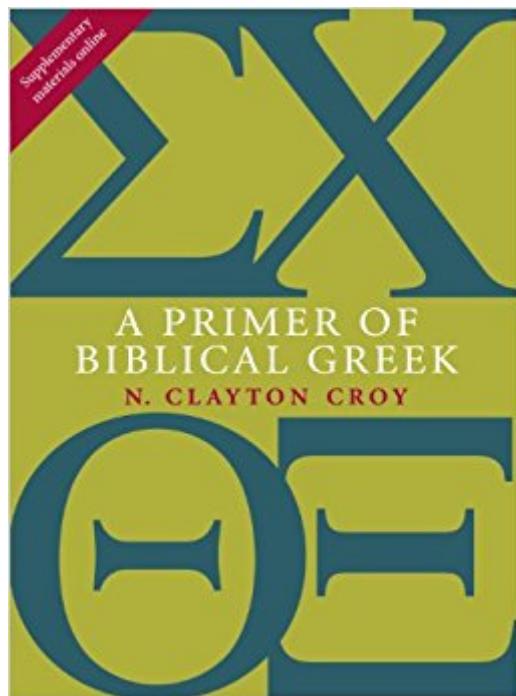


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# A Primer Of Biblical Greek



## Synopsis

Though there are currently a number of texts for teaching biblical Greek, most of them are plagued by various deficiencies. Written with these flaws in mind, this new primer by N. Clayton Croy offers an effective, single-volume introduction to biblical Greek that has proven successful in classrooms around the country. This volume takes a primarily deductive approach to teaching biblical Greek and assumes that students have no prior knowledge of the language. Divided into 32 separate lessons, each containing a generous number of exercises, the text leads students from the Greek alphabet to a working understanding of the language of the Septuagint and the New Testament. Special features of *A Primer of Biblical Greek*: An abundance of exercises Each lesson includes practice sentences taken from the Septuagint and the New Testament as well as Greek sentences composed by the author. Exercises in English-to-Greek translation are also included. Concise but accurate grammatical explanations Great care has been taken to insure that grammatical explanations are clear, correct, and succinct. In particular, the Greek participle receives a fuller-than-usual treatment. A natural order of presentation Material is presented according to the natural structure of Greek and the traditional terminology of grammarians. Declensions and principal parts, for example, are presented in numerical order. Inclusive language The book uses inclusive language for human beings throughout. Helpful appendixes for quick reference Included at the back of the book are the Greek paradigms, Greek-to-English vocabulary, English-to-Greek vocabulary, and a bibliography for further study.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Journal of Hebrew Scriptures "Offers stimulating and insightful discussions of various aspects of the study of Isaiah. . . . This collection of essays presents a window into the current state of research concerning Isaiah, particularly with regard to questions of the book's formation, and has much to offer to both students and scholars." Religious Studies Review "This new textbook provides a traditional presentation of beginning Greek grammar ideally suited for college and seminary courses. . . . The abundance and variety of exercises provide flexibility for use with different class formats and teaching styles and prevent students' familiarity with the NT from becoming a hindrance . . . A strong contender for instructors unhappy with outdated and idiosyncratic grammars." Review of Biblical Literature "This may be the best introductory text published in recent years. In terms of progression through the material, quality of explanatory examples of verbal constructions, and usefulness of the homework exercises, this book is unsurpassed." The Bible Today "For the serious student of the New Testament, learning some amount of biblical Greek is a necessity. This new textbook is a very helpful tool for that task. Designed for beginning students in biblical Greek at the college or seminary level, it offers in a clear and effective manner a step-by-step procedure for learning the language. Vocabulary lists and exercises are drawn from the New Testament and the Septuagint so that from the outset the student has the satisfaction of reading from the biblical texts themselves." New Testament Abstracts "Divided into thirty-two lessons (with vocabulary and exercises), this introductory textbook seeks to lead college and seminary students from the Greek alphabet to a working knowledge of the language of the Septuagint and the NT. Paradigms and vocabulary lists are included. The book is adaptable for use in full-year, semester-long, and summer intensive courses, chiefly by selective assignment of exercises."

Text: English, Greek --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Biblical (or Koine) Greek is, as its name implies, the language in which the New Testament was originally written nearly two thousand years ago. Thus, many Protestant Christians from all walks-of-life, not just pastors and seminary students, have attempted to learn this rather complex but highly expressive language in order to better understand God's Word today. One popular tool to accomplish this end is N. Clayton Croy's *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. It should be emphasized, however, that Croy's book is a primer of, or "concise introduction" to, Koine Greek. It is clearly intended to serve as a textbook for an intensive two-semester college or seminary class in Biblical Greek. In light of this fact, Croy's Primer is much more quick paced and far less explanatory than

similar introductory texts on the subject. It also relies heavily on traditional pedagogical techniques, such as extensive noun and verb paradigms as well as translation and composition exercises, which can appear somewhat "dry" to many modern students. Therefore, I would suggest A Primer of Biblical Greek only to those students who already have some familiarity with Koine Greek or who are adept at learning foreign languages. Otherwise, I would defer to William D. Mounce's popular Basics of Biblical Greek (Grammar and Workbook). The latter "eases" the beginning student into the elements of Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary development with modern pedagogical techniques and an engaging colloquial style. One unique and important feature of Croy's Primer, however, is that it includes vocabulary and selections from the Septuagint Bible. The latter is the Greek translation of the Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible) completed during the 3rd-1st centuries B.C. for the growing number of Greek-speaking Jews living throughout the Diaspora. The Septuagint is crucial, in fact, to our proper translation and understanding of the New Testament text itself. In his recent book When God Spoke Greek, biblical scholar Timothy Michael Law has highlighted the importance of the Septuagint in the "making of the Christian Bible." First, Christ and the Apostles quoted "scripture" from the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, not from the Masoretic Hebrew text employed in most biblical translations today. In fact, Law argues that the Septuagint Bible is a translation of an alternative manuscript tradition from that of the Masoretic version altogether! For this reason, many "scriptural" passages cited in the New Testament contain significant differences from the Old Testament books with which most modern Christians are familiar. Secondly, it was this Greek theological language established by the Jews themselves centuries earlier that the apostles (and their followers) employed in composing the New Testament. Clearly, these sacred authors did not write in a theological or religious vacuum. Therefore, to obtain a proper exegesis of the New Testament text, we must be familiar with Koine Greek usage as contained within the Septuagint. With the above caveats in mind, I highly recommend N. Clayton Croy's A Primer of Biblical Greek to all serious and motivated students who desire a rapid working knowledge of the language in which the New Testament was originally composed. The deeper theological understanding gained by such an endeavor is certainly well worth the effort! Additionally, offers a "Biblical Greek Vocabulary Lists and Kindle Flash Cards to Correspond with N. Clayton Croy's 'A Primer Of Biblical Greek'" for Kindle users.

Warning: the Kindle edition doesn't have the CD. It's only the book. So too, I've already got this book as a module of BibleWorks 8; but while surfing for more Kindle books (I'm a new addict), I found this here. It's cheaper than the module, and going by the 'Look Inside' display for the Kindle

edition, it reads okay. (Some reviewers have complained about diacritical marks in Kindle editions.) So I'll get the Kindle edition, too. (The problem with the BibleWorks module is that it's a chm file, which is basically unsearchable, and you can't see the page you're on, and other hassles.) The Table of Contents is jerky. But hey, you can't have everything. And, you can't search on Greek words by typing them. Yet you can search on the Greek text by highlighting Greek words already in the book. For example, I highlighted the word bainw in the TOC, then right-clicked and selected 'Search in this book' (under 'More' button in the ribbon); search engine turned up not only bainw, but the related morphs, like katabainw. The search can read the Greek, but search panel looks like gibberish, since the font isn't transliterated in the search results. Still, that's better than nothing. Thanks, Kindle. As to the book itself, expect basics, just as the book proposes. I'd recommend you first learn by trying to READ the Greek in Bible and puzzling out the syntax, etc., without memorization. That process makes any memorization, RELEVANT to you. Repeated reading will get you used to conjugations, syntax, case endings without memorization, as well. So use books like these afterwards, when you're aware of the relevance. Else, studying Bible will be far less productive, imo. We all groaned when in Spanish/French/German/Italian/Latin class, chanting the conjugations and case endings. So reading in those languages, became something we wanted to avoid. Let's not use that approach, when it comes to learning Bible's inspired original-language texts. End commercial message. Back to the topic: look through the Kindle Store, as Mounce, Wallace, even BDAG and Thayer (?) are represented there; good Hebrew stuff too (like the Practico book). All those modules are in BibleWorks, but not everyone is willing to buy BibleWorks just to get these primers and lexicons.

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