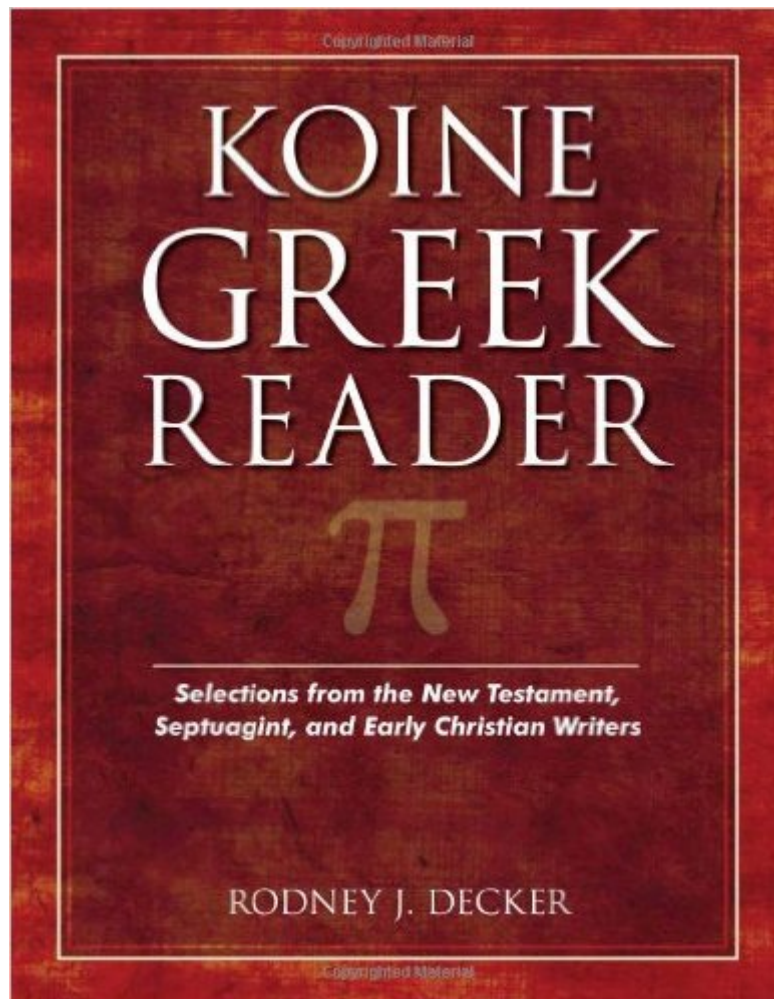


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Koine Greek Reader: Selections From The New Testament, Septuagint, And Early Christian Writers



Synopsis

Providing graded readings in Koine Greek from the New Testament, Septuagint, Apostolic Fathers, and early creeds, this unique text integrates the full range of materials needed by intermediate Greek students. Its many features include four helpful vocabulary lists, numerous references to other resources, assorted translation helps, a review of basic grammar and syntax, and an introduction to BDAG "the standard Greek lexicon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is not only the only (so far as I know) true 'koine' reader, it is also among the best 'readers' available. Decker, along with Mounce BBG, has mastered the art of inductive language teaching. The student learns the material by immersing him/herself into it and appropriate help is given as need along the way. This allows the student to stretch his/her own knowledge and confirm or correct his/her current understanding of the grammar. Several features make this book shine above the rest, though: 1) it is a true Koine reader, meaning the student will learn some NT text, some LXX text and some early christian texts. As someone said on the B-Greek forum, learning the span of koine, rather than simply translating the NT will make the student more adept at analyzing the language itself and less dependent on his/her background knowledge of english translations. 2) Vocab lists. This book is truly made for the student and the classroom. The various vocab assignments before each section will help the student incrementally develop his/her vocabulary beyond the 50x range. Especially helpful in this regard is appendix H which lists all the words that

occur in the LXX more than 50x but less than 25x in the NT. By mastering this list, the student will be able to feel comfortable reading the LXX and becoming familiar with its lexical and grammatical features. To paraphrase what someone famous said "Sell every commentary you own if you have to in order to buy a copy of the LXX and put it to use."³) helpful grammar review. While Wallace's Grammar is superb and full of examples, the best way to master grammatical concepts is to read the text and see them in use.

Students of a foreign language need practice - and not just practice on the same author, but from different authors, different contexts, different texts. One has to mix it up a little to stretch and thereby learn more. Inside this book, you'll find a wide range of reading related to the study of New Testament Greek which enable a student in Koine Greek to do just that. This book is an inductive learning tool, geared to the intermediate, or second year, student, and should serve to help her to stretch her linguistic skills. The student is met first with a quote from Ulrich Zwingli on the personal study of Greek. The tone is thus set in that Decker is not merely concocting a book on the study of the New Testament in its original languages, but is building a book to enable the student to actually read the Sacred Writings, as Zwingli puts it. To do so, the author has selected writings from the New Testament, covering the Gospels, several of the Epistles, and the book of Revelation, in the first part. Part II focuses on the Septuagint, the Apostolic Fathers and the Early Creeds. The Septuagint includes readings from the Torah with several readings from the Psalms, Histories and Prophets. The Apostolic Fathers includes samples from Ignatius, the Didache, 1 Clement and Hermes. The Creeds include the Apostles', Nicene and the Constantinopolitan, as well as the Chalcedonian. My only issue here, and it is a minute issue given the wide range of authors and (con)texts which Decker has made available to us, is that the Creeds do not include some of the pre-Nicene creeds, even as supplemental readings. Granted, this is only from someone interesting in the early theology of the Church, and not really as a critic overall.

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