

Spiegel on Scripture Software

Bible software packages, like Bible translations, abound. There is no one best or right Bible software package. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses. One of the daunting tasks is choosing the software package or packages that best suits our needs and budgets. With those thoughts in mind, here are my current top picks for Bible software:

For desktop and notebook computers:

- *BibleWorks 4.0* (\$299 from Hermeneutika, <http://www.bibleworks.com>). This is the Cadillac of Bible software. This program is designed for serious study. It includes 58 Bible translations in 20 languages, 9 original language texts with 7 morphology databases, 5 Greek lexicons and dictionaries, 3 Hebrew lexicons and dictionaries, plus 8 practical reference works. The downside is that it's not a program you'll install and use in an hour. There is a lot to learn if you're going to fully utilize its power. Fortunately, many seminaries have standardized on *BibleWorks* (including Christian Theological Seminary) and offer classes on its use.
- *Logos Bible Reference Series - Standard Collection* (\$64, <http://www.logos.com>). This lower priced software allows you to build your software library volume by volume. Logos software comes in modules called "e-books." This gives the user the flexibility to start small (and inexpensively) with basic information and then add pieces as needed. Logos says there are there are over 2,000 books compatible with this software.

For PalmOS:

- *MyBible for Palm OS and Pocket PC* (\$30-50, Laridian Electronic Publishing, <http://www.laridian.com>) This was created by Craig Rairdin who created *Quick Verse* (now published by Mattel). You first buy *MyBible* for \$10. This program enables you to view the Bible components that you purchase individually for \$20 - \$30. *MyBible* is quick, user-friendly, and gives instant access and searching of the Bible from the palm of your hand.

Just as we think in different ways, these packages present their information in different ways. How do you choose? Try them before you buy them. We have copies of these available in our Resource Library. Please avail yourself of our resources and facilities – soon you'll be searching the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Gnostic, Greek, Hebrew, and Dead Sea Scrolls like a world-class scholar!

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