

Stuttgarter Elektronische Studienbibel/Stuttgart Electronic Study Bible. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft/German Bible Society, 2004.

This new software provides the necessary resources for the study of Scripture in the original languages. Numerous translations are made available as well. The texts are managed through the Libronix Digital Library System (LDLS). LDLS is an open system, which allows other software products to be added (see www.logos.com). The data base for the Hebrew Old Testament (BHS) was developed by a work group at the University of Amsterdam and is made available here for the first time. The data base for the Greek New Testament was developed by the GRAMCORD Institute. The Septuagint (LXX) text used is the CCAT version. The Hebrew, Greek, and German Bibles are included in a lemmatized version, which makes it possible to find all inflected forms simply by entering the infinitive. The text-critical apparatus of the BHS Old Testament and the Nestle-Aland New Testament are available in the *SESB* for the first time in digital format.

The processing of the data proceeds along the lines of familiar Windows applications. The Menu Bar features nine different menus, File, Edit, Search, View, Go, Bookmark, Tools, Window, and Help. The Standard Toolbar, located immediately below the Menu Bar, provides access to common program tasks. Home opens the *SESB* home page with options for a fast start of the application; My Library opens a list of all available resources; Search opens a dialog window appropriate to the respective resource; and so on. The fastest way of working with *SESB* is by way of context menus which are brought up by right-click menus. *SESB* can be used from either the CD-ROM or the hard drive. It is recommended that at least the most frequently used data are copied onto the hard drive. It is also possible to set one's preferred Bible and Greek dictionary (Tools/Options/KeyLink). The user can choose between two different keyboard options to enter Greek or Hebrew text: the default Windows layout or the Libronix keyboard (Tools/Options/General). Troubleshooting information is available at www.sesb-online.com, which also features a continuously updated database. Help for the software engine is also available at www.logos.com/support. An English support hotline, 360.685.2337, is in operation as well.

This is a very powerful new study tool that will prove its usefulness especially to the advanced user with competency in the original languages and the willingness to spend the necessary time in learning the program. Especially helpful is the availability of the tagged BHS data base and of the text-critical apparatuses of the BHS and the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament. The Instruction Manual is clearly laid out, and the program is easy to install and to use. It comes highly recommended for those who want the very best in original language research software.

Andreas J. Köstenberger