

*Starting with NT Greek*  
(Nashville, TN: B&H, 2020)

Benjamin L. Merkle  
Robert L. Plummer

## The Alphabet

### Chapter 1

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
α	A	<b>Alpha</b>	“ah” as in <b>f</b> ather
β	B	<b>Beta</b>	“b” as in <b>b</b> all
γ	Γ	<b>Gamma</b>	“g” as in <b>g</b> ift
δ	Δ	<b>Delta</b>	“d” as in <b>d</b> og

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
ε	E	<b>Epsilon</b>	“eh” as in <b>e</b> cho
ζ	Z	<b>Zeta</b>	“dz” as in kud <b>z</b> u
η	H	<b>Eta</b>	“ay” as in <b>a</b> te
θ	Θ	<b>Theta</b>	“th” as in <b>th</b> in

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
ι	I	<b>Iota</b>	“ee” as in <b>s</b> ki
κ	K	<b>Kappa</b>	“k” as in <b>k</b> ey
λ	Λ	<b>Lambda</b>	“l” as in <b>l</b> ock
μ	M	<b>Mu</b>	“m” as in <b>m</b> om

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
ν	N	<b>Nu</b>	“n” as in <b>n</b> ail
ξ	Ξ	<b>Xi</b>	“ks” as in <b>f</b> ox
ο	O	<b>Omicron</b>	“aw” as in <b>o</b> ften
π	Π	<b>Pi</b>	“p” as in <b>p</b> ond

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
ρ	P	<b>Rho</b>	“r” as in <b>rh</b> yme
σ/ς*	Σ	<b>Sigma</b>	“s” as in <b>s</b> and
τ	T	<b>Tau</b>	“t” as in <b>t</b> ap
υ	Υ	<b>Upsilon</b>	“oo” as in <b>bo</b> ot

\*σ is used at the beginning and middle of Greek words (σὺ, μέσον); the ς is used only at the end of the words (θεός).

## The Alphabet

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Lower Case	Upper Case	Name	Pronunciation
φ	Φ	<b>Phi</b>	“ph” as in <b>ph</b> one
χ	X	<b>Chi</b>	“ch” as in <b>ach</b> e
ψ	Ψ	<b>Psi</b>	“ps” as in <b>oo</b> ps
ω	Ω	<b>Omega</b>	“ōh” as in <b>ob</b> ey

## Pronunciation

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Lower Case	Pronunciation
γγ	“ng” as in <b>ring</b>
γκ	“ngk” as in <b>drin</b> k
γκ	“ngch” as in <b>drin</b> k
ἄγγελος	<b>an-ge-los</b>

## Pronunciation

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Pay Attention

Some letters are easy to confuse with others:

γ → ν	ο → σ
ζ → ξ	π → τ
θ → φ	φ → ψ
ν → υ	

## Pronunciation

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Pay Attention

Some Greek letters resemble letters in the English alphabet:

η → n	υ → v
ν → v	χ → x
ρ → p	ω → w

## Vowels

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Short	Long	Short/Long
ε →	η ←	α
ο →	ω ←	ι
		υ

## Vowels

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Iota Subscript

When following a long vowel, an iota is written underneath and is not pronounced.

α	“ah”	καρδία
η	“ay”	ἀγάπη
ω	“oh”	λόγω

## Diphthongs

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Definition

Two vowels  
that are pronounced as  
one sound.

## Diphthongs

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Lower Case Pronunciation

αι	“eye” as in aisle
αυ	“ow” as in kraut
ει	“ay” as in freight
ευ	“yew” as in feud
οι	“oi” as in oil
ου	“oo” as in soup
υι	“we” as in suite

## Diphthongs

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Diaeresis

Placed over the second vowel of a diphthong signifying that the two vowels are pronounced separately.

αῖ	“ah-ee”	Καῖν = Kah-een
ωῦ	“ō-oo”	Μωϋσῆς = Mō-oo-seys
ιη	“ee-ay→yea”	Ἰησοῦς = Yea-soós

## Breathing Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

Greek words that start with a vowel always have a “breathing mark” indicating whether an “h” is added to the vowel or not.

Smooth breathing mark: ᾱ (“ah”)

Rough breathing mark: ᾶ (“hah”)

Exception: Rho (ρ) is the only consonant that regularly takes a (rough) breathing mark. Also, if a word begins with a diphthong, the breathing mark appears over the second letter (αῖμα).

## Breathing Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

ἁμαρτία	hah-mar-teé-ah	sin
ἑπτά	hep-táh	seven
ἡμέρα	hey-mér-ah	day
ὁδός	hah-dós	way/road
ὕδωρ	hoó-dōr	water
ὡσαννά	hō-san-náh	hosanna
ῥῆμα	ráh-mah	word

## Accent Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

acute  
grave\*  
circumflex

\* Pronounced "grave" like the pale purple color "mauve."

## Accent Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Syllables

Acute (´) – last 3 syllables  
Circumflex (˘) – last 2 syllables (long)  
Grave (̀) – last syllable only

antepenult penult ultima  
ἀν- θρω- πος

## Accent Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Syllables

Acute – last 3 syllables  
Circumflex – last 2 syllables (long)  
Grave – last syllable only

In general, if the ultima becomes long, the accent cannot be on the antepenult (ἄνθρωπος → ἀνθρώπων)

## Punctuation Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Early New Testament manuscripts were written in all capital letters, with no spaces between words and no punctuation!

ΕΝΑΡΧΗΗΝΟΛΟΓΟΣΚΑΙΟΛΟΓΟΣΗΝ  
ΠΡΟΣΤΟΝΘΕΟΝΚΑΙΘΕΟΣΗΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ

## Punctuation Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος



This is a page from the Chester Beatty papyri (p46). You are looking at the first page of Hebrews!

## Punctuation Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

ΕΝΑΡΧΗΗΝΟΛΟΓΟΣΚΑΙΟΛΟΓΟΣΗΝ  
ΠΡΟΣΤΟΝΘΕΟΝΚΑΙΘΕΟΣΗΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

Modern Greek NTs do not capitalize the first word of each sentence. Capitalization only occurs (1) in the title of NT books (every letter capitalized), (2) proper names, (3) direct quotations, and (4) words that begin a new paragraph.

## Punctuation Marks

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Modern Punctuation Marks

- . **α.** period (.)
- , **α,** comma (,)
- **α·** semicolon (;)
- ;  
; **α;** question mark (?)

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

- ἀγάπη, ἡ, love
- γῆ, ἡ, earth, land, ground (geology)
- ζωή, ἡ, life (zoo, zoology)
- φωνή, ἡ, voice, sound (phonetics,  
phonograph, phone)
- ἀλήθεια, ἡ, truth

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

- ἁμαρτία, ἡ, sin (hamartiology)
- βασιλεία, ἡ, kingdom, reign (basilica)
- δόξα, ἡ, glory, majesty (doxology)
- ἐκκλησία, ἡ, congregation, assembly,  
church (ecclesiastical)
- ἡμέρα, ἡ, day (ephemeral, “for a day”)

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

- καρδιά, ἡ, heart (cardiologist)
- δέ, and, but, now
- καί, and, even, also
- μέν, on the one hand, indeed
- ὁ, ἡ, τό, the