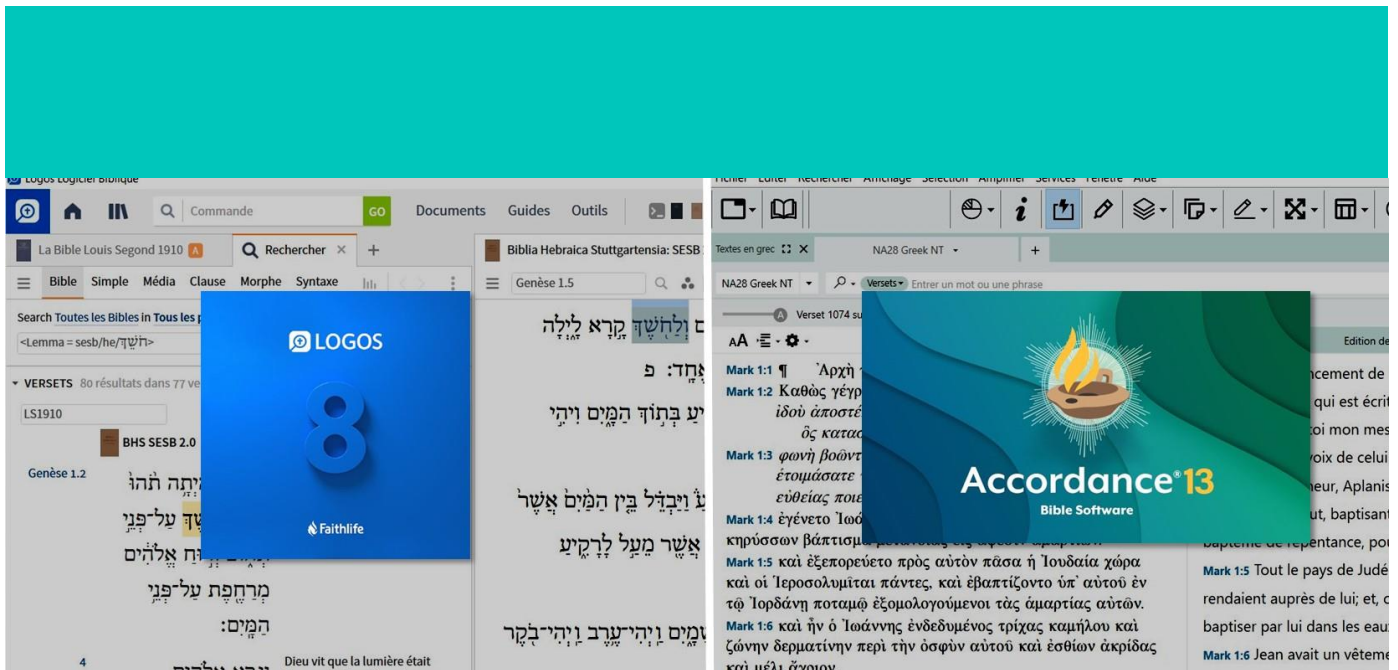


ACCORDANCE 13 AND LOGOS 8

Which Software for Biblical Exegesis?

International version

April 2020



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Preface

This document is in line with the Bible software comparative reviews that I have written in French since 2014. This work had been initiated in view of the publication of the following paper: “*Accordance, Bible Parser, Bibleworks et Logos*”, *Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie Religieuses* (94 n° 3, 2014, p. 303-318) [open access: <https://doi.org/10.3406/rhpr.2014.2304>]. This paper was accompanied by a relatively substantial “online” supplement entitled “Accordance 10, Bibleworks 9, Logos 5 et Bible Parser 2013 : Quel logiciel biblique pour la recherche exégétique ?” (published on the journal’s website). Following the release of the new versions of these four software programs, three major updates were carried out, in February 2015, October 2015 and January 2017. These documents can be found on my [Academia page](#).

In the last edition of this comparative review, I indicated my concern about the slow evolution of Bibleworks software compared to its peer’s software. The publisher of this historic software has unfortunately closed its store in June 2018 and Bibleworks is no longer for sale.

Since the last version of the comparative review, Logos released its version 8 in the fall of 2018 ([see my presentation of new features in French](#)) and then Accordance its version 13 in November 2019 ([see my presentation of new features in French](#)). As for Bible Parser, it has also evolved and now works as a “web app” ([presentation here](#)).

Faced with these changes, I have chosen to focus my comparison on Accordance and Logos. The aim of the comparative is mainly to guide those who wish to invest in a software dedicated to biblical exegesis. Consequently, it is not wise to include software that is no longer for sale (Bibleworks). As for Bible Parser, it is certainly the best and cheapest alternative to Accordance and Logos. Sold for 30 €, the software can be very useful for those who cannot afford to invest in a “high-end” software. However, for this price, the application cannot include recent books and reference text editions. Moreover, Bible Parser is a French software and its presence in this English version of the comparative is less judicious.

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Software for Biblical Exegesis

The possibilities of computerizing data are limitless, and several valuable tools for Bible exegesis are now available online, often free of charge. However, online searches are often tedious, forcing you to switch from one site to another, from one database to another. Some publishers have understood this by concentrating many the computing potentialities within the same software. In this respect, two names are now a reference: Accordance and Logos. These two “high-end” software packages are by far the most powerful and complete on the market. For biblical scholars and those who work on the Bible from ancient languages in an academic context, they are a valuable tool that one can scarcely do without.

The primary objective of this comparative review is to provide some guidelines for those who wish to invest in one of these two software. It shows the possibilities in terms of exegesis, it underlines the strengths and the weaknesses of each software. We hope that this will allow the reader to find his way a little better among the offer proposed by the two editors.

We also think that this comparison can be useful for those who are already own Accordance or Logos. Indeed, users are not always aware of all the potentialities of the software in which they have invested. Thus, we hope that they will be able to discover, as they read this document, certain tools or certain databases that may be useful to them for biblical exegesis.

This comparative review has been written for an academic audience. It focuses on the usefulness of such software for exegetical research. Therefore, not all features are mentioned: only those that are particularly useful for exegesis are listed. Similarly, only reference works and texts are mentioned.

A. General Presentation

Before comparing the two software, it is important to understand how they work in general. This first part offers some explanations for those who are not yet familiar with Accordance and Logos.

1. Electronic “Super-libraries”

When the first versions of Bible software such as Bibleworks or Accordance were developed in the 1990s, their primary use was to form a kind of electronic “super-concordance”. The aim was to be able to search for a word or phrase within the Greek and Hebrew biblical texts. As time went by, the search potential of the software continued to increase: today Accordance and Logos allow for particularly complex searches, as we will see later.

At the same time, these software have become much more than “super-concordances”. They are now real electronic “super-libraries” for Bible study. Accordance and Logos function as interfaces linking texts (biblical and para-biblical) and various works around the Bible (lexicons, commentaries, encyclopedias, reference works, etc.).

Using Accordance and Logos to manage your exegetical library has many advantages:

- It provides a mobile library that can be accessed from any computer, tablet or smartphone.
- The user not only buys an exegetical reference book, but also a magnified version of this book in which it is possible to search or quickly navigate.
- The software compiles and links the different books in the electronic library. For example, for a given verse, Logos or Accordance indicates all the Bible commentaries in our library and opens them to the right page in one click. In addition, if the commentary contains a biblical reference, the corresponding text is displayed in a tooltip, and with a simple click it is possible to open the biblical text at the location of this reference. This does not only apply to the biblical text, but also to a Qumran manuscript references, or to a text by Josephus, Philo or to any other ancient text in your electronic library.

2. A Substantial but Judicious Investment

With Accordance and Logos, you do not buy a piece of software, but rather a set of functions, Bibles, dictionaries, commentaries and other Bible study books. This set constitutes a “library”. Users usually start by buying a “basic library” from among the many available ranges. Over time, they can expand their library by buying new books and tools from the online stores.

Both publishers offer a **free version** of their software: the “Lite” version for Accordance and the “Basic” and “Academic Basic” versions for Logos. These versions offer a good overview of the software

There is also a **subscription plan** for Logos via the “Faithlife Connect” offer. Three options are available, ranging from \$8.99 to \$24.99 per month. Depending on the chosen formula, you can access a certain number of Logos books and functions during the time of your subscription. The free trial period can be a good way to get a better idea of the software's potential. However, you cannot have access to full Logos features and to the main academic resources with a subscription plan.

For users who wish to take full advantage of the functionalities of these powerful software products, a significant investment will be required. To build a good "core library" and access the most interesting features, **an initial investment of at least \$500** is required.

That sounds like a high price. However, **it's the price of a new computer or high-end smartphone**. As a pastor, doctoral student, and then professor of theology, my biblical software has always been permanently open on my computer and is by far the tool I use the most in my daily life. This is, in my view, a wise investment for any biblical scholar, researcher, and teacher who can afford it.

One should also realize that it would cost much more to purchase the many books contained in an Accordance or Logos library in print. For example, the Logos Academic Standard collection, which sells for \$749 (excluding any discounts), contains approximately 200 books, or an average of \$3.75 per volume. This collection includes the 8 volumes of the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* (Clines) which, in print, cost \$595 (paperback). In addition, as explained above, Accordance or Logos offer "magnified" versions of these works, which are much more practical for academic work.

How do I get discounts?

- *Accordance and Logos regularly offer promotions on their collections and on certain books.*
- *Accordance offers discounts to students, teachers, pastors, priests or missionaries ([see here](#)).*
- *Logos offers interesting discounts to theology students or faculty. In order to do so, it is necessary to create an “academic” account ([see here](#)).*

3. Multi-devices Software

Accordance and Logos can be ordered and paid for directly on the publisher's website. For the setup, all is done by downloading: the procedure is simple and automatic.

Accordance and Logos are sold in the form of a **single-user “license”**. This user can install the software on all his personal devices (computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.). All he must do is enter his login and password to access his entire "library". In case of a problem (computer down, theft, etc.), reinstallation is quick and easy.

Accordance and Logos libraries are accessible through two main types of apps:

- **The “desktop” version**, for Windows or Mac OS, allows you to benefit from all the software's functionalities. This is the one generally used to work and research.
- Both software are also available as **“mobile” apps**, running on Android and iOS (iPhone, iPad). Logos also offers a Kindle app (Amazon) and a "web app", accessible from any Internet browser. These apps are ideal for easily accessing all the books in your library. In addition to reading, they allow you to do some simple searches and access certain tools.

Website: Accordance : www.accordancebible.com | Logos : www.logos.com

B. Interface Comparison

1. Desktop App (Windows, Mac OS)

Accordance and Logos desktop apps run on Windows and Mac OS. For this comparative review, apps were tested under Windows 10, with a relatively powerful laptop (i5-8250U processor, 16 GB RAM). The software is installed on an SSD hard drive, which also increases the operating speed.

In Summary

Accordance is easier to use than Logos, especially since the help section and tutorials included in the software are well designed. The software is also faster and lighter than Logos and does not require a powerful computer to run properly.

Logos is a more powerful software than Accordance, including a plethora of features. Its interface is also a little more modern and more pleasant for on-screen reading. Power and abundance also have their drawbacks: the software is slower and runs poorly on a low-powered computer. The software is also more difficult to use, especially when it comes to advanced functions.

	Accordance 11,5 / 15	Logos 11 / 15
Ease of Use		
Getting Started	Very easy	Easy
Advanced Use	Requires some learning	Requires much learning
Power / Features	Powerful	Very powerful
Design	Modern	Very modern
On-screen Reading	Nice	Very nice
Speed		
Starting up	Fast	Very fast
Flow	Very good	Good
Simple Search	Very fast	Fast
Complex Search	Fast	Fast
Stability	Some bugs noted on Windows. Stable on Mac	Stable on a powerful computer
Help and Tutorials	Very good	Good
Languages available (Interface)	English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Japanese	English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish, Chinese, Korean, Afrikaans

Ease of Use

Accordance offers a simple and logical user interface available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean or Japanese. It is easy to use, and you can easily find what you are looking for. It is also quite simple to formulate standard lexical searches. The “construct” search tool, as well as the use of some advanced features require a little more learning. However, viewing a few tutorials allows you to quickly get to grips with these tools.

Logos interface is particularly modern and clean. It is available and (globally) translated into French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish, Chinese, Korean and Afrikaans. The software is less simple and less intuitive to use than Accordance. After viewing one or two tutorial(s), you will quickly be able to use the basic functions of the software and carry out simple lexical searches. However, the

advanced search features require much more learning and you will have to take the time to train seriously if you want to get the most out of this great software.

Score: Accordance: 2,5/3 | Logos: 1,5/3

Verdict: Accordance is easier to learn and to use than Logos.

Power and Features (General)

Accordance and **Logos** are both powerful software of very good quality. They are “super-libraries” and “super-concordances” allowing to carry out particularly elaborate searches around the biblical text. In addition to this, the software offers note-taking tools or tools to easily create biblical study frameworks.

All in all, **Logos** appears to be the most ambitious software. It offers a large number of “guides” compiling the data of its library by biblical text, theological topic, important passages, biblical topic, critical apparatus, etc. Finally, it gives access to search possibilities that Accordance lacks, especially in the field of semantics. The downside is that the user may feel a little “drowned” in the mass of features, some of which are more a “gimmick” than anything else.

Score: Accordance: 2/3 | Logos: 3/3

Verdict: Logos is the most powerful software and gives access to more features, even if the user may feel lost in the maze of possibilities.

Design and On-screen Reading

For version 13, **Accordance** interface has been given a little “relooking”: trendier icons, a more modern design and even the possibility to choose between 6 different colors. The result is pretty nice, especially since the software's operation has not been substantially modified, which could have lost regular users.

However, **Logos 8** is still a notch above in terms of design. The software looks a bit like the latest Internet browsers: its interface is streamlined with a small top search bar and tabs that you can arrange as you please.

On **both software**, it is easy to set display parameters, to increase or reduce font size, to arrange different texts as you wish and to add parallel texts as you like. However, reading is a little more pleasant on **Logos**: text layout is more similar to the one found in the printed versions of these books.

Score: Accordance: 1,5/2 | Logos: 2/2

Verdict: Logos offers a slightly more modern and pleasing design and display than Accordance.

Speed

Accordance software is the speed champion. It opens quickly and simple search results are displayed instantly. Only some more complex searches may take 5 to 10 seconds to complete.

The execution speed of **Logos** has improved in recent years. Search results, even the most complex ones, are displayed in a few seconds. The software now starts up in about 20 seconds. However, this type of performance requires the use of a computer with a good processor (recent i5 or higher), at least 8 GB of RAM and the use of an SSD hard drive (see [recommendations on the editor's website](#)). Also, after each update (about once a week), the software performs a system consuming indexing process. On a powerful computer, a slight slowdown of the system can be felt. However, on other computers, this process may greatly slow down the general computer performance and makes Logos almost unusable for sometimes several hours.

Score: Accordance: 2,5/3 | Logos: 1,5/3

Verdict: Accordance is faster and uses less system power than Logos.

Discover a video
comparative test
of the 2 software' speed



Stability

Accordance is a relatively light software that does not require the use of a powerful computer. However, on Windows version, I have frequently experienced software crashes: launching a search, closing a window or wanting to open a tool, the software sometime “crashes” and closes. However, the Mac version seems more stable. Once reported, bugs are usually fixed fairly quickly by the developers.

If **Logos** is more demanding in system resources, it is also particularly stable. I have personally experienced almost no bugs in the last few years of use. However, forums and testimonies of another users show that some Logos users may sometimes experience some technical issues.

Score: Accordance: 1,25/2 | Logos: 1,75/2

Verdict: Logos seems more stable than Accordance on Windows, provided you use a sufficiently powerful computer.

Help and Tutorials

It would be a shame to invest in software such as Accordance or Logos and then not be able to use it, or make limited use of it. Mastering Bible software requires a lot of practice and learning. It requires taking the time to read documentation, watch tutorials, and even take specific training courses. Only then will it be possible to make use of the incredible capabilities of such software.

Accordance offers a relatively well-constructed help section. In addition, the software includes more than 75 interactive tutorials that guide the user step by step using the software. These tutorials are well done and allow a more advanced use of its powerful software. Finally, it is worth mentioning the many online videos and free training courses regularly offered by Accordance.

The tutorials and videos developed for **Logos** are accessible online via the “[Logos Help Center](#)”. This section is well provided. However, one can regret the lack of more detailed documentation regarding the use of advanced search functions (semantic, syntactic, etc.) which are complex to handle.

Score: Accordance: 1,75/2 | Logos: 1,25/2

Verdict: Accordance offers better free training, designed documentation and interactive tutorials directly included in the software. Logos also offers many videos and tutorials, but these are less well organized, and it provides little documentation for the use of advanced features.

2. Mobile Apps

Accordance and Logos are also available as a mobile app. You should not expect to find all the features of the desktop app on your smartphone or tablet. The mobile versions are especially useful for consulting and reading books from your Accordance or Logos library. Therefore, our presentation will be much briefer, with the rest of the review focusing on the desktop app.

In Summary

Logos mobile apps are particularly well designed for reading on a smartphone or tablet, with the ability to conveniently navigate between the books of one's library. Accessible on more systems, they also offer more features than Accordance's mobile apps.

Accordance apps are faster (especially at startup) and offer a more powerful and convenient lexical search tool. On-screen reading is also very pleasant on these carefully designed applications.

	Accordance 3,75 / 5	Logos 4 / 5
Systems	iOS, Android	iOS, Android, Kindle, Web app
On-screen Reading	Very nice	Very nice
Search Tools	Powerful	Limited
Other Features	A few	Many
Design	Modern	Very modern
Speed	Fast	Slow on Android. Quite fast on iOS.
Stability	Some bugs experienced	Some bugs experienced

Systems

As mentioned above, both publishers offer applications for the iOS (Apple) and Android platforms. Logos also offers a version for Amazon Kindle tablets (but not for e-ink Amazon devices). The web app is accessible from any Internet browser (app.logos.com).

Score: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 1/1

Verdict: Advantage to Logos which offers a Kindle version and a web app.

Features

The current Android version of **Accordance** (2.0.3) now contains virtually all the features of the iOS version (which has been around for much longer). It is possible to display two texts in parallel. When you put your finger on a Greek or Hebrew word, the app displays the analysis and definition of a dictionary in a bubble. It is then possible to make a quick search for this word in its lemmatic or declined form. The application also allows you to make relatively complex lexical searches.

Logos' mobile and web apps allow you to open many books at the same time and to switch from one to the other with a simple drag and drop. This is particularly useful for quickly switching from one Bible version to another or from one Bible commentary to another. As with Accordance, if one leaves one's finger on a Greek or Hebrew word, a tooltip appears with the analysis and a first definition. It is also possible to launch a search for this word. However, the search tool of the Logos mobile apps is less convenient and less powerful than that of Accordance. It is very complicated to make a lemma search for more than one word, consulting the search results is not very practical, etc. On the other hand, Logos mobile apps give access to a shortened form of the "exegetical guide", "passage guide", "topic guide" and "Bible word study" tool. This allows you to quickly consult lexicons, grammars, commentaries or encyclopedic dictionaries on a word, verse or topic of interest. Also note the presence of an interesting "gadget": the "biblical reference scanner" allows you to automatically open the biblical references present on a page of a (print) book that you have captured with your phone's camera.

Notes: Accordance: 1/1,5 | Logos: 1/1,5

Verdict: It's a tie. Logos' mobile apps give access to more features and make it easier to explore its electronic library. However, Accordance mobile apps offer a more powerful search tool.

Design and On-screen Reading

Both editors' mobile apps display texts in full screen in a pleasant way and offer many display options (text size, colours, night mode, spacing, etc.). Everything is done to make on-screen reading easier.

On **Logos** apps, it is particularly useful to be able to quickly navigate between many texts that are open in parallel. Displaying texts in “justified” format – unlike Accordance apps – is also more pleasant.

Both editors' mobile apps have a neat, particularly modern and attractive design. Please note that the design of the Logos web app is different from that of the iOS, Android and Kindle apps. The web app reproduces the interface of the desktop app, which is quite practical. However, features of the web app are the same as those of the mobile apps (iOS, Android, Kindle), i.e. much more restricted than those of the desktop app.

Score: Accordance: 1,25/1,5 | Logos: 1,5/1,5

Verdict: Slight advantage for Logos which makes it easier to navigate between different texts and offers a slightly superior reading experience.

Speed and Stability

Mobile apps were tested on a Huawei Honor 5C smartphone (2GB RAM) running Android 7.0 and on a 5th generation iPad running iOS 13.3.1.1 (and with high-speed Internet connection).

On this relatively low-powered smartphone, **Logos'** Android app takes a long time to open. This is particularly annoying when you want to quickly consult a biblical text on your smartphone. Also, on Android, the display of so-called “instant” information (when you put your finger on a word in the text) can be very time-consuming, probably because it is done via the Internet. The experience is more pleasant on Logos' iOS app, which opens faster and whose instant information is displayed almost instantly (because it is not via the Internet).

Accordance's mobile apps are in line with the desktop app: they open quickly and run fast.

On the stability side, bugs and crashes – infrequent, but regular – have been experienced with **Accordance and Logos** apps.

Score: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 0,5/1

Verdict: Advantage to Accordance for its speed.

C. Search Features

In Summary

Accordance and Logos are the most powerful tools currently available for lexical research within biblical texts in Hebrew and Greek. They allow you to make particularly complex searches. They display the results in a practical way and generate statistics in graphical form.

Logos' biblical databases are more developed than those of Accordance and give access to more advanced search possibilities, especially in the field of semantics. Logos' search results texts display is also nicer and more customizable.

Accordance has better non-biblical texts databases. The software is also simpler to use, has some search commands with no equivalent on Logos, and displays better search results graphs analysis.

	Accordance 15,5 / 20	Logos 16,5 / 20
Databases		
Bible Texts (information coded in background)	Lexical and syntactic information, Links to many versions' words through Strong's or GK numbers.	Lexical, syntactic, semantic and other information. Links to many versions' words.
Other Ancient Texts	Slightly more and sometimes better databases on Accordance	
Searches (Power and Accuracy)		
Word	Very good	Very good
Root	Good	Good
Several Words	Very good	Very good
Semantic Referent	Not available	Very good
Semantic Domain	Not available	Very good
Semantic Role	Not available	Very good
Syntactic Construction	Very good	Very good
Syntactic Role	Very good	Very good
Cross-translation Search	Very good	Very good
Ease of Use of the Search Function		
Simple Search	Very easy	Easy
Complex Search	Requires some learning	Requires much learning
Displaying Results		
Texts	Very good	Excellent
Graphs	Excellent	Good

1. Databases

Before looking at the search engines included in Accordance and Logos software, it is worthwhile to give some explanations about the databases that these tools will allow you to explore.

Bible Texts

Accordance and Logos software not only provides access to an electronic version of the Bible texts in their original language. The publishers have transformed these texts into genuine databases. To do this, behind each word of the text (the so-called “surface text”), they have coded a certain amount of information. It is this coded data in the background of the surface text that makes it possible to carry out particularly thorough searches. The quality and quantity of this information will make the database valuable.

The image below gives an example of the type of information that can be coded in the background of a single word.

Luke 11.38 : ὁ δὲ φαρισαῖος ἰδὼν ἐθαύμασεν ὅτι οὐ πρῶτον
ἐβαπτίσθη πρὸ τοῦ ἀρίστου.

The Pharisee was astonished to see that **he did** not first **wash** before dinner [ESV]

Surface text	{ ἐβαπτίσθη (<i>ébaptisthē</i>)
Lexical data	{ Lemma: Βαπτίζω (<i>baptizō</i>) Root: Βαπτω (<i>baptō</i>) Analysis: Indicative aorist passive verb, 3d pers., singular
Syntactic data	{ Syntax role: predicate of a subordinate clause
Semantic data	{ Referent: Jesus (he is the unmentioned subject of the verb) Semantic domain: Religious activities – Purify, Cleanse Sense: To wash Jesus semantic role: Theme
Discourse analysis	{ Passage topic: Cleaning, meal, etc. Passage literary genre: Narrative
Translation	{ Strong number: G435 LEB, ESV, NRSV, RSV: he did... wash HCSB, CSB: he did... perform the ritual washing Vulgate : baptizatus esset

The table below (see next page) shows the main data that are coded in the background of the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible accessible on Accordance and Logos.

- On **Accordance**, the best coded texts are, for the OT, different editions of the Masoretic Text of the Leningrad Codex (Westminster, ETCBC, BHS/BHQ) and, for the NT, the NA28 text; these are the two reference texts at the academic level.
- On **Logos**, the editions containing the most coded information in the background are, for the OT, the *Lexham Hebrew Bible* which also is an edition of the text of the Leningrad Codex (BHS/BHQ edition is also available) and, for the NT, the *SBL Greek New Testament* (SBLGNT). This last point deserves to be pointed out because this edition of the NT Greek text has a little more than 540 differences with the edition of the NA28 (see sblgnt.com). NA28 text is of course also present on Logos with a lot of coded information in the background. However, it is only the *SBLGNT* that can be used for semantic searches.

	Accordance	Logos
Lexical data		
Lemma	Yes	Yes
Root	Yes	Yes
Morphological Analysis	Yes	Yes
Syntax databases	OT: Holmstedt-Abegg, ETCB/WIVU. NT: Accordance	OT: Andersen-Forbes, ETCB/WIVU. NT: Cascadia, OpenText, Logos
Syntactic role	Yes	Yes
Syntactic construction	Yes	Yes
Semantic data		
Referent	No	Yes
Semantic domain	No	Yes
Sense	No	Yes
Semantic role	No	Yes
Discourse analysis		
Literary genre	No	Yes
Passage topic	Yes	No
Other information	No	Yes
Links Between Original Languages Text and Translation		
LXX / Masoretic Text parallel	Yes	Yes
Targums / Masoretic Text parallel	Yes (Pentateuch)	No
Vulgate / MT and SBLGNT parallel	No	Yes (Clementine)
English	Through Strong's or GK numbers: CSB, ESV, JPS, KJV, Mounce NT, NASB, NET, NKJV, NRSV, NIV ¹⁹⁸⁴ , NIV ²⁰¹¹ .	Encoded specifically: AEV, CSB, ESV, HCSB, KJV, LEB, NAB, NASB, NIV ¹⁹⁸⁴ , NIV ²⁰¹¹ , NKJV, NLT, NRSV, RSV.
Other modern languages	Through Strong's or GK numbers: Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew (NT), Portuguese, Spanish (3), Russian	Encoded specifically: Chinese (2), French, German (4), Korean (3), Portuguese, Spanish (3)

Some differences in syntactic databases should be noted:

- For the text of the Hebrew Bible, the development of **Accordance's** syntactic database was assigned to Robert Holmstedt (University of Toronto) and he was assisted by Martin Abegg, among others. A second database is also available: the ETCBC database developed by a team from the University of Amsterdam and accessible free of charge online on the "[Shebanq](#)" site. It should be noted, however, that Accordance version does not include all the information in the ETCBC database (but it already includes a lot!). Finally, Accordance's developers have indicated that they were in the process of adapting the Andersen and Forbes database (see presentation below). For the New Testament, a syntactical database for the NA28 text has also been developed by Accordance.
- **Logos** offers two databases for the Hebrew text of the OT: an older version of the ETCBC database (called "WIVU Syntactic Analysis" on Logos) and a database developed by Frank Andersen and Dean Forbes (www.andersen-forbes.org). This last database is particularly sophisticated since it also contains information of a semantic type, on literary genre or related to source criticism

(Hexateuch). Logos also includes a database entitled “Cascadia Syntax Graphs” for Septuagint books that are not part of the Hebrew canon. Three syntactic databases are provided for the Greek text of the NT: the *Cascadia Syntax Graphs of the New Testament* database offers an extensive syntactic analysis of the *SBL Greek New Testament*, developed by the Asia Bible Society; the *OpenText* database seems to include the text of the Nestle-Aland 27 and serious biblical scholars, such as Stanley E. Porter, have contributed to it (see the site opentext.org); a third database has been compiled by the Logos publishers.

Score: Accordance: 2/3 | Logos: 3/3

Verdict: Logos is the one that offers the most elaborate biblical databases. An impressive amount of information has been coded in the background of the biblical text, which opens up huge research possibilities.

Ancient Bible Versions and Other Ancient Texts

For ancient Bible versions and non-biblical texts, the background coded information is usually much more limited. This is usually only the basic lexical information (lemmatical form, morphological analysis). For some texts, there is no coding at all and only the surface text can be searched for.

The table below (see next page) shows the main old versions and old texts (in original language) accessible on Accordance and Logos.

In general, **Accordance** gives access to more ancient texts and these have more often morphological analysis. In addition, publishers assure that they take great care to ensure the accuracy of their databases, often entrusting their production to acknowledged scholars. This quality is particularly noticeable in the field of Semitic studies (Targum, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.).

Score: Accordance: 1,75/2 | Logos: 1,25/2

Verdict: Accordance offers globally more access to ancient texts in original language and these more often contain the morphological analysis.

	Accordance	Logos
Biblical texts (manuscripts, editions, ancient versions)		
Septuagint (with morph. analysis)	Rahlfs, Gottingen (19 vols), Swete	Rahlfs, Gottingen (24 vols), Swete
Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Samaritan Pentateuch	With morphological analysis	Surface text only
Targums	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Samaritan Targums	Surface text only	/
Vetus Latina (Old Testament)	Surface text only	/
Ethiopic (Old Testament)	Surface text only	/
Main other Greek NT edition with morphological analysis	Byzantine (Robinson), Patriarchal, Textus Receptus (Stephanus), Tischendorf, Tyndale, Westcott & Hort	Byzantine (Robinson), Patriarchal, Textus Receptus (Stephanus, Elzevir, Scrivener), Tischendorf Tyndale, Westcott & Hort
Greek NT manuscripts	With morph. analysis: 2nd and 3^d c. Papyri, Codex κ , A, B, D, W	Surface text only: 2 nd and 3 ^d c. Papyri, Codex κ et D.
Peshitta	With morph. analysis (whole Bible)	With morph. (NT+Pentateuch)
Vulgate with morph. Analysis	Weber critical ed.	Clementine
Coptic	Surface text (Bo, Sa, Greek Vorlage)	Surface text (Bo, Sa)
Original language non-biblical texts (modern translations are not mentioned here)		
Ugarit	With morph. analysis (under dev.)	Surface text only
Semitic inscriptions	With morph. and syntactic analysis	With morphological analysis
Aramaic Documents (Elephantine)	With morphological analysis	Surface text only
OT Pseudepigrapha (Greek)	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Qumran sites manuscripts	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Other sites mss (Judean desert)	With morphological analysis	/
Philo of Alexandria	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Josephus	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Apostolic Fathers	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Apocryphal Gospels	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Apocryphal Acts	With morphological analysis	/
Apocryphal Apocalypses	With morphological analysis	/
Church Fathers (A Few)	With morphological analysis	With morphological analysis
Greek Classics	A few classics (surface text only)	More than 1000 volumes (imprecise morph. analysis)
Mishna	With morphological analysis	/
Tosefta	Surface text only	/
Babylonian Talmud	Surface text only	/
Rabbinic texts	Surface text only: <i>Sifra (Lv), Sifre Nb and Dt, Mekhilta Rab Ishmael</i>	Surface text only : <i>Mekhilta Rab Ishmael and Rab Shimon ; Pirke Avot</i>
Qur'an (arabic)	With morphological analysis	/

2. Search Features

Search Tool Power and Accuracy (lexical searches)

Accordance and **Logos** allow you to search for words or word combinations in the Hebrew or Greek texts of the Bible. On both programs, the main search engine takes the form of a search bar. Complex queries can be formulated using Boolean operators and brackets. In both programs, it is also possible to use proximity operators (number of words or characters between two words) and wildcards (*) or to limit the search to a given corpus. It is also possible to make a second, more precise search within the results of a first search.

The **search bar** allows you to search within any work in your library, including secondary literature (commentaries, dictionaries, grammars, etc.). It is possible to search several books at the same time, or even the entire library. Depending on the works, the search can be limited to titles, footnotes or bibliographic records. It is also possible to search for all mentions of a given biblical reference or author's name. While both programs offer these possibilities, **Accordance** has the advantage of being able to combine several searches types more easily.

For more complex queries, **Accordance** provides access to a **graphical search engine** ("construct search") which facilitates the query visualization. **Logos** also includes a tool for formulating complex morphological queries in column form. However, it is regrettable that this "Morph Query" tool can only be used with biblical texts (MT, *SBLGNT*), and not with all ancient texts with morphological analysis (Josephus, Philo, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.). Finally, for syntactic searches under Logos, it is necessary to use another graphical search engine, which is very powerful but not easy to use.

As the database comparison has shown, the search possibilities within Bible texts are more important on **Logos** than on **Accordance**. However, some search commands available on **Accordance** have no equivalent on Logos (e.g. "COUNT", "INFER").

Score: Accordance: 3,75/4 | Logos: 3,75/4

Verdict: It's a tie. Both software contain powerful search tools. Logos' biblical databases offer more search possibilities. However, Accordance also has some search functions that have no equivalent on Logos.

Displaying and Exploring the Results

In **both programs**, the search results are displayed in a convenient way. It is easy to display the results in one or more parallel versions. On **Accordance**, an option allows you to display results in a more or less broad context (a single verse or with the previous and next verse(s)).

Logos offers additional display options compared to **Accordance**. For searches on biblical and non-biblical texts with morphological analysis, it is possible **to display the results in the form of analytical charts**. This handy option makes it possible to sort the results according to various criteria: e.g. for a verb, according to tense or number; or, for texts with semantic analysis, according to the various meanings of the same word.

Both software allow you to view statistics related to the search results in **graphical form**. **Accordance** is particularly powerful on this point: the possibilities of settings are very numerous. The software even allows you to superimpose several result graphs, which can be useful for comparing the results of several searches. It is also possible to display analytical graphs for searches within several texts in the same language. This function is very useful for comparing the use of one (or several) word(s) according to the corpus (for example, for Greek, between the Septuagint and the New Testament; or for Hebrew, between the Hebrew Bible and the non-Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls).

Score: Accordance: 2,5/3 | Logos: 2,5/3

Verdict: It's a tie. Accordance offers better statistical graphs. Logos gives access to more possibilities for displaying results, particularly in the form of analytical charts.

Ease of Use of Search Functions

In terms of ease of use, **Accordance** is particularly intuitive. Learning codes, shortcuts or symbols is relatively quick. Keyboard automatically switches to Hebrew for Hebrew texts and to Greek for Greek texts. The graphical search engine requires a little more training to be mastered, but watching a few tutorials will normally suffice.

On **Logos**, it will not require much learning to do simple searches. However, a more important training will be necessary to take advantage of advanced search possibilities provided by the software. Indeed, the implementation of elaborated searches is a bit of an obstacle course. On the one hand, you have to juggle between different types of searches with, for each type, different limits. On the other hand, the way of formulating queries varies between each type of search and one easily gets lost. Finally, one will regret a detailed help section for the advanced search functions which would make it easier to get out of it (I have nevertheless published a detailed guide [in French] on this subject, which can be downloaded [from this page](#)).

Score: Accordance: 2,5/3 | Logos: 1,5/3

Verdict: Accordance's search functions are easier to handle than Logos'.

Syntax Searches

Beyond lexical research, another type of research may be of interest to linguists: research on a given syntactic construction. Let us suppose that we want to find all the sentences where a word is the subject of a verb in the past tense whose object complement is a substantial adjective. For Greek, we may be able to do this by means of a morphological search, specifying the form and case of each word. However, for Hebrew, the absence of a Latin declension does not allow such a search. **Accordance and Logos** make it possible to go beyond this limit, thanks to databases integrating precise syntactic information. Specialists in Hebrew grammar can thus give their all!

Accordance's graphical (construct) search engine makes it easy to explore syntactic databases. As an example, the ETCBC database is freely accessible online on the "[Shebanq](#)" website. However, the online interface is very complex to use and requires certain training. Using the Accordance graphical engine to perform syntactic searches is much easier than using the Shebanq site's interface.

Some databases available on **Logos**, such as Andersen's and Forbes' for the Masoretic Text, are particularly elaborate. It is thus possible to search in the Hebrew text by specifying at the same time the syntax of a sentence, the morphological analysis of a word, its place and its role in the sentence. This query can be coupled with the search for a given semantic domain or a particular English translation. Finally, it is possible to limit the search to a given type of discourse among the forty-nine listed (narrative, divine word, word of blessing, prophetic discourse, etc.), and, for the first six books of the Bible, to specify the source that interests us, according to Otto Eissfeldt's classification. Logos' databases thus allow for more precise and powerful searches than on Accordance. This is certainly an asset, but it is also a constraint: syntactic searches are particularly complex to perform with Logos. Indeed, each database has its own syntactic vocabulary and its own text breakdown. For a good use, it is therefore necessary to learn the language of the person who created the database. However, the more detailed the syntactic information is, the longer it takes to learn the language.

Score: Accordance: 1,75/2 | Logos: 1,75/2

Verdict: It's a tie. Logos gives access to more syntactic databases and offers more advanced search possibilities. However, Accordance is simpler to use.

Semantic Searches

Linguistic research has shown that the study of a lexical form has its limits. Indeed, to express an idea, an author generally uses several words from the same semantic field, but which are not always from the same lexical family. Conversely, the same word can have different meanings and designate different realities. Thus, a search based on the lexical form of a word will not suffice to study the way a biblical author approaches a given topic.

Accordance allows you to search by "topic". It is difficult to know what the list of suggested verses for each topic, person or place is based on. However, although these lists are not exhaustive, they are relatively well provided. A "topic" search is most useful when the biblical vocabulary used to refer to a topic is particularly varied. An example is the theme of "death": the New Testament uses a variety of Greek terms with different roots form to refer to death. A lexical search on this theme is therefore complex, while a search by "topic" can help to clear the way. It is best to combine a topic search with a lexical search. This allows you to obtain more targeted results and to quickly obtain a list of important verses on a given subject.

Logos offers amazing features. It allows you to search within the NT Greek text using the semantic domains developed by Louw & Nida and presented in their *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*. Thus, it is easy to search for all the words of the same semantic family and

the software even takes into account the word's polysemy! In addition, it offers its own semantic dictionary which, unlike Louw & Nida, includes, for each semantic domain, both Hebrew words from MT and Greek words from NT. It is possible to search according to the classification of this semantic dictionary for the entire Hebrew and Greek corpus. Thus, it is now easy to quickly search for the mention of a particular concept throughout the entire biblical text.

Even better, the software offers the possibility to search by referent. This function allows you to no longer simply search for a word or even its synonym, but to include every noun, pronoun or other determinant referring to a person, a place or a concept.

For example, it is possible to search for all the verses that refer to “Jesus” and to the city of “Jerusalem”. The result will include all possible titles given to Jesus (Christ, Son of Man, Son of God, etc.) and even verses where Jesus is an unmentioned subject of a verb, or designated by a personal pronoun (he, him, etc.). Likewise, it will include all references to Jerusalem, whether it is referred to as “Zion”, the “city of David” or even simply “the city”.

Logos goes even further. Indeed, it is also possible to specify the “semantic role” of the word you are looking for.

Syntax allows us to determine the grammatical role of a word, but its semantic role. For example, the following sentences have the same meaning: “Jesus was baptized by John”; “John baptized Jesus”; “John gave the baptism to Jesus”. In these three sentences, “Jesus” has the same semantic role: he is the beneficiary of baptism. However, from a grammatical point of view, “Jesus” is, depending on the examples, subject, direct object or indirect object of the sentence verb. A search by “semantic role” will allow you to quickly find all the biblical mentions of the baptism of Jesus.

It is also possible to make a search for the words of a given person (“speaker”) or according to the persons to whom a word is addressed (“listener”).

For example, if you want to search in the OT, all the words attributed to God about love, you can search for the root אהב (to love) specifying that the speaker is “God”. Similarly, you could search the NT for all the words of Jesus addressed to Peter.

Other types of data can still be explored: it is possible to search for stylistic figures, the use of figurative language or certain types of speech (informative sentence, question, order, etc.). It is also possible to limit the search to sentences of a certain literary genre or phrases of a certain type.

Semantic searches open up incredible possibilities. They allow you to complete and greatly refine a classic search based solely on the “form” of the word.

Score: Accordance: 0,25/2 | Logos: 1,75/2

Verdict: Only Logos gives access to semantic databases allowing to explore the biblical text in a revolutionary way. This possibility is one of Logos' greatest assets compared to Accordance.

Cross-versions Searches

Version 13 of **Accordance** integrates a new “TEXT” search command. This allows one to search a text from its equivalent in a parallel text. For example, it is possible to search within English versions of the Bible for a Greek or Hebrew word that the English text has translated. You can thus quickly see how the King James version translates a particular Greek word. This feature is very powerful and allows some complex searches (e.g. a specific grammatical analysis or construct). It only works with translations that are indexed to the words from original texts (via Strong's or GK numbers). This is the case for many English versions and other international languages versions (see list in the table above). In addition to modern versions, it is possible to cross-search between the Septuagint Text and the Masoretic Text, and between Pentateuch Targums and the Masoretic Text (see below on Textual Criticism).

Logos also offers this type of possibility for all “reverse interlinear” versions present in the software (via the “ANDEQUALS” and “NOTEQUALS” operators). Thus, it is possible to carry out searches on a Greek or Hebrew word according to its translation in many English versions and various versions of other languages (see list in the table above). It is also possible to display results in very practical ways as the “Grid” mode or the “Analysis” table. In addition to the modern versions, it is possible to cross-search between the Septuagint Text and the Masoretic Text, and between Clementine Vulgate and the texts in the original languages.

To enable this possibility, Accordance developers took over, adapted and revised the so-called “Strong” numbering system (each Hebrew and Greek word corresponds to a number). The Logos developers manually encoded each “reverse interlinear version” by linking each word in the version to one (or more) word(s) in the original language text.

Both software allow you to easily display statistics, via graphs on Accordance and via analytical charts on Logos.

Score: Accordance: 1/1 | Logos: 1/1

Verdict: It's a tie. Search possibilities are relatively similar on the two software.

D. Usefulness of Accordance and Logos in the Different Stages of Biblical Exegesis

After comparing the interfaces and search functions of Accordance and Logos, we will compare the interest of these two software for each of the main stages of exegesis.

1. Textual Criticism

In summary

Accordance and Logos both give access to the main witnesses and reference critical apparatuses for textual criticism. The two software allow a quick comparison of the witnesses and facilitate the reading of the critical apparatuses thanks to the presence of hypertext links that explain the symbols and abbreviations.

Accordance and Logos also provide cross-searching between ancient versions: between the LXX and the MT (Accordance and Logos), between the Pentateuch Targums and the MT (Accordance), and between the Clementine Vulgate and the Hebrew and Greek biblical texts (Logos).

Accordance offers research possibilities within the critical apparatuses superior to those of Logos. It also offers slightly superior databases of biblical text witnesses.

Old Testament

	Accordance 4,5 / 5	Logos 3,5 / 5
Critical Apparatuses		
Masoretic Text (MT) Apparatuses	BHS, BHQ (6 vols), Masora Thesaurus	BHS, BHQ (6 vols), Massorah Gedolah
Septuagint Apparatuses	Rahlfs, Gottingen (19 vols), Swete, Brooke & al. (Cambridge)	Swete, Rahlfs, Gottingen (24 vols)
Searching Critical Apparatuses	Excellent	Average
Text Witnesses Available		
Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls	Yes ^T + images	Yes ^T
Samaritan Pentateuch (SP)	Tal (ms 6C diplomatic ed.)^T	Von Gall (eclectic ed.)^A
Septuagint (LXX)	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Gottingen ^{T+A} , Swete ^{T+A}	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Gottingen ^{T+A} , Swete ^{T+A}
Peshitta	Abegg and Lund ed. (ms 7a1 transcription)^T	Leiden Institute ed.^A (lemmatized for Pentateuch; surface text for other books)
Vulgate	Weber's critical ed. ^{T+A} , Clementine, Nova Vulgata	Weber's critical ed. ^A , Clementine ^T , Nova Vulgata
Vetus Latina	Sabatier	No
Targums	Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project (with corrections) ^T Samaritan Targums	Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project ^T
LXX – MT Parallel	Very good	Very good
Targums – MT Parallel	Yes (Pentateuch)	No
Vulgate – MT Parallel	No	Yes (Clementine Vulgate)

^T Text "tagged" with morphological analysis (and thus allowing more precise searches)

^A Text with critical apparatus

Items in bold are those that are only available on one of the two software.

Text Witnesses and Critical Apparatuses

Accordance's and Logos' catalogues offer all the resources the exegete can dream of: BHQ, Göttingen LXX, Dead Sea Scrolls, Targums, Vulgate, etc.

- **Accordance** also contains the text of the Old Latin versions collected by Petri Sabatier and the Samaritan Targums. It also has the advantage of providing the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Peshitta and the critical edition of the Vulgate with the morphological analysis.
- It should be noted that the **databases containing the Dead Sea Scrolls** are not the same: Accordance database was prepared under the direction of Martin Abegg, while Logos' was prepared under the direction of Stephen Pfann.
- **Accordance** has recently added a promising tool to its catalogue called "*Targums WordMap*". Developed in collaboration with a team from Bar-Ilan University, the tool links each word of the Masoretic Text to its different translations (or glosses) within the Targums on the Pentateuch. This allows cross-searching to find out, for example, how a Hebrew word is rendered by the Targums.
- **Logos** offers a similar tool for the Vulgate text. However, this has been done on Clementine Vulgate (and not Weber's critical edition): this fact limits the interest of this tool for textual criticism.

On **Accordance and Logos**, the different text witnesses can be easily compared thanks to a "text comparison" feature that highlights differences between same language texts.

Searching Critical Apparatuses

With **Accordance**, it is quite easy to do advanced searches within critical apparatuses, thanks to a very good indexing. This turns reference critical apparatuses into real databases: this can allow, for example, to statistically analyze the relationships between text witnesses. Specialists in text criticism are likely to find many other applications!

Logos also allows you to search within the critical apparatuses. However, searches are less easy and indexing is not as good as on Accordance. Moreover, when performing some tests on the BHS critical apparatus, we have observed some incomplete results and the impossibility of searching for certain witnesses' codes.

Studies in the Septuagint

Studies on the Greek translation of the Old Testament, known as the "Septuagint" (LXX), have increased in recent decades. The eminent specialist Emanuel Tov is one of those who, very early on, saw the importance of the computer tool for the study of the LXX. The Israeli researcher has thus developed an open source database that parallels the Masoretic Text with that of the LXX. The two software tested use this database, even if they do not all use it in the same way. Accordance has made certain necessary corrections. Logos has also developed its own database.

The "MT-LXX Parallel" feature for **Accordance** offers great possibilities for searching for equivalents: it is possible to quickly perform complex cross-searches between the Masoretic Text and the LXX. For such searches, it was previously necessary to use the rather complex "MERGE" command. The integration of the "TEXT" command in Accordance version 13 greatly simplifies the task. In addition, the display of results is much more pleasant than in the past.

Logos is very pleasant to use on this point. The software provides detailed statistics on words' equivalences between the LXX and the MT. As for cross-versions searching, it should be noted that the results can be displayed in the form of customizable charts, which makes them easier to read. On the other hand, it is less easy to perform complex queries than with Accordance.

Other Useful Tools

Accordance offers an interesting tool that points out all the variants between the Masoretic Text and the Dead Sea Scrolls ([see here](#)).

Logos contains two useful interactive tools that list and classify 832 Hebrew Bible manuscripts ("Hebrew Bible Manuscript Explorer") and 2263 Septuagint manuscripts ("Septuagint Manuscript Explorer"). The various manuscripts are referenced by date, content, storage location, and by group or type of manuscript. The interactivity of the tool allows us to classify or display the manuscripts according to these criteria. Finally, when images of the manuscript are accessible online (which is often the case), the database provides the direct link.

Score: **Accordance: 4,5/5** (Witnesses:1,75/2; Searching: 1,5/1,5; LXX: 0,75/1; Other: 0,5/0,5)

Logos: 3,5/5 (Witnesses:1,75/2; Searching: 0,5/1,5; LXX: 0,75/1; Other: 0,5/0,5)

Verdict: *Accordance has better databases and more advanced search capabilities for textual criticism.*

New Testament

	Accordance 4,5 / 5	Logos 3,75 / 5
Critical Apparatuses	NA28, UBS5, CNTTS, Tischendorf	NA28, UBS5, CNTTS, Tischendorf
Textual Criticism Commentaries	Metzger, Omanson, NTTC (Comfort)	Metzger, Omanson, NTTC (Comfort), Lexham
Searching Critical Apparatuses	Excellent	Average
Main Greek New Testament Editions	NA28 ^{T+A} , UBS5 ^{T+A} , Tyndale ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Tischendorf ^{T+A} , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Textus Receptus (Stephanus ^T), Patriarchal ^T .	NA28 ^{T+A} , UBS5 ^{T+A} , SBL^{T+A} , Tyndale ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Tischendorf ^{T+A} , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Textus Receptus (Stephanus ^T , Scrivener^T , Elzevir^T), Patriarchal ^T
NT Papyri 2 nd – 3 ^d c.	Yes ^T (Tr)	Yes (Tr)
NT Manuscripts (Codices)	Tr+I : x^T , A^T , B^T , D^T , W^T I : 2882	Tr : x, D (links to Münster University images)
Ancient Versions		
Latin	Weber critical ed. ^{T+A} , Clementine, Nova Vulgata	Weber critical ed. ^A , Clementine ^T , Nova Vulgata
Coptic	Bohairic, Sahidic, Greek Retroversion	Bohairic, Sahidic
Peshitta	Yes ^T	Yes ^T

Tr: Manuscripts Transcripts. I: Manuscripts Images.

^T Text “tagged” with morphological analysis (and thus allowing more precise searches)

^A Text with critical apparatus

Items in **bold** are those that are only available on one of the two software.

Text Witnesses and Critical Apparatuses

Accordance and Logos give access to the main witnesses to the New Testament text, to numerous editions of the Greek text, to the best critical apparatuses and to the main textual commentaries.

- Among the critical apparatuses available on both programs it is worth mentioning that of the *H. Milton Haggard Center for New Testament Textual Studies (CNTTS)*. This is the most detailed critical apparatus available for NT Greek manuscripts (apart for NT books already covered by the *Editio Critica Maior*). As with most of the computerized critical apparatus, hypertext links make it easy to consult: with one click, you can find out what a particular abbreviation or symbol stands for. For example, one only has to click on the numbering of a manuscript to find out its date, its contents and even the category to which it belongs (according to Aland's classification). It should be noted, however, that apart from a few Latin manuscripts, the *CNTTS* is only interested in the NT Greek manuscripts. Ancient versions or quotations from the Church Fathers are not mentioned. Finally, we have noticed that for the same variant, the witnesses cited by the *CNTTS* are not always the same as for the NA28. This is particularly the case for minuscules manuscripts. This is largely because the editors of the two apparatuses did not consult the same manuscripts. However, we also noted a few errors (see [our paper](#), pp. 307-309) that we reported (in March 2014) to William F. Warren, who is leading the development of this apparatus. Warren told us that the apparatus was being revised. A first version of

this revision is available, but only under Accordance. It is therefore advisable to use the *CNTTS* apparatus with caution, and to compare it to the *NA28* or the *Editio Critica Maior* when available.

- Accordance and Logos offer **transcriptions of some Greek codices, as well as of the oldest Greek papyri of the NT**. Accordance is the only one to have morphologically “tagged” the text of these manuscripts, which is a definite advantage for research.

Searching Critical Apparatuses

As for the Old Testament, **Accordance** allows for advanced searches within the critical apparatuses. On this point, the scope of the *CNTTS* apparatus enables particularly elaborate and precise research. For example, let's imagine that we want to verify that two manuscripts are indeed part of the same family. It is possible to search for the number of times these manuscripts agree or disagree, as long as there are variants. These results can then be exported as a graph and you can see at a glance whether the manuscripts agree more on one part of the NT or another. In 3 or 4 clicks, it is therefore possible to statistically verify the probability that these two manuscripts are from the same family ([see more explanation on this example here](#))!

As for the Old Testament, the search functions within the critical apparatuses are less powerful under **Logos** than under Accordance.

Other Tools

Logos also contains a tool entitled “Textual Variants” (accessible from the “Exegetical Guide”) that groups and classifies the library's information about textual criticism for a given verse or passage: critical apparatuses, textual commentaries, editions of ancient texts, manuscript transcriptions and even, for the New Testament, a link to images of online manuscripts. These are the [images put online by the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung \(INTF\)](#) of the University of Münster.

The *New Testament Manuscript Explorer* tool also allows you to explore a list of 5624 Greek New Testament manuscripts.

Score: Accordance: 4,5/5 (Witnesses: 3/3; Searching: 1,5/1,5; Other: 0/0,5)

Logos: 3,75/5 (Witnesses: 2,75/3; Searching: 0,5/1,5; Other: 0,5/0,5)

Verdict: As with the Old Testament, Accordance remains above its competitor in the field of NT textual criticism, thanks to the possibilities of advanced searches within the critical apparatuses.

2. Reading the Text in its Immediate Context

	Accordance 3 / 4	Logos 4 / 4
Instant Analysis and Translation of Greek or Hebrew Words	Essential information	More or less detailed information according to the modules
Visualizing Text Syntax	Colors, diagrams	Diagrams, Structural analysis
Pericope Information		
Literary Genre	No	Yes
Topics Covered	Yes	Yes
Important Words	Yes	Yes
Book Outlines	Good	Very Good

Once the text has been established, one should read it in its immediate context: i.e., within the writing of which it is a part.

Reading the Original Text

Accordance and Logos facilitate the reading of the original text by providing the morphological analysis (parsing) and a first translation, simply by moving the mouse pointer over a Greek or Hebrew word.

Both programs also offer Bible text formatting in the form of syntax diagrams.

With **Logos**, it is possible to display the biblical text (in Greek, Hebrew and English) in a manner that brings out the structure of the original text (“Propositional outlines”). It is also possible to display the text from any Bible without the numbering of chapters, verses and without the elements inserted by the editors (titles, notes, etc.). In the same vein, the “Psalms Explorer” tool offers a beautiful structural analysis of each biblical Psalm.

Immediate Context Information

Depending on the software, other useful information may be displayed. **Accordance** and **Logos** make it easy to locate the pericope within the book outline.

Logos, via the “Passage Analysis” tool, proposes a chart that puts in parallel the different divisions and titles proposed for the pericope, according to modern Bibles. This can draw attention to multiple possibilities to delimit a passage.

Accordance offers an information panel “Info Pane” displaying the topics, characters, places or important words of a given passage.

Logos also offers interesting information via the “Passage Guide”, the “Bible Browser” tool or the “Passage Analysis” tool. One can thus obtain details on the literary genre of a pericope, or even of different sections within it. **Logos** also provides a list of the important words in a passage, topics covered, characters and places mentioned in the passage.

All these indications will be useful especially for the student, who will remember, however, that information provided by the software can be discussed.

Score: Accordance: 3/4 | Logos: 4/4

Verdict: Logos offers more tools for the study of the immediate context of a given passage.

3. Translation

	Accordance 7,25 / 8	Logos 8 / 8
Morph. analysis	Yes	Yes
Syntax analysis	Yes	Yes
Lexicons (into English) Available for Sale		
Hebrew	HALOT, DCH (Clines), DCH ^{abr} , BDB, Kang (Epigraphic Hebrew), TDOT, TLOT.	HALOT, DCH (Clines), DCH ^{abr} , BDB, Jastrow, TDOT, TLOT.
Greek	BDAG, Liddell-Scott-Jones (1940), EDNT, Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel), Thayer, TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon.	BDAG, Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek , EDNT, Liddell-Scott-Jones (1996) , Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel), Thayer, TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon.
Grammars (in English) Available for Sale		
Hebrew	IBHS (Waltke & O'Connor), Gesenius, Joüon-Muraoka	IBHS (Waltke & O'Connor), Gesenius, Joüon-Muraoka
Greek	Blass-Debrunner-Funk, Conybeare (LXX), Robertson, Thackeray (LXX), Wallace.	Blass-Debrunner-Funk, Conybeare (LXX), Porter , Robertson, Thackeray (LXX), Wallace. Zerwick .
English Bible Versions	More than 40	More than 40
Main Other International Languages Bible Versions	French (3), German (12), Italian (4), Portuguese (2), Spanish (10)	French (12), German (more than 20), Italian (1), Portuguese (about 10), Spanish (about 14)

Note: The list of available dictionaries and grammars is not exhaustive: only the main English-language works of academic value are mentioned. For International Languages Bible Versions, other languages are available on both software as Arabic, Chinese or Korean.

Items in **bold** are only found in one of the two software's catalogue.

Integrated Tools

Accordance and Logos provide a number of useful tools for translation. Morphological analysis of each word is accessible at the click of a mouse. Both software packages also offer modules that provide a syntax analysis of each sentence. This allows you to quickly identify the subject or the complements of a verb.

It should be remembered, however, that even if the databases are made by qualified people, the morphological and syntactic analysis proposed are only “proposals”. In some cases, they are debatable or even particularly discussed among Bible scholars.

Consulting Lexicons

Both software facilitate the use of biblical Hebrew and Greek lexicons. A double-click on a Greek or Hebrew word opens your favorite lexicon at the corresponding entry.

The best dictionaries of Biblical Greek or Hebrew are available for Accordance and Logos. **Accordance** is the only one to provide the recent *Dictionary of Epigraphic Hebrew* by J. P. Kang. However, **Logos’** catalogue is a little more exhaustive, however, with a few reference works that are missing from the Accordance’s catalogue: the precious *Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature* by Marcus Jastrow, the most up-to-date edition of the Liddell-Scott-Jones’ *Greek-English Lexicon*, or the recent *Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek*.

Consulting Grammars

For each biblical verse, **Accordance** (via the “Info Pane”) and **Logos** (via the “Exegetical Guide”) provide links to paragraphs of the reference Greek and Hebrew grammars integrated into the software. Thus, it is possible to quickly view an abstract of the grammar points related to a given verse.

Here again, the catalogues of both publishers give access to the best English-language grammars of Greek and Biblical Hebrew. **Logos’** catalogue is a little more complete in terms of Greek grammars.

Consulting Other Translations

The last step in the translation process is usually the comparison of his translation with the existing ones. Accordance and Logos’ catalogues are almost exhaustive for English Bible versions. Both software programs also provide access to Bible versions in many other languages, Logos’ catalogue being a little more extensive on this point.

Both software allow to display the different translations in parallel and compare them easily. As mentioned above, it is even possible to cross-search between certain versions in order to compare how they translate a particular word.

Score: Accordance: 7,25/8 (Tools: 2/2; Lexicons: 1,75/2; Grammars: 1,75/2; Versions: 1,75/2)

Logos: 8/8 (Tools: 2/2; Lexicons: 2/2; Grammars: 2/2; Versions: 2/2)

Verdict: Logos’ catalogue is a bit more complete in terms of reference lexicons and grammars.

4. Philology and Linguistics

	Accordance	Logos
	6,75 / 9	8,25 / 9
Exploring Word Meanings	Average	Excellent
Studying Biblical Syntax	Very good	Very good
Assessing Critical Assumptions	Very good	Very good

Accordance and Logos software are particularly useful for studying the meaning of words in biblical contexts. They can be of value to anyone working in the field of biblical linguistics.

Exploring Word Meanings

Regarding semantic studies on a word, the search tools mentioned above allow to easily see how this word is used in different biblical passages or in the literature of the same environment. Reading texts is

still the best way to understand the meaning(s) of a word, and Bible software allows one to quickly consult the texts that use a particular word.

It may also be interesting to consider which other words are often associated with the word you are studying. For example, it is possible to ask the software to count all the words that are in proximity to the lemma λόγος in the Gospel of John. You can also specify that you want the software to count only the five words before or after λόγος. For this, a query < * WITHIN 5 WORDS λόγος > can be formulated (on Accordance or Logos). In both programs, the results are displayed by “analysis”, which then allows to classify the words by frequency and to see which words are the most frequently associated with. (Note that under Logos, the results of such a query take several minutes to display!).

Logos’ “Bible Word Study” feature permits to easily visualize to which subjects, verbs or complements a word is associated, with which prepositions it is used, to which lexical family it belongs, but also to which semantic field it belongs. The tool also offers nice statistics on how a Hebrew word is translated in the LXX, and vice-versa. All this data is presented in a pleasant way, with many links to Greek or Hebrew texts. It is simply breathtaking!

The semantic search possibilities offered by Logos also make it easy to explore the uses of a word according to its meaning, its synonyms or its semantic field.

Score: Accordance: 1,5/3 | Logos: 3/3

Verdict: Regarding Bible semantics, Logos offers more possibilities and very useful tools.

Studying Biblical Syntax

The syntactic databases present on both software programs are valuable tools for all those who wish to explore the grammar of biblical texts. As mentioned above, it is possible to display the biblical text in the form of syntactic diagrams.

Most notably, it is possible to perform precise syntax searches. Here are a few examples of possibilities:

- On Accordance and Logos, you can easily search for all the times when *Elohim* is the subject of a plural verb.
- Those interested in the evolution of ancient Hebrew language can search for all occurrences of what they think is a typical syntactic construction of Classical or Late Biblical Hebrew. In a video, I show how Andersen and Forbes’ database on Logos allows (for example) to check a statement made by Jan Joosten. In a paper, he argues that the syntax of imperative clauses containing a temporal phrase (e.g. "Eat it today!") evolves between Classical Hebrew (pre-exilic) and Late Hebrew (post-exilic) (see his contribution “[Imperative Clauses Containing a Temporal Phrase and the Study of Diachronic Syntax in Ancient Hebrew](#)”). Logos database permits to check the accuracy of this statement within a few minutes.
- For the New Testament, we can search for all instances of “double accusative”, i.e. all the times when a verb with an infinitive has an accusative subject (which is the most common case for a subject of a verb with an infinitive) and, at the same time, a direct object complement to the accusative.
- It is also possible to search for the Greek construction “definite article + substantive + καὶ + substantive” (TSKS). This will allow you to check the so-called “Granville Sharp’s rules”, which state that, according to certain criteria, such a construction implies a hendiadys..

To view a (French) video example of a search to check on Logos an assertion by Jan Joosten on the evolution of Hebrew syntax, click here



Score: Accordance : 2,75/3 | Logos : 2,75/3

Verdict : It's a tie. Logos has more elaborate databases, allowing more advanced searches. However, Accordance is easier to use.

Assessing Critical Assumptions

In order to distinguish certain sources or to evaluate the pseudepigraphic character of certain writings, biblical criticism sometimes uses linguistic arguments. This can be seen, in particular, in “Form criticism”, which bases its observations on formal aspects of the texts. Biblical software makes it possible to quickly search for such “forms” and thus to check or clarify the hypotheses put forward by others.

Let us imagine that an OT scholar wants to verify that a specific Hebrew formula is indeed typical of what some call the Priestly source. To do this, he will only have to enter this formula into his search engine and check if the list of results corresponds to the passages generally attributed to the Priestly source. With Logos, he will be able to use Andersen and Forbes’ database and limit his search to the passages of the “P” according to the classification of Otto Eissfeldt.

On Accordance, it is quite easy to compare the proximity of the vocabulary used by two texts or two corpuses of the same language. For example, we can check if the letters to the Ephesians and Colossians use a similar vocabulary as the letters unanimously attributed to Paul (see this example in video). One could then easily check the statistical assertions of certain exegetes concerning differences in vocabulary, the number of hapaxes and other linguistic arguments used to show the alleged pseudepigraphy of a particular Bible book.

*To see in (a French) video
how to examine the lexical
proximity of two corpuses on
Accordance, [click here](#)*



Score: Accordance : 2,5/3 | Logos : 2,5/3

Verdict: It's a tie. Logos offers more elaborate databases. Accordance offers search possibilities that have no equivalent on Logos (“COUNT”, “INFER” queries, etc.).

5. Intertextuality

After studying a text in its immediate context, it is useful to compare it with other texts from the same environment. Intertextual study is facilitated by the tools provided by biblical software..

	Accordance 8,25 / 10	Logos 7,25 / 10
Biblical Context		
Synopsis (Display quality)	Average	Good
Cross References	Very good	Very good
Tool for searching intertextuality between various texts of the same language	« INFER » query (good)	No
Indication of parallels in the extra-biblical literature	Good	Excellent
Ancient Texts (non-biblical)		
Ancient Near-East	<i>COS</i> , Ugarit ^{T : dev} , Hebrew/Aramaic Inscriptions ^T , <i>Textbook of Aramaic Documents</i> (Elephantine) ^T	<i>ANET</i> , <i>COS</i> , Ugarit, Egypt, Semitic Inscriptions ^T , <i>Ancient Aramaic and Hebrew Letters</i> (Elephantine), etc.
Dead Sea Scrolls	Qumran ^T , Other sites ^T	Qumran ^T
OT Pseudepigrapha	Greek Texts ^T English: Charlesworth, Bauckham	Greek Texts ^T English: Charlesworth, Bauckham
Josephus	Greek: Niese ed. ^T English: Whiston	Greek: Niese ed. ^T ; Loeb (<i>Vit.</i> ; <i>BJ</i>) ^{T approx.} English: Whiston, Loeb (<i>Vit.</i> ; <i>BJ</i>), Brill (<i>Vit.</i> ; <i>AJ</i> 1-10)
Philo of Alexandria	Greek: Philo Concordance Project ^T English: Yonge	Greek: Philo Concordance Project ^T , Loeb ^T English: Yonge, Loeb
Greek and Latin Classics	Greek/English: 7 texts (Perseus)	More than 1000 vols.: Greek ^{T approx.} , Latins ^{T approx.} , English (Perseus)
Rabbinic Literature (Hebrew)	Mishna ^T , Tosefta, Babylonian Talmud, Sifra, Sifre Nb and Dt, Mekhilta Rab Ishmael	Mekhilta Rab Ishmael and Rab Shimon; Pirke Avot
Apostolic Fathers (Greek)	Holmes ^T , Lightfoot ^T	Brannan ^T , Holmes ^T , Lake ^T , Lightfoot ^T
NT Apocrypha (Greek)	Gospels ^T , Acts ^T , Apocalypses ^T	Gospels ^T

^T Text “tagged” with morphological analysis (and thus allowing more precise searches)

^{T approx.} Tagged text with an automatically generated morphological analysis that is not accurate: lemma/morphological searches on these texts generate false positives.

Note: This table is not exhaustive: only the main texts from the biblical world are mentioned.

Intertextuality Within the Biblical Corpus

As a first step, one can compare a biblical text with other biblical texts, especially if they use the same source, or if a NT text alludes to an OT text.

One can refer to the cross-reference lists integrated in each of the two software programs. Parallel texts can be displayed side by side using the “synopsis” (or “parallel”) feature. These usually reproduce the parallels suggested by various existing work, such as Kurt Aland's synopsis of the Gospels. One can thus easily consult Gospel synopsis, a parallel of Jude and 2 Peter, quotations from the OT in the NT, or parallels between epistles by the same author. Compared to a printed synopsis, these tools have the advantage of being customizable: it is possible to choose the version in which one wishes to display the

texts in parallel. It should be noted, however, that the parallel words or sentences are not really aligned, as they would be for a printed synopsis: reading is therefore less pleasant. **Logos** does a little better than Accordance in terms of synopsis readability, even if the alignment is far from perfect.

Logos also contains an interactive tool for exploring Old Testament quotations and allusions from the Old Testament in the New Testament and classifying them according to many criteria (book cited, topic, literary genre of the source text, etc.). This data is also coded in the background of the New Testament text. It is thus possible to search for explicit quotations, implicit quotations, allusions, or "echoes" of a given reference, book, or corpus. For example, one can search for all the explicit quotations of a verse from Isaiah 40 to 66.

Score: Accordance: 2,25/3 | Logos: 2,75/3

Verdict: Logos offers more possibilities for the study of intertextual relationships within the biblical text.

Intertextuality in Biblical Environments

Getting Access to the Texts of the Bible World

Accordance and **Logos** give access to a large number of ancient texts that can be related to the biblical text. The table above shows a non-exhaustive list. A good part of these texts has been morphologically tagged: it is therefore possible to carry out morphological searches in the same way as for the biblical text. However, the databases do not allow for syntactic or semantic searches (apart from the *Hebrew Inscriptions* database on Accordance which have syntax analysis).

Accordance and **Logos** both integrate the database containing all the non-biblical manuscripts found in Qumran (*Qumran Sectarian Manuscripts*) and [created by Martin Abegg](#). However, **Accordance** is the only one to provide access to non-biblical manuscripts from other sites of the Judean desert. In addition, the publisher has created a very useful index to help you find your way around the manuscripts: this index indicates the contents of each manuscript, any parallel manuscript, and the bibliographical references related to this manuscript (including the reference in the *DJD*). Finally, because of its regular collaboration with Martin Abegg, Accordance benefits from regular corrections and updates of its databases.

Accordance's catalogue remains fairly extensive, with a greater choice of rabbinic literature in Hebrew and other Semitic databases. Only Accordance offers the *Textbook of Aramaic Documents (Elephantine)* with morphological analysis, and the Mishna with similar tagging. The editors are also developing an Ugaritic database with morphological analysis. Finally, it is the one that offers the most extensive databases of Greek NT Apocrypha.

Logos has a more extensive catalogue overall. It is especially more complete for Greek texts (except for the NT Apocrypha). Logos has also adapted for its software the thousand Greek and Latin Classics accessible free of charge online on the [Perseus Digital Library website](#) (this database is also free of charge on the Logos catalogue). Finally, the catalogue is more complete with regard to the English-language reference editions of texts from the world of the Bible.

Parallel Text Reporting Tools

Accordance comes with the *Comprehensive Crossrefs* tool, which is useful for studying texts from the "para-biblical" literature related to a given passage. Placed in parallel with the Bible text, the *Comprehensive Crossrefs* tab displays a large number of parallel passages (or those dealing with a similar topic) from Apocrypha or Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, writings of Josephus or Philo, patristic writings, Talmud, Nag Hammadi library, etc. If the works mentioned are part of your Accordance library, a simple click on the reference will open it to the right page.

Logos includes a tool called "Ancient Literature", accessible via the "Passage Guide". It shows a large number of references from ancient literature related to the selected biblical passage. References are classified by type, according to whether they are a quotation of the biblical passage, an allusion to it, or whether they deal with a similar topic. In addition, references are classified by corpus and cover the writings of the Ancient Near East, Dead Sea Scrolls, Pseudepigrapha, the writings of Philo, those of Josephus, rabbinic literature, the Nag Hammadi library, the Apostolic Fathers and the Church Fathers! All the references have hyperlinks to the writings in question (the links only work if you have these texts in your Logos library).

Score: Accordance: 4,5/5 | Logos: 4,5/5

Verdict: It's a tie. Accordance has better databases in Semitic languages, but Logos offers a more complete catalogue in Greek and English.

Searching for Quotations or Allusions Between Several Texts

Only **Accordance** offers an “active” tool for searching for quotations or allusions between two texts in the same language, based on the use of a certain number of common words. The “INFER” command allows you to search for allusions to a verse, a given chapter or even an entire book, within another text in the same language.

For example, working with LXX, we can look for all references to Isaiah 53 within the text of NA28. Accordance will then search for all verses of the Greek NT containing at least some words present in the Greek text of Isaiah 53. It is possible to adjust the precision of the search and choose the minimum number of words in common.

Score: Accordance: 1,5/2 | Logos: 0/2

Verdict: Accordance is the only one to offer an “active” tool in this field.

6. Consulting Secondary Literature and Other Tools

	Accordance 6,75 / 9	Logos 7,75 / 9
Bible Commentaries	Most of the best commentaries in English and a few in Spanish can be bought.	Almost exhaustive catalogue in English. Many in German and Spanish. Some in French and Portuguese.
Bible Encyclopedias	The best ones (in English) are available	Almost exhaustive catalogue in English. A few in French, German and Spanish.
Monographs Related to Bible Exegesis	Good catalogue	Massive catalogue
Timeline	Detailed (English, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish)	Very detailed (English, Chinese, German, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish)
Atlas	Detailed, highly customizable (English, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish)	Very detailed, not very customizable (English)
Bible-Related Images and Graphics	Good quality image and photo collections	Good quality image and photo collections

Consulting Secondary Literature

Any serious scholar cannot complete his exegesis without confronting it with the work of his fellows. As we have seen above, the Bible software tested can be used as an electronic “super-library” and thus facilitate the consultation of secondary exegetical literature.

Accordance's catalogue contains a good selection of technical commentaries, encyclopedic Bible dictionaries or exegetical reference works. The best English-language series can be purchased and added to your library.

Logos is the ideal software for the exegete who wishes to build up an electronic library in English. In this language, the catalogue contains everything a biblical scholar can dream of. Some Bible commentaries and dictionaries are also available in German, Spanish or French (and other languages). Logos is the most powerful software for indexing and linking books in the library.

Score: Accordance: 4,5/6 | Logos: 5,5/6

Verdict: Logos offers a more complete catalogue and better library indexing.

Timeline

Accordance and Logos propose timelines to situate important events of a biblical period.

Logos' timeline is well done: it is beautiful, customizable, and it offers a lot of historical information. It is possible to select filters to display only the information you are interested in. For example, you can

choose to display only Assyrian, Egyptian or Roman data. The timeline has been translated into five languages.

Accordance's timeline is not as detailed, but it is customizable and allows you to choose to display data according to a “conservative” or a “critical” dating. In addition, the data has been translated into seven languages.

On **both software**, a click on a historical event, a book or a character mentioned by the timeline allows you to view more information and/or to open one or more books in the library related to it.

Score: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 1/1

Verdict: Logos timeline is a bit more detailed and has a nicer design.

Atlas

Both software give access to a good number of maps and atlases to locate different places mentioned in the Bible.

Accordance provides an interactive Atlas of the Mediterranean region: it is possible to choose the sites, kingdoms, or routes you wish to display, for a given period. It is even possible to have a 3D view of any portion of the Atlas! Accordance's atlas is very well designed and moreover, translated into seven languages for international users.

Logos also has an interactive Atlas, which is prettier and contains more elements of the biblical story. However, compared to Accordance, this Atlas is not very customizable and seems to be available only in English.

Score: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 0,5/1

Verdict: Accordance's interactive atlas is more customizable.

Images and Graphics

Both software provide access to visuals related to the biblical text, whether illustrative images, photographs of biblical places or archaeological elements.

Accordance offers several collections of good quality photographs in its catalogue. **Logos** offers various modern visuals and good quality photographs. **Both software** allow you to easily search for media in your library.

Score: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 0,75/1

Verdict: It's a tie.

E. Rates

In Summary

The content of the Logos Academic packages is generally more attractive than similarly priced Accordance packages. Likewise, books sold individually from the Logos catalog are more often cheaper. However major updates are cheaper on Accordance.

Logos also offers more free resources and greater discounts for the “academic” public (students, faculty). Accordance is perhaps a little more generous in terms of occasional special offers.

All these elements lead to the conclusion that Logos is globally a little cheaper for an academic public.

Accordance

6,5 / 10

Logos

7,75 / 10

Which software is the cheapest? The answer is not easy because Accordance and Logos do not offer quite the same functionality. In addition, the business plans of the two publishers are different. However, here are some elements of comparison.

1. Comparison of the Main Collections for Academic Use

The table below compares the Accordance and Logos collections for an academic audience interested primarily in the study of biblical texts from the original languages, in a price range from \$399 to \$1,619.

As can be seen, the comparison is not easy, since the two catalogues do not have any collections sold at the same price. However, it seems to me that, for a same price range, Logos' base packages give access to a little more features and content.

In terms of features, for example, syntactic databases and tools for cross-searching between the LXX and the Masoretic Text are included from the cheapest Logos' Academic package sold \$499 ([Academic Essentials](#)), whereas they are only available in packs sold for \$999 at Accordance ([Greek](#) or [Hebrew Pro](#)).

In terms of content, *for a price range between \$300 and \$500*, Accordance's [Academic Bundle Green 1](#) (\$400) is a little more interesting than the one sold for \$100 more on Logos ([Academic Essentials](#)): it includes, in addition, the critical apparatus of Rahlfs' LXX, more Hebrew lexicons, Metzger's textual criticism commentary, more Bible versions and the text of the Qur'an (Arabic + English).

On the other hand, *for the price range between \$500 and \$1,000*, the Logos' [Academic Standard](#) package (\$749), is a very good deal in terms of content/price ratio. In addition to containing the reference Bible texts editions (BHS and NA28 with critical apparatuses), it gives access to many ancient versions (LXX, Samaritan Pentateuch, Targums, Vulgate, Peshitta). It also contains the Greek texts and English translations of 81 Pseudepigrapha, writings of Philo, Josephus and the Apostolic Fathers. Finally, it gives access to the 8 volumes of the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* (Clines) and the latest edition of Liddell, Scott & Jones' *Dictionary of Classical Greek*. The Accordance's [Greek Pro](#) and [Hebrew Pro](#) collections, sold for an additional \$250 (\$999), focus on one of the two biblical languages and do not offer such a complete offer.

Finally, *for a price range between \$1,000 and \$1,700*, Logos' [Academic Professional](#) package (\$1619) is clearly more advantageous than if you buy both Accordance's Greek Pro and Hebrew Pro collections, for a quite similar price (\$1565 according to Accordance's Customer Service Representative). Logos' package contains notably the 15 volumes of the *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, the 10 volumes of the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Kittel), the 6 volumes of the *Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* or the 61 volumes of the *International Critical Commentary*. The content of the Accordance collections at an equivalent price is much more limited.

Score: Accordance: 2,75/4 | Logos: 3,25/4

Verdict: For a similar price range, Logos offers more often collections with more features and interesting books.

2. Price Comparison of Major Academic Resources

If Logos' prices are a little more interesting when it comes to collections, what about the resources sold per unit?

In order to answer this question, I have selected 58 texts, books or series of works among those that seem to me the most useful from an academic point of view. I have recorded the prices, excluding any promotion or discount, on both catalogues (on the 14th of April 2020). These are shown in the table below.

Out of these 58 products, Logos offers 24 times a lower price while Accordance is cheaper on 10 products. Both catalogues offer equivalent prices on 10 products. (For the remaining 14 products, the comparison is not possible because there is no equivalent product in the other catalogue).

In addition to this general observation, it can be noted that Accordance is cheaper on products related to the Old Testament context (texts from the Ancient Near East) or the Dead Sea Scrolls. Logos is generally cheaper for texts related to the New Testament context (non-biblical texts of Qumran, Philo, Josephus, Apostolic Fathers, Apocryphal Gospels, Rabbinic literature) and for lexicons, grammars and dictionaries.

As far as large collections of Bible commentaries are concerned, Accordance generally offers lower price.

Score: Accordance : 2/3 | Logos : 2,5/3

Verdict: Academically important texts and works are more often cheaper in the Logos catalogue.

Comparative Table of the Main Collections of Accordance and Logos Centered on the Study of Greek and Hebrew Texts

		Accordance Greek & Hebrew Discoverer	Accordance Academic Bundle Green 1	Logos Academic Essentials	Logos Academic Standard	Accordance Greek Pro	Accordance Hebrew Pro	Logos Academic Premium	Accordance Greek Pro + Hebrew Pro	Logos Academic Professional
Price (excluding discount)		\$399	\$400	\$499	\$749	\$999	\$999	\$1119	\$1565	\$1619
Databases and Features		★★ (Standard features)	★★★ (Standard + Atlas, Timeline)	★★★★ (Most important features)	★★★★ (Most important features)	★★★ (Standard + syntax Gr NT + MT//LXX)	★★★ (Standard + syntax MT + MT//LXX)	★★★★★ (Full features)	★★★★ (Standard + syntax MT and Gr NT + MT//LXX)	★★★★★ (Full features)
Old Testament	Hebrew Text	BHS ^T	BHS ^{T+A}	BHS ^{T+A}	BHS ^{T+A} , Samaritan Pentateuch ^A	BHS ^T	BHS ^{T+A} , Dead Sea Scrolls ^{T+A} , Sirach ^T	BHS ^{T+A} , Samaritan Pentateuch ^A	BHS ^{T+A} , Dead Sea Scrolls ^{T+A} , Sirach ^T	BHS ^{T+A} , Samaritan Pentateuch ^A
	Septuagint	Rahlfs ^T , Swete ^T	Rahlfs ^{T+A}	Rahlfs ^T , Swete ^{T+A}	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Swete ^{T+A}	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Swete ^T	Rahlfs ^T , Swete ^T , Greek DSS ^T	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Swete ^{T+A}	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Swete ^T , Greek DSS ^T	Rahlfs ^{T+A} , Swete ^{T+A}
	Other Ancient Versions	/	/	/	Targums ^T , Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A	/	/	Targums ^T , Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A	/	Targums ^T , Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A
New Testament	Greek Text	NA28 ^T , Textus Receptus ^T , Westcott & Hort ^T	NA28 ^{T+A} , Textus Receptus ^T	NA28 ^{T+A} , SBL ^{T+A}	NA28 ^{T+A} , SBL ^{T+A} , Tischendorf ^{T+A} , Stephanus ^T , Scrivener ^T , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T ,	NA28 ^{T+A} , CNTTS app., UBS5 ^T , Tyndale ^{T+A} , Textus Receptus ^T , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Tischendorf ^T , Papyri (Comfort & Barrett) ^T , Codex x ^T , A ^T , B ^T , D ^T , W ^T	NA28 ^T , Textus Receptus ^T , Westcott & Hort ^T	NA28 ^{T+A} , SBL ^{T+A} , Tischendorf ^{T+A} , Stephanus ^T , Scrivener ^T , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Patriarchal ^T , Papyri (Comfort & Barrett), Codex x, D	NA28 ^{T+A} , CNTTS app., UBS5 ^T , Tyndale ^{T+A} , Textus Receptus ^T , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Tischendorf ^T , Papyri (Comfort & Barrett) ^T , Codex x ^T , A ^T , B ^T , D ^T , W ^T	NA28 ^{T+A} , UBS5 ^{T+A} , SBL ^{T+A} , Tischendorf ^{T+A} , Stephanus ^T , Scrivener ^T , Byzantine ^{T+A} , Westcott & Hort ^T , Patriarchal ^T , Papyri (Comfort & Barrett), Codex x, D
	Ancient Versions	/	/	/	Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A	/	/	Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A	/	Vulgate (Stuttgart, Clementine ^T), Peshitta (Leiden) ^A
	Original Language	Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T	Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T , Qur'an ^T	Philo ^T , Apostolic Fathers (Lake) ^T	OT Pseudepigrapha ^T , Philo ^T , Josephus ^T , Apostolic Fathers (Lake) ^T	Critical Edition of Q, Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T	Dead Sea Scrolls ^T , Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T	OT Pseudepigrapha ^T , Philo ^T , Josephus ^T , Apostolic Fathers (Lake) ^T Critical Edition of Q, Thomas Gospel	Dead Sea Scrolls ^T , Critical Edition of Q, Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T	OT Pseudepigrapha ^T , Philo ^T , Josephus ^T , Apostolic Fathers (Lake) ^T Critical Edition of Q, Thomas Gospel, Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot) ^T
Ancient Texts (non-biblical)	English Translation	Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)	Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot), Qur'an	Philo, Josephus, Apostolic Fathers (Lake, Brannan)	OT Pseudepigrapha (Charles), Philo, Josephus, Apostolic Fathers, NT Apocrypha	Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)	Dead Sea Scrolls, Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)	OT Pseudepigrapha (Charles; Charlesworth), Philo, Josephus, Apostolic Fathers, NT Apocrypha, Church Fathers (Schaff's 37 vols), Babylonian Talmud	Dead Sea Scrolls, Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)	Ancient Near Eastern Texts, OT Pseudepigrapha (Charles; Charlesworth), Philo, Josephus, Apostolic Fathers, NT Apocrypha, Church Fathers (Schaff's 37 vols), Babylonian Talmud
	Hebrew	BDB, DCH(Clines) ^{abr} , TLOT (Jenni / Westermann) + 3 more	BDB, Kohlenberger/Mounce, NAS, Strong	BDB	BDB, DCH (Clines) ^{8 vols}	BDB, DCH(Clines) ^{abr} , TLOT (Jenni/Westermann) + 3 more	HALOT, BDB, DCH(Clines) ^{abr} , Qumran Aramaic, TLOT (Jenni/Westermann), TWOT, + 3 more	BDB, DCH (Clines) ^{8 vols}	HALOT, BDB, DCH(Clines) ^{abr} , Qumran Aramaic, TLOT (Jenni/Westermann), TWOT, + 3 more	BDB, DCH (Clines) ^{8 vols} , TDOT (15 vols)
Lexicons	Greek	Thayer, Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon + 5 more	Thayer, Louw & Nida, Mounce, Trench, NAS, Strong	Liddell-Scott ^{intermediate} , Thayer, Louw et Nida, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr}	Liddell-Scott-Jones ^{full} , Thayer, Louw & Nida, EDNT, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , LEH LXX Lexicon	BDAG, Liddell-Scott ^{intermediate} , Thayer, Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon + 5 more	Thayer, Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon + 5 more	Liddell-Scott-Jones ^{full} , Thayer, Louw & Nida, EDNT, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , LEH LXX Lexicon	BDAG, Liddell-Scott ^{intermediate} , Thayer, Louw & Nida, TDNT (Kittel) ^{abr} , TLNT (Spicq), LEH LXX Lexicon + 5 more	BDAG, Liddell-Scott-Jones ^{full} , Thayer, Louw et Nida, EDNT, TDNT (Kittel) ^{full10 vols} , LEH LXX Lexicon
	Latin	/	/	/	Lewis & Short	/	/	Lewis & Short	/	Lewis & Short
	Hebrew	Waltke & O'Connor	/	Gesenius	Gesenius, Joüon/Muraoka, Waltke & O'Connor	Waltke & O'Connor	Gesenius, Joüon/Muraoka, Waltke & O'Connor, Futato + 1 more	Gesenius, Joüon/Muraoka, Waltke & O'Connor	Gesenius, Joüon/Muraoka, Waltke & O'Connor, Futato + 1 more	Gesenius, Joüon/Muraoka, Waltke & O'Connor
Grammars	Greek	Burton, Robertson, Stevens, Conybeare (LXX), Thackeray (LXX)	Burton, Robertson, Conybeare (LXX)	Robertson, Conybeare (LXX)	Robertson, Conybeare (LXX)	Mounce, Decker, Burton, Robertson, Stevens, Conybeare (LXX), Thackeray (LXX)	Burton, Robertson, Stevens, Conybeare (LXX), Thackeray (LXX)	Robertson, Conybeare (LXX)	Mounce, Decker, Burton, Robertson, Stevens, Conybeare (LXX), Thackeray (LXX)	Robertson, Zerwick, Porter, Conybeare (LXX), other grammars
	English	12	13	12	16	12	13	+ de 40	13	+ de 40
Bible Versions	Other languages	Fr., Germ. (2), Spa., Ita. (2), Port., Kor., Chin., Rom.	Fr., Germ. (2), Spa. (2), Ita. (2), Port., Kor., Chin., Rom.	/	French	Fr., Germ. (2), Spa., Ita. (2), Port., Kor., Chin., Rom.	French, German (2), Spa., Ita. (2), Port., Kor., Chin., Rom.	French	French, German (2), Spa., Ita. (2), Port., Kor., Chin., Rom.	French, German (3)
	Bible Encyclopedias	Eerdmans, Easton	Eerdmans, Easton	Eerdmans, Lexham	Eerdmans, Lexham	Eerdmans, Easton	Eerdmans, Easton	Eerdmans, Lexham, Anchor (6 vols.)	Eerdmans, Easton	Eerdmans, Lexham, Anchor (6 vols.), TDOT (15 vols), TDNT (10 vols.)
Textual Criticism Guide	BHS Guide	Metzger	Lexham	Lexham, Metzger, Omanson	Metzger, NT Text and Translation Commentary (Comfort), NA28 and BHS Guides	BHS Guide	Lexham, Metzger, Omanson, NT Text and Translation Commentary (Comfort)	Metzger, NT Text and Translation Commentary (Comfort), NA28 and BHS Guides	Lexham, Metzger, Omanson, NT Text and Translation Commentary (Comfort)	
Commentaries	IVP (1 vol.), Jamieson/Fausset/Brown, Vincent, Robertson	IVP (1 vol.), Jamieson/Fausset/Brown	Eerdmans (1 vol.)	Eerdmans (1 vol.)	IVP (1 vol.), Jamieson/Fausset/Brown, Vincent, Robertson	IVP (1 vol.), Jamieson/Fausset/Brown, Vincent, Robertson	Eerdmans (1 vol.)	IVP (1 vol.), Jamieson/Fausset/Brown, Vincent, Robertson	Eerdmans (1 vol.), International Critical Commentary (61 vols.), UBS Handook Series (55 vols.)	

^T = Tagged Text with morphological analysis ^A = Critical Apparatus included ^{abr} = Abridged version **Item in bold** = Work or text of special academic interest

Comparative chart of the price of a selection of resources of academic interest on the Accordance and Logos catalogues. (Prices excluding promotion and discount, checked on the 14th of April 2020)

		Item	Accordance	Logos
Old Testament (Hebrew and Ancient Versions)	Hebrew	Masoretic Text ^T	\$69,90	\$49,90
		BHS ^{T+A}	\$109	\$73,99
		BHQ (6 volumes)	\$199	\$199,99
		Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls ^T	\$149	\$179,99
	Ancient Versions	Samaritan Pentateuch	\$49,90 (with T without A)	\$49,90 (without T with A)
		Targums (Aramaic) ^T	\$99,90	\$17,99
		Rahlfs' LXX ^{T+A}	\$119	\$132,47
	Göttingen LXX ^{T+A}	\$849 (19 vols)	\$699,99 (24 vols)	
New Testament (Greek)	NA28 ^{T+A}		\$109	\$99,99
	Greek New Testament (UBS5) ^{T+A}		\$89,90	\$99,99
Whole Bible (Ancient Texts)	Stuttgart Scholarly Pack	BHS ^{T+A} + NA28 ^{T+A} + UBS5 ^{T+A}	/	\$129,99
		BHS ^{T+A} + ETCBC (Syntax) ^T + NA28 ^{T+A} + UBS5 ^{T+A} + Vulgate ^{T+A} + Thomas Gosp. + Metzger + Omsan + 3 lexicons	\$299	/
	Latin	Vulgate (5 ^e éd. critique de Weber)	\$139 ^(T+A)	\$139,99 ^(A)
	Syriac	Peshitta (OT + NT)	\$179 ^(T)	\$99,99 (OT: A; NT: T)
Other Ancient Texts	Ancient Near-East	Ugaritic Data Bank (translit.)	\$79,90	\$119,99
		Ugaritic Texts with T	\$129,90	/
		Semitic Inscriptions (Hebr. / Aram.) ^T	\$99,90 (many txt + Engl. tr. + index + dict.)	\$179,99 (many txt + Engl. tr.)
		<i>The Context of Scripture</i> (Brill)	\$199	\$299,99
	OT Pseudepi- grapha	OT Pseudepigrapha (Greek Texts) ^T	\$99,90 (51 texts)	\$99,95 (81 texts)
		<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> (dir. Charlesworth)	\$119	\$119,99
	Dead Sea Scrolls	Qumran Texts (non biblical) ^T	\$79,90	\$71,99
		Other Sites (non biblical) ^T	\$49,90	/
	Philo	Greek Texts ^T + English Translation	\$109	\$48,99
	Josephus	Greek Texts ^T + English Translation	\$99,90	\$22,48
	Apostolic Fathers	Lightfoot (Greek Texts ^T + English Trans.)	\$29,90	\$24,99
		Holmes (Greek Texts ^T + English Trans.)	\$99,90	\$51,99
	NT Apocrypha	Apocryphal Gospels (Greek Texts ^T + English trans.)	\$49,90	\$12,48
		Apocryphal Acts (Greek Texts ^T + English trans.)	\$79,90	/
Apocryphal Apocalypses (Greek Texts ^T + En. tr.)		\$49,90	/	
Rabbinic Texts	Mishna	Hebrew Text ^T	\$49,90	/
		Neusner's English Translation	\$39,90	\$31,99
	Tosefta	Hebrew Text	\$79,90	/
		Neusner's English Translation	/	\$99,99
	Talmud	Babylonian Talmud (Hebrew)	\$179	/
		Babylonian Talmud (Neusner trans.)	\$219	\$140,99
Jerusalem Talmud (Neusner trans.)	\$199	\$140,99		
Lexicons	Hebrew- English	Brown-Driver-Briggs	\$69,90	\$19,99
		HALOT	\$199	\$159,99
		Dictionary of Classical Hebrew (Clines)	\$349	\$339,99
	Greek- English	BDAG	\$159	\$149,99
		Liddell-Scott-Jones	\$129 1940 ed.	\$134,99 1996 ed. with suppl.
		Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek	/	\$124,99
Grammars	Biblical Hebrew	Jouön-Muraoka	\$74,90	\$74,90
		Walke & O'Connor	\$49,90	\$47,99
		Gesenius	\$49,90	\$12,49
	Biblical Greek	Blass-Debrunner-Funk	\$79,90	\$62,99
		Wallace	\$47,90	\$47,99
Bible Encyclopedias (English)	<i>Theological Dictionary of the OT</i> (16 vols)		\$748,90	\$699,99
	Kittel, <i>Theological Dict. of the NT</i> (10 vols)		\$249	\$199,99
	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> (6 vols)		\$269	\$269,99
Bible Commentaries Series	<i>New International Commentary on the OT</i>		\$829 (26 vols)	\$899,99 (25 vols)
	<i>New International Commentary on the NT</i>		\$679 (19 vols)	\$840,99 (22 vols)
	<i>New International Greek Commentary</i> (13 vols)		\$549	\$599,99
	<i>Word Biblical Commentary</i> (61 vols)		\$1499	\$1199,99
	<i>Anchor Yale Bible Commentary</i> (90 vols)		\$1999	\$2149,99
	<i>International Critical Commentary</i> (62 vols)		/	\$1929,99
	<i>Hermeneia</i>		\$929 (51 vols)	\$1349,99 (52 vols)
<i>Pillar New Testament Commentary</i>		\$459 (15 vols)	\$524,99 (16 vols)	

^T = Tagged Text with morphological analysis ^A = Critical Apparatus included

3. Major Update Rates

In addition to the initial investment, it is also necessary to consider the cost of major updates.

In recent years, **Logos'** publisher has released a new major version approximately every two years (version 6: October 2014; version 7: August 2016; version 8: October 2018) and a new version can therefore be expected to be released at the start of the next academic year. The precise cost of these updates is difficult to determine because it depends on many criteria. However, users complain that upgrading to the new version is expensive, as it can cost several hundred dollars to benefit from all the new features.

The release of new versions of **Accordance** has been somewhat less regular in recent years (version 11: November 2014; version 12: November 2016; version 13: November 2019). The next major update should therefore not come before November 2021. On the other hand, the upgrade to the higher version has never exceeded \$59.90, the price of the "Starter" collection.

Scores: Accordance: 0,75/1 | Logos: 0,25/1

Verdict: Major updates are much more affordable on Accordance.

4. Free Content

Free Collections

Accordance is available free of charge in a "Lite" version (see here). This version does not contain any reference works, nor Greek or Hebrew texts. However, it allows you to use Accordance with, among others, an English-speaking Bible (ESV) with strong numbers and corresponding lexicons, some small Bible dictionaries or commentaries, etc. The main interest of this free version is to be able to build up an Accordance library "à la carte", without having to purchase a "basic collection". This can allow, for example, to buy only one or two works in Accordance format.

For **Logos**, it is possible to take advantage of the "Basic" package, a free collection including resources equivalent to those of the Accordance Lite version. "Academic Basic" package, reserved to students and teachers, is much more generous: it gives access to the Hebrew Masoretic Text, the Greek LXX text and the Greek NT text, as well as to Greek and Hebrew lexicons (the content is listed at the bottom of this page).

Free Books

Other than Matthew Henry's Commentary (Condensed), I have not found any additional free resources on the **Accordance** catalogue.

Logos' catalogue includes several free resources. To access them, simply go to this page: www.logos.com/products. You will be able to select the option "Sort by: Price (lowest first)". Free books will then be at the top of the list. Among free books of particular interest are the encyclopedic Lexham Bible Dictionary and the Perseus database (Greek and Latin classics).

Finally, **Logos** offers a free book every month and it is not uncommon for it to be a recent academic work (see this page).

Free Additional Modules

Both software allow users to insert personal documents or modules compiled by themselves or by other users. Several sites include a number of these modules made available by users. For example, additional old texts or copyright-free commentaries can be found there.

- For Accordance, go to the following page: www.accordancefiles1.com/exchange .
- For **Logos** : http://wiki.logos.com/User_Contributed_Personal_Books. Didier Fontaine, designer of Bible Parser, has generously put online a number of documents that can be integrated into Logos. To do so, visit this address: http://areopage.net/Logos5FreeModulesLibrary.html.

Score: Accordance : 0,5/1 | Logos : 1/1

Verdict: Logos is much more generous than Accordance in terms of free resources or via the free "Academic Basic" collection.

5. Discounts and Special Offers

Permanent Discounts

Accordance grants a general 10% discount on its catalogue for students, teachers, pastors, priests or missionaries ([see here](#)). Institutions can also develop partnerships with the publisher, and thus obtain discounts of up to 50% for their students.

Logos offers discounts generally higher than Accordance for theology students or faculty who create an Academic account ([see here](#)). The publisher indicates that the discounts are at least 30% on base packages. In addition, there are significant discounts (between 20% and 50%) on many academic reference works. Discounts can be even higher for students from institutions that develop a partnership with Logos.

Sale

Both publishers regularly offer special discounts on their collections and on certain books.

On collections, 50% off Sale has already been noted on certain Accordance collections (among the least expensive in the catalogue). On Logos, occasional discounts on base packages have sometimes reached 30% off.

Accordance offers new special offers every week on certain resources in its catalogue. On Logos, books on sale change every month. It is hard to say which is the most generous. However, it seems to me that Accordance offers more often sales on commentary series.

Score: Accordance : 0,5/1 | Logos : 0,75/1

Verdict: Advantage to Logos, which offers more interesting permanent discounts for students and faculty, even if Accordance seems a little more generous regarding occasional sales.

Conclusion

Both software tested are remarkable tools for biblical exegesis. Logos obtains an overall score slightly higher than Accordance. However, this does not mean that Logos will be the best software for any user. Indeed, each of the two software tested has its own strengths and weaknesses. To help one find his way around, below is a table showing all the “scores” proposed in the course of the comparative review. Strengths and weaknesses of each software are also summarized.

Bible software can be used as *passive tools*. Indeed, they present a certain amount of information, just like a printed book would: morphological or syntactic analysis, information on meaning or grammar, etc. These data are to be used with the critical eye of the exegete, in the same way as it is necessary to check the assertions of a printed book. Software can also be used as *active tools*. In this case, they allow one to make one's own searches within a database. It is this use that most advances research, allowing the exegete to make new discoveries by himself. To do this, he will have to become familiar with the tool in order to use its full potential.

Logos is the ideal software for anyone who wants to invest in an electronic exegetical library. With its extremely elaborate databases, it also opens up great possibilities in the field of biblical linguistics. It is the most powerful and ambitious software. The great richness of the software is also its weakness. Logos is sometimes quite slow, especially if it is used on a relatively modest computer. Finally, Logos tends to work in the place of the researcher. The software is very easy to use as a passive or semi-active tool, but the advanced search features are complex to use, which makes it less relevant as an “active” tool.

Accordance can also effectively manage an electronic library. It is particularly appreciated by Hebrew specialists and is superior in the field of textual criticism. It is the easiest to use as an active tool: with Accordance, it is easier to imagine new possibilities to explore the texts. The software is also fast and does not need a high-end computer to work properly. However, Accordance is less powerful than its competitor and does not offer such elaborate biblical databases, especially in the field of semantics.

Scores

	Accordance 78,25 %	Logos 81,5 %
Interfaces	15,25 / 20	15 / 20
Desktop App	11,5 / 15	11 / 15
Mobile Apps	3,75 / 5	4 / 5
Search Features	15,5 / 20	16,5 / 20
Usefulness for Biblical Exegesis	41 / 50	42,25 / 50
Old Testament Textual Criticism	4,5 / 5	3,5 / 5
New Testament Textual Criticism	4,5 / 5	3,75 / 5
Reading the Text in its Immediate Context	3 / 4	4 / 4
Translation	7,25 / 8	8 / 8
Philology and Linguistics	6,75 / 9	8,25 / 9
Intertextuality	8,25 / 10	7,25 / 10
Secondary Literature and Other Tools	6,75 / 9	7,5 / 9
Rates	6,5 / 10	7,75 / 10

Strengths and Weaknesses of Each software

Accordance

Strengths	Weaknesses
Very fast, light, fairly easy to use Excellent on Textual Criticism Allows complex searches to be carried out without too much difficulty Good databases for Hebrew and Aramaic texts	Price a bit high No semantic database

Logos

Strengths	Weaknesses
Very powerful software Excellent to manage an electronic library Outstanding biblical databases Most comprehensive catalogue	System resource-hungry, fairly slow Advanced search functions that are difficult to handle