BOOK REVIEWS

BibleWorks 9 (Norfolk, VA: BibleWorks, LLC, 2011), $359.00.

BibleWorks 9 is the latest edition of this versatile Bible research program. It lays out its research module in a three- or four-column screen with a small command-line box for setting up searches. The program has many more options and features than can be listed here, but the major ones include the following: (1) looking up passages in biblical languages and versions in all major languages; (2) lexical information in Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic, accessible and searchable by form and lemma; (3) ability to search individual words, phrases, and grammatical constructions in all languages, with Boolean search options; (4) Greek and Hebrew grammars, paradigm charts, and flash cards; (5) cross-reference sets; (6) two-sentence diagramming sets, with the additional ability to create your own; (7) ability to copy text and images to, e.g., word processors and PowerPoint in all languages; (8) detailed textual-criticism data for the NT from the Center for New Testament Textual Studies in New Orleans, including fully searchable transcriptions and high-quality images of the complete text of Ι, Α, Β, Δ, (05), Γ (012), W, and 1141.

New features in this version include the addition of a fourth column for additional research resources such as the textual-criticism material, a verse tab that tracks in any Bible version, the Moody Atlas of the Bible with photos and maps that can be copied to a word processor or presentation software, the CNTTS NT critical apparatus with clickable Aland category matrices, updates on Greek texts, ESV Study Bible (unlock required, $20.00), a use tab that shows all occurrences of the word under the mouse, and instant difference highlighting between versions.

BibleWorks is one of the major Bible research tools. I use it constantly in my teaching and research. The addition of more maps and photos and especially the textual-criticism data, charts, and manuscripts will prove invaluable in my teaching. Having taught textual criticism, I appreciate the great value of this resource. I can now search and copy high-quality images of manuscript examples from both majuscule and miniscule to PowerPoint without needing to search the web for such images. I can insert or leave out the verse numbers BibleWorks includes to help my students learn the ropes of reading original manuscripts. The Aland matrices are also a valuable addition for a quick check on the external evidence of a variant.

A few notes on some improvements that could be made: I found the BibleWorks maps somewhat disappointing. The images are Landsat, but the quality is lower than that of Google Maps, with pixelation making it difficult to observe close-up details. So while the maps can be used for larger areas, they do not work well for close-up details. In contrast, I found the maps from the ESV Study Bible to be of excellent quality and the Moody Bible
Atlas and Net Bible maps of quite good quality. You can zoom in and copy detail and insert it into a PowerPoint or word-processor document on these maps—more so, however, with the ESV maps than the other two.

Surprisingly, some of the images of manuscript 1141 were somewhat blurred. However, other images of the NT manuscripts were of high quality and easily copied into PowerPoint slides.

In the past I have mainly used BibleWorks for word searches and cutting and pasting texts into PowerPoint. With the new tools available here, BibleWorks has become much more valuable to my teaching and research. I highly recommend this resource.

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This volume is a lexicon of words from the LXX, utilizing the Rahlfs (though not the more recent Rahlfs-Hanhart) and Göttingen editions, as well as Hatch and Redpath’s concordance. It is billed as “supplemental” in that it treats terms not found in the NT/BDAG (5,000 words) and some words that are found in BDAG, but that have distinct LXX usages (1,000 words).

Throughout his preface and introduction, Chamberlain exhibits concern that the reader recognizes the commonality of LXX vocabulary throughout the ancient world. He also repeatedly voices his interest in the meaning of words “to a non-Jewish Hellenistic reader” (viii, xii–xv), a distinction that may be helpful if it were more fully explained. He also claims an “indisputable” conclusion that the LXX “offers no evidence for any Jewish-Greek dialect in Biblical times” (xvii). This statement appears to broach an old debate, but does little to clarify and seems out of place in a lexicon. More appropriate for a lexicon is a clear statement on lexicographical methodology, as one finds in, e.g., Muraoka, but which is absent here. Most of Chamberlain’s definitions are translational equivalents or glosses rather than true definitions that are explanatory in nature.

The lexicon itself is helpfully concise. It provides an English gloss with various notations regarding overlap with Classical usages, the occasional parsing helps, and various other features addressed more fully in the appendices. The first appendix is a set of nine word lists of: (1) “precise parallels”—words in “extrabiblical texts” closely comparable to LXX usages cited in the lexicon; (2) transliterated words; words either (3) unique to the LXX or (4) first occurring in the LXX; (5) words with LXX meanings that have no parallel meaning in “secular” Greek; (6) “stereotypical” terms—words used consistently for a single Hebrew term regardless of semantic range; (7) “mistranslations”; (8) textual variants (based on Rahlfs); and (9) “textual conjectures”—words that