

Chapter Thirteen

Future Verbs

Vocabulary

ἄδικος	unjust, unrighteous	κράζω	I cry out
ἀποκτείνω	I kill	καλέω	to call
ἀποστρέφω	to turn away	νῦν	now (adv.)
Γαλιλαία, ἡ	Galilee	ὄνομα	name
γῆ, ἡ	the earth, land	οὐκέτι	no longer (adv.)
ἔρεω	to say, speak, utter	οὖν	therefore, then
ἔτι	still, yet (adv.)	πᾶς	all, every
ἐτοιμάζω	I prepare	σκοτία, ἡ	darkness
Ἰησοῦς, ὁ	Jesus, Joshua	συζάω	to live together
Ἰσραήλ, ὁ	Israel	συναποθνήσκω	to die together
Ἰωάννης, ὁ	John	ὑπάρχω	I exist, am

Future Active Indicative

The Greek future indicative, as in English, generally denotes what is going to take place. The future is built upon aoristis (punctiliar) roots in some verbs and durative roots in others. The kind of action may be either punctiliar (action at a certain point) or durative (linear), but is usually punctiliar. The function of the future is summarized as follows:

1. *Predictive*. The simple future is used as a predictive or “what is going to happen.”¹
For example:

ὃς δ' ἂν πῖν ἐκ τοῦ ὕδατος οὗ ἐγὼ δώσω αὐτῷ οὐ μὴ διψήσει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἀλλὰ τὸ ὕδωρ ὃ δώσω αὐτῷ γενήσεται ἐν αὐτῷ πηγὴ ὕδατος ἀλλομένου εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον (John 4:14)

But whoever drinks of the water that **I will give** him will never thirst. But the water that **I will give** to him **will become** in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹ In English the future uses “shall” in the first person, and “will” in the second and third, however, modern American English no longer seems to hold to this rule.

2. *Imperative*. The future may be expressed as an imperative. This use in the New Testament is almost always in quotations of the Old Testament and is commonly used classical Greek.² For example:

ὁ δὲ ἔφη αὐτῷ **ἀγαπήσεις** κύριον τὸν θεόν σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ διανοίᾳ σου (Matt. 22:37)

And He said to him, “**You shall love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

3. *Deliberative*. The future may also be used in the deliberative (Latin *deliberare* “consider”) sense as a rhetorical question. For example:

πῶς ἡμεῖς **ἐκφρευξόμεθα** τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες σωτηρίας, ἥτις ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη (Hebrews 2:3)

How **will we escape** if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken by the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.

Future Active Indicative Form

The future verb is identified by its stem (λυ-) followed by a sigma (-σ-), followed by a thematic vowel (-ο/ε-), then followed by the active personal pronoun ending (-ω).

There are a number of rules regarding the changing of the thematic vowel and how the verb ends.

- a) Verbs ending with a consonant.
 - i) *Liquid consonants* λ, μ, ν, & ρ: the sigma (σ) is dropped. For example, μένσω becomes μενῶ (I will remain).
 - ii) *Sibilant consonants* σ, ζ, ξ, & ψ: the sibilant in the stem before the sigma is dropped. For example, σώζω becomes σώσω (I will save).
 - iii) *Mute consonants of the palatal group* κ, γ, χ: the palatal before the σ is changed to ξ. For example, ἄγω becomes ἄξω (I will lead).
 - iv) *Labial consonants* π, β, φ: the labial before the σ is changed to ψ. For example, βλέπω becomes βλέψω (I will see).
 - v) *Dental consonants* τ, δ, θ: the dental before the σ drops out. For example, πείθω becomes πείσω (I persuade).
- b) Some verbs that are regular in the present system are deponent in the future. For example γνώσκω becomes γνώσομαι (I will know).

² Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing 1996), p. 569

Singular

1 st	λύ-σω	I will loose
2 nd	λύ-σεις	you will loose
3 rd	λύ-σει	he/she/it will loose

Plural

1 st	λύ-σο-μεν	we will loose
2 nd	λύ-σε-τε	you will loose
3 rd	λύ-σου-ι(ν)	they will loose

Infinitive: λύσειν to loose

Future Middle Indicative Form

Singular

1 st	λύ-σο-μαι	I will loose myself
2 nd	λύ-ση	you will loose yourself
3 rd	λύ-σε-ται	he/she/it will loose him/her/itself

Plural

1 st	λύ-σο-με-θα	we will loose ourselves
2 nd	λύ-σε-σθε	you will loose yourselves
3 rd	λύ-σον-ται	they will loose themselves

Infinitive: λύσεσθαι to loose oneself

Future Indicative of εἰμί I am

Singular

1 st	ἔσομαι	I will be
2 nd	ἔσῃ	you will be
3 rd	ἔσται	he/she/it will be

Plural

1 st	ἐσόμεθα	we will be
2 nd	ἔσεσθε	you will be
3 rd	ἔσονται	they will be

Practice

A. Translate the following sentences.

1. εἰ δὲ ἡ ἀδικία (unrighteousness) ἡμῶν θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην συνίστησιν (commend), τί ἐροῦμεν; μὴ ἄδικος ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἐπιφέρων (who brings) τὴν ὀργήν (wrath); κατὰ ἄνθρωπον λέγω. (Rom 3:5)
2. καὶ οὕτως πᾶς Ἰσραὴλ σωθήσεται (will be saved), καθὼς γέγραπται (written) ἦξει (he will come) ἐκ Σιών (Zion) ὁ ῥυόμενος (the Deliverer), ἀποστρέψει ἀσεβείας (ungodliness) ἀπὸ Ἰακώβ. (Rom. 11:26)
3. πιστὸς ὁ λόγος εἰ γὰρ συναπεθάνομεν, καὶ συζήσομεν (2 Tim 2:11)
4. τέξεται δὲ υἱόν, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. (Matt. 1:21)