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978-1-316-63341-0 — An Idiom Book of New Testament Greek

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

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AN IDIOM BOOK
OF
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

BY

C. F. D. MOULE

*Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity in the
University of Cambridge*



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NOTE

The symbol † in the text refers the reader to the
 Notes and Corrections on pp. 202 ff.

PREFACE

This book is an attempt to provide a syntactical companion to the interpretation of the New Testament: that is to say, it does not set out to be a systematic syntax, although the main sections of such a work are represented in it; but it aims rather at providing sufficient material to enable a student who is already reasonably well acquainted with the language to form some opinion on matters of exegesis which involve syntax. A fair number of passages of this type are discussed under the headings appropriate to their syntactical nature, and it is hoped that these are sufficiently representative to provide a pointer to the treatment of other similar problems.

It is true that I began the collection of material, in response to an invitation by the late Professor J. M. Creed, with a view to compiling a full grammar or syntax; but many delays and distractions have combined with a natural preference for the study of idiom to reduce what is here offered to the reader to something far less pretentious. Instead of a systematic introduction to syntax or an exhaustive catalogue, it is an obviously incomplete idiom-book—an amateur's collection of specimens. My only hope is that even with such limitations it may yet prove useful as a companion and supplement to the many already existing commentaries. It is surprising, when one attempts to produce an exact and idiomatic translation or paraphrase of the New Testament, how many problems present themselves which cry out for more than what is provided in many of the commentaries in the way of discussion of the subtle nuances and idioms of the elusive and sometimes highly individual style of St Paul, St Luke, or one of the others; surprising, too, how much research still remains to be done into the thorny but fascinating problem of the degree to which the Greek of the New Testament writers can be distinguished from that of their contemporaries represented by the papyri and other non-biblical Greek writings.

If the present compilation makes any claim upon the attention of students, it will simply be as the work of a fellow-student who has seen something of what needs to be done but has not gone far towards the achievement.

No attempt has been made to treat the idioms of the Apocalypse systematically. That is a study in itself, and R. H. Charles's edition (*International Critical Commentary*) has gone far to supply the need.

The text used, except where otherwise stated, is the eclectic one of Eberhard Nestle (4th edition, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1904).

My indebtedness to those who have already written upon these matters is great, although not so great as it would have been if I had been a faster and more diligent reader. In particular I am conscious of having done all too little reading of secular writings of the period, both literary and non-literary. But I here record my gratitude for so much of the work of others as I have had the capacity to receive.

Among many who have helped me by personal friendship and encouragement, I must first mention the late Doctor J. W. Hunkin, whose sudden death has been a great grief to his multitudes of friends. I believe that he more than once surreptitiously put my name forward in one matter or another, and I suspect that I owe it to him that Professor J. M. Creed ever thought of inviting me to undertake a grammatical work. My particular gratitude is due also to Professor Creed himself, who consistently encouraged me in the work until he, like Dr Hunkin more recently, was unexpectedly taken from us, to our grievous loss; and to the committee who with him patiently read and discussed my first drafts—Dr C. H. Dodd, Dr R. N. Flew, and the Reverend H. Burnaby. In the latter stages, since the committee work lapsed, Dr Dodd in particular has been often consulted and has given much patient assistance.

I am sincerely grateful also for the skill, patience, and unfailing courtesy with which a peculiarly exacting and exasperating piece of work has been handled at the University Press; and I wish to express my thanks to all who are concerned.

But most of all I must thank my Father, the Reverend H. W. Moule, Vicar of Damerham,¹ not only for instilling into me my earliest interest in Classics, nor only for holding up an example of exact scholarship which has always been inspiring if unattainable, but also for constant advice and encouragement in this particular piece of work, and for devoting hours of toil and eye-strain to copying the manuscript and verifying the references.

C. F. D. MOULE

CLARE COLLEGE
 October 1952

¹ He retired in December 1952, and died on 8 April 1953.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

It is hoped that most abbreviations will be sufficiently obvious. The following are some that may need definition.

- B.S.* = G. Adolf Deissmann, *Bible Studies* (English translation by A. Grieve, 2nd edit., T. and T. Clark, 1909).
- Beg.* = *The Beginnings of Christianity*, ed. F. J. Foakes-Jackson and Kirsopp Lake (Macmillan, 5 vols., 1920–33).
- D.-B. = Friedrich Blass's *Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch* bearbeitet von Albert Debrunner (Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, Göttingen, 6th edit., 1931, except where 'Add. Note' = 1943 additions).
- E.T.* = *The Expository Times*, founded by J. Hastings (T. and T. Clark).
- Giles, *Manual* = P. Giles, *A Short Manual of Comparative Philology* (Macmillan, 1901).
- Goodwin = W. W. Goodwin, *A Greek Grammar* (Macmillan, 1916).
- Grimm-Thayer = Grimm's lexicon based on Wilke's *Clavis Novi Testamenti*, translated, revised, and enlarged by J. H. Thayer (T. and T. Clark, 1886).
- I.C.C.* = *International Critical Commentary*, ed. S. R. Driver, A. Plummer, C. A. Briggs (T. and T. Clark).
- J.B.L.* = *Journal of Biblical Literature* (the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, U.S.A.).
- J.T.S.* = *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford University Press).
- M.-H. = J. H. Moulton and W. F. Howard, *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*, vol. II (T. and T. Clark, 1929). Cf. *Proleg.* below.
- M.M. = J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan, *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1930).
- M.T.* = E. de W. Burton, *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek* (T. and T. Clark, 1894).
- Proleg.* = J. H. Moulton, *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*, vol. I, *Prolegomena* (3rd edit., T. and T. Clark, 1908). Cf. M.-H. above.
- Rad. = L. Radermacher, *Neutestamentliche Grammatik* (J. C. B. Mohr, Tübingen, 2nd edit., 1925).
- Rob. = A. T. Robertson, *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research* (Hodder and Stoughton, n.d.; preface dated 1914).

- Rob. and Davis = A. T. Robertson and W. H. Davis, *A New Short Grammar of the Greek Testament* (S.P.C.K., 1931).
- Ryl. Bull. = *The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Manchester*.
- S. and H. = W. Sanday and A. C. Headlam, *The Epistle to the Romans* (I.C.C.).
- T.-B. = Friedrich Blass, *Grammar of New Testament Greek*, trans. H. St J. Thackeray (Macmillan, 2nd edit., 1905).
- T.W.N.T. = *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*, begun under the editorship of Gerhard Kittel, continued, on his death, under the editorship of Gerhard Friedrich (Kohlhammer, Stuttgart, 1933–).