

Fundamentals of New Testament Greek

Syllabus

Britton Road Community Class – 2011-2012

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Instructor's Greek "Getting Started" Tutorials are available at www.letgodsspeak.com.
(Click on 'Greek' → 'Tutorials.' You'll find tutorials to help in learning the Greek alphabet, pronunciation, etc.
Use these to get a head start.)

Date and Time: This class will meet once every three weeks on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning January 11, 2011 (See 2011 schedule for specific dates.)

Course Aims:

1. After 30 class sessions the students will be able to read and understand much of the Greek New Testament without the use of Greek tools.
2. Students will be able to use Greek lexicons, concordances, grammars, and computer software study tools to work out harder texts.
3. Students will be able to do Greek word studies and basic syntactical analysis of the Greek text of the New Testament.
4. Students will be able to identify and explain the significance of several major Greek literary and rhetorical devices used in the New Testament.
5. Students who complete this course will be able to move directly into Greek exegesis courses and more advanced Greek-language courses. Fundamentals of New Testament Greek will prove invaluable for gaining a thorough foundational understanding of New Testament Greek, including full exposure to the formation, accenting, and semantics of its complex verbal system.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Students will need to purchase their own copy of the following textbooks prior to the first class period: *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*, Stanley E. Porter, Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O'Donnell, and *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek Workbook*, Stanley E. Porter and Jeffrey T. Reed., William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2010. These books are available at the following link:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr_adv_b/?search-alias=stripbooks&unfiltered=1&field-keywords=&field-author=Porter&field-title=Fundamentals+of+New+Testament+Greek&field-isbn=&field-publisher=&node=&field-p_n_condition-type=&field-feature_browse-bin=&field-binding_browse-bin=&field-subject=&field-language=&field-dateop=&field-datemod=&field-dateyear=&sort=relevanceexprnk&Adv-Srch-Books-Submit.x=0&Adv-Srch-Books-Submit.y=0

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE METHODOLOGY

1. The course will proceed at a slow, methodical pace to allow opportunity for busy, working people the time and opportunity to learn to read the Greek New Testament without undue time pressure. Video tutorials will be used to help fill-in the three week gap between classes.

2. Emphasis will be placed on reading New Testament Greek. However, to aid in learning, we will learn and use some spoken words and phrases in class. Additionally, we will translate occasionally from English to Greek.
3. No one will be pressured or singled out in any way. Public participation in reading out loud, engaging in conversations using Greek, etc. is purely voluntary.
4. Other points of emphasis will be: (1) learning to recognize Greek morphs (a letter or group of letters that convey meaning). These are especially helpful in learning to recognize and read Greek verbs. (2) Learning to identify and assess emphasis in the Greek text through Greek verbal aspect, word order, etc. Learning this makes the language come alive and enables one to enter more deeply into the thinking of God as revealed in the Greek New Testament.

ASSIGNMENTS SUMMARY

A minimum of 5-6 hours work between sessions will be necessary in order to get full benefit of the course. Assignments will normally include the following items:

1. Read the assigned lesson in Porter's text.
2. Memorize the vocabulary words assigned in each lesson (By the end of the course of study, students will have learned the meaning of over 950 Greek words, essentially all the words occurring 12 times or more in the Greek New Testament.
3. Study and learn the "essential" material in each lesson (material identified by its appearance in regular type in the textbook), including vocabulary words and paradigms.
4. Familiarize yourself with the remaining material in the chapter.
5. Complete the exercises in the accompanying workbook, including the translation (most of which comes directly from the Greek New Testament).

IN CLASS

One session will be spent on each lesson in Porter's textbook. Each class session will last 1½ hours. In each class your instructor will:

1. Review the previous lesson
2. Review and practice assigned memory work
3. Review the assigned workbook assignments.
4. Review any necessary previous lesson material
5. Do a quick preview of the lesson for the next session.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1. B.A. degree from Oklahoma Christian University, 1972, major-Bible, minor-Greek.
2. MTh. degree from Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1980, with an emphasis in New Testament (Greek) & Missions/Communications.
3. Special studies in Koine Greek at Macquarie University under Dr. Greg Horsley and Dr. Edwin Judge, Sydney, Australia.
4. Completed the *Learn to Read the Greek New Testament* Course at Sydney Missionary and Bible College taught by Dr. Ward Powers, the author of *Learn to Read the Greek New Testament*, and of the POWERS METHOD).

EXPERIENCE:

1. 2002-2010 – Adjunct instructor at Oklahoma Christian University teaching beginning Greek (Graduate level), Advanced Greek Readings, New Testament, and Senior Bible Seminar (Undergraduate level).
2. 1994-2010 – Involved in teaching Greek courses at local churches in the Oklahoma City Metro area.
3. 1983-1992 -- Taught all levels of Greek at the Macquarie School of Biblical Studies, Sydney, Australia.
4. 1973-2010 – Involved in local church ministry, mission work, Bible teaching, and preaching.

RECOMMENDED FONT AND KEYBOARD PROGRAM:

This font is available free of charge. <http://scholarsfonts.net/cardofnt.html#Downloadlink> Just follow the instructions at this link.

Another font to consider can be downloaded here: <http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/GreekPolytonic.htm> Follow the instructions and install the Keyman program and the Greek Polytonic SA font package. You'll type in Greek by starting the Keyman program and selecting the Greek Polytonic SA font. An accompanying pdf file called "Greek Polytonic SA Keyboard Layouts.pdf" displays what keys to use.

The font and the Keyman program are available free of charge. If you have any problems, we'll resolve them in class.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

<http://www.biblewebapp.com/reader>

www.bibliia.com

OpenText.org (<http://www.OpenText.org>)

- a. Introduction to the OpenText.org Annotation Model (<http://is.gd/1stu6>)
- b. "Guide Through the OpenText.org Clause Annotation Process" (<http://is.gd/1I7qW>)
- c. "Guide Through the OpenText.org Word Group Annotation Process" (<http://is.gd/1I7y9>)

<http://www.learnbiblicalgreek.com/basics-of-biblical-greek-chapter-welcome> - A complete study course of beginning Greek by Bill Mounce available online or on DVD for a reasonable fee.

<http://greeklatinaudio.com> – Excellent mp3 recordings of the Greek New Testament using modern Greek phonetic pronunciation. Also includes Hebrew and Latin readings.

<http://godsvalesystem.com/software.html> - Free Greek vocabulary program

<http://greattreasures.org/gnt/main.do> - Very useful, but dated tools & resources

<http://net.bible.org/bible.php> - The NET Bible with connections to many translations, the Greek text, parsing, and lexical data.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu> – Excellent collection of Greek texts (mainly classical Greek)

<http://ntresources.com>

<http://www.textkit.com>

Recommended for Purchase (See additional recommendations in the annotated bibliography below.):

Black, David Alan. *It's Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. A user-friendly, intermediate level guide to New Testament Greek grammar and syntax. Clearly written and illustrated. Especially good for those who struggle with both English and Greek grammar.

Black, David Alan. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek*, Expanded Edition. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994. Among the beginning Greek grammars, this text has the most up to date discussion of Greek verbal aspect. Reflecting

insights from modern linguistic studies throughout, chapters are clearly written with as few technical terms as reasonably possible. Memory work is kept to a minimum. Unfortunately, the learning layout or process is traditional (slow linear movement through the material, proceeding step by step, mastering relatively small bits of information in each lesson before moving on to the next lesson, requiring a semester's study before ever actually translating significant sentences from the Greek New Testament). A more inductive approach, including early translation of actual sentences from the Greek New Testament, and a gradual introduction of grammar after encountering actual text would greatly improve this book. However, two chapters alone make the book worth purchasing: Chapter 2: "The Greek Verb System: A Bird's Eye View.," and Chapter 26: "Reading the Greek New Testament: Six Areas of Application." Black's remarks on page 50 on the aorist are also worth noting.

Campbell, Contantine R. *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

If you are interested in biblical Greek or in seriously understanding the New Testament, this is a must read. The book provides the clearest, most concise presentation of the subject and its history that I have seen to date. The book is also available instantly as a Kindle book from Amazon for reading on a Kindle, or your smartphone. Buy it and read it today. It is that important for understanding the New Testament.

Chapman, Benjamin and Shogren, Gary Steven. *Greek New Testament Insert: Second Edition, Revised*. Quakertown: Stylus Publishing, 1994. (Included in Logos Bible Software 3, Original Language Library) Not really a text book, but more of a ready reference. Concise, clear, and very useful as a reference tool for beginning and intermediate Greek students.

Danker, Frederick William, ed. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. (Available as an add-in in Logos Bible Software.) See annotation below under "Lexical Aids."

Danker, Frederick William. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. See annotation below under "Lexical Aids."

Demoss, Matthew S. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of New Testament Greek*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2001. This is a very useful reference tool for quickly looking up technical terms (linguistic, grammatical, etc). Definitions are generally clear, concise, and accurate.

Goodrich, Richard J., and Lukaszewski, Albert L. *A Reader's Greek New Testament*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. You'll find this to be very practical and helpful in improving your Greek reading skills. All words occurring 30 times or less in the Greek New Testament are listed at the bottom of the page where they occur, along with a brief gloss/definition. This eliminates the need to look up these words in a lexicon, and allows you to spend your time improving your reading skills by moving through the text at a more rapid pace. Imagine, how rapidly you could advance with this text if you memorize all the word occurring 30+ times in the Greek New Testament. Until you have mastered these words, there is an alphabetically arranged mini-lexicon in the back containing all the words that occur 30+ times in the Greek New Testament, along with a brief definition. This allows you to easily look up these words without having to carry around and consult a separate lexicon. Be sure to purchase the edition containing this lexicon, since an earlier version does not have it. There is no textual apparatus showing textual variants, but since this is a reading tool, rather than a research tool, that is not surprising. The font in the second edition is greatly improved over the first edition, but could still be better. The flexible cover and narrow thickness make this text very durable and easy to carry. The price is also affordable.

Logos Bible Software 4, Original Languages Library, with the BDAG/HALOT Bundle, *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction for Teaching and Exegesis*, Stephen Runge, and the *Syntax Demonstration Videos on CD-ROM*. The premier bible study software on the market today, both in terms of resources included and available as add-ons, and in terms of depth of text analysis possible. Analysis of the original Hebrew and Greek text is possible lexically, syntactically, and morphologically in this software, not to mention parallel comparisons, etc. For beginning language students, the ability to point at a word and see possible meanings, parsing, and other lexical and grammatical information is amazing. For advanced students, the research and analysis capabilities of the software are marvelous. NOTE: This is expensive, but worth four times the price. There is an almost limitless supply of add-on books and video presentations available. Among the ones I would recommend most are: *Learn to Use Biblical Greek and Hebrew* by Michael Heiser and John Cisneros, and *Introducing New Testament Discourse Grammar* by Steve Runge.

Louw, Johannes P., Nida, Eugene A., Smith, Ronal B., Munson, Karen A. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*, Second Edition. Vols. 1 & 2. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989. (Included in Logos Bible Software 3, Original Language Library) See annotation below under "Lexical Aids."

Newman, Barclay. *The U.B.S. Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition*. Hendrickson Publishers, 2007. This *Reader's Edition* combines the Bible text of the latest edition of the UBS4 Greek New Testament, edited by Barbara Aland, et. al., with a running Greek-English Dictionary, compiled by Barclay M. Newman. Similar to *A Reader's Greek New Testament* mentioned above, this Greek text includes a gloss (contextualized) for each word that occurs 30 times or less, and a dictionary in the back of all words occurring 30 times or more. The advantage of this text is that it also includes a

grammatical analysis of difficult verb forms, something lacking in *A Reader's Greek New Testament*. It provides definitions of idiomatic word combinations. The Greek font used is also easier to read, and the page layout makes it easier to move back and forth between the Greek text and the dictionary (glosses). The disadvantage of this text is its size, weight, and thickness. This hardcover book is not nearly as easy to carry around as *A Reader's Greek New Testament*. It is also more expensive.

Porter, Stanley E. Porter, Reed, Jeffrey T., O'Donnell, Matthew Brook. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek, 2 Vols.* Grand Rapids, 2010. This book presents all the basics of Greek necessary to begin reading the Greek New Testament. The book aims for a "fuller and more comprehensive discussions, definitions, and presentation of material than found in other beginning grammars." Material is presented in a traditional, linear fashion in which material is covered piece by piece over a series of 30 lessons. Emphasis is placed on learning morphology, syntax, and vocabulary, including 950 of the most used New Testament words. The book uses a variety of exercises to promote understanding, memorization, appreciation, and future utilization of the language. A separate workbook is designed to support what is found in the chapters of the grammar. One unique feature of the book is a twenty-minute drill designed to aid students in retaining what they have learned during times when class may not be meeting (as during the summer break between semesters). According to the authors, students who are willing to spend two uninterrupted hours a day studying the lessons in this book are virtually assured of success, "often quite startlingly good success."

Powers, B. Ward, *Learn to Read the Greek New Testament: An Approach to New Testament Greek Based on Linguistic Principles*, Fifth Edition, Adelaide: SPCK Australia, 1995. Perhaps the most comprehensive, thorough, and pedagogically sound beginning Greek grammar. The author, both a Greek scholar and a linguist, not only incorporates linguistic advances in his presentation of Greek grammar (one of the first to do so), but also in the instructional approach designed into the text. Based on a "natural language acquisition" approach, the text is designed to present all of the grammar needed to begin reading the Greek New Testament in the shortest amount of time possible, and in a way as near to the way language is naturally learned as possible. All translation exercises from Greek to English are taken directly from the Greek New Testament and begin in Lesson One. The focus of learning is through exposure to actual Greek text. This instructional approach requires thorough understanding of the teaching/learning methodology by both the instructor and the student. The student must expect to be overwhelmed, and the instructor must be able to assure the student of his own competence and of the ultimate success of the methodological approach used. With a competent instructor, and students willing to immerse and invest themselves (both time and energy) in the Greek language (similar to moving to a foreign country to live and learn another language), there can be no better approach. Other strong points about Powers' book is his use of morphological analysis, his three conjugation system of Greek verbs, and the extensive information he provides in his appendices. The approach used with this book allows for a variety of class schedules and formats Powers' description of the normal Greek word order is questionable. Given the right circumstances (time, commitment, and motivation), this is arguably the best beginning Greek textbook available. The book also incorporates an intermediate Greek course based on the Gospel of Mark. Unfortunately, this text is no longer available in the U.S., but can be ordered the following link: <http://www.wardpowers.info/LTR.htm>, or contact the author at ward@bwardpowers.info.

Silzer, Peter James, and Finley, Thomas John. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004. This very helpful book introduces students to language and linguistics. Students who read this book before starting their language study will find the process much more comprehensible, logical, and less frightening. After reading this book, what might seem strange and foreign will be much less daunting and much more sensible.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. An up to date, detailed, and thorough grammar of New Testament Greek. More comprehensive than Porter, Young, and Zerwick, this large grammar is very useful, containing extensive examples to help the Bible student with exegesis. Unfortunately, some of Porter's important linguistic insights are dismissed (i.e. Planes of Discourse, etc.).

Young, Richard A. *Intermediate New Testament Greek: A Linguistic and Exegetical Approach*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994. An excellent intermediate Greek grammar clearly written and easy to understand. The author demonstrates a keen awareness and thorough understanding of linguistic advances, including advances in understanding Greek verbal aspect. Easier to understand than Porter above. Highly recommended.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – TEXTS OF THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT:

Aland, K., Black, M., Martini, C. M., Metzger, B. M., and Wikgren, A. (eds.) *The Greek New Testament* (United Bible Societies), 4th ed., 1993. This Greek text of the New Testament uses a very readable Greek font, and a very usable textual apparatus to indicate variant readings. The variant readings are rated as to certainty, and a separate volume explains the committee's reason for the rating. Compared to the apparatus in the Nestle-Aland Greek text, you'll find this very easy to use. Although the Nestle-Aland apparatus is more extensive and thorough, it is difficult to use. My advice is to use this text to check variant readings unless you are doing a scholarly paper or working in the field of textual criticism. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.)

Goodrich, Richard J., and Lukaszewski, Albert L. *A Reader's Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. See annotation above under "Required Texts."

Metzger, B. M., *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament: A Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed., 1994. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.) This book discusses the textual decisions made regarding variant readings in the UBS Greek New Testament. The reasons for the committee's decision are given, enabling the student or translator to make a more informed decision about which variant is likely the original reading of the text.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – LEXICAL AIDS (DICTIONARIES/VOCABULARY AIDS):

Arndt, William, Frederick W. Danker and Walter Bauer. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.) This is the standard lexicon for doing study and research in the Greek New Testament. This lexicon has detailed information about the use of Greek words throughout history. The use of words by various authors during various historical periods are referenced. This revision includes more extensive definitions of included words, rather than just glosses. Though not perfect, and limited by the fact that words are discussed separately from other words in the same semantic domain, this lexicon is a wealth of substantive information.

Balz, H. and Schneider, G., ed. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*, 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990-93.

Brown, C., ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975-78. This is a very thorough and useful work. It is superior to Kittel in that the quality of its articles is consistently higher, and it is laid out dealing with concepts (similar to Louw & Nida) rather than just single words. A detailed index in volume 3 includes English words, and Greek and Hebrew words (transliterated). Unfortunately, there is no Scripture index. An appendix in volume 3 on "Prepositions and Theology in the Greek New Testament" is one of the more helpful discussions of prepositions available.

Computer Concordance to the Novum Testamentum Graece of Nestle-Aland, 26th ed. and to Greek New Testament, 3d ed. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1985.

Danker, Frederick William. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Gowan, Donald E. *The Westminster Theological Wordbook of the Bible*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Horsley, Greg, and Llewelyn, S. R., eds. *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity*, 8 vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1986-2007. These volumes seek "to keep New Testament and early church researchers, teachers, and students abreast of emerging documentary evidence by reproducing and reviewing recently published Greek inscriptions and papyri that illumine the context in which the Christian church developed." These volumes are a wealth of lexical and historical information.

Kittel, G. and Friedrich, G., ed. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964-76. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.) This 10 volume work is massive, and includes some helpful discussions of Greek words. However, the usefulness of the work is limited by several factors: (1) The inconsistent quality of articles, and (2) The discussion of single words rather than concepts. A one volume edition is available, which is more useful for most people, unless you are doing serious research for writing term papers or publication. In my opinion, in most cases, your money would be better spent on Brown.

Köstenberger, Andreas, ed. *The Book Study Concordance of the Greek New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003. This helpful concordance lists the occurrence of Greek words in the New Testament book by book. Word lists for each book include lists by number of occurrences, and in alphabetical order.

Liddel, H. G., R. Scott and H. S. Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed., revised. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.) The standard lexicon of all of ancient Greek, from Homer to the end of the Byzantine period (ancient Greek writings outside the NT, especially classical Greek). The previous edition, identical except for the supplement, is available on the web at <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/resolveform>. It is a massive volume. While of primary value for classical Greek studies, it does cite literature through the sixth century A.D. This includes the Septuagint and Apocrypha. Citations of writings closer to New Testament times are of greatest value to New Testament students. Intermediate and abridged editions are available, but are of little value to New Testament students.

Louw, Johannes P., Nida, Eugene A., Smith, Ronald B., Munson, Karen A. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*, Second Edition. Vols. 1 & 2. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989. (Included in *Logos Bible Software 3, Original Language Library*) This lexicon takes a totally different approach compared to more traditional lexicons. Words are not discussed in alphabetical order. Rather, words are grouped together with other words that share similar (or opposite) meaning (semantic domains). This allows for a more realistic and accurate study of concepts. Written in two volumes, volume one contains the actual discussion of word meanings listed by semantic categories. Volume two is an index to the words in volume one. Words in the index are listed in alphabetical order, with references

to the various semantic categories in which they are discussed in the main volume. There is also a scripture reference index in volume two. Words are defined in some detail, along with possible glosses. The range of meaning of included words is summarized in the index volume. Although not perfect, this is an imminently practical and useful lexicon, offering many insights into words and providing great help for word study by including synonyms and antonyms, allowing for comparison of terms.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. A standard reference work intended for learning New Testament Greek vocabulary.

Moulton, J. H. and G. Milligan. *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980 (= 1930). (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.) Cites and discusses uses of Greek words in nonliterary papyri (everyday, “unpublished” Greek documents discovered by archaeologists).

Mounce, William D., ed. *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Silva, M. *Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

Swanson, James, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek New Testament*, Second Electronic Edition. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2001.

Thayer, Joseph Henry. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Cor. ed. New York, American Book Co., 1889. The standard lexicon for the study of the Greek New Testament prior to BAGD. This lexicon is now outdated due to insights offered by the discovery of papyri and the study of linguistics. However, Thayer does include insightful comments on many words.

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae. University of California: Irvine, 2000. Available in CD-ROM format, this is the most complete resource of Greek literature available. It is a full-text database of 12,000 works written by 3,700 authors from the time of Homer through to the 15th century A.D. In all, about 95 million words are included in this searchable database. This indispensable resource is available by online subscription at <http://www.tlg.uci.edu>.

Van Voorst, Robert E. *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary*, Third Edition. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY – BEGINNING GREEK GRAMMARS REFLECTING THE MOST UP TO DATE TREATMENT OF THE GREEK VERB (ASPECT):

Black, David Alan. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek*, 3rd ed. Nashville: B&H Publishers, 2009. Among the beginning Greek grammars, this text has the most clear and up to date discussion of Greek verbal aspect. In addition, other significant linguistic advances are included in terminology and analysis of Greek words and text. Chapters are clearly written with as few technical terms as reasonably possible. The learning layout or process is traditional (slow linear movement through the material, proceeding step by step, mastering relatively small bits of information in each lesson before moving on to the next lesson, requiring a semester’s study before ever actually translating significant sentences from the Greek New Testament). Memory work is kept to a minimum. The inclusion of actual sentences from the Greek New Testament in the translation exercises earlier in the process would improve the book significantly. Two chapters alone make the book worth purchasing: Chapter 2: “The Greek Verb System: A Bird’s Eye View,,” and Chapter 26: “Reading the Greek New Testament: Six Areas of Application.”

Croy, N. Clayton. *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999. Lessons have a traditional, linear layout (see Black above). Chapters are clear and concise with minimal use of technical terms. Excellent use of translation sentences starting early in Lesson Two which derive from three sources: (1) Sentences fabricated by the author to fit the lesson material, (2) Sentences from the Septuagint, (3) Sentences from the Greek New Testament. Teachers will need to be selective since there are more sentences than can be covered in a single class. Presentation of the Greek verbal system would be better if the author had demonstrated and articulated more insights from modern linguistics (with less emphasis on “time” and more emphasis on “aspect”). Croy’s presentation of the verbal system using six principal parts can be confusing and doesn’t fit the data or describe the system as well as Ward Powers three conjugation system.

Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. Contains rich coverage of the basics of biblical Greek, presented in a traditional linear fashion (see Black above). Includes a helpful audio CD and online helps. Incorporates a good discussion of the Greek verbal system (second only to Black above), but is inclined to too much detail and delays far too long the introduction of the Greek verb and New Testament Greek sentences (chapter 15).

- Parker, David M. *Learning New Testament Greek Now and Then*. Sydney, Australia: Sydney College of Divinity Press, 2008. This is an excellent beginning textbook. The presentation of material is unusually clear and concise. The book would be especially useful for those who may be weak in English grammar. Parker's treatment of verbal aspect is especially clear and accurate. This book is unique for two reasons: (1) It incorporates diagrammatical analysis into its system of learning the Greek language, and (2) It incorporates the use of the *Nestle Aland 26th Edition Greek New Testament with McReynolds English Interlinear* found in Logos Bible Software. The use of this resource and software is incorporated to eliminate the need for memorizing extensive paradigms and vocabulary. As stated in the book's introduction, "This book however aims to give you what is called a passive acquaintance with the language. Thus, in this study guide I replace rote learning with what is called a parsing testament and thus concentrate on concepts and in so doing cover a year of traditional Greek in twenty short studies. By the end of this guide you may not be able to pick up a Greek NT and read it, but with this study guide and one of the varieties of parsing Testaments available you will be able to understand the original Greek text at the same level as someone who has taken thirty lessons of three hours each in rote Greek language learning." Finally, two appendices cover (1) Alternative Interlinear Parsing Testaments, both in software and hard copy, and (2) Downloading and installing a free Bible study software program called 'Sword' from Crosswire. This would be an excellent text for those willing to learn enough Greek to understand and use Greek tools for their research and study.
- Porter, Stanley E. Porter, Reed, Jeffrey T., O'Donnell, Matthew Brook. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek, 2 Vols.* Grand Rapids, 2010. This book presents all the basics of Greek necessary to begin reading the Greek New Testament. The book aims for a "fuller and more comprehensive discussions, definitions, and presentation of material than found in other beginning grammars." Material is presented in a traditional, linear fashion in which material is covered piece by piece over a series of 30 lessons. Emphasis is placed on learning morphology, syntax, and vocabulary, including 950 of the most used New Testament words. The book uses a variety of exercises to promote understanding, memorization, appreciation, and future utilization of the language. A separate workbook is designed to support what is found in the chapters of the grammar. One unique feature of the book is a twenty-minute drill designed to aid students in retaining what they have learned during times when class may not be meeting (as during the summer break between semesters). According to the authors, students who are willing to spend two uninterrupted hours a day studying the lessons in this book are virtually assured of success, "often quite startlingly good success."
- Powers, B. Ward, *Learn to Read the Greek New Testament: An Approach to New Testament Greek Based on Linguistic Principles*, Fifth Edition, Adelaide: SPCK Australia, 1995. Perhaps the most comprehensive, thorough, and pedagogically sound beginning Greek grammar. The author, both a Greek scholar and a linguist, not only incorporates linguistic advances in his presentation of Greek grammar (one of the first to do so), but also in the instructional approach designed into the text. Based on a "natural language acquisition" approach, the text is designed to present all of the grammar needed to begin reading the Greek New Testament in the shortest amount of time possible, and in a way as near to the way language is naturally learned as possible. All translation exercises from Greek to English are taken directly from the Greek New Testament and begin in Lesson One. The focus of learning is through exposure to actual Greek text. This instructional approach requires thorough understanding of the teaching/learning methodology by both the instructor and the student. The student must expect to be overwhelmed, and the instructor must be able to assure the student of his own competence and of the ultimate success of the methodological approach used. With a competent instructor, and students willing to immerse and invest themselves (both time and energy) in the Greek language (similar to moving to a foreign country to live and learn another language), there can be no better approach. Other strong points about Powers' book is his use of morphological analysis, his three conjugation system of Greek verbs, and the extensive information he provides in his appendices. The approach used with this book allows for a variety of class schedules and formats Powers' description of the normal Greek word order is questionable. Given the right circumstances (time, commitment, and motivation), this is arguably the best beginning Greek textbook available. The book also incorporates an intermediate Greek course based on the Gospel of Mark. Unfortunately, this text is no longer available in the U.S., but can be ordered the following link: <http://www.wardpowers.info/LTR.htm>, or contact the author at ward@bwardpowers.info.
- Swetnam, James. *An Introduction to the Study of New Testament Greek*, Vols. 1 & 2, Second, Revised Edition. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 1998. (Available as an add-in in Logos Bible Software in the *Introduction to Biblical Greek Collection*.) This is one of the best and most thorough introductions to New Testament Greek, presenting the material in 100 lessons. All exercises for translation come from the Greek New Testament. Swetnam's analysis and description of Greek verbal aspect is clear, up-to-date, and helpful. A separate appendix, 'Aspect in the Greek Verbal System,' is thorough and clearly presented. Swetnam's analysis of the verb involves a helpful discussion of the future tense which is usually lacking in most discussions. This two volume work is only available via the UK at the following website: [http://www.baylanguagebooks.co.uk/basket.php?prev_url=search.php%3Fsearch%3DEditrice%2BPontificio%2Bstituto%](http://www.baylanguagebooks.co.uk/basket.php?prev_url=search.php%3Fsearch%3DEditrice%2BPontificio%2Bstituto%2B)

[2BBiblico%26publisher%3DEditrice%2520Pontificio%2520Istituto%2520Biblico](#), or from www.logos.com as an add-on to the excellent Logos Bible Software program.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – BEGINNING GREEK GRAMMARS NOT AS UP TO DATE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF THE GREEK VERB (ASPECT), BUT WORTHY OF MENTION DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL:

- Dobson, John H. *Learn New Testament Greek*, Third Edition. Carlisle: Piquant Editions Ltd., 2005. Students who have an instructor who uses this text will rise up and call him “blessed.” This is perhaps the most user-friendly approach to learning Greek currently available. It focuses on learning by reading Greek text from the start, which is laid out side by side with English translation, allowing for quickly correcting errors and for checking one’s progress. Grammar is introduced gradually after encountering Greek texts, making it more relevant and understandable. Real Greek text from the Greek New Testament is introduced early (lesson two). Students who read through this book and do the exercises will be amazed how easily they can begin reading Greek. An audio CD is included to help with pronunciation, although the British accent can be somewhat difficult for non-British English speakers. The biggest shortcoming of the book is the authors inadequate explanation of Greek verbal aspect. More precision and clarity is needed in this area.
- Penner, Erwin. *A Guide to New Testament Greek*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2002. This book follows a similar approach to Ward Power’s *Learn to Read the Greek New Testament*. Using what he calls a “Spiral” approach, the author immerses the student in the Greek language with actual readings from the Greek New Testament from the very beginning. The book, like Powers, will be overwhelming, requiring a competent instructor and students who are committed and who understand the nature of the approach. Strong in morphology, yet unfortunately inadequate in its discussion of Greek verbal aspect.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED GREEK GRAMMARS (THE MOST UP TO DATE TREATMENT OF THE GREEK VERB (ASPECT):

- Black, David Alan. *It’s Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. A user-friendly, intermediate level guide to New Testament Greek grammar and syntax. Clearly written and illustrated.
- Porter, Stanley. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*, Second Edition. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press Ltd., 1994. (Available as an add-in in Logos Bible Software.) Written by one of the leading Greek scholars today who is in the forefront of the application of linguistic advances to the understanding of New Testament Greek. The author is a leading expert in Greek verbal aspect, but arguably goes too far in viewing “time” as completely absent in Greek tenses. His “planes of discourse” proposal is highly significant and insightful (alone worth the cost of the book).
- Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. An up to date, detailed, and thorough grammar of New Testament Greek. More comprehensive than Porter, Young, and Zerwick, this large grammar is very useful, containing extensive examples to help the Bible student with exegesis. Unfortunately, some of Porter’s important linguistic insights are not discussed (i.e. Planes of Discourse, etc.).
- Wallace, Daniel B. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. An up to date, detailed, and thorough grammar of New Testament Greek. This is an abridgment of Wallace’s larger grammar above.
- Young, Richard A. *Intermediate New Testament Greek: A Linguistic and Exegetical Approach*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994. An excellent intermediate Greek grammar clearly written and easy to understand. The author demonstrates a keen awareness and thorough understanding of linguistic advances, including advances in understanding Greek verbal aspect. Easier to understand than Porter above. Highly recommended.
- Zerwick, Maximilian. *Biblical Greek Illustrated by Examples*. English Edition Adapted from the Fourth Latin Edition by Joseph Smith. Rome: Scripta Pontificii Instituti Biblici, 1963. (Available as an add-in in Logos Bible Software in the *Introduction to Biblical Greek Collection*.) A wealth of useful information is found in this book. Despite the date of writing, the author demonstrates an unusually clear understanding of Greek verbal aspect that is ahead of his time. Many excellent examples are used throughout. Highly recommended.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED GREEK GRAMMARS (DATED, BUT STILL USEFUL TREATMENT OF THE GREEK VERB (ASPECT):

- Blass, F., and Debrunner, A. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. An advanced grammar for the serious scholar, this is the classic grammar of New Testament Greek.

Brooks, James A., and Winbery, Carlton L. *Syntax of New Testament Greek*. Landham: University Press of America, 1979. A clearly written and well organized presentation of Greek syntax. However, this book uses the eight case system for nouns. The discussion of tense is clear, but dated.

Burton. *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in the Greek New Testament*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2003.

Moule, C.F.D. *An Idiom-Book of New Testament Greek*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.

The student or translator of the New Testament will often find difficulties which can only be solved by considering the syntax of the passage concerned. Professor Moule here provides a reference book which gives guidance on such problems of exegesis. It is a work which presupposes a knowledge of Greek and makes frequent allusions to the standard works; it is intended primarily for theological students. After an introductory section on 'The Language of the New Testament' Professor Moule considers in turn particular syntactical divisions (tenses, moods, voices, cases), certain parts of speech and types of clauses, and idiosyncrasies in usage. The last four chapters are 'The order of words', 'Semitisms', 'Latinisms', and 'Miscellaneous notes on style'. In each section New Testament usages are defined and distinguished. A number of examples of each type of problem are discussed. They were chosen as being sufficiently representative to provide a guide to the treatment of similar difficulties.

Moulton, J. H., Howard, F. W., and Turner, N. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*, 1906–76, (I Prolegomena (3rd ed., 1908); II Accidence (1928); III Syntax (1963); IV Style (1976).

Robertson, A. T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*, 1914. The classic, comprehensive tomb on New Testament Greek grammar. A very thorough, detailed advanced Greek grammar.

Vaughan, Curtis, and Gideon, Virtus E. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament: A Workbook Approach to Intermediate Grammar*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979. A clearly written, well-developed discussion of Greek syntax. Designed in a workbook format with examples and exercises taken from 1 Peter. Unfortunately, this book uses the eight case system for nouns.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – ASSORTED OTHER GRAMMATICAL AIDS AND LINGUISTIC TOOLS:

Black, David Alan. *Linguistics for Students of New Testament Greek: A Survey of Basic Concepts and Applications*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988. An excellent and insightful introduction to the field of linguistics as it relates to the study of New Testament Greek.

Black, David Alan. *Using New Testament Greek in Ministry: A Practical Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.

Chapman, Benjamin and Shogren, Gary Steven. *Greek New Testament Insert: Second Edition, Revised*. Quakertown: Stylus Publishing, 1994. (Included in Logos Bible Software 3, Original Language Library) Not really a text book, but more of a ready reference. Concise, clear, and very useful as a reference or review tool for beginning Greek students.

Deppe, Dean, ed. *The Lexham Clausal Outlines of the New Testament*. Logos Research Systems, Inc. 2006. (Included in Logos Bible Software 3, Original Language Library)

Hagner, Donald Alfred. *New Testament Exegesis and Research: A Guide for Seminarians* (Pasadena, California.: Fuller Seminary Press, 1999), 51.

Heiser, Michael S. *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Research Systems, 2005.

Levinsohn, Stephen H. *Discourse Features of New Testament Greek*, 2nd ed. Dallas: SIL International, 2000.

Discusses discourse features of Koine Greek from the perspective of descriptive linguistics. Covers topics of constituent order, sentence conjunctions, patterns of reference, backgrounding and highlighting, and reporting conversations. Was written for classroom lectures, discussion groups, and self-instruction. Draws on personal in-depth research and experience in seminars, teach-ins, and courses to describe discourse features. Benefits students who have basic familiarity with discourse analysis and some knowledge of Koine; Greek. Requires the ability to identify the case of a noun and the tense-aspect of a verb and to distinguish participial, relative, and main clauses. Illustrates discourse features from New Testament passages. Includes review questions to assist students in applying the principles.

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Louw, J. P. *Semantics of New Testament Greek*, Philadelphia/Chico: Fortress/Scholars Press, 1982.

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- Zerwick, Max, Mary Grosvenor. *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament*. Translated, revised, and adapted by Mary Grosvenor. Unabridged, 4th rev. ed. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1993. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.)
- Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006. (Available as an add-in in *Logos Bible Software*.)