

## Preface

At a Probus meeting in 1993 I asked Norman Ellis, a retired Classics teacher, if he would care to be the tutor for a New Testament Greek Class – he agreed, and so began the Trentham Deanery New Testament Greek Classes, which lasted until 2004 but members still meet informally to study the Greek Texts. In the early years the class used bought copies of the Nestle Greek New Testament in its various editions, then, as more Greek versions became available via the internet we moved on to the Westcott-Hort version rendered in Symbol (adding upper case via the computer then writing in breathing signs etc), and so to this compilation of the Gospels etc which I have produced with interlinear English.

As a former Anglican Reader and for all my writings I have kept a verse of our Lord's instructions to the forefront of my mind:-

*Then he said to them, Therefore every scribe [who is] instructed concerning the kingdom of God is like a man [that is] a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasures [things] new and old.*  
Mt.13:52.

So, to prepare this work, I have gathered together all the treasures, new and old, which I have in my possession in order to produce these Gospels in Greek with literal interlinear English. I intend them to be used by groups similar to our own classes – composed of non-academic people wishing to study the texts of the Holy Scripture in its original language, and so, be able to make an opinion for themselves concerning the various translations and transliterations of the Gospels.

Treasures new include the computer and the world wide web – from this latter I have been able to obtain Greek texts and fonts.

The Synoptic Gospels.

The text I have used for these Gospels is that compiled by Robert M. Fowler and is available by following links in the 'New Testament Gateway'. The font used here is the Student's Press SPionic which can be obtained free of charge via the internet. Robert Fowler has produced versions, in Greek, of the Gospels and Acts and there is a warning that the texts are incomplete, however, I found that there were only minor omissions in the texts and these I have completed using material derived from various sources, including Nestle and the United Bible Societies Greek New Testament (1983)

The Gospel of John.

The text I have used here is that of Westcott-Hort (1894) derived from The Christian Classics Etherial Library. This text has some substantial omissions – the first nine verses of chapter 7 are missing, and these I have prepared myself using the Textus Receptus as source, also the first fourteen verses of chapter 14 are absent and these I have replaced with those from Robert Fowler's compilation. This version of the Westcott-Hort text uses the New Athena Unicode Greek font which must be purchased. There are numerous errors in the typesetting – εἰς, prep. 'in', 'near', etc and εἶς, one (masculine), and almost always the breathing sign is absent from compounds of καὶ - κάγω, κάμοί, κάμέ – 'and I'; 'I also'; κάκεῖ, 'and there'; κάκεῖνος, 'and that one'; κάἰν, 'and if', 'even if' - where I have found these I have made corrections using the SPionic font. The punctuation, also, is not as is usual in the more modern versions, and I have added many punctuation marks.

It follows that the Greek texts are by no means definitive, nevertheless, they are sufficient for the purpose of the student wishing to compare the various translations, and to be able to judge the relative accuracy of that with which they are presented. Printers, photocopiers, writable CDs and the internet have made the dissemination of texts a simple and inexpensive matter.

Treasures old, without which I could not have written the interlinear English, include Robert Young's 'A New Translation of the Bible' (1890s) and his 'Analytical Concordance of the Bible' and

James Strong's Lexicon. This latter is a prime example of the importance not disposing of the wisdom of the past, simply, because it is of the past – old and new were brought together in Explan's fine computer program, 'Holy Bible', in which the English words of the King James Version and Textus Receptus are married to their Strong's numbers and so provide a 'pop up' definition and parsing of every Greek word (this facility is also available for the American Standard Version). Young and Strong both based their monumental works on the KJV and the Textus Receptus – these last two very much of the past in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, but it would be worldliness in the extreme to dispose of them because of their antiquity.

In preparing the interlinear translation I have kept strictly to the Greek word order and to those who have not studied a Classical or foreign language this may lead to some confusion. I have done this so that those wishing to go further in NT Greek may be able to start thinking in the word order of the original. In English the word order is so stringently applied that there is no need for 'cases' – if we rearrange the same words we have a new meaning :-

*I want to eat a meal.*

*I want a meal to eat.*

The same words but two entirely different meanings to the sentence! In Greek the two different meanings would be achieved by altering the endings of '*to eat*' and '*meal*'.

However, word order in Greek is important since an author will place words on which he wants to place greater emphasis towards the beginning of the sentence, and certain Greek words – δέ, γάρ, cannot come first in a sentence. As I suggest below it is well worth learning the case forms of the article to help in the identification of the subject, object etc to see how these have been rearranged in the English translation.

In Greek articles, nouns, pronouns, participles and adjectives all have cases. I have included all the articles although they would not be included in an English translation. The cases of articles tend to be neglected in favour of the other parts of speech, but since each article has a case, a gender and a number this author found that learning the particulars of the article was a most convenient way to work out the 'geography' of sentences. In Greek articles are used where they would not be so in English – with nouns signifying whole classes, with abstract nouns and proper names, in order to make adjectives, adverbs, participles equivalent to nouns. The article can often mean 'he', 'she' or 'it', and 'the *one*' or 'the *ones*' and often I have left these to be understood by the reader.

When translating verbs the past (aorist), perfect, present and future tenses have been put into their appropriate English equivalents. The imperfect tense I have rendered by 'was' or 'were' + the verb's participle. In the cases of the aorist (past) & perfect active participles I have translated as 'having' + the past tense of the verb – so indicating to the reader that the action described occurred before the action of the main verb. There is not a way, in English, to illustrate the difference between the aorist and perfect active participles – at least one reason to learn Greek to understand the minutiae of the text of the NT scripture. Similarly perfect passive participles have been rendered 'having been' + the verb's past tense. The subjunctive mood I have indicated by preceding the verb with 'may', 'might' or 'should'. The subjunctive is the second most common mood after the indicative and signifies condition, hypothesis, contingency or desirability, however, suggesting a degree of uncertainty seems to be unfashionable in modern translations and the subjunctive mood is regularly replaced by a 'silent' indicative.

These compilations are intended for personal study use and no copyright is claimed and they may be copied at will provided that there is no financial gain. I would appreciate comments – [geoff@embarl.force9.co.uk](mailto:geoff@embarl.force9.co.uk)

Finally thanks are due to Norman Ellis for his patient tuition over these many years and I would like to dedicate this work to the memory of a very dear friend and mentor – the late Professor J.M.T. (Jack) Charlton, M.A., F.S.A., Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of Keele, Staffordshire, who, over 25 years, gave me a thorough grounding in the history of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman Empire at his extra-mural classes

G.T.E. February, 2007.

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I began this project in 2003 and since then so much more material has become available. I have, therefore, begun a revision in which I shall remove all the text using the SPIonic font (Student Press does not now exist and obtaining their fonts difficult), and replacing these with Unicode fonts, and also, standardizing the text by using only the Westcott-Hort version of the Greek. Many grateful thanks are also due to my Webmaster – Dr. Philip Emery for his patient updating of the web site.

G.T.E. 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009.