

## Chapter Eleven

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Declension Nouns

#### Vocabulary

ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν	good	κακός, -ή, -όν	bad
ἀγαπητός, -ή, -όν	beloved	καλός, -ή, -όν	good, beautiful
ἅγιος, -α, -ον	holy	μικρός, -ά, -όν	small, little
ἄλλος, -η, -ο	other (same kind)	μόνος, -η, -ον	only, alone
δικαίος, -α, -ον	righteous, just	νεκρός, -ά, -όν	dead
ἕκαστος, -η, -ον	each, every	ὅλος, -η, -ον	whole, all
ἔσχατος, -η, -ον	last	πιστός, -ή, -όν	faithful
ἕτερος, -α, -ον	other (different)	πονηρός, -α, -ον	evil
καινός, -ή, -όν	new	πρῶτος, -η, -ον	first

#### Third Declension Nouns

The final noun form to learn is the third declension. The third declension is also known as the consonant declension because most of the nouns have stems ending in a consonant. Where the first declension's predominant ending vowel sound is an *α* and the second declension an *ο*, the third declension is more complex as it spans essentially all the remaining nouns. Though the third declension is known as the consonant declension, it also includes the semivowel endings *ι* and *υ*. Where the first and second declensions are based or formed from the nominative singular, the third is generally formed from the genitive singular with the *-ος* removed and the proper endings added to the stem.

The great grammarian A.T. Robertson points out that the three declensions are for convenience and are a recent (seventeenth century) paradigm. The older grammars had ten or more!<sup>1</sup> “It is important to note that as the semivowels and *σ* fall out between vowels, a good deal of contraction results.”<sup>2</sup>

The following third declension form is the usual form memorized. To memorize all the possible forms is impractical at this point and therefore not required. The idea is that the student identify the most common form and understand that there are others. Do not be discouraged by the complexity of the third declension noun, memorize the basic form for *πατήρ*, do the exercises and move on to the next section.

<sup>1</sup> A.T. Robertson, *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament In the Light of Historical Research* (Nashville:Broadman Press, 1934), p. 247

<sup>2</sup> James Moulton, *A Grammar of New Testament Greek* (Edinburgh:T&T Clark, 1979), Vol. 2, p. 128

3 <sup>rd</sup> Declension Endings				
Masc. and Fem.			Neuter	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nom	-ς	-ες	none	-α
Gen/Abl	-ος	-ων	-ος	-ων
Dat/Loc/Inst	-ι	-σι(ν)	-ι	-σι(ν)
Acc	-α (short) or -ν	-ας	none	-α
Voc	none or like nom.			

Ray Summers and Thomas Sawyer list seven different forms in their grammar<sup>3</sup>. It is recommended that the interested reader consult their grammar for a through explanation of the nuances of each subform within the third declension form.

### 1. Liquid Stem Nouns<sup>4</sup>

For nouns whose stem ends with a liquid consonant ν or ρ. For example, to build the word πατηρ – father, it is identified as a masculine whose stem is identified by the genitive singular πατρός with the removal of the -ος ending, leaving πατηρ.

Stem πατηρ - father					
Singular			Plural		
Nom	πατήρ	father	Nom/Voc	πατέρες	fathers
Gen/Abl	πατρός	of/from a father	Gen/Abl	πατέρων	of/from fathers
Dat/Loc/Inst	πατρί	to/in/by a father	Dat/Loc/Inst	πατράσι(ν)	to/in/by fathers
Acc	πατέρα	father	Ac	πατέρας	fathers
Voc	πάτερ	father			

### 2. Mute Stem Nouns

For nouns whose stem ends with a mute consonant.

Stem ἐλπίς - hope					
Singular			Plural		
Nom	ἐλπίς		Nom/Voc	ἐλπίδες	
Gen/Abl	ἐλπίδος		Gen/Abl	ἐλπίδων	
Dat/Loc/Inst	ἐλπίδι		Dat/Loc/Inst	ἐλπίσι(ν)	
Acc	ἐλπίδα		Acc	ἐλπίδας	

### 3. The ι Stem Nouns (feminine)

For vowel ι ending feminine nouns are declined like πόλις “city” (the ι is replaced with an ε in some cases).

<sup>3</sup> Ray Summers, *Essential of New Testament Greek* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), pp. 83-92

<sup>4</sup> These seven forms taken from Summers' book.

Stem πόλις - city

Singular		Plural	
Nom	πόλις	Nom/Voc	πόλεις
Gen/Abl	πόλεως	Gen/Abl	πόλεων
Dat/Loc/Inst	πόλει	Dat/Loc/Inst	πόλεσι(ν)
Acc	πόλιν	Acc	πόλεις

4. The εὑ Stem Nouns (Masculine)

The vowel εὑ ending masculine nouns are declined like ἀρχιερεύς “high priest.”

Stem ἀρχιερεύς - high priest

Singular		Plural	
Nom	ἀρχιερεύς	Nom/Voc	ἀρχιερεῖς
Gen/Abl	ἀρχιερέως	Gen/Abl	ἀρχιερέων
Dat/Loc/Inst	ἀρχιερεῖ	Dat/Loc/Inst	ἀρχιερεῦσι(ν)
Acc	ἀρχιερέα	Acc	ἀρχιερεῖς

5. The υ Stem Nouns (any Gender)

The vowel υ ending nouns of any gender are declined like ἰχθύς “fish.”

Stem ἰχθύς - fish

Singular		Plural	
Nom	ἰχθύς	Nom/Voc	ἰχθύες
Gen/Abl	ἰχθύος	Gen/Abl	ἰχθύων
Dat/Loc/Inst	ἰχθύι	Dat/Loc/Inst	ἰχθύσι(ν)
Acc	ἰχθύν	Acc	ἰχθύας

6. The ες Stem Nouns

The neuter nouns ending in ες are declined like γένος “race, kind.”

Stem γένος – race, kind

Singular		Plural	
Nom	γένος	Nom/Voc	γένη
Gen/Abl	γένους	Gen/Abl	γενῶν
Dat/Loc/Inst	γένει	Dat/Loc/Inst	γένεσι(ν)
Acc	γένος	Acc	γένη

7. The ατ Noun Stem

The neuter nouns ending in ατ are declined like σῶμα “body.”

		Stem σώμα - body	
Singular		Plural	
Nom	σῶμα	Nom/Voc	σώματα
Gen/Abl	σώματος	Gen/Abl	σωμάτων
Dat/Loc/Inst	σώματι	Dat/Loc/Inst	σώμασι(ν)
Acc	σῶμα	Acc	σώματα

### Practice

A. Translate the following sentences.

1. τοιοῦτον (such) ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα, ὃς ἐκάθισεν (he sat) ἐν δεξιᾷ (on the right) τοῦ θρόνου τῆς μεγαλοσύνης (majesty) ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς (Heb. 8:1b) .
2. Γράφω ὑμῖν, τέκνια, ὅτι ἀφέωνται (forgiven) ὑμῖν αἱ ἁμαρτίαι διὰ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ. (1 Jn 2:12).
3. πᾶς γὰρ ὃς ἂν (no exact english equivalent) ἐπικαλέσῃται (he called) τὸ ὄνομα κυρίου σωθήσεται (he will be saved). (Rom 10:13) .
4. ὥσπερ (just as) γὰρ ὁ πατήρ ἔχει ζωὴν ἐν ἑαυτῷ οὕτως (thus,so) καὶ τῷ υἱῷ ἔδωκεν ζωὴν ἔχειν ἐν ἑαυτῷ. (John 5:26)