

PREFACE

One of the most perplexing things encountered by the beginning student of New Testament Greek is the variation in the principal parts of Greek verbs. *Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts* was written to help students and teachers of New Testament Greek understand these variations. The principal parts of a Greek verb are its tense stems. The first thing the beginning student learns about Greek verbs is that they have a stem with endings that are inflected, which is a process called conjugation. In addition to mood, voice, person, and number, Greek verbs are conjugated for tense. The problem with this is that Greek verbs have six tense stems that may change so as to make a verb unrecognizable outside of the present tense.

Instead of learning why the principal parts of Greek verbs vary, the student is usually faced with the daunting task of trying to memorize all the supposedly irregular forms. Veteran students and even Greek teachers often struggle with this problem as well. *Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts* is designed to simplify the task of learning not just what each verb's principal parts are, but how and why they may change from one tense to another.

There are several things that this book is not. Although it contains concepts that will certainly be found in many Greek grammars, and is actually the result of research done for a comprehensive beginning–intermediate grammar of New Testament Greek, this is not a grammar book. *Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts* presupposes a knowledge of the alphabet, diphthongs, accents, breathing marks, and the parts of speech. It is not in any way a syntax manual. As a consequence, only the most basic knowledge of Greek syntax is required. And even though it contains advanced information that will not be found in some Greek grammars, it is not a treatise on the Greek verb. Knowledge of the rudiments of the Greek verb is a prerequisite: tense, voice, mood, person, number, augment, reduplication, principal parts, tense formatives, thematic vowels, personal endings, deponency, and the principles of contraction.

Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts could be classified as a book on morphology, but it is really much more than

that. It is a handbook of Greek verbs. It categorizes every verb in the Greek New Testament, lists all the principal parts that actually occur, provides rules for understanding the variations in the principal parts, and explains any remaining irregularities in simple English. This is all preceded by a detailed introduction that explains the format and use of the book, presents some general rules about the changes in the principal parts of Greek verbs, and reviews more comprehensively than most grammars certain key concepts like the structure of Greek verbs, augment, reduplication, and the formation of compound verbs. The index is a reference work in itself in that it lists alphabetically every verb in the Greek New Testament along with its category, frequency, and principal parts.

Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts is suitable for beginning and advanced students, as well as teachers and scholars. Not only is it a handy supplement to any Greek grammar at any level course, it is also a reference work that will be used long after any course work. Instead of giving a complete explanation for every variation in all the principal parts of each Greek verb, I have attempted to maximize comprehension without sacrificing scholarship in order to make it as simple as possible to understand the variation in the principal parts of Greek verbs with only a moderate amount of rules to memorize.

Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts is limited to the study of Greek verbs in the New Testament. There are no references to Homeric Greek, Classical Greek, Septuagint Greek, Koine Greek, First-Century Greek, Byzantine Greek, Modern Greek, Greek manuscripts, or variant readings. It is based on the standard Greek text as found in either of the last two editions of the Nestle-Aland or United Bible Societies text. However, users of Greek texts in the Textus Receptus and Majority Text traditions will find that the only real difference they will encounter is in some of the verb frequency counts. There is no perceptible difference among Greek texts when it comes to the principal parts used by Greek verbs.

Besides the Greek New Testament itself and assorted analytical lexicons, I have made liberal use of William D. Mounce, *The Morphology of Biblical Greek* (Zondervan, 1994); James A. Brooks and Carlton L. Winbery, *A Morphology of New Testament Greek* (University Press of America, 1994); Warren C. Trenchard, *The Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament* (Zondervan, 1998); Philip S. Clapp, Barbara Friberg, and Timothy Friberg, eds., *Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament* (Baker Book House, 1991); and Frederick William Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3rd ed., The University of Chicago

Press, 2000). To a lesser extent I have also referred to Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (Harvard University Press, 1956); and F. Blass, A. Debrunner, and Robert Funk, *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (The University of Chicago Press, 1961).

Perfection in every respect in a work of this nature is challenging to say the least. For assistance with the arduous task of proofreading, I would like to acknowledge the help of former students Jeffrey Nachimson and Philip Robinson. Any errors which remain are, of course, my own. There are some notable differences between the principal parts of some verbs listed in this book and those appearing in other works. The user can rest assured that all the major lists of principal parts of Greek verbs in the standard (and not so standard) Greek grammar books and reference works have been consulted. Unfortunately, many of these lists contain gross errors. The *Analytical Concordance of the Greek New Testament*, mentioned above, because it contains the actual text of the Greek New Testament, was considered the final authority as far as principal parts were concerned. Because I am committed to accuracy in every detail, any errors discovered in the principal parts of verbs in this book will be corrected and posted at www.vancepublications.com/corrections. Inquiries about why the principal parts of a particular verb in this book differ from those listed elsewhere will also be posted at that site.