+Collections+Comparison.pdf

Prices vary from $59.90 for the Starter Collection to $1,999.00 for the Ultimate Collection.

Ministers should preferably start with the Original Language Collection at $299.00. They will however probably want to purchase the Hebrew dictionary Koehler-Baumgartner Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon (HALOT) and the very important Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Fredrick William Danker (BDAG) which will cost an additional $299.99.

Books can be purchased separately.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: CHURCH MEMBERS AND THEOLOGIANS

Accordance can be used very effectively by non-theologians. Even if you do not have knowledge of the original languages, you can still do very thorough Bible study using Accordance. For those who wish to do more in depth study there is the Bible Study Collection at $199.00.

Theologians will find a wealth of sources at their disposal: All the Greek and Hebrew dictionaries and Bible texts and a huge number of other books.

SPEED, THOROUGHNESS AND SIMPLICITY

Accordance, like Logos, has a large number of dictionaries, commentaries, monographs, atlases, etc. Even though it may not have as many books as Logos it does not stand back one inch in terms of possibilities and power. The library is in any case growing at great speed and the best works are already available.

Accordance, on top of it all, is faster and far more user friendly than Logos.

If I had to start using a Bible program today, and I had to choose between Logos and Accordance, I would not hesitate for one second: Accordance would be my first choice.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE INFORMATION

If you want to find out more about Accordance and its many possibilities, there are a large number of videos available.

You can for instance just have a look at their podcasts, Lighting the lamp, at http://www.accordancebible.com/Lighting-The-Lamp-Podcasts

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

If you prefer you may download a fully operational demo version which you can test drive. It can be downloaded here: http://www.accordancebible.com/Free-Trial-Demo/

STUDY OF THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

The most important for me

For me as theologian the most important is the study of Greek and Hebrew. In this respect Bible software like Accordance make a special contribution.

What Accordance offers in this respect is quite impressive: super-powerful search possibilities, comparison of texts, etc.

Because Hebrew is my main interest, I will concentrate on that, but will have to limit myself to just a few interesting possibilities. One can easily write a number of books of the capabilities of Accordance.
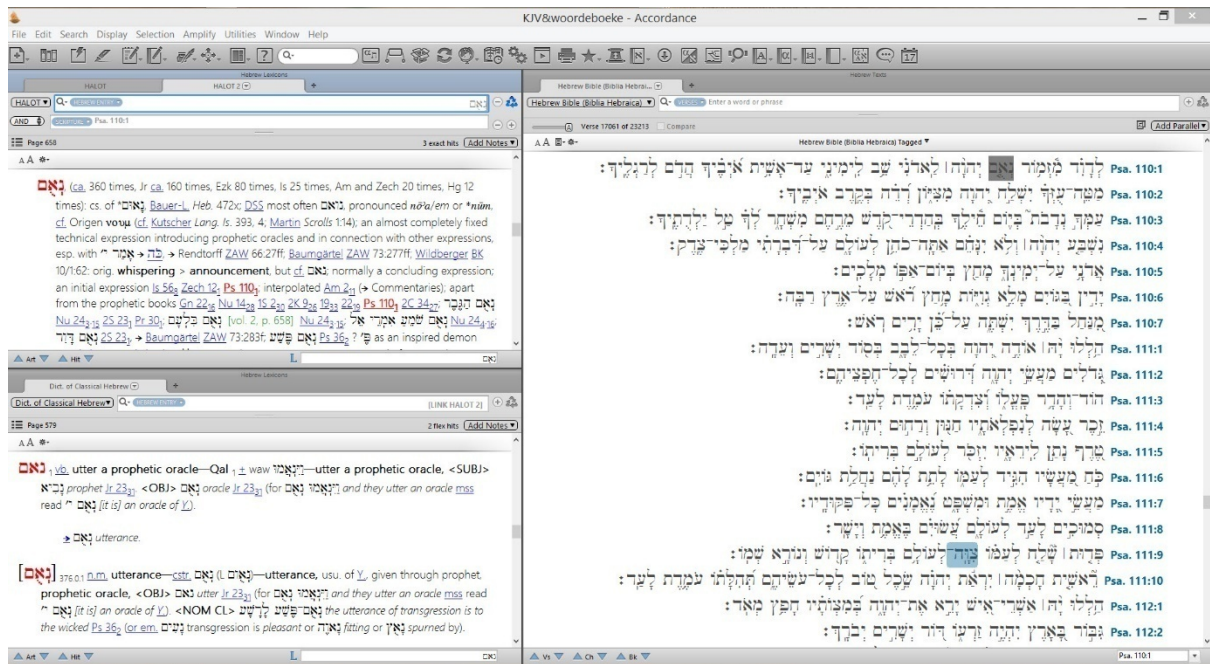
Dictionaries

When I place my mouse cursor over a word in the Hebrew Bible and right-click, I can immediately look up that word in the dictionary of my choice. The text in which the word appears is also shown in red in the dictionary, for instance Psalm 110:1. It makes it easy to look up the exact meaning of a word.

It is also very easy to browse between the available dictionaries to see how different dictionaries interpret the word.

But that is not all. I can also link other Hebrew dictionaries to my main dictionary. If I then triple-click a Hebrew word all linked dictionaries will open at the particular word.

Here is an example:

I purchased David J.A. Clines' The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. It was one of the reasons why I wanted Accordance so badly – it is at present the only Bible program that has this excellent dictionary.

SUPER-POWERFUL SEARCH POSSIBILITIES

Accordance brilliantly uses the powerful capabilities of Windows. By just right-clicking on a word you are able to look up the lemma, inflected form or root of the word.
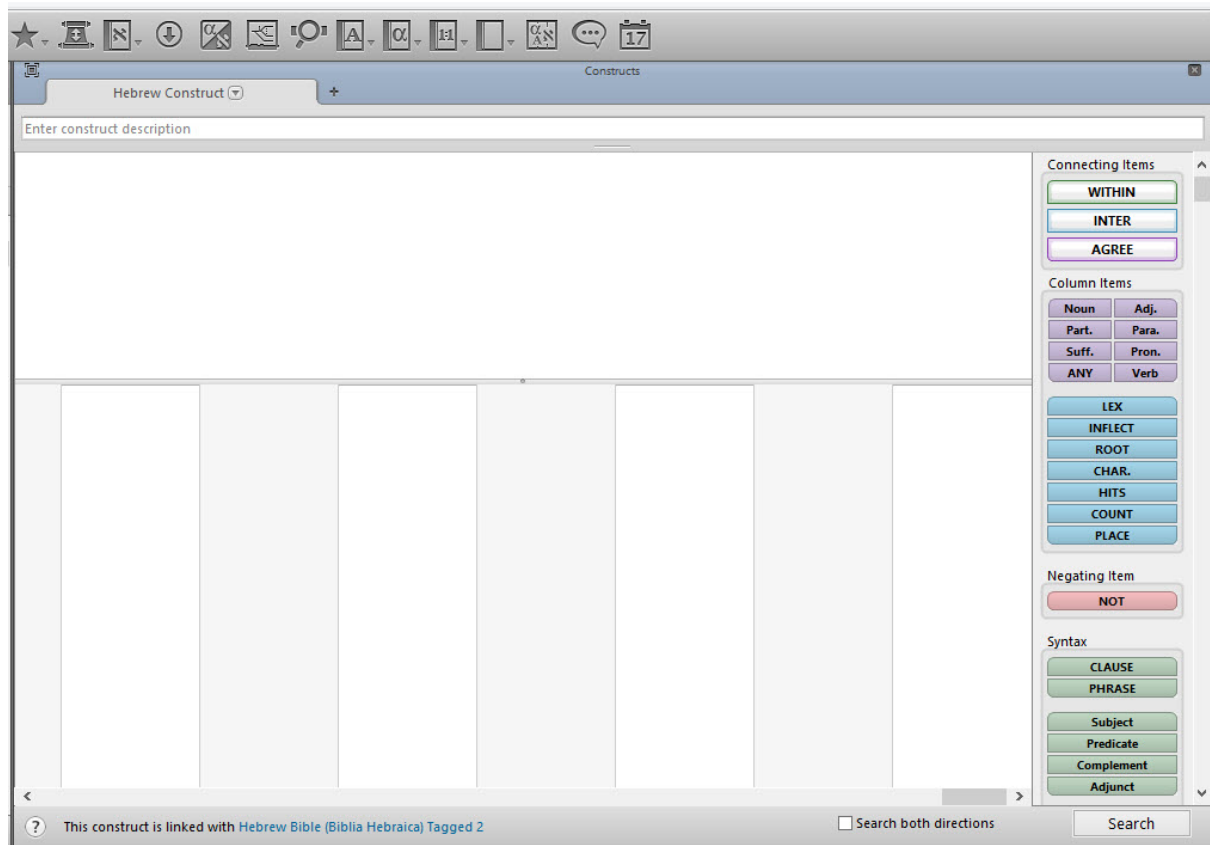
You also have the option of limiting your search, for instance to just the Psalms. You can search for words, combinations of words or phrases – the possibilities are endless.

One can search in verses, chapters or paragraphs. I will mention one example. If I search for where the words *power* and *mercy* is used together in Psalms in the KJV, it will show just one verse, namely Psalms 59:16. That is when the search is set to verses. If I set the search to look for words within paragraphs or a chapter, it will result in far more instances of the word being used together in specific Psalms.

Results of searches can be viewed in analyses of graphs – impressive and very important for exegeses.

With the Hebrew Construct Tab various graphic searches can be done: words, syntax (word order, sentences, phrases) etc. The Hebrew Construct Tab offers a user-friendly capability to do various graphic searches. It is the best and easiest I have seen.

This is what the Hebrew Construct Tab looks like:

DYNAMIC INTERLINEAR

The dynamic-interlinear function of Accordance is really what the name suggests: dynamic, powerful.

Different translations can be arranged in interlinear fashion, for instance the Hebrew text, the Septuagint, the KJV and the ESV. It is then immediately obvious how the KJV, ESV and Septuagint translated the Hebrew text.

You can also show the lemma, the syntax, Strong's keys and more, interlinearly.

Here is an example:

IMPRESSIVE HELP AND SUPPORT

In closing I also want to mention that Accordance's support and help for the program is impressive. The address for it is http://www.accordancebible.com/Support

Accordance's Lighting the Lamp podcast series offers 10-15 minute training videos that cover basic, intermediate, and advanced features in Accordance.

The Lighting the Lamp podcast series also include a series of videos chosen and recommended for new users.

With their live webinars they offer online classes to learn from one of their expert trainers. Complete videos of such webinars are available and viewing them is a must.

Furthermore there are interactive courses, training seminars, and documentation.

And that is not all! A Help system offers a fully searchable database of every feature in Accordance.

There is also a blog and a forum, where you can find hints and where you can ask questions.

SIMPLY BRILLIANT

Simply brilliant – that is how Accordance describe their program and that is not just blowing their own horn. That is exactly how I experienced Accordance.

I can strongly recommend this program.