

Review Bibleworks 9

The Bible the heart of the program and in the heart of the programmers

Dr AH Bogaards

Why I love BibleWorks so much

Why do I love BibleWorks so much? Because I love the Word so much, and because the Word, *the text of the Bible, is the heart, is in the centre of BibleWorks*. Focus on the text – that was and still is the aim with BibleWorks.

The Companion Vision says everything:

“The purpose of BibleWorks, LLC is to provide pastors, teachers, students, and missionaries with the tools they need to "rightly divide the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). There are other companies that exist to do this as well, but BibleWorks comes to this task with some unique differences in approach and philosophy: We exist to serve the church, not to make a profit, and all of our business decisions are made with that in mind. Our goal is to provide a complete package containing the tools most essential for the task of interpreting the Scriptures in the original Greek and Hebrew, and to do it at a price that poor pastors and students can afford. To accomplish this task we routinely make marketing and sales decisions that many would consider to be bad business but which serve our primary goals.” ***This is: The Bible in the heart of the programmers of BibleWorks.***

It is impossible in a short article as this one to tell you everything. In a glimpse I want to show you some of the most important features and books of BibleWorks. If you want to know more, I refer you to the brochure on the homepage of BibleWorks at <http://www.bibleworks.com/downloads/bw9brochure.pdf>

Seeing is believing: At <http://www.bibleworks.com/content/videos/> there are various videos, which will persuade you and will let you see what BibleWorks can do.

The program can be ordered at <http://www.bibleworks.com>

1. What is new

1. 1 The Manuscript Project

Working with the text yourself, seeing with your own eyes what is written, this is what this project is all about.

With regard to the Manuscript Project, Michael Bushell, the owner of BibleWorks, writes: *I get all warm and fuzzy inside when I see these old manuscripts. All of them were at one time treasured possessions of churches and groups of churches, way before the printing press was even envisioned. It was the God-driven love that former believers had for these precious texts that has preserved them for us.*

The BibleWorks Manuscripts Project is a **project whose goal is:**

1. to provide **new transcriptions** of the **most frequently cited Greek New Testament manuscripts,**
2. to **morphologically tagg** the transcribed text
3. and to accompany them with **manuscript images which have verse locations tagged** so that you can see what it was that the transcriber was seeing.

Transcription and morphological tagging is not yet complete for all manuscripts, but updates will be provided free of charge to BibleWorks 9 users as they become available.

As of right now, they have completed full transcriptions of the following manuscripts: Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus, Vaticanus, Bezae, Boernerianus, Washingtonensis, and GA1141. Of those so far, only Sinaiticus is morphologically tagged, but the rest will be made available as updates when they are ready

In the **Analysis Window**, you must go to the MMS-tab. **The MMS-tab** opens in **three panes:**

1. The **collation pain**, displaying a collation of all of the installed manuscript transcriptions. Differences between the manuscripts are highlighted.

1Jo 5:7

mp	nu	A	B	wh	Ὅτι	τρεις	εισιν	οι	μαρτυροῦντες,	
8					Ὅτι	οι	τρεις	εισιν	οι	μαρτυροῦντες
sc					ὅτι	τρεις	εισιν	οι	μαρτυροῦντες	ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ, ὁ πατήρ, ὁ λόγος, και τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· και οὗτοι οι τρεις ἔν εισι.
st					ὅτι	τρεις	εισιν	οι	μαρτυροῦντες	εν τῷ οὐρανῷ, ὁ πατήρ, ὁ λόγος, και τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· και οὗτοι οι τρεις ἔν εισιν

2. The **image pane**, which shows an image of the manuscript if available.

3. The **transcription notes**, displaying any transcriber notes that are available for the current verse and manuscript.

To see the **transcriptions** of the Sinaiticus, etc. you must go to the **Browse Window**.

These transcriptions are fully searchable.

Several important Greek texts and revisions have also been **added** to BibleWorks 9. They include the Robinson-Pierpont Byzantine text (with Robinson 2010 morphology); Westcott-Hort with diacritics, variant readings and morphology; Scrivener's with diacritics, variant readings and morphology; Trinitarian Bible Society Greek New Testament, and Tregelles New Testament.

Differences between the various manuscripts can also be seen in the **Browse Window** by pressing "e". The **differences** between the manuscripts (in this case the Nestle-Aland and Scrivener texts) are **highlighted**:

BNT 1 John 5:7 ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες,

SCR 1 John 5:7 ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες **έν τῷ οὐρανῷ, ὁ πατήρ, ὁ λόγος, καὶ τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· καὶ οὗτοι οἱ τρεῖς ἓν εἰσι.**

1.2 The new textual apparatus from the Center for New Testament Textual Studies

Also new in BibleWorks 9 is the textual apparatus from the Center for New Testament Textual Studies (CNTTS). This apparatus is *currently only available in BibleWorks and Accordance*.

Author and scholar Moises Silva, who helped translate both the NASB and ESV, is impressed. "The addition of the textual apparatus from the Center for New Testament Textual Studies is alone worth the upgrade, not only because of the astonishingly detailed information it provides, but also because of the masterful way in which that information has been integrated into the program," he said.

The CNTTS is an organization whose goal is to aid New Testament textual criticism by collating New Testament manuscripts and develop aids for that same end. They have produced a new critical apparatus which is one of the most thorough apparatus to date.

Comparing with the Nestle-Aland and Tischendorf apparatus, the following:

- **Nestle-Aland and Tischendorf also** note witnesses from **other languages like the Latin version and quotations from the early Church Fathers;**
- the **CNTTS only** concentrate on evidence drawn from **Greek New Testament manuscripts;**

But:

- the **CNTTS** includes **more Greek New Testament manuscripts** evidence, therefore you are better able to make textual critical decisions because you have better evidence at your fingertips.

Variants in the CNTTS apparatus are marked as **significant, insignificant, singular** or **lacunae**, information which can help in searching for significant variants or certain manuscripts, etc.

It is important to mention that the **apparatus of Tischendorf** is part of the basic packet of BibleWorks 9. Also available as unlock (\$20) is **A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament** by BM Metzger.

If you want to learn more about this important, new part of BibleWorks 9, see the video at <http://www.bibleworks.com/content/videos/0153cntts.htm>

1.3 Moody's Bible Atlas

BibleWorks 9 comes with the full *Moody's Bible Atlas*. Its 118 masterful maps in high-resolution and dozens of photos can be easily inspected and copied to your presentations. No unlock required!

The *Moody's Bible Atlas* falls in the same class as the highly rated *ESV Bible Atlas*.

The good news is: All of the *ESV Bible Atlas* drawings are included in the *ESV Study Bible* (plus a few extra), which is part of BibleWorks, but which must be unlock at a minimal cost of \$20.

1.4 New tools and an optional fourth column that displays more info.

1.4.1 An optional fourth column

The **Analysis Window** can now be **split in two** and you can customize BibleWorks to show your favorite two resources simultaneously.

“The introduction of the fourth window dramatically enhances ease of use,” noted Dr. de Silva. “Now I can have the window displaying multiple versions, the analysis window displaying lexical resources, and a browse window showing the verse in its full literary context all displayed across the screen.”

1.4.2 ESV Study Bible

Although BibleWorks already comes with the ESV, the massive volume of extra notes and resources in the Study Bible edition make it a must-have item! For only \$20, all text, articles, images, and maps from the ESV Study Bible are included, along with an index of maps and illustrations. We took particular care to present high-resolution versions of all images and maps. The notes track and display in the main window next to any Bible version of your choice. Unlock required.

1.4.3 Use Tab

Capitalizing on BibleWorks’ lightning speed, the new Use Tab in the **Analysis Window** takes the word under your mouse cursor and instantly shows all occurrences of the word in either the current book or entire version, all without clicking!

This works for any language. With your mouse cursor on the word “blessed” in Psalm 1 in the ESV in the **Browse Window**, you can see in the Use Tab all the occurrences of the Word in the Psalms (53) or the whole ESV (305).

In the Greek and Hebrew texts you can choose whether it reports back on the form or the lemma of the word, and you can easily export your results to the search list.

If you click on a verse in the occurrence list, the verse will be displayed in the Browse Window.

With the show pop-ups vers option selected, the full text of each verse will be displayed as you move the mouse over the verses in the Use Tab verse list.

1.4.4 Verse Tab

The Verse Tab tracks with any Bible version. For the current verse under the mouse, it instantly displays the relevant sections in resources such as the CNTTS apparatus, the NET Bible textual notes, the Tischendorf apparatus, Metzger's Textual Commentary (requires unlock), and the ESV Study Bible (requires unlock).

1.4.5 Bavinck and Grudem

You can now consult Herman Bavinck's Reformed Dogmatics (unlock \$99) and Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology (unlock \$39.96) within BibleWorks. The full text of these extensive volumes is included, and both are heavily linked to the main program.

All the texts show up under Resources in the Analysis Window and are linked with the place where it is used in the book.

2. Some other important tools and modules

2.1 Context Tab

In the Analysis Window, apart from a few other functions, you will also find the Context Tab. This Tab shows you which words appear in the pericope, chapter and Bible book you are busy with, as well as their frequency. The word "law" for instance is used twice in Psalm 1 and 35 times in the book of Psalms. This may help you to recognize lines and themes in Bible books, important words in a pericope, etc.

2.2 KWIC-function

The KWIC-function (*Key Word in Context*) is in my opinion one of the most important and most valuable functions in BibleWorks. This function will help you to see in what context a word is used, thereby helping you to better understand the meaning of a word.

You can for instance find out which words are used within 5 words (or however many you choose) of the word "(take) refuge" in the Psalms. Thus you will see that the word "in" often appears together with "(take) refuge". This leads to the discovery that the word "(take) refuge" is used only in connection with God – take refuge "in" God.

2.3 Comparing Bible translations and the original texts

Bible translations and the original texts can be displayed next to each other, below each other and can be compared to each other. BibleWorks will show the differences between the translations by marking them.

2.4 The important work of E Tov and F Polak

The important work of E Tov and F Polak is also included in BibleWorks: The Hebrew and Greek texts of the Old Testament are compared to each other to show which words are used to translate the Hebrew words. This allows you to easily ascertain which Greek words are used (*nomos* and *logos* once) to translate the Hebrew word Torah (“law”).

I have to stop here. I have opened the door to BibleWorks and its riches just a tiny fraction, but I trust that it will be sufficient to whet your appetite.

3. Users modules and text-criticism

It is also possible to create your own modules. At The BibleWorks Blog(<http://bibleworks.oldinthenew.org/>) you can download modules created by users, free of charge. Available modules include, amongst others, Calvin’s commentaries and that of Keil en Delitzsch.

Very important with regard to **text-criticism** is that you can download the following modules from the blog:

- The SBL Greek New Testament (SBLGNT) with apparatus;
- Hermann Freiherr von Soden’s Die Schriften des Neuen Testaments with apparatus;
- Wieland Wilker’s An Online Textual Commentary on the Greek Gospels.

4. Help: seven hours of tutorial video and more

With the program is supplied a comprehensive and easy to use manual, telling you exactly how to use BibleWorks.

BibleWorks also has extensive context-sensitive help.

But that is not all. The program also includes Study Guides and seven hours of instructional videos telling you step by step how to master the program.

With such a Help there is almost no need to go on a course to master the program.

5. Pricing and upgrades

The list price is \$359, only \$10 more than the previous version.

This is despite all the new resources included in BibleWorks 9.

With regard to the Manuscript Project Michael Bushell, the owner of BibleWorks, says: The cost of developing these texts is astronomical, especially for a small company, and especially given the fact that we don't feel right about charging extra for them. If we charged what they are worth only a small handful of people could afford to buy them (we should be charging \$200 for each manuscript)

Upgrading from BibleWorks 8 is \$159.

Group discounts are available.