

An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek

G. K. Beale, Daniel J. Brendsel, and William A. Ross. *An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek: Analysis of Prepositions, Adverbs, Particles, Relative Pronouns, and Conjunctions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. 96 pp. \$15.99. Paperback. ISBN: 9780310494119.

I remember sitting in my first-semester Greek class twenty years ago when the professor turned ominously to the class and declared, “Today we start learning those *expletive* prepositions.” At the time, I laughed, partially because everyone else did, partially because he had literally said “expletive,” and partially because I got the idea that the next few lessons were going to be grueling. Over the next few semesters, I came to better understand his joke as I saw how much the argument of Greek texts hinged upon prepositions and other small, malleable words that we often take for granted. Those small words necessitate a narrowly focused book like *An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek*.

The authors of *An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek* are well-qualified to write such a book. G. K. Beale is a respected New Testament scholar who holds the J. Gresham Machen chair of New Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary and is the author of fifteen books in his field. Daniel J. Brendsel holds a PhD. from Wheaton College and is the author of *“Isaiah Saw His Glory”: The Use of Isaiah 52–53 in John 12*. William A. Ross is a doctoral candidate at Cambridge University whose doctoral work focuses on lexical semantics in the Septuagint.

An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek is a quick-and-dirty reference work. It is a small book — nearly pamphlet sized — designed to help translators of New Testament Greek understand how prepositions, adverbs, particles, relative pronouns, and conjunctions contribute to the logical flow of phrases in Greek texts. Like any lexicon, this work provides definitions for the included terms, but the strength of this work is that it also provides help for interpreting the logical and semantic relationships between clauses. A chart at the beginning of the book maps out the various possible logical relationships that the terms included in the book might indicate, and includes abbreviations used throughout the book as well as the abbreviations used on the website BibleArc.com. The book is heavily dependent upon four other standard Greek reference works — *BAGD*, *BDAG*, Daniel Wallace’s *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, and Murray J. Harris’s *Prepositions and Theology in the Greek New Testament*. Each entry includes relevant information for the term included in each of these standard reference works. Consider it a companion to these other volumes rather than a replacement for them. The scope of this book is narrow and selective. *An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek* does not treat every preposition, article, adverb, conjunction, and relative pronoun in the Greek New Testament; rather, the authors focused on the most commonly occurring words.

An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek is reminiscent of a couple of other small helpful tools designed to aid in translation — Sakae Kubo’s *A Reader’s Greek-English Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, and Maximilian Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor’s *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament*. Even though these types of works are largely derivative, they deserve consideration for the reference collection of any library that supports the teaching of New Testament Greek. If the teaching of Greek at your institution involves semantic diagramming, *An Interpretive Lexicon of New Testament Greek* may be especially fitting for your collection. In addition, this work should pair especially well with electronic tools that allow users to trace the thought structure of the biblical text — tools like BibleWorks, Logos, Accordance, and BibleArc.com.

Jason Fowler
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina