

The Bible Companion Series

# ***INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK***

## ***LEARNING THE FOUNDATION LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT***

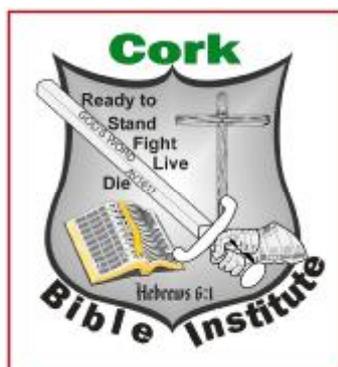
***"Canst thou speak Greek?"***

Acts 21:37

**A Bible-Believing Study Guide**

Part of the

**PRACTICAL DOCTRINE  
ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY COURSE**



**AV 1611 Bible Companion**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to New Testament Greek.....	3
The Greek of the New Testament .....	3
The Greek Alphabet .....	4
Phonetics - Vowels, Diphthongs, and Breathings.....	6
Endings, Cases, and Tenses.....	9
Pronouns and Prepositions.....	11
More Verb Endings .....	13
Word Lists.....	14
New Testament Word Studies.....	15
Introduction to Greek Exam Questions.....	19

### ***A Note Concerning the Cork Bible Institute***

*This study course is intended to be used in conjunction with the Cork Bible Institute and contains Quizzes and a Final Exam that can be applied towards credit in the Institute. If you want your participation in this course to be part of an overall course accreditation, please inform Pastor Ledbetter and he will make sure your records are retained. Your attendance will be recorded.*

### ***Class Requirements:***

*To pass this course, you will need to complete the following:*

- 1. Fill-in all the following notes*
- 2. Attend 80% of the classes*
- 3. Pass the Final Exam*
- 4. Memorize the 100 Greek Words, Letters of the Greek alphabet, and particulars of the Greek language.*

# Introduction to New Testament Greek

*A Study of the Language Behind the New Testament*

Lesson Verse: John 3:7

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:7  
 mh qaumashV otieipon soi dei umaV gennhqhnai anwqen.

## The Greek of the New Testament

### A. Brief History of Greek

#### 1. The Land and the Empire - Greece

##### a. Main Biblical Empires of History - after the Flood

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ - Tower of Babel (2500 BC)
- 2) Egypt - Egyptian language (2000 BC - 1500 BC)
- 3) Assyrian - Assyrian language (2Kgs 18:26) (900 BC - 700 BC)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ - Babylonian language (700 BC - 500 BC)
- 5) Persian - Persian Language (500 BC - 400 BC)
- 6) Greek - Greek language (400 BC - 200 BC)
- 7) Roman - Latin language (200 BC - 300 AD)
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rome again) - Latin language (yet future)

##### b. Historical and mythological figures include:

- 1) Alexander the Great (356-323BC) - leader who drank himself to death upon news that there was no more of the world to conquer
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (469-399BC) - philosopher
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (384-323 BC) - philosopher
- 4) All the Greek mythological "gods": Zeus, Jupiter, Mercury, Mt. Olympus, etc.

#### 2. The Language

##### a. There are two major language groups in the world left over from Babel (Gen 11) - languages seem to have split into two groups:

##### 1) The Indo-European Languages:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Italic - turns into the Latin
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Germanic
- e) Balto-Slavic
- f) Indo-Iranian

##### 2) The Semitic Languages:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Aramaic - similar to Hebrew
- b) Arabic
- c) Ethiopic
- d) Akkadian (the language of Babylon and Assyria)

##### b. Out of these basic languages has "evolved" our modern languages.

##### c. Notice that God chose one language from each group to put His word into: The Greek and the Hebrew - with a little being written in \_\_\_\_\_ (Dan 2:4b - 7:28; Ezra 4:8 - 6:18; 7:12 - 26; Jer 10:11).

##### d. On the cross, Jesus' title is in the three primary languages of the area (Jn 19:19,20): \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## B. Different forms of Greek

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - this is the "high" form of the language used by the philosophers and intelligencia. It is very formal, and hard to read and enjoy like the Koine.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Common language, used by Jesus and the New Testament.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - This is the modern form of the language which is spoken in the country of Greece.

## C. Uses of the Greek

1. Abuses (1Cor 1:22,23).
  - a. To try and \_\_\_\_\_ (1Cor 8:1; Rom 12:16)
  - b. As the only, or primary source of instruction - spend so much time trying to understand the New Testament *from the Greek* that they never learn what it says in their own tongue (Rom 1:22).
  - c. As the authority - using scholarship over the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:13). Learning from books \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible, and teaching about what the Bible says, or "may be" trying to say, etc, etc, etc (Mt 15:14). Jesus did not say, "*Search the commentaries!*"
  - d. The main problem here is that people do not believe God could have not only inspired the Bible, but also preserve it even into their own language (Mt 24:35).
2. Correct Usage
  - a. As '\_\_\_' source of instruction - great stuff to learn other languages, especially the languages that God used to speak into history!
  - b. As a means to show the veracity of the Bible's message - the Greek is the basis of the New Testament, and can be proven to be the word of God - but you are teaching and ministering not to a Greek speaking world, so minister in their language as God has provided!

## D. The Bible's references to the Greek language:

1. Jesus spoke \_\_\_\_\_ in Greek (Rev 1:8). He did not say, I am the Aleph, and the \_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul spoke Greek (Acts 21:37), along with about \_\_\_ other languages.

## E. The Importance of Language

1. God divided the languages on purpose (Gen 11:1,6,7,9; see also Acts 17:26)
2. God already communicates with the whole world without a unified language – by Creation, and the Conscience (Ps 19:3; Rom 1:19-21). But those languages cannot save – only the word of God in their language can save a soul (1Pet 1:23)
3. There is a pure language – \_\_\_\_\_ (Zeph 3:9; 8:23)
4. Missionaries are sent to people who have strange speech and a hard language (Ezek 3:5)
5. God wants the whole world to hear the word of God in their own language (Acts 2:6; Rom 10:13-15). We CANNOT wait for the world to learn Hebrew, or Greek, or even English!
6. Translation is the process by which something is moved from one realm to another (Col 1:13) – i.e., from one language to another, or one place to another. God perfectly authors the words of Scripture (inspires), preserves those words, and then guides the translation of those words, if we seek His help. Just remember that Satan's primary attack will always be against the word of God (Gen 3:1-4)

**The Greek Alphabet**

*"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."* Revelation 22:13

Notice the symbol for the first letter is "a" and the name of the letter is "ahl-fah." We have the sound in our English word "father." Practice writing the symbol and saying its name. A good exercise would be to try to think of other English words, beside "father," that have the same SOUND. For instance, "cot, bother, lock, rod" for the omicron letter. Remember, we are looking for the same SOUND, not necessarily the same letter. Now, to memorise these letter and their sounds, do the following:

Practice saying the letter's name - as in *Alpha*. Then write out the smaller (lower) letter - ignore the capital letters for a while, until you have memorised the smaller ones first.

## PRACTICAL DOCTRINE

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

Go through each group of letters, and learn them in sequence - as in: Alpha, Beta, gamma, Delta, Epsilon. Keep going over and over this group of letters until you know them by sight, their sound, and how to write them in Lower case letters.

Memorise all the groups, and make sure you can start from Alpha, and work your way through all the letters to the ones you are learning.

Capital	Lower	Like	Name	Pronounced as in:
A	a	A	Alpha (ahl-fah)	a f__ther
B	b	B	Beta (bay-tah)	b __all
G	g		Gamma (gahm-ma)	g __one
D	d	D	Delta (dell-tah)	d __og
E	e	E	Epsilon (ep-sih-lawn)	e m__t
Z	z	Z	Zeta (dzay-tah)	z a___e
H	h	A	Eta (ay-tah)	a th__y
Q	q		Theta (thay-tah)	th ___rone, ___in
I	i	I	Iota (ee-oh-tah)	i f__t, mach__ne
K	k	K	Kappa (cop-ah)	k ___ing
L	l	L	Lambda (lahm-dah)	l __ong
M	m	M	mu (moo)	m __en
N	n	N	Nu (new)	n __ew
X	x		Xi (ksee, or like "sigh")	ks li____, as____
O	o	O	Omicron (au-mih-crawn)	o l__g
P	p	P	Pi (pea, pie)	p __ea
R	r	R	Rho (hrow)	r he__
S	s V	S	Sigma (sig-mah)	s __ign
T	t	T	Tau (rhyme with "how")	t __en
U	u	U	Upsilon (oop-sih-lawn)	u n____ (German 'u')
F	f j		Phi (fee, or phi)	ph ___one
C	c	X	Chi (key, or chi)	x Ba____ (composer)
Y	y		Psi (psee, or psi)	ps li____
W	w	O	Omega (oh-may-gah)	o __nly

Some things to note (and memorise) about the Greek alphabet

- The **Sigma** letter is always 's' when inside a word, and 'V' when at the end.
- You will find the **Phi** letter written either as a 'f' or as 'j'.
- There are several English letter-sounds missing in the Greek language: **C**, **H** (it is replaced by a breathing mark), **J**, **Q**, **V**, **W**, and **Y**.
- Exercises
  - Practice sounding out each letter group (i.e., a b g d e) several times until you know that group
  - Mainly focus on memorizing the lower case letters first
  - Then go back and familiarise yourself with the UPPER case letters
  - Make sure that you are able to associate the sound of each letter with the sound of a letter in an English word