

*Logos Bible Software, Version 2.0.* Logos Research Systems, Inc. 2117 200th Avenue West, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; Tel. (360) 679-6575, (800) 875-6467. Price: Level 1: \$119.95; Level 2: \$259.95; Level 3: \$ 499.95; Level 4: \$599.95.

The introduction of *Logos 2.0* redefines the ever-growing arena of Bible software. Indeed, this version is not just a facelift of the previous one or even an upgrade in the sense commonly used by the software industry; it represents a version that has been totally revamped, both internally (the software engine and its capabilities) and externally (its general environment and interface). A close look at these two aspects will help us understand the power hidden behind this innovative software.

First of all, as strange as it may seem, a key concept that characterizes this version is that, inherently, it is not a Bible software; rather it is a collection of electronic books. As a matter of fact, two major components of this system can be described as follows: (1) the collection of materials that are displayed by the software, which constitutes the *Library*, and (2) the driving force that runs this library, the *Logos Library System*, which is best described as an engine—an intrinsically contrived software that is data-independent (i.e., it can handle encyclopedias and books, as well as atlases and maps) and multi-lingual (i.e., it will automatically differentiate a material written in English or French from another one in Greek or Hebrew and will give the capability for these different languages to cohabit, with the implementation of Unicode technology). Along with these concepts, *Logos* has introduced the idea of a dynamic library, meaning that it offers the user the possibility of adding to an existing collection an unlimited number of books and other materials (including multimedia elements), as they become available. In fact, at the time of publication of this review, *Logos* has already released over 73 electronic books with several hundreds more in development, with the support and contribution of more than forty publishers (*Logos* targets to release over 300 electronic books by the end of 1996).

The large array of Bible study tools that come with the *Logos* package makes it practically impossible to review the entire collection; we will single out here the ones pertinent to the study of the OT and the NT in their original languages. At this stage, however, some general remarks about the user-interface would be appropriate. *Logos 2.0* makes an extensive and judicious use of the right mouse button. With this shortcut, major commands such as search, keylink (see explanation below), personal notes, and textual information are just one click away. The navigation tools are excellent, thus allowing the user to move easily from one book or chapter to another. The most noticeable cosmetic change from the previous version is the library browser, which makes it easy to access all available references, expandable to display multi-layered categories and sub-

categories (see figure 1). Common features found in other Bible softwares include automatic windows tiling, linked windows, allowing the user to compare biblical texts with other versions or commentaries. However, it goes beyond this traditional feature and introduces the new notion of a keylink. This powerful feature allows the user to link, for instance, a Bible text with a dictionary or a commentary. A maximum of three separate sets of links is permitted.

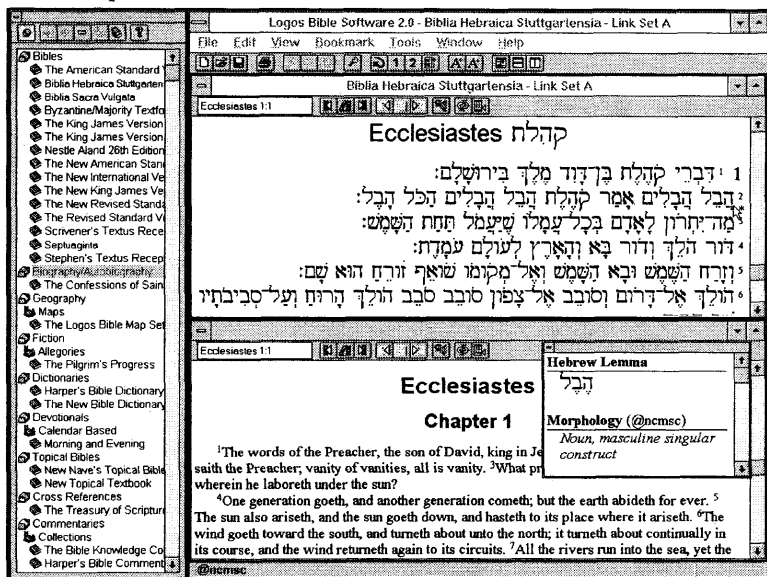


Figure 1. Logos's Main Display with the Library Browser.

The flexibility of this software becomes obvious when it comes to customizing the working environment. For instance, multiple custom toolbars can be set up to perform most frequently used or preferred functions. Also, multiple users can each have their own personal library system setup. The notes facility has been greatly enhanced, enabling the user to attach notes to virtually anything (a user-defined topic, a Bible reference, an article, etc.). Transferring notes, Bible texts, or articles, from Logos to a word processor can be achieved via a macro (available for Word for Windows and WordPerfect for Windows), through the copy-and-paste method, or by using Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE).

The search dialogue allows the user to enter words in their original form. One feature that would further enhance the search tool would be the word-transfer feature; presently there is no option for selecting a word from a verse to be used as search pattern. Nonetheless, the search engine provided with Logos 2.0 is probably one of the most powerful in the

Windows environment, with 16 boolean operators, selectable filters, configurable ranges, and morphological delimitations (see Figure 2).

**Search Query:**  
 ל'ב

**Languages:** Hebrew English Greek Hebrew

Options Word List Filter Srch TVM **Morphology** Help

Hebrew  Greek **Category:** Verb **Add**

**Stem:** Piel (p) **State:** Any- (?)

**Aspect:** Perfect (p)

**Person:** Third person (3)

**Gender:** Feminine & masculine

**Number:** Dual (d)

**Search** **Cancel** **Reset** **More Help**

**Description**  
 Enter your search in the Search Query field. Use the Options panel to customize your query. Click on the Help panel to read about the available search commands. Click on the More Help button for more information.

Figure 2. The Search Dialogue Box.

Among the exegetical tools that tremendously enhance *Logos 2.0* is the addition of the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, one-volume edition. Another excellent feature is the Gramcord Greek Morphology which is an acclaimed and proven database in scholarly studies. A feature that tremendously enhances the study of the Greek NT is the ability given to the user to view the English translation and coded parsing of *each* word by simply pointing at it. Better yet, a right-mouse click on a word will allow the user to create a link, for instance, between the Greek word and the *TDNT* or the Liddell and Scott's *Greek Lexicon*. For the OT, the Westminster Theological Seminary's BHS with morphology has been incorporated as well as the Greek Septuagint from the Corrected University of Pennsylvania edition. The addition of certain textual variants in the BHS is a major step towards the birth a full-blown exegetical tool for textual criticism. Pointing at the Hebrew text gives an immediate coded parsing, hopefully word translations will also become available. At present, *Logos 2.0* still lacks modern and authoritative exegetical tools for biblical scholars, especially in the OT, which is composed principally of classical materials, mostly pastoral in nature. However, the apparition of scholarly publications of high value such as the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* is very promising.

*Logos Bible Software* has not only redefined the realm of Bible software, but most of all it has set a high standard as to what users can

expect in a world of rapid technological change. This technological breakthrough opens new horizons and gives the opportunity to all students of the Bible to explore new possibilities never dreamed of before. As noted above, there is still room for improvement, but for those who look to the future, *Logos Software* is unequivocally the way. Because of the wealth and large variety of computerized materials that can be plugged into the *Logos* engine, no students of the Bible, whether pastors, scholars, or laypersons, should be without this already powerful and promising tool for studying the Bible.

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	
Platforms	Windows 3.x, Windows95 compatible
Processor	486 processor or higher
Accessories	4X CD-ROM, sound card & speakers (optional)
Memory	8 meg. for <i>Logos</i> only; if used with a Windows word processor, 16 meg. are needed.
Hard Disk Space	14 meg. (may vary)
REVIEWER'S RECOMMENDATION	

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