

Mastering New Testament Greek Textbook

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CHAPTER 16

Aorist and Future Passive Verbs

You will be able to—

1. recognize and write the aorist and future passive indicative paradigms,
2. know the passive stem forms of some of the major verbs learned in previous lessons,
3. translate aorist and future passive indicative forms,
4. gain more practice in translating and working with Greek,
5. master ten more high-frequency vocabulary words, and
6. memorize Mat. 6:12a in Greek.

Introduction

Passive verbs indicate subjects are acted on by the action of the verbs. In English, we form the past passive indicative by using a helping verb (e.g., I was struck by the foul ball). Similarly, the future passive indicative is formed with the helping “will be” (e.g., I will be flown to Indianapolis) indicating expectation.

Comparison with Greek

Rather than using a helping verb, Greek uses a different ending to indicate the passive indicative for aorist and future tenses.

In the lexicon this stem will be the sixth (last) principal part (aorist passive). We have already worked with the first three (present, future, aorist; vid Appendix 4 which lists the principal parts of the major verbs).

Present	Future	Aorist	Perfect	Perf Mid/Pass.	Aorist Pass.
βάλλω	βαλῶ	ἔβαλον	βέβληκα	βέβλημαι	ἐβλήθην

The Greek aorist and future passive forms are built from the sixth principal part of the verb. They are easily recognized because of the characteristic θ just before the ending. Like other aorist tense verb forms, aorist passives take the augment.

Aorist and Future Passive Forms

The aorist passives are formed by adding θη before the ending:

ἐ +	λυ +	θη +	ν =	ἐλύθην
Aug	Stem	Passive connective	Secondary Active Ending	I was loosed

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The future passives add $\theta\eta\sigma$ before the ending and drop the augment.

$\lambda\nu +$	$\theta\eta\sigma +$	$\omicron\mu\alpha\iota =$	$\lambda\nu\theta\acute{\eta}\sigma\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$
Stem	Passive connective	Primary Mid/Pass Ending	I will be loosed

Passive Connective Transformations

When a stem ends in a consonant the following changes take place when the $\theta\eta$ is added.

Velars: κ or γ becomes χ
 $\delta\iota\omega\kappa + \theta\eta = \acute{\epsilon}\delta\iota\omega\chi\theta\eta\nu$ (I was pursued)

Labials: π or β becomes ϕ
 $\lambda\epsilon\acute{\iota}\pi + \theta\eta = \acute{\epsilon}\lambda\epsilon\acute{\iota}\phi\theta\eta\nu$ (I was left)

ϕ causes the θ to drop out
 $\gamma\rho\alpha\phi + \theta\eta = \acute{\epsilon}\gamma\rho\acute{\alpha}\phi\eta\nu$ (I was written)

Dentals: τ , δ , or θ becomes σ
 $\pi\epsilon\iota\theta + \theta\eta = \acute{\epsilon}\pi\epsilon\acute{\iota}\sigma\theta\eta\nu$ (I was persuaded)

Sibilant: ζ , becomes σ
 $\delta\omicron\zeta\alpha\zeta + \theta\eta = \acute{\epsilon}\delta\omicron\zeta\acute{\alpha}\sigma\theta\eta\nu$ (I was glorified)

Consonant Shifts

Velars:	κ, γ	$+ \theta =$	$\chi\theta$
Labials:	π, β	$+ \theta =$	$\phi\theta$ [$\phi+\theta=\phi$]
Dentals:	τ, δ, θ	$+ \theta =$	$\sigma\theta$
Sibilants:	ζ	$+ \theta =$	$\sigma\theta$

A simple way to remember this is single consonantal velars (κ, γ) go to the double lettered (ch) palatal (χ). Single consonantal labials (π, β) go to double lettered (ph) labial (ϕ). The dentals (τ, δ, θ) and sibilant (ζ) both reduce to a sigma (σ).

First Aorist Passive Indicative of $\lambda\acute{o}\omega$

	Singular		Plural	
1.	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta\nu$	I was loosed	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta\mu\epsilon\nu$	We were loosed
2.	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta\varsigma$	You were loosed	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta\tau\epsilon$	You were loosed
3.	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta$	He/she/it was loosed	$\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\theta\eta\sigma\alpha\nu$	They were loosed

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Note the active secondary endings: ν, ζ, —, μεν, τε, σαν. The third singular and plural are different than what we've already learned, but the rest is exactly the same.

Future Passive Indicative of λύω

Singular		Plural	
1. λυθήσομαι	I will be loosed	λυθησόμεθα	We will be loosed
2. λυθήσῃ	You will be loosed	λυθήσεσθε	You will be loosed
3. λυθήσεται	He/she/it will be loosed	λυθήσονται	They will be loosed

Note the passive primary endings: ομαι, η, εται, ομεθα, εσθε, ονται. You already know these.

Middles/“Deponent”

Some verbs that are middle/deponent in the present will use a passive form in the aorist (e.g., ἀπεκρίθην) rather than the expected middle (“deponent”) form. Regardless of the form (middle or passive), these types of aorist verbs will be translated with an active sense. Thus, ἀπεκρίθην is translated “I answered.” Others have both middle (ἐγενόμην) and passive forms (ἐγενήθην) both of which are translated active “I became”.

Aorist Passive Stems

Present Active	Aorist Passive	Future Passive
ἀποστέλλω	ἀπεστάλην	—
βάλλω	ἐβλήθην	βληθήσομαι
γίνομαι	ἐγενήθην	—
γινώσκω	ἐγνώσθην	γνωσθήσομαι
διδάσκω	ἐδιδάχθην	—
δύναμαι	ἠδυνήθην	—
ἐγείρω	ἠγέρθην	ἐγερθήσομαι
εὐρίσκω	εὐρέθην	εὐρεθήσομαι
θέλω	ἠθελήθην	—
κρίνω	ἐκρίθην	κριθήσομαι
λαμβάνω	ἐλήμφθην	—
λέγω	ἐρρέθην	—

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ὁράω	ᾤφθην	ὀφθήσομαι
πιστεύω	ἐπιστεύθην	—
πορεύομαι	ἐπορεύθην	—
σώζω	ἐσώθην	σωθήσομαι

ἔρχομαι does not have an aorist/future passive stem form (relax!).

Second Aorist Passive Indicative of γράφω (I write)

	Singular		Plural	
1.	ἐγράφην	I was written	ἐγράφημεν	We were written
2.	ἐγράφης	You were written	ἐγράφητε	You were written
3.	ἐγράφη	He/she/it was written	ἐγράφησαν	They were written

The second aorist passive has no theta in the tense stem, but the endings are the same as the first aorist passive.

Chant for the Aorist Passive Indicative (API) Verb

(I was loosed) (-- pronounce noise sound “aahh”)
ἐλύθην -ν, -ς, --, -μεν, -τε, -σαν

Chant for the Future Passive Indicative (FPI) Verb

(I will be loosed)
λuthήσομαι -ομαι, -η, -εται, -ομεθα, -εσθε, -ονται

Translation Examples

Ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπαν αὐτῷ, Ὁ πατὴρ ἡμῶν Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν.
They answered and said to him, “Our father is Abraham” (Jn. 8:39).

Καὶ ὅτε εἶδεν ὁ δράκων ὅτι ἐβλήθη εἰς τὴν γῆν
And when the dragon saw that he was cast to the earth (Rev. 12:13)

Οὗτός ἐστιν Ἰωάννης ὁ βαπτιστής· αὐτὸς ἠγέρθη ἀπὸ τῶν νεκρῶν.
This is John the Baptist; he was raised from [among] the dead (Mat. 14:2).

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Vocabulary

αἰών, -ῶνος, ὁ	age, eternity (122)
ἀλλήλων	one another (100)
ἀρχιερεύς, -έως, ὁ	high priest (122)
γυνή, -αῖκος, ἡ	woman (215)
δύναμαι	I can, am able (210)
ἔθνος, -ους, τό	nation (162)
ὅσος, -η, -ον	as great as (110)
πόλις, -εως, ἡ	city (162)
τέ	and, and so (215)
χείρ, χειρός, ἡ	hand (177)

Review

- Mat. 6:9: Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς·
ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου·
- Mat. 6:10: ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·
γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,
ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς·
- Mat. 6:11: τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον
δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον·

Memory Verse: Mat. 6:12a

καὶ	ἄφες	ἡμῖν	τὰ	ὀφειλήματα	ἡμῶν,
and	forgive	for us	the	debts	our