

Lesson 49

The Periphrastic Tenses

ἦσαν δὲ προσκαρτεροῦντες τῇ διδαχῇ τῶν ἀποστόλων.

And they were continuing steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles. Acts 2:42

391. The Periphrastic Tenses. Six tenses in Greek may be formed in a longer way (“to speak in a round about way.” cf. circumlocution from the Latin) than the ordinary construction by the use of the participle and a form of the verb εἰμί. These are called periphrastic formations. Compare the English simple past, I ran, and the periphrastic, I am running. The voice depends on the voice of the participle used.

The following are these tenses with their formations:

a. With the present participle:

The Periphrastic Present: The present of εἰμί with the present participle.
εἶμι ποιῶν, I am doing (means the same as ποιῶ)

The Periphrastic Future: The future of εἰμί and the present participle.
ἔσομαι ποιῶν, I shall do (equals ποιήσω)

The Periphrastic Imperfect: The imperfect of εἰμί and the present participle.
ἦν ποιῶν, I was doing (equals ἐποίουν)

b. With the perfect participle:

The Periphrastic Perfect: The perfect participle and the present of εἰμί.
εἶμι πεποιήκως, I had done (equals πεποίηκα)

The Periphrastic Pluperfect: The perfect participle and the imperfect of εἰμί.
ἦμην πεποιήκως, I had done (equals πεποίηκειν)

The Periphrastic Future Perfect: The perfect participle and the future of εἰμί.
ἔσομαι πεποιήκως, I shall have done (only way formed)

392. The Use of the Periphrastic Tenses. There is in general no difference between the periphrastic tenses and the tenses formed in the usual way. Many grammarians suggest that the periphrastic constructions are more emphatic than the regular formations. Especially is this true of the tenses which express linear action; e.g., Galatians 1:22, ἤμην δὲ ἀγνοούμενος was unknown (Continued to be unknown)

393. Vocabulary.

άλυσις, εως, ή, a chain
 γωνία, ας, ή, corner
 ενώπιον, before
 κλίνη, ης, ή, bed, pallet
 λανθάνω, I escape notice of
I do something secretly

μεταξύ, Adverb of time or place, between
 μισέω, I hate (misanthrope)
 πράσσω, ξω, πεπραχα, πέπραγμα, I do
 πυνθάνομαι, I learn, learn by inquiry

394. Exercises.I. Text A.

δώσω σοι τὰς κλειδὰς (κλείς, κλειδός, ή, key) τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν καὶ ὁ ἐὰν δῆσης ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἔσται δεδεμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, καὶ ὁ ἐὰν λύσης ἐπὶ γῆς ἔσται δεδεμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, καὶ ὁ ἐὰν λύσης ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἔσται λελυμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. τότε ἐπετίμησεν τοῖς μαθηταῖς ἵνα μηδενὶ εἰπωσιν ὅτι αὐτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός. Mt. 16:19.

αὐτὸς δὲ ἦν ὑποχωρῶν (ὑποχωρέω, retire). ἐν ταῖς ἐρήμοις καὶ προσευχόμενος. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν μιᾷ τῶν ἡμερῶν καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν διδάσκων καὶ ἦσαν καθήμενοι Φαρισαῖοι καὶ νομοσδιδάσκαλοι (lawyers) οἱ ἦσαν ἐληλυθότες ἐκ πάσης κώμης τῆς Γαλιλαίας καὶ Ἰουδαίας καὶ Ἱερουσαλήμ· καὶ δύναμις κυρίου ἦν εἰς τὸ ἰᾶσθαι αὐτούς. καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἄνδρες φέροντες ἐπὶ κλίνης ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν παραλελυμένος (παραλύω, I loose from, passive I am paralyzed) καὶ ἐζήτουν αὐτὸν εἰσενεγκεῖν καὶ θείνα αὐτὸν ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ. Luke 5:16-18

II. Text B.

1. λανθάνειν γὰρ αὐτὸν τι τούτων οὐ πείθομαι οὐδένι οὐ γὰρ ἔστιν ἐν γωνία πεπραγμένον τοῦτο.
2. ἦν διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς.
3. ἐληλύθει προσκυνήσων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἦν δὲ ὑποστρέφων καὶ καθήμενος ἐπὶ ἄρματος (ἄρμα, -ματος, το, chariot) αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀνεγίνωσεν τὸν προφήτην Ἡσαϊάν.
4. τῆ νυκτὶ ἐκείνη ὁ Πέτρος κοιμώμενος μεταξύ δύο στρατιωτῶν, δεδεμένος ἀλύσειν δυοῖ, φυλακές τε πρὸ τῆς θύρας ἐτήρουν τὴν φυλακὴν. Acts 12:6b
5. καὶ ἔσεσθε μισούμενοι ὑπὸ πάντων διὰ τὸ ὄνομά μου.
6. ἐπυνθάνετο τίς εἶη καὶ τί ἔστιν πεποικώς.

7. γίνου γρηγορῶν καὶ στήρισον τὰ λοιπὰ ἃ ἔμελλον ἀποθανεῖν.
8. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εἶναι αὐτὸν ἐν τόπῳ τινὶ προσευχόμενον, ὡς ἐπαύσαο, εἶπεν τις τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ πρὸς αὐτόν. κύριε, δίδαξον ἡμᾶς προσεύχεσθαι. (Luke 11:1)

III. Translate; (Use periphrastics where possible):

1. Jesus was going about through the land and he was teaching and healing in their synagogues.
2. The Lord said that the disciples would be hated by all because of his name.
3. Paul did not believe that these things had been done in corners.
4. A man who had been paralyzed was brought to Jesus on a bed.
5. What the apostles loosed upon earth will be loosed in heaven.

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