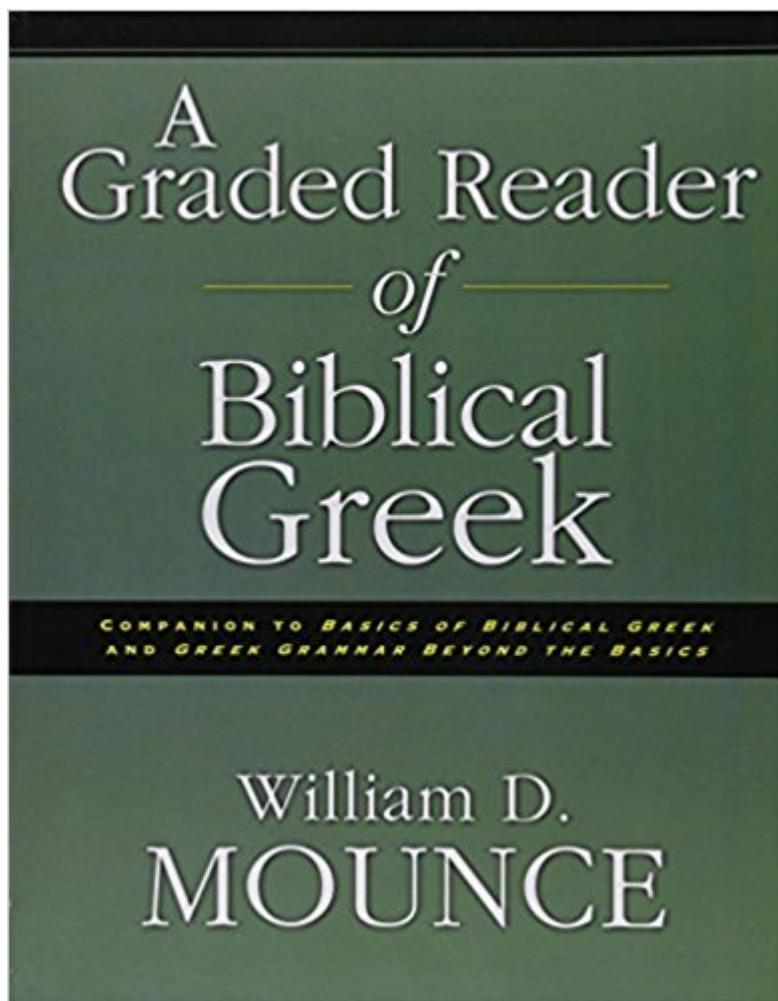


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A Graded Reader Of Biblical Greek



Synopsis

Making the leap from the basics of biblical Greek to its real-life application can be a frustrating challenge for students of intermediate Greek. A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek was developed to make the transition easier. It takes beginning exegetes from simple to progressively more difficult biblical texts. Students can now learn New Testament Greek the way they would any other language: through a graded program. A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek applies an inductive method to learning intermediate Greek grammar. It provides a workable introduction to exegesis, word studies, and developing a large vocabulary; and it assists the student in preparing for class, allowing classroom time to be put to its most effective use. - Twenty Greek passages are presented in graded order. - Difficult and unfamiliar grammatical constructions are explained. - All words that occur fewer than 20 times in the New Testament are defined. - An "Exegetical Discussion" section helps the exegete gain a deeper understanding of the language. A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek is the result of ten years of use and refinement by the author in an actual classroom setting.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek

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Mounce's "Graded Reader" is intended as a transitional textbook for students who are in their second year of Greek. I give it three stars because, while it is better than any alternative I have found, I think it is lacking in several respects and is somewhat disappointing given the quality of Mounce's BBG. The book consists of 20 extended passages in Koine Greek, coming primarily from the New Testament. The readings cover all four Gospels, several letters, and Revelation. In addition, a Septuagint Psalm is thrown in, as well as an excerpt from the Didache, one of the earliest teaching documents of the Church. In addition to the passages, there is an introductory section on a technique, developed by Mounce, called "phrasing." It is essentially a means of diagramming Greek sentences to clarify the relationships of the parts of the sentence. Also, the book has a synopsis of Wallace's extensive "Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics," and a "cheat sheet" which lists the various cases, tenses, etc., and their uses. The passages themselves have footnotes, which are primarily used for vocabulary. The footnotes gloss words that occur 20 or fewer times, and in addition to a definition provide the number of occurrences of the word in the NT. This is useful for finding the words in Mounce's flash card deck, if you have that. Aside from the vocab notes, each page explains various theological and/or grammatical concepts. At the end of each passage is a grammar summary and reflections on the text. I agree with a previous reviewer that Mounce's theology can be ignored. My biggest complaint about this book is that the commentary in the notes is not very useful. The footnotes consist primarily of references to other author's commentaries. They tend to be in this form: "Why did Paul use the aorist here? See John Doe, p. 100." This is not terribly helpful, since he references 15 or 20 books, few of which I have. If Mounce is simply going to refer to someone else's commentary, why not just buy the commentary and skip Mounce's book? Since 90% of his notes are question format (e.g., p.7 "What is the antecedent of auto?") without answer, they do serve to call attention to important concepts, but if you can't answer

his question you are out of luck. That Mounce is the master of morphology is certain. However, one can see from his BBG that he is light on syntax, and I found many challenging concepts unmarked even by one of his questioning footnotes. After struggling through Ch. 7 (Romans) with extreme frustration, I recalled that at the beginning of the chapter he said the grammar was not difficult. If Mounce is in tune with students' morphological struggles he is not in tune with their syntactical struggles. Nonetheless this book is more useful than a non-commented text, and better than the JACT New Testament reader. Still, one hopes that a better reader with commentary will show up some day.

I am partially self-taught in Biblical Greek (one semester of Greek in bible college) and owe my success in this effort to Bill Mounce's excellent Grammar and Daniel Wallace's equally excellent Syntax volume. I purchased the graded reader after completing both and have been steadily working through it. Each chapter presents a passage of Scripture in Greek (though the last two chapters are from the LXX and Didache) with comments and questions about grammar, syntax, and even exegetical points. Each chapter is increased in difficulty. It serves to effectively illustrate many of the important points in the grammar and syntax books. My comprehension of Biblical Greek is better for it. It is a fun book to work through if you enjoy Greek. I wish it were the first in a series. Highly recommended.

Firstly, I should say that I enjoy the method and manner that W.D. Mounce presents "Biblical" (Koine) Greek in his BBG. This no doubt influenced my decision to later purchase his "Graded Reader". With that said, this Graded Reader is only decent. It could've been better, but, in my opinion, Mounce leaves the reader hanging too often. For example, he frequently refers the reader to commentaries or various text to find the answer to a question he poses...but, unless one owns (or at that moment purchases) the sources he cites, then you'll never glean from the insight he is trying to provide. The author should simply make the point himself, so that his reader is able to learn from the study; yet, since he doesn't, his notes serve little purpose (that is, at least to me they served little purpose). He also has a habit of asking open-ended questions without sharing his thoughts. While this may be great in some formats (e.g. classroom lecture followed up with teacher-student interaction), I don't think it works well with those outside the classroom who are still trying to grasp the language and nuances; especially since we don't have someone to approach for clarification. As for the binding, it is horrible. In fact, the very first day I opened the book numerous pages separated and fell loose from the binding. Continued use has only resulted in further pages following suit. If a

quality paperback binding cannot be offered than the product should not be sold; or at the very least an alternative binding should be offered (i.e. hardcover).

The most valuable contribution of this book is its appendix titled A Partial Summary of Greek Grammar Beyond the Basic by Wallace. The appendix comprises 40 pages. In comparison, the abridged version of Wallace's book is 300 pages. The appendix provides a very useful starting point if you want to move on from Mounce's Basic NT Greek to Wallace's NT Greek Syntax.

I love Dr. Mounce's material. Of all the Koine Greek curricula which I have tried, his is by far the best.

This has been a great tool for moving on after 1st year Greek!

I am using this reader for intermediate Greek students and really appreciate the approach. Having begun with Mounce's introduction to Biblical Greek, this book offers practice in reading the biblical text and is well laid out, including some introduction to intermediate Greek grammar.

Great

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