

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

New Testament Greek-1

نئے عہد نامہ کی یونانی زبان-1

Lecture No 6

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Masculine Second Declension Nouns

This lecture introduces nouns and explains the why their grammatical function in Greek a sentence is indicated by the various endings that they take. These endings designate the case of a noun. There are five cases that are used in the Greek New Testament: the nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive and dative cases, together with some of their most common uses. In this lecture, we will discuss second declension nouns that end in –ος.

What is a Noun?

A noun is a word that is the name of something. It might name a thing, a collection, a quality, or a person. English grammar distinguishes four types of nouns: common nouns (e.g. rock, lake, sheep), collective nouns (e.g. people, flock), abstract nouns (e.g. love, righteousness), and proper nouns (a name of a person or place, e.g. Jesus, Capernaum), and each of these types of noun may be found in Greek.

What is a Declension?

Just as the verb changes its endings(infects) to show its number, tense and mood, so also the Greek nouns inflects by changing its endings. It is the ending of the noun that indicates what part of the sentence it is (subject, direct object, etc). The pattern that the verb follows is called a paradigm. The pattern a noun follows is called a declension. There are three declensions of the Greek nouns. The first one is masculine second declension nouns that end in –ος used in New Testament.

Gender:

Greek has three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter), and every Greek noun has gender(e.g. ἄνθρωπος “man” is masculine; γυναῖκα “woman” is feminine). On occasion gender can be helpful in making the meaning of a sentence clear.

The Subject and Direct Object in English

A simple English sentence is usually in the order: subject – verb – direct object. For example, in the sentence, “The boy hits the ball,” the subject is first (“The boy”), the verb is next (“hits”), and the direct object is after the verb (“the ball”).

Word order is very important in determining the subject and object of an English sentence. For example, the meaning of the sentence, “The man bites the dog” is quite different from “The dog bites the man.” This is because the subject of an English sentence is usually indicated by the fact that it comes before the verb, and “man” is the subject of the verb “bites” in the first sentence, while “dog” is the subject of the verb “bites” in the second sentence. Furthermore, “dog” is the direct object of the verb “bite” in the first sentence, while “man” is its direct object in the second sentence. Hence although the two sentences use exactly the same words, the different order in which the words are found gives them different meanings in English.

The Subject and Direct Object in English

In Greek, on the other hand, it is the form of the ending of the word (i.e. case, etc.) that shows its grammatical meaning, and thus word order is much less important. Nouns in the Greek New Testament may have five different cases. Two of them – the nominative and accusative cases – are used to indicate the subject and direct object of the verb.

Nominative and Accusative Cases

In almost every sentence there is at least one verb, and each verb has a subject (and usually a direct object). One of the key skills needed to translate accurately is the ability to pick up these three elements in the sentence. Once they are recognized, the rest of the elements of the sentence normally make sense. The subject and direct object of a Greek verb is reveal by the case endings of the nouns. The nominative case of the Greek noun is used for the subject of a verb, while the accusative case is used for the direct object of a verb. Masculine nouns of the second declension follow the pattern of λόγος, “word.” The nominative and accusative cases of λόγος are:

Nominative masculine singular:	λόγος
Accusative masculine singular:	λόγον
Nominative masculine plural:	λόγοι
Accusative masculine plural :	λόγους

Identify Subject in the Given Verse

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ
λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ
θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

Vocabulary

ἀδελφός

brother

ἄνθρωπος

human being, man

ἄρτος

bread

δοῦλος

slave (bond slave)

λαός

people

λόγος

word, matter, reason

υἱός

son

Any Question?