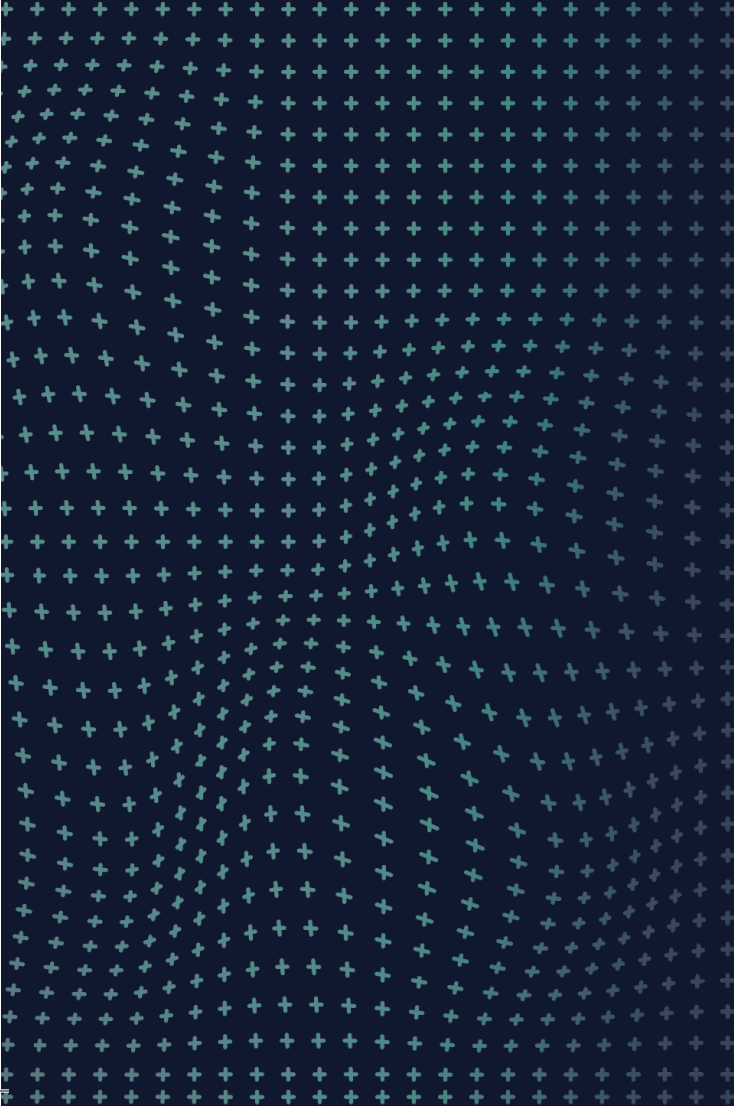


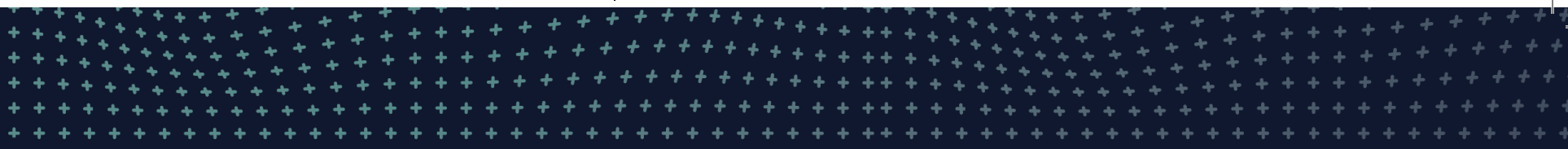


BIBLETECH
CONFERENCE

2019 Program



Schedule



THURSDAY

LOW-TECH CEDAR ROOM I

HIGH-TECH CEDAR ROOM II

7:00 AM

Registration REFLECTIONS GALLERY

8:00 AM

Breakfast TAMARACK HALL

9:00 AM

A Useful and Effective Information Architecture for a Note-Taking Application from Documents
VIDEO PRESENTATION
BY GERMÁN JABLOŃSKI

Better Together: Integrating Print + Digital for the Bible
KEITH WILLIAMS
DAN FARRELL

9:40 AM

Visualizing Textual Critical Data for English-Speaking Laypersons: Lessons from KJVParallelBible.org
MARK WARD

What Makes a Word "Important"? Identifying Important Words in the Bible
PETER VENABLE, PHD
RICK BRANNAN

10:10 AM

Break REFLECTIONS GALLERY

10:40 AM

Welcome to The Faith Museum
REV. GARY CARR

Root Frequency as a Tool to Unlock Major Book Themes and Emphasis
MICHAEL HITE

11:20 AM

Logos 8 Workflows and Pedagogy
STEVEN RUNGE

The Graphé as a Graph
ROBERT ROUSE

12:00 PM

Lunch TAMARACK HALL

1:00 PM

Digital Bibles and the Kinesthetic Learner
JOSEPH CARTER

The Fringe Future of Scripture
VIDEO PRESENTATION
BY KENT SHAFFER

1:30 PM

Light To The Nations – Multi-Lingual Audio Visual Hebrew Reader
BENJAMIN LEVY, SHIRA LEVY

Lexical Data for a Brave Digital World
ISAIAH HOOGENDYK

2:00 PM

Communicating the Message through Technology
PASTOR DENNIS CUMMINS

Identifying Important Bible Cross-References
RICK BRANNAN

2:30 PM

Break REFLECTIONS GALLERY

3:00 PM

Crowdsourcing Scripture, Then and Now
ADAM GRABER

Tagging Meaning and Not Just Form
MARK WARD

3:40 PM

Your Technology Is Talking: How (and What) the Bible's Medium Communicates
DR. JOSHUA MANN

Speedy, Sleek Searching
DRAYTON BENNER

LOW-TECH CEDAR ROOM I

HIGH-TECH CEDAR ROOM II

4:10 PM

The Rise of Multimodality: Instascripture and a Shrinking Biblical Framework
JENNIFER MILES

Mapping the World of Theology
SEAN BOISEN

4:50 PM

Break

6:30 PM

Reception REFLECTIONS GALLERY

7:00 PM

Fragments of Truth Film and Q&A
REUBEN EVANS – SUMMIT AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY

LOW-TECH CEDAR ROOM I

HIGH-TECH CEDAR ROOM II

8:00 AM

Breakfast TAMARACK HALL

9:00 AM

Man and Machine: How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming Humanity
JASON THACKER

Corpus-Driven Greek Language Learning
JAMES TAUBER

9:40 AM

Alexa, What Does the Bible Say...?
PETER VENABLE

10:10 AM

Break REFLECTIONS GALLERY

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Seeing the Future Now: Examining the Glacial Pace of Digital Engagement with the Bible
KENNY JAHNG

The CLEAR Approach to Bible Translation
ANDI WU
RANDALL TAN

11:20 AM

A Media Ecology of Bible Software
MARK WARD

12:00 PM

Lunch TAMARACK HALL

1:00 PM

Environmental Christians
BAILIEY SCHMIDT

Bible Verse Recommendation for Writers using Machine Learning
JOSHUA MATHIAS

1:40 PM

Designing for Agency in Bible Study
STEPHEN SMITH – CEDAR ROOM I & II

2:10 PM

Break REFLECTIONS GALLERY

2:30 PM

Authorized Film and Q&A
MARK WARD – CEDAR ROOM I & II

Main Sessions

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

Fragments of Truth Film and Q&A

REUBEN EVANS, BRIAN RUSSELL – THURSDAY, 7:00PM

Our faith is based on the New Testament—but can we really trust the Bible? Skeptics say no, arguing that the gospel manuscripts have been doctored to push a theological agenda. Dr. Craig Evans takes this claim head-on, traveling the globe to track down the most ancient New Testament manuscripts. Along the way, he highlights groundbreaking new evidence, demonstrating that the case for the reliability of the New Testament manuscripts is stronger than ever.

Designing for Agency in Bible Study

STEPHEN SMITH – FRIDAY, 1:40PM

This talk will explore the theory and practice of designing a Bible study experience so that the distinctive property of digital media—interactivity at scale—enhances rather than constrains the participant's agency, or ability to act. We'll discuss how people's psychological needs for competence, relatedness, and autonomy affect their approach to and expectations of the Bible and church life, and how developers can support these needs by considering agency during the design process. We'll also look at a specific application that HarperCollins Christian Publishing has developed to put these ideas into practice and promote agency in the context of daily Bible reading, explaining how and why we transformed a product that wasn't a good fit for print into one that feels digitally native.

Authorized Film and Q&A

MARK WARD – FRIDAY, 2:30PM

In this surprising and entertaining film, Dr. Mark Ward explores the challenges facing readers of the King James Bible today. He shows why every English reader can benefit from today's translations—and why you might not be as fluent in KJV English as you think.

Low-Tech Track Presentations

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

A Useful and Effective Information Architecture for a Note-Taking Application from Documents

GERMÁN JABLOŃSKI – THURSDAY, 9:00AM

Document readers (including biblical applications) are failing in what is probably their most important function: taking, commenting on, and organizing notes. The difficulty of linking citations within documents with each other or finding them when they may be necessary causes people to accumulate—in a disorderly manner—appointments and notes that will never be read or used. This presentation will establish a few scientific principles about the information architecture in document readers to comment on and organize citations of different documents in an orderly and useful manner.

Visualizing Textual Critical Data for English-Speaking Laypersons: Lessons from KJVParallelBible.org

MARK WARD – THURSDAY, 9:40AM

All visualizations of textual critical data to date have focused on “differences” between Greek New Testament texts rather than “similarities,” and therefore yield an inaccurate picture of the number and seriousness of textual variants. My recently completed project, KJVParallelBible.org, provides a unique visualization of Greek New Testament textual-critical data for English speakers. It's an ideal tool for teaching textual criticism to laypersons, as well as being a cheat sheet for scholars. In this talk, I'll share some lessons I learned from the project, both about the text of the NT and the best way to visualize it.

Welcome to the Faith Museum

REV. GARY CARR – THURSDAY, 10:40AM

The digital Bible is so convenient, accessible, and powerful that it's changing the way we develop personal spiritual formation. Online curricula, pdf texts, html verses, and font and xml design capture our visual attention and cause us to muse at displays of information. But do they really impact the reader's devotion to God, or is it an “app” for an “iFaith”? This presentation will explore how technology changes the way we communicate spiritual truth. We'll consider how deepening our faith, developing our souls, and discipling others is a touch-sensitive analog experience about practicing spiritual disciplines daily, being fully present with another, and using the digital resources in the context of community.

Logos 8 Workflows and Pedagogy

STEVEN RUNGE – THURSDAY, 11:20AM

Workflows, a new feature of Logos 8, hold great potential for educators to break complex learning tasks into discrete steps and to offer contextualized instruction at each step of the process. The presentation illustrates how these user-adaptable templates can be employed for a wide range of tasks related to studying and proclaiming the message of Scripture.

Low-Tech (cont.)

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

Digital Bibles and the Kinesthetic Learner

JOSEPH CARTER – THURSDAY, 1:00PM

This presentation will discuss how to address the tactile learning/study experience with an inherently non-tactile interface. We'll discuss how to take some of the advantages of previous tech revolutions, like the printing press, and merge them with the advantages that come with a digital Bible experience. If time allows, we'll talk about how to deal with the legacy issues (not necessarily the legal questions of passing on a digital library but the practical ones) of digital Bibles—like how we can share our love for Scripture with our kids, grandkids, etc. With suggestions and prompts, we'll discuss how we, as the digital scribes of our day, can both honor the work done by the giants that came before us and make Scripture more usable, accessible, and “real” to our customers and colleagues.

Light To The Nations – Multi-Lingual Audio Visual Hebrew Reader

BENJAMIN LEVY, SHIRA LEVY – THURSDAY, 1:30PM

70% of the Bible was written in Hebrew. Why not see it, hear it and incorporate it into your Bible study program, now that the technology is finally here.

Communicating the Message through Technology

PASTOR DENNIS CUMMINS – THURSDAY, 2:00PM

Technology surrounds every aspect of our lives, yet most churches are twenty years behind cultural trends. When most churches do implement technology—better sound, lighting, or live streaming—it becomes more of a distraction than a blessing. In this session, you'll learn how to find your own secret sauce to the implementation of technology.

Crowdsourcing Scripture, Then and Now

ADAM GRABER – THURSDAY, 3:00PM

About 10 years ago, Wired magazine published an article by Jeff Howe identifying and describing a business dynamic he labeled “crowdsourcing.” In this presentation, you'll learn the key features of this now-common concept and see how books of the Bible were typically produced—involving numerous people in different roles—as well as the formation of the Bible as a whole. Then, you'll learn about crowdsourcing as it relates to the priesthood of believers. Threading these themes together, we'll explore how we might think of the Church as God's means of crowdsourcing and how that framework informs the work Christians are doing today, especially as it relates to spreading knowledge of the Bible.

Your Technology is Talking: How (and What) the Bible's Medium Communicates

DR. JOSHUA MANN – THURSDAY, 3:40PM

This is a slightly more popularized version of my academic research on the ways the Bible's physical or digital features impact the meaning we derive from the Bible and its text. I will address issues relevant to programmers/developers, though the presentation will be applicable to a general audience.

The Rise of Multimodality: Instascripture and a Shrinking Biblical Framework

JENNIFER MILES – THURSDAY, 4:10PM

Over the last approximately 70 years, our society has moved increasingly towards a multimodality model for transferring knowledge and meaning. Where text used to be the primary source of communication, we increasingly rely on image and sound bites to share complex ideas. Social networks have allowed us to reach people for Christ around the globe more than any other time in history yet have largely simplified the gospel message down to inspiring Scripture images that leave out foundational doctrine that form a sound theological framework. As first world society swings towards the a-literate side of the pendulum, highly literate pastors on the other side of the pendulum must learn a new form of communication and social semiotics to disciple and equip their congregations for active participation in God's mission. This talk seeks to guide technologists and pastors through the decision points that drive applied faith technology and transferring a theological framework using social networks today.

Man and Machine: How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming Humanity

JASON THACKER – FRIDAY, 9:00AM

From the apps we use on our smartphones to the hopes of creating a new form of life on earth, artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most talked about forms of technology today. But it's also one of the greatest threats and benefits to human flourishing in the history of the world. In this presentation, we'll explore how Scripture helps us see that no matter what we create, regardless of how advanced it may become, nothing can change who we are as image bearers of God. We'll consider how the good gift of technology is designed to be a tool that allows us to live out our God-given calling to take dominion over the earth and subdue it for the glory of God (Genesis 1:28).

Seeing the Future Now: Examining the Glacial Pace of Digital Engagement with the Bible

KENNY JAHNG – FRIDAY, 10:40AM

In this presentation, we'll explore some examples of digital initiatives to see how the dynamics of engagement with the Bible are changing . . . or are they? How are mainline denominations, publishers, apps, churches, and other resources using technology, the internet, and digital publishing today? Are we really going beyond just moving from pages to pixels, or are we simply extending the age-old approaches of translation and access?

Low-Tech (cont.)

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

A Media Ecology of Bible Software

MARK WARD – FRIDAY, 11:20AM

We know what our Bible software tools do “for” us—but what are they doing “to” us? Following thinkers such as Neil Postman, Marshall McLuhan, Nicholas Carr, Alan Jacobs, Alastair Roberts, and others, we need to think through what messages are communicated by the medium of Bible software. As with all human tools, implicit assumptions and narratives underlie Bible software. Bible software users and makers ought to be clear on what these are.

Environmental Christians

BAILLEY SCHMIDT – FRIDAY, 1:00PM

Being a Christian is easy in a Christian environment. This session will consider how we branch out of that environment and use things like technology while being respectful of others and still sharing about our loving Savior, Jesus.

High-Tech Track Presentations

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

Better Together: Integrating Print + Digital for the Bible

KEITH WILLIAMS, DAN FARRELL – THURSDAY, 9:00AM

Everyone involved in publishing the Bible shares a common goal of seeing people engaged deeply and meaningfully with the Scriptures. There have been many innovations in print Bible publishing over the centuries, but over the last three decades, digital tools have exponentially increased the possibilities. Both mediums are excellent tools for Bible publishing on their own, but they also have weaknesses that can limit their utility.

Recently, we created a new Bible concept that brings print and digital Bible publishing together in a unique way that attempts to build on the strengths of both mediums: the Filament Bible. Filament offers a clean, simple print Bible reading experience alongside a rich set of curated digital content in a companion mobile app to deepen and extend personal engagement with God’s Word. This session will explore and discuss why we combined print and digital as we did with Filament and how we are seeing users respond to this new print/digital experience with the Bible.

What Makes a Word “Important”? Identifying Important Words in the Bible

PETER VENABLE, PHD & RICK BRANNAN – THURSDAY, 9:40AM

Logos 8 introduces a new feature that isolates important words in a Bible passage. But how is word importance determined? This talk will tell the story behind the development of the Logos Important Words feature and also discuss some of the technical details.

Root Frequency as a Tool to Unlock Major Book Themes and Emphasis

MICHAEL HITE – THURSDAY, 10:40AM

This presentation will explore how original language word frequency determines the major themes and emphasis of a particular book. You’ll learn how using tools like the Concordance and Visual Filters identifies conceptual threads of thought in a book in our English translations, unlocking the author’s emphasis.

The Graphé as a Graph

ROBERT ROUSE – THURSDAY, 11:20AM

The Bible contains interconnected stories of people, places, and periods of time. Defining these links in a graph data model can power smarter search results and simplify user experiences in Bible applications and websites. During this talk, you’ll get a sneak peek into development of a project called “Theographic” and see a new approach to communicating subjects throughout Scriptures.

The Fringe Future of Scripture

VIDEO PRESENTATION by KENT SHAFFER – THURSDAY, 1:00PM

How do current Bible technology innovations pave the way for radical ways people can engage Scripture in the years to come? And how will future innovations both help and hurt spiritual growth? In this presentation, we’ll explore the possibilities of what could be and how they might reshape Scripture engagement as we know it.

Lexical Data for a Brave Digital World

ISAIAH HOOGENDYK – THURSDAY, 1:30PM

Even with the advanced tools available in Bible research apps like Logos and Accordance, there is still a need to present data in a scrollable and static fashion. But while it may be an interesting idea to print out the entirety of a data-driven lexicon, the cost would be prohibitive and the resulting product, unwieldy. This is only the beginning of this important conversation. In this presentation, we’ll explore questions like: What are analytical lexicons good for, and why do we need them? What are their limitations, and how do we improve on them for the future? What’s the next “big thing” in the world of digital lexical data—meaning, what cool new resource or tool will make these lexica obsolete?

High-Tech (cont.)

THURSDAY | FRIDAY

Identifying Important Bible Cross-References

RICK BRANNAN – THURSDAY, 2:00PM

This talk is conceptually a follow up to my BibleTech 2008 paper (yes, 11 years ago!) on “Locating New Testament Cross-References.” In this presentation, we’ll explore the data behind a new Logos 8 feature, Important References.

Tagging Meaning and Not Just Form

MARK WARD – THURSDAY, 3:00PM

Tagging grammatical form in the Bible is fairly straightforward. There are relatively few ambiguous words. Tagging meaning, however, is both a great opportunity to bring value to students of the Bible and a major challenge—it is far more laborious and requires far more judgment calls. Come see the benefits and challenges involved in this task, and offer your suggestions for useful ways to tag meaning in Scripture.

Speedy, Sleek Searching

DRAYTON BENNER – THURSDAY, 3:40PM

Doing search, especially Boolean text search, represents one of the primary functions of Bible software. It is a task to which computers are ideally suited. When writing a search engine, we want it to be powerful and flexible. We also don’t want it to be resource-intensive. This ensures it can run quickly on computing devices used worldwide or run server-side for legions of users without requiring a server farm. In this talk, I’ll discuss techniques from information retrieval, tailored for the Bible world, that we can use to write a search engine that is powerful, flexible, and able to handle Bibles in their original languages or in translation—without being resource-intensive.

Mapping the World of Theology

SEAN BOISEN – THURSDAY, 4:10PM

Scholars have long organized Christian doctrine into higher-level categories like the nature of God, his works, Jesus Christ, and the Church. While hundreds of books have examined these areas of belief in detail, there has been no standard system for organizing the most important theological concepts and information about them. The Lexham Systematic Theology Ontology (LSTO) is a new tool for organizing, exploring, and studying the major doctrines of the Christian faith. It arranges 234 theological concepts in a hierarchy under the traditional top-level categories, along with key metadata for each concept (important passages, terms, and related concepts and topics). This talk will provide an overview of the LSTO and then explore what you’ll automatically learn from analyzing the corpus of texts indexed by these concepts.

Corpus-Driven Greek Language Learning

JAMES TAUBER – FRIDAY, 9:00AM

This talk will provide an update on long-running work combining linguistic data on the Greek New Testament (and other Greek texts) with dynamic reading environments to improve the learning of Greek. It will cover vocabulary ordering, the modeling of morphological information, and online reading environments that scaffold texts to the right level for an individual reader.

Alexa, What Does the Bible Say . . . ?

PETER VENABLE – FRIDAY, 9:40AM

Today’s conversational assistants are mostly just toys, but the time is coming when they will be considered a necessity. This talk will cover the Faithlife Assistant, a conversational agent built into Logos 8, with a discussion of broader technology trends.

The CLEAR Approach to Bible Translation


ANDI WU, RANDALL TAN – FRIDAY, 10:40AM

In this presentation, we’ll present a drafting tool for Bible translation that provides transparency and efficiency through linguistic analysis and machine learning. It is designed for translating from a gateway language translation (GLT) to a target language. The GLT is aligned to the original Hebrew and Greek texts that have been morphologically and syntactically analyzed. The translator can easily view the source of the GLT and get a better understanding of the text. As new translations are created in the target language, they are automatically aligned to both the GLT and the Hebrew/Greek texts. Learn why this tool improves the accuracy, efficiency, and speed of Bible translation without compromising quality.

Bible Verse Recommendation for Writers using Machine Learning

JOSHUA MATHIAS – FRIDAY, 1:00PM

The Bible is one of the most cited books in history. This talk describes the use of machine learning to recommend Bible verses to writers, given a paragraph as input. We’ll review relevant research in quote recommendation and language modeling, discuss difficulties and advantages of the Bible as a recommendation source, and suggest next steps. This research was performed as part of a master’s thesis at the University of Washington, and the recommendation system will be publicly available.

BibleTech is brought to you by  Faithlife

Faithlife has been making technology for the Church for over 25 years. The makers of Logos Bible Software, we're always finding new ways to use technology to equip the church to grow in the light of the Bible.

