

Using BibleWorks7 for Word Studies

Eden Seminary Library Guide

1. Learning the parts of the BibleWorks program

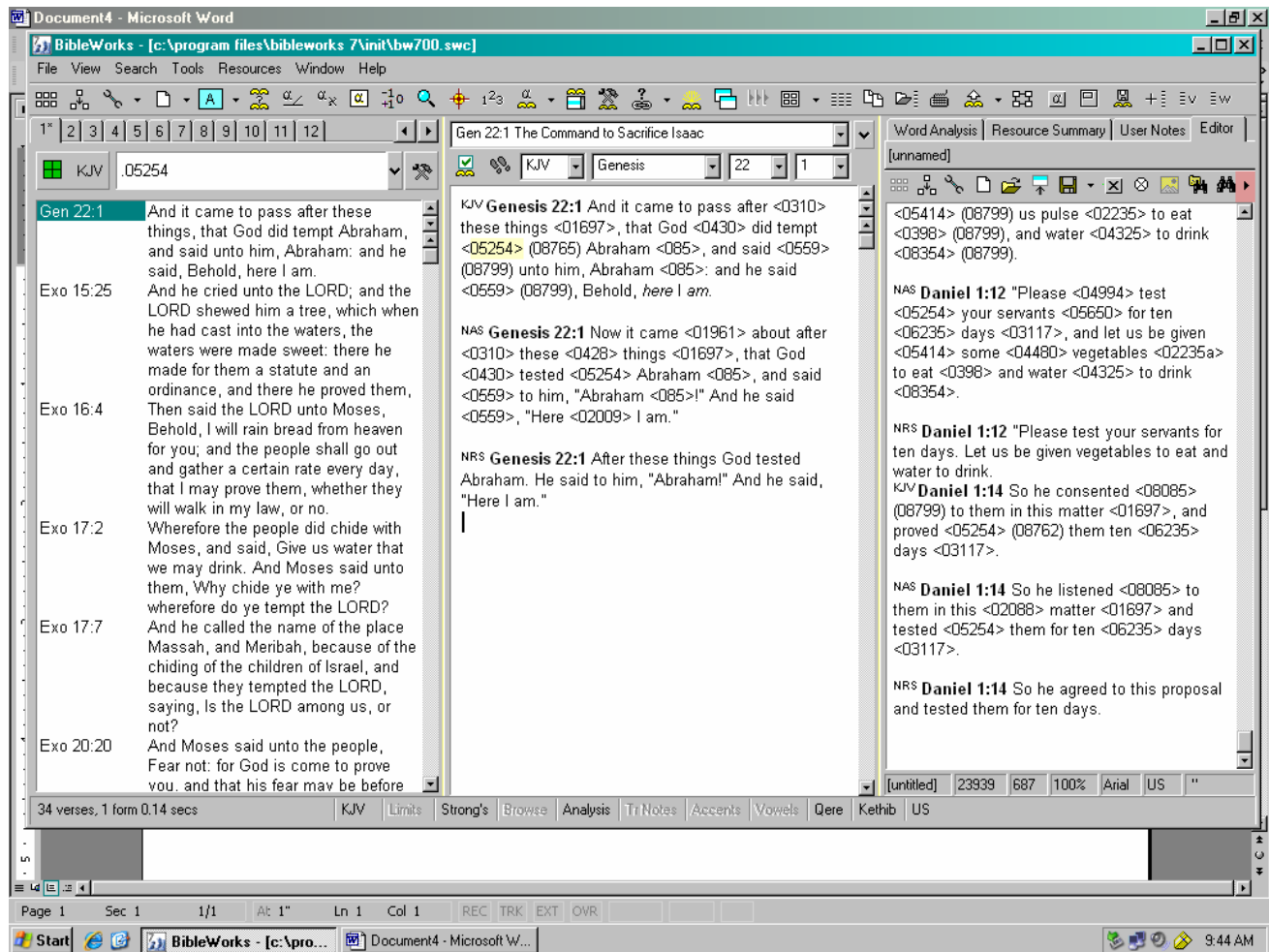
BibleWorks consists of three windows, as shown and described below.

When you first open BibleWorks on a public computer, the content and format of the windows reflect the work of the previous user. As you set up BibleWorks for your session and conduct your own work, BibleWorks will display results in the formats that you choose.

SEARCH WINDOW

BROWSE WINDOW

ANALYSIS WINDOW



The Browse Window (the middle window)

The Browse Window is where you start a word study. You will display a verse of the Bible in one or more translations that you will select, and then you will choose a word to study.

The Search Window (the left window)

After you display a passage in the Browse Window (middle window) and select a word to study, the results appear in the Search Window. You will determine how the results should be displayed in the Search Window, and then you will copy the results to the Analysis Window.

The Analysis Window (the right window)

After sending information from the Search Window to the Analysis Window, you can use the Editor function in the Analysis Window to work with the results. You can also print the content of the Analysis Window or save it as a Word or WordPerfect document.

2. Setting up BibleWorks for word studies

You are now ready to configure the Browse Window (middle window) and the Analysis Window (right window). You will format the Search Window (left window) later.

Select the Browse Window display version(s)

The first step in setting up the program is to select which version(s) of the Bible you want to display in the Browse Window. Click the button at the top left of the Browse Window that has a check mark in a box and a yellow symbol under it. In the lower section of the menu, click "Choose Display Version(s)."

You need to choose at least one English version that includes "Strong's Numbers," which are links from English words to the original Hebrew or Greek words. Several English translations that include the Strong's numbers are KJG or KJV (both King James Version) and NAS or NAU (New American Standard Version, 1977 and 1995, respectively).


You might also want to display other English versions in order to look for instances of variations in the way a word is translated. Other English translations that you might want to display are identified with these codes: ASV (American Standard Version, 1901, a literal translation of the Hebrew and Greek), NIV (New International Version), NRS (New Revised Standard Version), and TNK (The Jewish Publication Society's Tanakh, 1985).

Click "OK" after making your choices. If a previous user selected other versions, they will still display in the Browse Window. To delete those versions, right click on the three-letter symbol for the unwanted version and choose "Remove this Version from Display List."

Select display functions

The next step is to click on the same button at the top left of the Browse Window again. In the top portion of the menu that appears, you will want check marks by "Toggle Strong's Numbers" and "Toggle Analysis Window." It's a good idea to unclick other options that might be checked. You will need to repeat the steps repeatedly in order to click and unclick the options.

Configure the Analysis Window

The final step in configuring BibleWorks for your word study involves the Analysis Window on the right. Look for the tab labeled "Editor" and click on it. If the Analysis Window is not blank, click on the icon that has the letter X in a circle  to clear the Analysis Window.

3. Displaying a Bible verse in the Browse Window

At the top of the Browse Window, locate the three boxes for books of the Bible, chapters, and verses. The up and down arrows to the right of each box enable you to navigate through the Bible to choose the book, chapter, and verse that you want.

Display the book, chapter and verse of a passage that you want to study or choose one for practice purposes. Strong's Numbers are displayed in brackets: < >. The numbers in parentheses () link to additional information, including an indication of the tense, voice and mood of the underlying Hebrew or Greek verbs. For basic word study, you can ignore the numbers in parentheses.

It can be helpful or necessary at times to see the verses that precede and follow the verse that you display. You can do this by clicking on the footprints at the top of the Browse Window. To return to the single passage display, click on the footprints again.

4. Performing a basic word study


You chose to display a certain passage because it contains a word that you want to study. The word may be one that you think is critical to an interpretation of the text; it might be a word that is rendered differently in various translations (thus the reason to display more than one English language translation); or, it might be a word that you do not understand and want to discover where and how the underlying Hebrew or Greek word is used elsewhere in the Bible, if at all.

BibleWorks uses the Strong's Numbers to identify what the original Hebrew or Greek word is for the English word that you want to study. It then determines where else in the Bible that Hebrew or Greek word appears. The results are displayed in the window on the left (the Search Window) in the same translation as the one in which you clicked on the Strong's Number in the Browse Window. That is, if you clicked on a Strong's Number in the KJV translation, the text that appears in the Search Window will also be KJV.

It is important to keep in mind that BibleWorks is not looking for instances of an English word; rather, it is searching for the original Hebrew or Greek words. Those Hebrew or Greek words, however, are not necessarily translated the same in each of the versions that you display in the Browse Window. Here's a simple illustration to demonstrate this point: If the word "car" were to appear in a passage in a particular translation in the Browse Window, other translations might render the word as "automobile," "vehicle," or as "motor car," even though each is a translation of the same Hebrew or Greek word. As suggested earlier, if you discover that there are considerable differences between translations of the same Hebrew or Greek word or differences in nuance, then that word might be one that you want to study in order to determine which meaning or nuance you feel best conveys the thought of the verse.

After displaying a passage in the Browse Window, find the word that you want to study and double click on the Strong's Number displayed in brackets < > to the right of the word. Do not click on a word in any displayed version, as BibleWorks would not then be working with the original Hebrew or Greek words. If there is no Strong's Number for a particular word, you should choose a different word to study.

You are now ready to decide how you want to view the results in the Search Window on the left. One option is to display a list of verses and only a few words of each verse; another option is to display the complete verse in which your chosen word appears. For word studies, it is better to select the second option. Place the cursor in the Search Window, right click with the mouse, and then choose “Show Entire Verse.”

Before continuing, be sure that you have clicked on the “Editor” tab in the Analysis Window on the right and that you have removed any passages that might be showing there by clicking on the icon that has the letter X in a circle .

Now, right click in the Search Window again. On the menu that appears, select the option for “Copy List to Editor.” You then get the BibleWorks Copy Center window where you will first determine what it is that you want to copy. On the left side of the window, click “Text of Verses in Verse List.” All of the versions that you are displaying in the Browse (center) Window will be copied unless you delete them in the box in the lower left of the Copy Center Window. If you choose to copy a version with Strong’s Numbers, those numbers will also be copied.

After making your choices of what you want to copy, you are ready to select where you want the passages copied. On the right side of the Copy Center window, choose “Copy to BibleWorks Editor,” click on the copy button and when the copying is complete, close the Copy Center Window.

The texts of the passages now appear in the Analysis Window in the “Editor” mode, on the right. You can make this window larger by left clicking on the line on the left side of the window and dragging it to the left. You can also copy the contents of the Analysis Window into a Word or WordPerfect document. To do so, right click in the Analysis Window and select “Copy.” Then, open Word or WordPerfect and paste the results into a document that you should save and use for the duration of your word study.

There are other ways of pasting the Search Window results into a Word or WordPerfect document, but beginning users of BibleWorks should learn the method described above.

In the Editor option, you also see a number of word processing icons at the top of the Analysis Window. In order to expand the word processing options, click on the icon that has six small white squares on the far left of the tool bar. To reduce the number of options, click on that icon again. It is at this point that you might want to make the Analysis Window larger by resizing it.

When you close BibleWorks by clicking on the X in the upper right-hand corner, you might be asked whether you want to save the modifications that have been made. Click **No**.

Once you have copied results of your searches into the editor or to a Word document, you are ready to with analyze the texts for your word study and to incorporate them into your exegetical work. You should consult with your instructor regarding guidelines and expectations for this important step of biblical exegesis. The following is offered by Dr. John Bracke, Eden Theological Seminary, as an outline of how to proceed with the information that you gather from using BibleWorks:

A. Remember that when doing a word study you need to first reconstruct the semantic range of meanings of the word you are studying. In our native language we do this without much thought because we know the nuances of the language so well (I love . . .). But we do not know the biblical languages at all well enough to consistently know the range of nuances a word may have. Thus, we need to reconstruct this.

>This reconstruction requires that you look at each example of the word your search using BibleWorks has identified. As you look at the example, ask what the nuance of the word is in the context of the verse you are examining.

>As you look at example after example, you should begin to notice different nuances of the word's meaning. You need to devise a way of recording this range of meanings and the texts where you find these.

B. Finally, you can return to the text that is the focus of your exegesis. Compare the use of the word in your text to the uses of the words you have been studying. Which nuance of meaning is closest, in your judgment, to the sense of the word in the text that concerns you?

C. When you have come to some sense of the nuance of meaning of the word, you finally need to develop a paragraph in which you argue that the word has a particular sense in the text you are studying. Develop your argument by citing some examples of other texts where the word is used in a similar way to the use in the passage upon which you are focused; you might also use some contrasting examples to make your case stronger.

>Now incorporate your insights into your overall exegetical effort: What difference does it make that you understand the nuance of the word you have studied in the way that you have argued?

You might also want to read the materials listed below:

Hayes, John H. and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis; A Beginner's Handbook*. Third edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

See chapter 4 "Grammatical Criticism; the Language of the Text."

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis; a Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2001.

See "Key Words and Images," found in chapter 6 "Detailed Analysis of the Text."

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October 20, 2008