

## BOOK REVIEWS

OakTree Software, Inc. Accordance® 10: Ultimate Collection. Altamonte Springs, FL. CD-Rom, \$1,999.00.

In August 2012, OakTree Software released Accordance® 10. As experienced Accordance Bible Software users no doubt recognize, this release brings major changes. While previous versions offered an interface with windows such as workspace, library window, resource palette, and instant details, Accordance® 10 features a unified workspace that integrates the new toolbar, library, workspace, and instant details. The majority of users will probably appreciate this change, especially since the unified workspace does not limit the ability to individually customize the interface. The toolbar can be easily customized by dragging and dropping icons. The user can choose between a constant window and a popover for the library and the instant-details window. The workspace can be divided into different zones such as texts, tools, and reference tools. Each zone can be manually adjusted in size and has a full-screen function. Those using Accordance Bible Software for presentations in classrooms or churches will enjoy this feature. Accordance® 10 allows users to customize the Bible software according to individual preferences.

The programmers of Accordance® 10 have remarkably improved the search engine. Slight changes such as the automatic switch between verse and word search simplify searches for the user. The new flex search allows the user to type in multiple words without using the <AND> command and also automatically searches for word variations. While it is claimed in Accordance's podcast series #80 ([www.accordancebible.com/Lighting-The-Lamp-Podcasts](http://www.accordancebible.com/Lighting-The-Lamp-Podcasts)) that the flex search finds every form of a verb, this claim, unfortunately, is not fully accurate since the flex search is not yet able to handle irregular verb forms. For example, it finds "is," the third person singular of the verb "to be," but not "am," the first person singular of the verb, in Gen 4:9. Testing the flex search in other modern languages with the irregular verb *to be* (*sein* in German, *être* in French, *ser/estar* in Spanish, or *essere* in Italian) indicates that the flex search is less trustworthy than in English.

Accordance® 10, which requires at least an Intel, OS X 10.6 system, can be purchased online, either through a user account in the Accordance store or in the Mac App store. Discounts for full-time ministers or academics are only available in the Accordance store. After the purchase, an immediate download is possible. After installing Accordance® 10, the Easy install feature provides a simple way for users to download and install any additional modules that were purchased online. This allows users to adjust the Bible software according to personal preference. Until now, Accordance Bible Software was primarily developed for Mac users. Other operation systems required a Mac emulator. However, in 2013, OakTree Software plans to release a version of Accordance® 10 that works on Windows without an emulator. All modules will function identically with the Mac version.

Accordance® 10 is available in six different collections. In addition, every user is able to buy modules or bundles and add them to the purchased collection. A helpful marketing tool found on the Accordance® 10 homepage compares all the modules from each collection ([www.accordancebible.com/Collections-Comparison](http://www.accordancebible.com/Collections-Comparison)). A closer look at the Collections Comparison Chart reveals that the two smallest collections, the Starter and the Bible Study Collections, are sufficient for laypersons who want to use professional Bible software. The price range (\$49.99-\$199.99) is reasonable for the content of these collections. Seminary students or pastors will probably want to buy at least the Original Languages or the Essential Collections because they include original language modules. Those working in the academic field will be most interested in either the Advanced or the Ultimate Collections; the prices for these are clearly higher (from \$999.99 to \$1,999.99). Nevertheless, scholars in the fields of patristic studies, textual criticism, or biblical studies will find a purchase of the Ultimate Collection to be lucrative. Some of its highlights include: BDAG, HALOT, Greek and Hebrew syntax, LXX with apparatus, NAC, NIBC, NIGTC, Pillar NT, Metzger text commentary, morphologically tagged Josephus, Philo, Apocryphal Gospel, Apostolic Fathers, ANF, NPNF 1 and 2 Series, Pseudepigrapha texts, and Codices such as  $\aleph$ , A, B, D, I. The different collections in which Accordance® 10 is available makes this Bible software attractive for anyone who is interested in owning an electronic Bible, no matter what their field of expertise is.

The Ultimate Collection undeniably has a good value-for-money ratio, although on an academic level there are many essential add-on bundles that are still quite expensive, such as the Greek Master Bundle for \$1,499.99 or the Hebrew Master Bundle for \$2,199.99. The only place in which the Ultimate Collection really needs to be improved is in the area of international Bible translations. While the interface of Accordance® 10 is available in German, Spanish, and Portuguese, which makes Accordance Bible Software attractive for non-English speakers, the Ultimate Collection only has one Spanish translation of the Bible (LBLA) that is up-to-date. The remaining four are old versions. It is disappointing for non-English speakers that these outdated versions are included instead of newer ones, especially in light of the fact that Accordance Bible Software offers the most recent versions for sale. Earlier versions included at least a couple of Bibles to unlock for free, but this is no longer the case in Accordance® 10. By way of contrast, the situation is completely different when it comes to English translations. An English speaker can enjoy an essentially complete set of up-to-date Bible translations.

Although Accordance Bible Software can make some minor improvements, the release of Accordance® 10 marks a significant step in the right direction. Using the Ultimate Collection on a daily basis for a period of two months, I still have this special feeling while clicking on the icon and waiting for my Bible software to get started. I know that I can always rely

on Accordance® 10 in finding new treasures either in the biblical text or in secondary literature. It is definitely a must have!

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DOMINIC BORNAND

Banks, Robert. *And Man Created God: Is God a Human Invention?* Oxford: Lion Hudson, PLC, 2011. 160 pp. Paper, \$13.95.

In his latest publication, *And Man Created God*, Robert Banks explores the idea that, while Gen 1:26-27 says that God created humanity in his image, humanity has, in effect, created God in its image. Near the beginning of the book, a scientific study is described in which the subjects' brains were analyzed with reference to their personal views, perceptions of God's views, and the views of other people concerning controversial issues such as abortion. Brain analysis showed similarities between the subjects' views and those they believed to be of God, while the views of other people evoked responses different from these. When the subjects' views would change, the perception of God's views would also change and evoke similar responses (29).

This study would make it seem as if one simply holds a view of God that is molded after her own image. This does not, however, disprove the existence of God. It is, of course, difficult to escape the temptation that a particular individual and God agree on everything and that such a person is blessed to be the one soul gifted with an understanding of the universe exactly like God's. However, to succumb to this temptation naturally results in creating God in one's own image. Being aware that people in general understand God to be in agreement with them and to share their opinions is helpful for guiding one away from such arrogant stances. It does not, however, require one to stop believing in God altogether.

The book also summarizes the way a number of great thinkers have explained God. Karl Marx, for example, saw religion as a way to hold people in oppression, a force that presented a "God" image similar to the oppressive powers that controlled society. One need only review the Crusades and the bloody struggles between Catholics and Protestants to see this in action. To be fair, though, atheism and communism were just getting underway when dictators such as Stalin committed horrifying atrocities for the sake of those systems.

Sigmund Freud argued that a child simply takes the understanding of what his earthly father is like and applies it to a developing image of God—an image that is often rejected when a child developmentally pushes away from his father. Banks notes the argument that a child has no other means whereby to understand God except by what is around him, and an orderly God might have just designed the universe to work that way so that humans could understand him (109).