

LESSON IV

4.1 Introduction

We continue with the verb 'to be'. We give you examples of the forms of the simple past tense of εἶμι- I am. The simple past tense denotes an ongoing action or state, in contradiction to the other past tense in Greek: the aorist. The aorist will be dealt with later. The Greek imperfect tense can be translated as the English simple past tense. But often should be translated as a continuous past tense, e.g. 'I was loosening the donkey.'

4.2 Examples from the New Testament with forms of the imperfect (simple past tense) of εἶμι- I am

ἐν φυλακῇ ἤμην	I was in prison. (Mat. 25. 36)	φυλακῇ-3rd c. sin. f. φυλακῇ (f.)- prison, ἤμην- 1st p. sin. simple p.t. < εἶμι- I am
ἐπὶ ὀλίγα ἦς πιστός	You were faithful over (a) few (things) . (Mat. 25. 21)	ἐπι-over, ὀλίγα- 4th c. pl. n. < ὀλίγος- few (used as a noun); ἦς (sometimes ἦσθα)- 2nd p. sin. simple p.t. < εἶμι- ik ben, πιστός-faithful, believing
ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος	In the beginning was the Word (John 1. 1)	ἐν- (+ 3rd c.) in, ἀρχῇ-3rd c. sin. < ἀρχῇ- beginning, ἦν- 3rd p. sin. simple p.t. < εἶμι- I am, λόγος (m.)-word, speech
ἤμεθα ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ	We were in the ship . (Acts. 27. 37)	ἤμεθα (sometimes ἤμεν)- 1st p. pl. simple past t. < εἶμι- I am, πλοίῳ- 3rd c. sin. < πλοῖον (n.)- ship
γὰρ δούλοι ἦτε	For you were slaves. (Rom. 6. 20)	δούλοι-1st c. pl. < δούλος (m.)- slave, γὰρ-for, ἦτε- 2nd p. pl. simple past t. < εἶμι- I am
ἦσαν γὰρ ἄλιεις	For they were fishermen. (Mark 1. 16)	ἦσαν- 3rd p. pl. simple p.t. < εἶμι- I am, ἄλιεις-1st c. pl. < ἄλιευς (m.)- fisherman

We put the forms of the past tense of the verb 'to be' in a row for you.

ἤμην	ἤμεν / ἤμεθα
ἦς / ἦσθα	ἦτε
ἦν	ἦσαν

4.3 More sentences.

We give you a few more sentences with forms of the present and past tense of εἶμι. These forms occur regularly. It is important, therefore, that you can recognise them!

ἦν δε νυξ	And it was night. (John 13. 30)	δε- and, but (just like γαρ it is usually as the second word in a written sentence), νυξ (f.)- night
πιστος ἔστιν και δικαιος	He is faithful and just. (1 John 1. 9)	και- and, δικαιος - just
φοβος οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν τη ἀγαπη	In love there is no fear. (1 John 4. 18)	φοβος (m.)- fear, οὐκ- not, no(ne) (before a consonant οὐ), ἀγαπη-3rd c. sin. < ἀγαπη (f.)- love
που ἔστιν ὁ βασιλευς;	Where is the King? (Mat. 2. 2)	που- where?, βασιλευς - king. N.B. ; in Greek is ? in English.

4. 4 Homework

We give you now short sentences with forms of the past tense of εἶμι to translate. We want to emphasize again that all sentences we offer you have been derived from the New Testament. In this way you will be able to increase your knowledge of New Testament Greek as quickly as possible!

1. ἦν ἐν τῷ πλοιῷ.
2. ἦμεθα τεκνα.
3. ἑπτα ἀδελφοὶ ἦσαν.
4. ἦν ἡ μητηρ ἔκει.
5. ἦσαν γαρ σκηνοποιοὶ.
6. ὑμεῖς δε δυνατοὶ ἦτε.
7. ξενος ἦμην.
8. ἐν τῷ κοσμῷ ἦν.
9. ἦμεν νηπιοὶ.
10. ψυχρος εἶ.

ἑπτα- seven (is not inflected!), ἔκει- there, σκηνοποιοὶ- 1st c. pl. < σκηνοποιος (m.)- tent maker, δυνατος- powerful, mighty, ξενος (m.)- stranger, νηπιος- young, immature, ψυχρος- cold, μητηρ - mother

4.5 New words

We repeat the words used. Learn them well!

φυλακη (f.)	- prison
ἐπι	- (+ 4th case) over, towards, in connection with
ὀλιγος	- few, little

ὀλιγα	- few things
ἀρχη (f.)	- beginning
λογος (m.)	- word, speech
πλοιον (n.)	- ship
γαρ	- for
δουλος (m.)	- slave, servant
ἄλιευς (m.)	- fisherman (plural ἄλιεις)
δε	- and, but
νυξ (f.)	- night
και	- and, also
δικαιος	- (adjective) just
φοβος (m.)	- fear, fright
οὐκ	- not (before a consonant οὐ)
που	- where?
βασιλευς (m.)	- king
ἑπτα	- seven (never inflected)
ἐκει	- (adverb) there
σκηνοποιος (m.)	- tent maker
δυνατος	- (adjective) mighty, powerful
ξενος (m.)	- stranger
νηπιος	- (adjective) young, immature
ψυχρος	- (adjective) cold
μητηρ	- mother

4.6 The Background of the New Testament: Governors

We want to pay attention now to the governors that played a role in the New Testament.

Quirinius, governor of the province of Syria, is mentioned once: Luke 2. 2. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, from 26 to 36 A.D. He is mentioned fifty-five times in connection with the condemnation of Christ. Antonius Felix was governor of Judea from 51 to 58. Mention is made of him in Acts 23 and 24. This Felix was married to a Jewish woman, Drusilla (Acts 24. 24).

The successor of Felix was Festus. He is named in Acts 24 and 25. Felix had left Paul the apostle imprisoned at the end of his term of government and therefore Paul had to appear in front of Festus. At that occasion he appealed to Caesar (Acts 25. 11). Somebody that appealed to Caesar had the right to travel to Rome and to have his case brought before the emperor.

Little further is known about these governors. Therefore we want to discuss shortly another person we find in Acts 25 (and 26): king Agrippa. This was Agrippa II, the son of Herod Agrippa (Acts 12. 1- 23). In 41- 44 Herod Agrippa governed a great stretch of Jewish land (Judea, Galilee, Samaria, Iturea and Trachonitis). His son Agrippa II lost Judea, Samaria and western Galilee rather quickly. These parts came under direct Roman sovereignty. Agrippa II did remain king over Iturea and Trachonitis.

NOTES:

