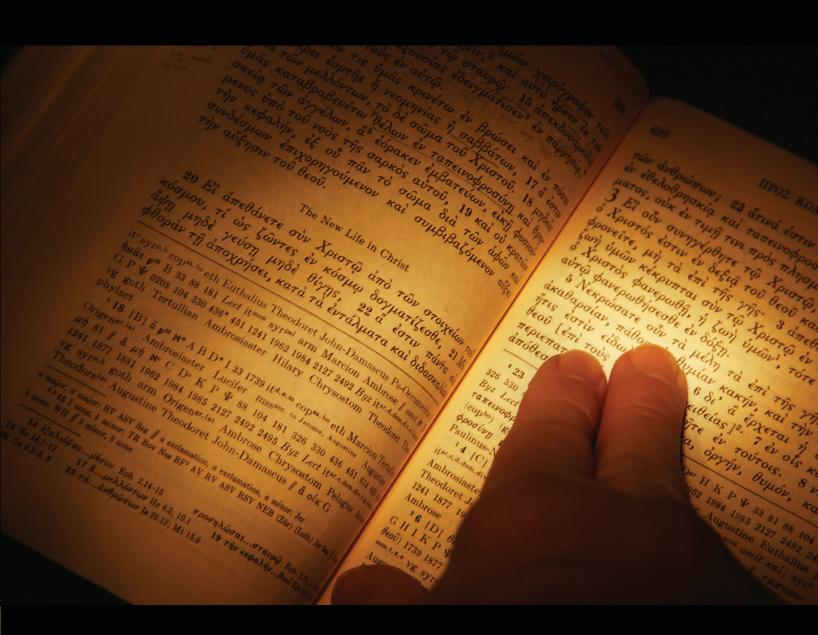
# A NEW TESTAMENT GREEK PRIMER



S. M. BAUGH

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## THIRD EDITION

S. M. BAUGH



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First edition 1995. Second edition 2009. Third edition 2012.

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Quotations from the Greek New Testament are from *The Greek New Testament*, Fourth Revised Edition, edited by Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger in cooperation with the Institute for New Testament Textual Research, Münster/Westphalia, © 1993 Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, Stuttgart. Used by permission.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-59638-646-4

# **Contents**

PREFACE.	v
Introduc	TION TO LANGUAGE STUDYvi
1.	The Alphabet1
2.	First Declension Nouns
3.	Second Declension Nouns
4.	Present Active and Deponent Verbs
5.	Imperfect Verbs21
6.	Contract Verbs
7.	Future Verbs
8.	First Aorist Verbs
9.	Second Aorist Verbs
10.	First and Second Declension Adjectives
11.	Third Declension Nouns47
12.	Third Declension Noun Variations
13.	Prepositions57
14.	Perfect Verbs
15.	Middle and Passive Verbs67
16.	Personal and Reflexive Pronouns73
17.	Various Pronouns
18.	Liquid Verbs83
19.	Present Participles
20.	Aorist Participles
21.	Perfect Participles
22.	Subjunctive Mood Verbs105
23.	Relative Pronouns111

#### Contents

24.	Noun Variations	116
25.	Imperative Mood Verbs	119
26.	Infinitives	125
27.	MI Verbs	132
28.	More MI Verbs	137
29.	Adjective Variations	141
30.	Numbers and Optative Verbs	146
PARADIG	GMS	149
PARSING	KEY AND ABBREVIATIONS	165
Answer	KEY	166
GREEK-E	ENGLISH VOCABULARY	199
VERB LIS	ST	204
GLOSSAR	RY OF TERMS	208
SUBJECT	INDEX	215

### **Preface**

The second edition was originally released with many typographical errors; hopefully they have now been spotted and corrected, with the help of many people including colleagues at other schools and the hardworking students at Westminster Seminary California (WSC). The original edition was written as an attempt to provide an introductory text to Greek that was simple and clear. In particular, it was developed as a text for the intensive five-week Greek class at WSC, which may explain why it does not spend much time on any one subject, since they are covered in more detail in our curriculum as first-year Greek instruction progresses.

I am profoundly grateful that this book has been of some use to students of the Greek New Testament (GNT) at other schools. In its original form, the text was the result of my careful study of scholarly reflection on the teaching of foreign languages for reading knowledge. In particular, this book focuses on teaching and drilling "sub-skills" needed to read longer phrases and sentences in the GNT. Another key feature is that the forms taught here represent patterns that occur in the GNT with substantial frequency in light of comprehensive searches with the GRAMCORD computer concordance. The vocabulary represents roughly 300 of the most common words in the Greek NT. This second edition was a continuation of the original design, along with substantial changes from my own experience of teaching Greek for nearly 30 years and the help of my colleagues, especially Revs. Joel Kim, Charles Telfer, and Joshua Van Ee.

I wish to express my warm appreciation to friends who have taken time out of their own busy schedules to read and comment on earlier drafts of this work. In particular, grateful thanks go in alphabetical order to professors Scott Clark, Dan Doriani, Chuck Hill, Dennis Johnson, Rev. Zach Keele, Al Mawhinney, and Dan McCartney. Both Richard Cunningham and John Terrell provided proofreading help for the second edition. I also extend my warm appreciation to the GRAMCORD Institute for their wonderful computer concordance and to the good folks at P&R, who were a joy to work with. Thanks must go also to the United Bible Societies for permission to use the computerized Nestle-Aland<sup>26</sup> Greek text—what a time-saver!

And a special word of thanks goes to the dedicated Greek students at WSC, whom it is my privilege to teach. Thank you, dear friends, for your patience and charity! This book is dedicated to Kathy, Stephanie, Leah, and Isaac (Ps. 127:2–5), and to our Lord (Ps. 127:1).

Sola Christi gratia Westminster Seminary California Escondido, California

# **Introduction to Language Study**

Students often enter the study of New Testament Greek with opposite preconceptions. One group approaches it as casually as they would a freshman survey class. "A little attention in class, a little last minute cramming, a little folding of the hands, and all will be well," saith the sluggard to himself. I have bad, bad news for such students. You will, without any doubt whatsoever, fail in your attempt to learn Greek. In five years you *may* still recognize the Greek alphabet.

The other group is dedicated and eager. These students work and work, hour by hour, day after day for a *whole*, *long* month, hoping by the end of their 30 days of intense labor to be speed-reading Paul or James. While I personally have much more sympathy for this group, I must equally counsel you that your plan will not yield any genuine Greek proficiency.

The unpleasant fact is, the study of any foreign language, not just ancient Greek, is a time-consuming and tedious process at best. You must *memorize* a wagon load of data, and you must learn concepts that take time and reflection to grasp before you can understand the finer points of Greek. And it is precisely such finer points that you, an interpreter of the New Testament, wish to understand. In my experience, the quest is well worth the trouble. There is nothing like reading the Word of God in its original form. And there are many more insights waiting to be gleaned from the Greek.

In this book, I have worked hard to organize things to make the daunting task that lies before you a little easier. I would like to offer some further tips here that are the result of my own experience and the experience of teachers of other foreign languages. Please take the time to read these strategies. Even if you wish to develop a different strategy, these general principles may help you at the beginning.

Because of the distinctive design of this book, students should pay particular and thorough attention to the exercises in the Practice sections at the end of each chapter and check their answers with the *Answer Key* provided. It is by such practice that the skills for reading and interpreting the Greek New Testament will be honed. Parsing and the knowledge of the basic vocabulary are the essential and fundamental tools for handling that which is sharper than any double-edged dagger.

MEMORY. We memorize things in different ways, and there are different kinds of memory. Short-term memory is that ability to memorize facts temporarily, and is the kind employed for overnight cramming for exams. A week later, the facts have seeped out. Long-term memory is the kind you want. With it you can not only recall a fact but also *use* it and apply it to new situations. You *understand* it. It becomes natural and more intuitive. The obvious example of long-term retention is reading knowledge of the English language. Remember how long it took you to read English?

MEMORIZATION TIPS. Here are proven strategies for memorizing the different items of information that make up the Greek language:

- 1. "Repetition, Review, and Repetition" are my 3 R's. You must constantly review a piece of information if you want to transfer it to long-term memory. Precious few are the students who can look at a paradigm once and memorize it. The old Latin maxim expresses this: repetitio mater studiorum est, "repetition is the mother of learning."
- 2. Work on only a handful of facts at a time. For example, work on five vocabulary words in the morning and another five in the afternoon. Before bed, review all ten. (Telephone companies have found that a set of seven numbers is the optimal amount easily retained by most people. And notice how phone numbers are grouped to aid memory: 333-4444. Use the same technique for Greek.)

- 3. Work in one half to one hour time blocks; take a break, then return to your study. Three or four straight hours of staring at a paradigm is counterproductive.
- 4. Work at your peak attention times. After a meal is the worst time, because the digestion process impedes brainwork.
- 5. Review periodically. Look at flash cards just before showering or brushing the odd tooth; mull over these five or so words, then quiz yourself afterward. I also find that standing in a supermarket line is an excellent time to review a few Greek words or a paradigm. Ten minutes of review now and then throughout the day is the best way to memorize this material.
- 6. Group vocabulary into related items and memorize them together. For example, given the words: "eye," "servant," "work," "hand," and "to see"; you can group: "eye," "see," and "hand" together and "servant" with "work." (You could also invent a story to group words: "When the *servant's eye sees work* he wrings his *hands*." But make sure this does not become too complicated to help memorization!) Suggested groupings are provided for you when possible.
- 7. It is easy to learn a Greek vocabulary item if there is a related English cognate. These are provided for you when available. Otherwise make up some sort of association no matter how odd it may be. For example, the Greek word for "bread" is pronounced "*are-toss*." Memorize it by remembering, "*Bread-making* is an *art* not to be *tossed* out." Who cares if it's silly? It works!
- 8. Learn Greek words and paradigms by *sounding them out!* Baugh's Law Number Two says: "If you can't say it, you can't memorize it." How many times have you said, "Oh yes, that fellow's name is 'Watzahowitz' or something." You can't remember it because you can't pronounce it.
- 9. Use all your senses when memorizing. *Read* the words in the book, *say* them out loud, *write* them out fully. If you wish, you can read them into a recorder and *listen* to them too. (You can buy Greek flash cards, but it aids learning to write out your own—you learn the words as you write them.)
- 10. For reading Greek, some paradigms must be mastered fully, and others you may merely recognize when encountered. The paradigms are marked for you as "memory" and "recognition" paradigms in the book. "Memory" paradigm means you must be able to write it out from memory; the "recognition" paradigms may be merely recognized and parsed accurately until you have leisure to master them.

Finally, *don't give up!* Your persistence *will* pay off. It may take some time, but Greek can be mastered by practically anyone. Godspeed.

1

# **The Alphabet**

Ἐν ἀρχῆ ἦν ὁ λόγος "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1).

# 1.1. The Alphabet

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation <sup>1</sup>	Modern Pronunciation²
α	A	Alpha	a: f <b>a</b> ther	a: f <b>a</b> ther
β	В	Beta	b: <b>b</b> oy	v: <b>v</b> oice
γ	Γ	Gamma	g: <i>g</i> lad	gh: <b>g</b> ot (yet guttural) y: <b>y</b> et
δ	Δ	Delta	d: <b>d</b> og	th: <i>th</i> en
3	Е	Epsilon	e: p <b>e</b> t	e: p <b>e</b> t
ζ	Z	Zeta	dz: fin <b>ds</b> (also "z" or "zd")	z: <b>z</b> ebra
η	Н	Eta	ay: l <b>a</b> te	ee: m <b>ee</b> t
θ	Θ	Theta	th: <i>th</i> ing	th: <i>th</i> ing
ι	I	Iota	ee: m <b>ee</b> t i: s <b>i</b> t	ee: m <b>ee</b> t
κ	K	Kappa	k: <i>k</i> ite	k: <b>k</b> ite
λ	Λ	Lambda	l: <i>l</i> amb	l: <i>l</i> amb
μ	M	Mu	m: <b>m</b> other	m: <b>m</b> other
ν	N	Nu	n: <b>n</b> ew	n: <b>n</b> ew

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This approximates ancient pronunciation used in the scholarly study of ancient Greek. Cf. W. Sidney Allen, *Vox Graeca: A Guide to the Pronunciation of Classical Greek* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This is simplified from actual speech. Cf. David Holton, Peter Mackridge, and Irene Philippaki-Warburton, *Greek: A Comprehensive Grammar of the Modern Language* (London and New York: Routledge, 1997).

# The Alphabet (cont.)

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation	Modern Pronunciation
ξ	Ξ	Xi	x [=ks]: a <b>x</b> e	x [=ks]: a <b>x</b> e
0	О	Omicron	aw: <b>o</b> ffer	o: <b>o</b> ar (rounder)
π	П	Pi	p: <b>p</b> ea	p: <b>p</b> ea b: <b>b</b> oot
ρ	P	Rho	r: <b>r</b> ow	r: <b>r</b> ow
σ/ς*	Σ	Sigma	s: <b>s</b> it	s: <b>s</b> it
τ	T	Tau	t: towel	t: <i>t</i> owel
υ	Υ	Upsilon	oo: h <b>oo</b> p	ee: m <b>ee</b> t
ф	Ф	Phi	ph: <b>ph</b> one	ph: <b>ph</b> one
χ	X	Chi	ch: Scottish lo <b>ch</b>	ch: Scottish lo <b>ch</b> h: <b>h</b> ue
ψ	Ψ	Psi	ps: hoo <b>ps</b>	ps: hoo <b>ps</b>
ω	Ω	Omega	o: n <b>o</b> te	o: <b>o</b> ar (rounder)

<sup>\*</sup>Of the two sigmas,  $\sigma$  is used at the beginning and middle of Greek words ( $\sigma$  $\acute{o}$ ,  $\mu$  $\acute{e}\sigma$ ov); the  $\varsigma$  ("terminal sigma") is used only at the end of words ( $\theta$ e $\acute{o}\varsigma$ ,  $\lambda$  $\acute{o}\gamma$ o $\varsigma$ ).

# 1.2. Diphthongs

Lower Case	Upper Case	Pronunciation	Modern Pronunciation
αι	AI	ai: <b>ai</b> sle	ai: <b>ai</b> sle (also αη) (roughly)
αυ	ΑΥ	ow: <b>ow</b> l	ow: <b>ow</b> l (roughly)
ει	EI	ay: l <b>a</b> te (same as η)	ee: m <b>ee</b> t
ευ	ΕΥ	ս։ <b><i>you</i></b>	ev: <b>ev</b> er ef: <b>ef</b> fort
οι	OI	oi: b <b>oy</b>	ee: m <b>ee</b> t
ου	ΟΥ	oo: b <b>oo</b> t (same as upsilon)	oo: b <b>oo</b> t (roughly)
ນເ	ΥI	we: q <b>uee</b> n	ee: m <b>ee</b> t

Diphthongs are two vowels that are pronounced as one sound. Occasionally, a diaeresis mark ( ") is placed over the second vowel of a vowel group signifying that the two vowels are to be pronounced separately. For example,  $\alpha \ddot{\imath}$  is "ah-ee" (not "eye") and  $\alpha \ddot{\upsilon}$  is "ah-oo" (not "ow"). Other double vowels like  $\eta \upsilon$  or  $\iota \varepsilon$  are not diphthongs, so each vowel is voiced. The combination  $\iota \eta$  was used to approximate the sound of Aramaic *yod* in words like  $l \eta \sigma o \dot{\upsilon} \varepsilon$  (*yea-sús*), "Jesus."

#### 1.3. Other Sounds and Forms

When a γ occurs in front of γ, κ, or  $\chi$  it changes sound to an "n." For example, ἄ**γγ**ελος ("angel") is pronounced: á**ng**-el-os.

When an iota ( $\iota$ ) follows the long vowels  $\alpha$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\omega$  in their lower case forms it is written underneath the vowel like so:  $\alpha$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\omega$ . This is called "iota subscript" (from Latin *subscripta*, "written below"); the iota subscript is not pronounced.

#### 1.4. Breathing Marks

Greek words that start with a vowel or diphthong always have one of two "breathing" marks. A *rough* breathing mark ( ') means that an "h" sound is added before the word; *smooth* breathing ( ') means no "h" sound. Example words are given below (along with their accents; see §1.6). Breathing marks and accents are written in front of capital letters (e.g., 'A, 'A, "E, 'I). The consonant  $\rho$  (*rho*), when it begins a word, is the only consonant that regularly takes a rough breathing mark ( $\hat{\rho}$ ); it is pronounced like "rh" as "**rh**etoric" (from Greek  $\hat{\rho}$ ητορική).

ΎΑδης / ἄδης	háh-deys	Hades
'Αδάμ	ah-dáhm	Adam
Αὐγοῦστος	ow-goóse-toss	Augustus
έκκλησία	ek-lay-seé-ah	church
ήλιος	háy-lee-os	sun ( <i>helium</i> )
ϸήτωρ	ráy-tore	speaker
<b>Υ</b> ώμη	rhó-may	Rome

#### 1.5. Vowel Values

Greek vowels have long and short values which were especially important in Greek poetry and for regular changes in certain verb forms. The lengthening is as follows:  $\alpha \to \alpha$  or  $\eta$ ,  $\epsilon \to \eta$ , and o  $\to \omega$ . The vowels  $\alpha$ ,  $\iota$ , and  $\upsilon$  can be either short or long.

#### 1.6. Accents

The Greek accent system was not used universally until long after the NT era to preserve the old pronunciation of Greek. The accented syllable may have been pronounced slightly *longer* rather than louder or with a varied tonal pitch. There are three accent marks currently in use in our Greek NT editions which signal whether the following word has an accent, whether a vowel is long, whether the word ends a sentence, or other meanings. All three accents are pronounced the same.

Accent	Name	Example
,	acute	ἀγάπη (ah-gáp-ay)
•	grave (as "mauve")	φωνὴ (fone-áy)
^	circumflex	καρδιῶν (kar-di-ówn)

Accent placement in a word depends upon a wide range of factors. As a starting point, accents are normally placed only on a word's last three syllables even if the word is longer. These last three syllables are named: *antepenult* ("before next-to-last"), *penult* ("next-to-last"), and *ultima* ("last").

An acute accent may fall on any of a word's last three syllables. The circumflex may occur on the last two syllables only (penult and ultima), yet only when its syllable is long (with long vowel or diphthong) and on the penult only if the ultima is short. And the grave accent occurs only on the ultima (replacing an acute) and signals that the following word has an accent of its own. For example, the word  $\phi \omega v \dot{\eta}$  ("voice"; with the acute) changes to the grave in the phrase:  $\phi \omega v \dot{\eta}$   $\theta \epsilon \omega \dot{\tau}$  ("voice of God"). Accent marks may change and move within a word's different forms depending upon the accentuation in the word starting from the last syllable (ultima) and moving to the left; this is normally caused by the ultima changing from a short to a long vowel.

Here are examples with two Greek nouns from Lessons 2–3:

full word	antepenult	penult	ultima
ἄνθρωπος	<b>ἄν</b> –	θρω–	πος
ἀνθρώπων	ἀν–	θρώ—	πων
καρδία	καρ–	$\delta$ í $-$	α
καρδιῶν	καρ–	$\delta\iota-$	ῶν

In general, if the ultima becomes long, the accent cannot go to the antepenult as illustrated above by ἄνθρω**πος** ("man"; ultima is short; accent on the antepenult) and ἀνθρώ**πων** ("of men"; ultima is long forcing the accent to move right to the penult).

Further rules of Greek accentuation will be provided in the lessons below.<sup>3</sup> More importantly, you will be told when accentuation affects the meaning of words. For example:  $\tau i \varsigma$ ; "who?" and  $\tau \iota \varsigma$ , "someone" (Lesson 17).

#### 1.7. Punctuation Marks

Writing in NT times was done with all capital letters, without spaces between words, and without regular punctuation. For example, the beginning of Ephesians looked like this in one ancient papyrus manuscript.<sup>4</sup>



Modern Greek NT editions have changed the orthography of the Greek text to make it more readable for us today. Here is the same part of Ephesians as found in the United Bible Societies (UBS) fourth edition (the name, "Christ Jesus" is abbreviated in the papyrus):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Cf. D. A. Carson, *Greek Accents: A Student's Manual* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1995).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This image was cropped from a public domain photograph of the papyrus manuscript, P<sup>46</sup> (Univ. of Michigan, Inv. 6238). The photograph was kindly made available courtesy of the University of Michigan Library Papyrus Collection: http://www.lib.umich.edu/pap/ (accessed January 1, 2009).

Παῦλος ἀπόστολος Χρ[ιστο]ῦ Ἰη[σο]ῦ "Paul, an apostle of Chr(ist) Je(sus)"

Modern editions also utilize punctuation marks which developed gradually during the sixth through ninth centuries AD. These marks are a period and comma (like English), a semicolon or "high dot" ('), and the Greek question mark (;) which looks like an English semicolon. In addition, modern editors may capitalize proper names, the first letter of direct quotations, and the first letter of words that begin a new paragraph. They usually do not capitalize words that begin a new sentence as in English usage.

#### 1.8. Practice

A. Alphabet. Memorize the Greek alphabet (i.e., the "alpha-beta"). It is a good strategy to sing it to a popular tune such as the English "Alphabet Song" or to a favorite hymn tune. It may also help to group the letters, say, in groups of five with a pause in the middle:

$$\alpha \beta \gamma \delta \epsilon - \zeta \eta \theta \iota \kappa - \lambda \mu \nu \xi \sigma - \pi \rho \sigma (\zeta) \tau \upsilon - \phi \chi \psi \omega$$

B. READING RECOGNITION. Circle the word that matches the key word.

	Sample:	λύω	λύσω	λύω	λούω	λόω
	Key Word					
1.	τό		πό	τύ	τό	πώ
2.	ò		ò	Ò	ő	ΰ
3.	φῶς		θῶς	φοῦς	φῶζ	φῶς
4.	ἦν		ήν	ἡν	ἦν	η๊υ
5.	ἀκούει		ἀκούσει	ἀκούει	ἀκύει	ὀκούει
6.	λαμπρός		λαμπμός	λαμπρός	λαμτρός	γαμπρός
7.	γνῶσις		γυῶσις	γμῶσις	γνῶσις	γνώσις
8.	δένδρον		δένδρου	δέυδρον	δένζρον	δένδρον
9.	κλητοί		κλητοί	κληποί	κλητοέ	κλγτοί
10.	ξένφ		ξένω	ξένφ	ζένφ	ξίνφ

C. ACCENTS. Indicate whether the accents on these words is **P**ossible or **N**ot **P**ossible according to the rules of Greek accents learned above.

1.	σοφὶα	P	NP	6.	δικαιοσύνη	P	NP
2.	άλῆθεια	P	NP	7.	δικαίοσυνη	P	NP
3.	χαρὰ κυρίου	P	NP	8.	κέφαλη	P	NP
4.	χαρά κυρίου	P	NP	9.	δοῦλος	P	NP
5.	ψυχῶν	P	NP	10.	δοῦλων	P	NP

#### *Lesson 1 ♦ The Alphabet*

D.	ACCENTS. Identify the accent (acute, grave, or circumflex) and the accented syllable (antepenult,
	penult, ultima) on these words which are taken from John 1:1-5 below. Notice that not every
	word has an accent in Greek.

1.	άρχή	 
2.	λόγος	 
3.	θεὸς	 
4.	οὖτος	 
5.	ένένετο	

E. Reading. Read these passages below aloud. Pay attention to breathing and punctuation marks. Notice the number of words that begin with  $\pi$  in the Hebrews passage, which is intentional.

Έν ἀρχῆ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. οὖτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῆ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἕν. ὃ γέγονεν ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων· καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῆ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν (John 1:1–5).

Παῦλος ἀπόστολος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ διὰ θελήματος θεοῦ τοῖς ἁγίοις τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Ἐφέσῳ καὶ πιστοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ εὐλογήσας ἡμᾶς ἐν πάσῃ εὐλογίᾳ πνευματικῆ ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ . . . (Eph. 1:1–4).

Πολυμερῶς καὶ πολυτρόπως πάλαι ὁ θεὸς λαλήσας τοῖς πατράσιν ἐν τοῖς προφήταις ἐπ' ἐσχάτου τῶν ἡμερῶν τούτων ἐλάλησεν ἡμῖν ἐν υἱῷ, ὃν ἔθηκεν κληρονόμον πάντων, δι' οὖ καὶ ἐποίησεν τοὺς αἰῶνας· ὃς ὢν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτὴρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ, φέρων τε τὰ πάντα τῷ ῥήματι τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, καθαρισμὸν τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν ποιησάμενος ἐκάθισεν ἐν δεξιᾳ τῆς μεγαλωσύνης ἐν ὑψηλοῖς, τοσούτῳ κρείττων γενόμενος τῶν ἀγγέλων ὅσῳ διαφορώτερον παρ' αὐτοὺς κεκληρονόμηκεν ὄνομα (Heb. 1:1–4).

# Higher quality, increased accuracy, and cleaner text now join the clarity, organization, and exercises you already trust to get you started with New Testament Greek.

This revised edition of Baugh's introductory Greek grammar brings greater accuracy to the content of the previous editions, building on their success with classes, self-study groups, and individuals around the world. Baugh continues to emphasize both clarity and brevity by focusing on essentials for the introduction and beginning mastery of New Testament Greek. The text includes:

- a clear distinction between essentials and nonessentials
- concentration on mastering specific "sub-skills"
- helpful memorization aids, such as vocabulary grouping
- creative exercises drawn directly from the New Testament
- focus on forms that occur often in the New Testament

A New Testament Greek Primer also has appendices on paradigms, a glossary of terms, a subject index, and an answer key for all exercises, making it particularly beneficial for student learning.

With grammar, exercises, and an answer key in one convenient volume, now with revised text, this complete introduction is well suited both for Greek classes and for self-study or review.

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