

The Targums from the files of the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project

Logos Bible Software is proud to be partnering with the team of the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio to release a Libronix Digital Library System edition of the Targumim. The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project (CAL), edited by Dr. Stephen A. Kaufman, is a new dictionary of ancient Aramaic covering all dialects of the language.

In the course of preparing the lexicon, electronic texts were made for every available Aramaic document. These texts were then given **lexical form** tags, part of speech and other basic **morphology tags**, and **homograph numbers** to distinguish between different words that share the same lexical forms. With these tags, every word in the corpus is linked to an entry in the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon itself—an entry that takes all citations into account.

The Logos edition of the Targums will include a comprehensive selection of Targums from the CAL files (listed below) as well as a **Targum Lexicon** generated as a subset of the larger CAL lexicon that includes every word in the Targum corpus.

What Are the Targums and Why Are They Important?

Targums are ancient Aramaic translations of the Hebrew scriptures. The Targums are important source documents that can be compared with the Septuagint in terms of their significance for doing textual criticism, understanding the history of biblical interpretation, and studying the New Testament use of Hebrew scriptures. Many of the Targumim we have come from the first seven centuries AD, and some of the fragments, such as those found at Qumran, may well be older still. As such, the Targumim function as important early witnesses to the text of Hebrew scriptures and are commonly cited in the critical apparatus of the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, as well as commentaries and other books concerned with establishing the oldest text of the bible.

Logos Bible Software Edition

Those familiar with the Logos edition of the BHS will find much that is familiar in the layout of the electronic edition of the Targumim. Variant readings are displayed in an “interlinear” format similar to the layout used for Qere/Kethiv display in the BHS. It is possible to link and scroll the various Targums with each other and with Hebrew or English bibles, as well as run comparison reports between the Targums, exegetical guides, lemma reports, and most of the other reports designed for use with modern and biblical language bibles. The two targum fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls can link and scroll together with the Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition and the Qumran Sectarian Manuscripts.

