

extract

Eastern
**Theological
Journal**

8/2
2022

Dean P. Béchar, *Syntax of New Testament Greek, A Student's Manual*, Subsidia Biblica 49, Rome 2018, 137 pages.

Dean P. Béchar, Professor of Biblical Greek at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, provides a valuable resource with his book for those seeking to enter the world of biblical exegesis. Understanding and interpreting the text of Scripture is crucial in the process of exegesis. The primary focus of the present manual is to assist the comprehension of New Testament Greek syntax. Therefore, it is a useful tool not only for exegetes, but for anyone working with the New Testament, as analysing scriptural texts would be impossible without a thorough understanding of Ancient Greek (Koine) syntax.

The book is divided into ten chapters, each covering distinct grammatical phenomena. In the first chapter, a general introduction to New Testament Greek syntax is presented. A clear objective of the work is also established: the analysis of the relationships between linguistic elements, to enhance the understanding of Scripture. Definitions and numerous examples from the Greek text of the New Testament elucidate the differences between simple, compound, and complex sentences. The latter category is divided again, following the various types of dependent clauses – substantival, adjectival, and adverbial.

The second chapter delves deeper into the usage of cases (Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative) in Biblical Greek. An advantageous feature of the book lies in its helpful classification of the usage of different cases, an important tool in helping the user understanding the syntax of the language. The third chapter serves as an essential resource, by presenting the various verbal tenses and moods. Beginning with a general introduction, the chapter subsequently explores different tenses according to their corresponding mood. Notably, the Indicative Mood receives special attention, with a particular emphasis on the present, future, perfect, and pluperfect tenses. Furthermore, it clarifies a critical aspect of the Greek language, the distinction between the imperfect and the aorist tenses.

The fourth chapter focuses on the syntax of the participle, distinguishing between the attributive, circumstantial, and supplementary usages of the participle. Subsequently, the fifth chapter addresses the usage of the infinitive in Biblical Greek, explaining its nominal and adverbial applications. The sixth chapter introduces conjunctions and sentence adverbs, discussing the interpretative possibilities of the most commonly encountered particles in the biblical text. The seventh chapter covers prepositions, while the eighth chapter delves into conditional sentences. The ninth chapter proves to be a crucially important part of the manual, as it explores the different Semitic influences on New Testament Greek. After a brief exploration of the New Testament, it becomes apparent to anyone that the Greek text, at times, bears the distinct character of a non-native speaker influenced by a Semitic language. This chapter provides valuable clues for identifying and interpreting Semitic influences on the Greek text. Finally, the tenth chapter offers insights into accentuation.

In summary, this manual serves as a valuable guide, both for interpreting the Greek text of the New Testament, and for teaching New Testament Greek. Its systematic and well-organized structure, coupled with the inclusion of concrete linguistic examples and explanations, fosters a better understanding of the biblical text. Instead of being a lengthy and/or incomprehensible grammar of Biblical Greek, this book offers a concise, yet fundamental contribution to the teaching and learning of the syntax of New Testament Greek, and, through that, to understanding Scripture itself.

István Németh



HU ISSN 2416-2213

ISSN 2416-2213



9 772416 221003 >