

Annual Greek New Testament Reading Program

Übung macht
den Meister

SBL 2008
Boston

Tips for Reading

1. Pick a time limit – say, 30 minutes a day – and do just enough to get through that day's reading. Don't be a perfectionist. Press on even if you don't understand every Greek construction or nuance.
2. Read every day. It is very hard to catch up when you're behind. Only use one of your 31 off-days in a pinch.
3. Don't use your Bible software as your primary reading text, since your long term goal is to be able to read the Greek NT without crutches.
4. Read the Greek out loud. Hearing the words will improve your comprehension and retention. It encourages you to slow down and take in the meaning one word at a time.
5. Keep a notebook and write down your exegetical and homiletical observations, or flag any issues that you would like to explore in the future.
6. If you are using the *Reader's Edition*, you will not need to look up much vocabulary, since this is provided in the footnotes. But it is still a good exercise to look up words in BDAG from time to time. BDAG is a treasure trove of grammatical, exegetical, and theological information.
7. For syntactical issues, consult my Greek Syntax Notes, which are focused on providing concise explanations of grammatical features that are not immediately obvious.
8. Attempt a wooden translation in your head for each verse. A wooden translation ought to follow the word order and grammatical structure of the Greek as closely as possible.
9. Try not to consult an English version too quickly when you encounter difficulty. Nevertheless, the contemporary English versions are useful for pointing you in the right direction when you're stuck.
10. Read A. T. Robertson's classic, *The Minister and His Greek New Testament* – it contains many delightful anecdotes, exegetical insights, and inspiration.

Lee Irons

Ph.D. Candidate, Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, California

This program provides a synthetic and holistic approach to the mastery of New Testament Greek by using only *The United Bible Society Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition* (2007) and my Greek Syntax Notes. The aim of the program is to deepen one's skill in reading the Greek NT by exposure to manageable amounts of continuous text on a daily basis, with the goal of completing the Greek NT annually. The program presupposes one year of elementary NT Greek as typically taught at a theological seminary or the equivalent.

The Annual Program

There are 260 chapters in the Greek New Testament. Of these, 74 chapters are 38 verses or longer. To read the Greek New Testament in a year, read one chapter per day. Chapters that are 38 verses or longer may be divided and read over two days. See 2009 Reading Schedule, where, for example, the reading for January 5 is Matt 5a and that for January 6 is Matt 5b. This method yields a total of 334 (260 + 74) daily readings. It also allows you to take 31 days off each year.

Greek Syntax Notes

The best way to improve one's skill in reading Greek is to read the text "continuously and synthetically" with minimal interruption (Philip H. Towner, "Preface" to *The UBS Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition*).

My Greek Syntax Notes are intended to assist those reading the Greek New Testament out of the UBS *Reader's Edition*, in which Barclay M. Newman has provided contextual glosses for words occurring 30 times or less, as well as some parsing. My notes pick up where the *Reader's Edition* leaves off.

My goal is to provide concise notes enabling you to make sense of the text at the syntactical level. In so doing, I have sought to streamline the experience of reading the Greek New Testament by eliminating the need to stop and look up intermediate, advanced, or unusual grammatical features. With the UBS *Reader's Edition* and these notes, one should be able to read large portions of Greek text at a time.

Download notes at www.upper-register.com/papers.html#GNT

2009 Reading Schedule

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Jan					1 - Matt 1	2 - Matt 2	3 - Matt 3
	4 - Matt 4	5 - Matt 5a	6 - Matt 5b	7 - Matt 6	8 - Matt 7	9 - Matt 8	10 - Matt 9a
	11 - Matt 9b	12 - Matt 10a	13 - Matt 10b	14 - Matt 11	15 - Matt 12a	16 - Matt 12b	17 - Matt 13a
	18 - Matt 13b	19 - Matt 14	20 - Matt 15a	21 - Matt 15b	22 - Matt 16	23 - Matt 17	24 - Matt 18
	25 - Matt 19	26 - Matt 20	27 - Matt 21a	28 - Matt 21b	29 -	30 -	31 -
Feb	1 - Matt 22a	2 - Matt 22b	3 - Matt 23a	4 - Matt 23b	5 - Matt 24a	6 - Matt 24b	7 - Matt 25a
	8 - Matt 25b	9 - Matt 26a	10 - Matt 26b	11 - Matt 27a	12 - Matt 27b	13 - Matt 28	14 - Mark 1a
	15 - Mark 1b	16 - Mark 2	17 - Mark 3	18 - Mark 4a	19 - Mark 4b	20 - Mark 5a	21 - Mark 5b
	22 - Mark 6a	23 - Mark 6b	24 - Mark 7	25 - Mark 8a	26 - Mark 8b	27 -	28 -
March	1 - Mark 9a	2 - Mark 9b	3 - Mark 10a	4 - Mark 10b	5 - Mark 11	6 - Mark 12a	7 - Mark 12b
	8 - Mark 13	9 - Mark 14a	10 - Mark 14b	11 - Mark 15a	12 - Mark 15b	13 - Mark 16	14 - Luke 1a
	15 - Luke 1b	16 - Luke 2a	17 - Luke 2b	18 - Luke 3a	19 - Luke 3b	20 - Luke 4a	21 - Luke 4b
	22 - Luke 5a	23 - Luke 5b	24 - Luke 6a	25 - Luke 6b	26 - Luke 7a	27 - Luke 7b	28 - Luke 8a
	29 -	30 -	31 -	1 - Luke 8b	2 - Luke 9a	3 - Luke 9b	4 - Luke 10a
April	5 - Luke 10b	6 - Luke 11a	7 - Luke 11b	8 - Luke 12a	9 - Luke 12b	10 - Luke 13	11 - Luke 14
	12 - Luke 15	13 - Luke 16	14 - Luke 17	15 - Luke 18a	16 - Luke 18b	17 - Luke 19a	18 - Luke 19b
	19 - Luke 20a	20 - Luke 20b	21 - Luke 21a	22 - Luke 21b	23 - Luke 22a	24 - Luke 22b	25 - Luke 23a
	26 - Luke 23b	27 - Luke 24a	28 - Luke 24b	29 -	30 -	1 - John 1a	2 - John 1b
May	3 - John 2	4 - John 3	5 - John 4a	6 - John 4b	7 - John 5a	8 - John 5b	9 - John 6a
	10 - John 6b	11 - John 7a	12 - John 7b	13 - John 8a	14 - John 8b	15 - John 9a	16 - John 9b
	17 - John 10a	18 - John 10b	19 - John 11a	20 - John 11b	21 - John 12a	22 - John 12b	23 - John 13a
	24 - John 13b	25 - John 14	26 - John 15	27 - John 16	28 - John 17	29 -	30 -
	31 -	1 - John 18a	2 - John 18b	3 - John 19a	4 - John 19b	5 - John 20	6 - John 21
June	7 - Acts 1	8 - Acts 2a	9 - Acts 2b	10 - Acts 3	11 - Acts 4	12 - Acts 5a	13 - Acts 5b
	14 - Acts 6	15 - Acts 7a	16 - Acts 7b	17 - Acts 8a	18 - Acts 8b	19 - Acts 9a	20 - Acts 9b
	21 - Acts 10a	22 - Acts 10b	23 - Acts 11	24 - Acts 12	25 - Acts 13a	26 - Acts 13b	27 - Acts 14
	28 - Acts 15a	29 -	30 -	1 - Acts 15b	2 - Acts 16a	3 - Acts 16b	4 - Acts 17
July	5 - Acts 18	6 - Acts 19a	7 - Acts 19b	8 - Acts 20a	9 - Acts 20b	10 - Acts 21a	11 - Acts 21b
	12 - Acts 22	13 - Acts 23	14 - Acts 24	15 - Acts 25	16 - Acts 26	17 - Acts 27a	18 - Acts 27b
	19 - Acts 28	20 - Rom 1	21 - Rom 2	22 - Rom 3	23 - Rom 4	24 - Rom 5	25 - Rom 6
	26 - Rom 7	27 - Rom 8a	28 - Rom 8b	29 -	30 -	31 -	1 - Rom 9
Aug	2 - Rom 10	3 - Rom 11	4 - Rom 12	5 - Rom 13	6 - Rom 14	7 - Rom 15	8 - Rom 16
	9 - 1 Cor 1	10 - 1 Cor 2	11 - 1 Cor 3	12 - 1 Cor 4	13 - 1 Cor 5	14 - 1 Cor 6	15 - 1 Cor 7a
	16 - 1 Cor 7b	17 - 1 Cor 8	18 - 1 Cor 9	19 - 1 Cor 10	20 - 1 Cor 11	21 - 1 Cor 12	22 - 1 Cor 13
	23 - 1 Cor 14a	24 - 1 Cor 14b	25 - 1 Cor 15a	26 - 1 Cor 15b	27 - 1 Cor 16	28 - 2 Cor 1	29 - 2 Cor 2
	30 -	31 -	1 - 2 Cor 3	2 - 2 Cor 4	3 - 2 Cor 5	4 - 2 Cor 6	5 - 2 Cor 7
Sept	6 - 2 Cor 8	7 - 2 Cor 9	8 - 2 Cor 10	9 - 2 Cor 11	10 - 2 Cor 12	11 - 2 Cor 13	12 - Gal 1
	13 - Gal 2	14 - Gal 3	15 - Gal 4	16 - Gal 5	17 - Gal 6	18 - Eph 1	19 - Eph 2
	20 - Eph 3	21 - Eph 4	22 - Eph 5	23 - Eph 6	24 - Phil 1	25 - Phil 2	26 - Phil 3
	27 - Phil 4	28 -	29 -	30 -	1 - Col 1	2 - Col 2	3 - Col 3
Oct	4 - Col 4	5 - 1 Thess 1	6 - 1 Thess 2	7 - 1 Thess 3	8 - 1 Thess 4	9 - 1 Thess 5	10 - 2 Thess 1
	11 - 2 Thess 2	12 - 2 Thess 3	13 - 1 Tim 1	14 - 1 Tim 2	15 - 1 Tim 3	16 - 1 Tim 4	17 - 1 Tim 5
	18 - 1 Tim 6	19 - 2 Tim 1	20 - 2 Tim 2	21 - 2 Tim 3	22 - 2 Tim 4	23 - Titus 1	24 - Titus 2
	25 - Titus 3	26 - Phm	27 - Heb 1	28 - Heb 2	29 - Heb 3	30 -	31 -
Nov	1 - Heb 4	2 - Heb 5	3 - Heb 6	4 - Heb 7	5 - Heb 8	6 - Heb 9	7 - Heb 10a
	8 - Heb 10b	9 - Heb 11a	10 - Heb 11b	11 - Heb 12	12 - Heb 13	13 - James 1	14 - James 2
	15 - James 3	16 - James 4	17 - James 5	18 - 1 Pet 1	19 - 1 Pet 2	20 - 1 Pet 3	21 - 1 Pet 4
	22 - 1 Pet 5	23 - 2 Pet 1	24 - 2 Pet 2	25 - 2 Pet 3	26 - 1 John 1	27 - 1 John 2	28 -
	29 -	30 -	1 - 1 John 3	2 - 1 John 4	3 - 1 John 5	4 - 2 John	5 - 3 John
Dec	6 - Jude	7 - Rev 1	8 - Rev 2	9 - Rev 3	10 - Rev 4	11 - Rev 5	12 - Rev 6
	13 - Rev 7	14 - Rev 8	15 - Rev 9	16 - Rev 10	17 - Rev 11	18 - Rev 12	19 - Rev 13
	20 - Rev 14	21 - Rev 15	22 - Rev 16	23 - Rev 17	24 - Rev 18	25 - Rev 19	26 - Rev 20
	27 - Rev 21	28 - Rev 22	29 -	30 -	31 -		