

Chapter 34

Nouns of the Third Declension Part 1 - Nominative, Vocative, and Genitive

34.1 In earlier chapters we met the nouns and adjectives of the First and Second Declensions, which comprise the majority of Greek nouns and adjectives. All nouns which do not belong to the First or Second Declension are classified as Third Declension - they are a relatively small group, with a variety of endings. They may be further subdivided into smaller families which follow various patterns of endings. One of the characteristics of the Third Declension is that the Nominative Singular can not be used to determine the stem of the noun. The Nominative Singular is often different, and the real stem is found by going to the Genitive Singular. For this reason, Third Declension nouns are listed in dictionaries in the form Nominative Singular, Genitive Singular, gender. e.g. *πατηρ, πατρος, ὁ* - father.

34.2 In previous chapters we have met the most frequent Third Declension nouns, but only in the Nominative singular. In this chapter we will add the Nominative plural, and the Genitive singular and plural. A glance at the Vocabulary list for this chapter shows that, although the forms of the Nominative are variable, the Genitive singulars end in *-ος* or *-ως* or *-ους*. A closer look shows that the nouns can be put into several groups with similar endings.

The stem of a Third Declension noun is found by removing the *-ος* from the Genitive singular

34.3 Third Declension Families of Masculine and Feminine Nouns

The following table gives examples of the families of Third Declension nouns found in the New Testament. Focus on the similarities rather than the differences between the groups.

	Genitive singular <i>-ος</i>	Nominative plural <i>-ες</i>	Genitive plural <i>-ων</i>		
Changes in the endings are caused by "hidden vowels" such as <i>ι</i> or <i>υ</i> endings of the stem, which modify the normal <i>-ος</i> of the Genitive singular, and the <i>-ες</i> of the Nominative plural.					
	Singular	Plural		English	
stem ends in	Nominative	Genitive	Nominative	Genitive	
liquid, <i>-ερ</i>	ὁ ἀστήρ	ἀστέρος	ἀστερες	ἀστερων	star
liquid, <i>-ρ</i>	ὁ πατήρ	πατρός	πατερες	πατερων	father
<i>-οντ</i>	ὁ ἄρχων	ἀρχοντος	ἀρχοντες	ἀρχοντων	ruler
nasal, <i>-ν</i>	ὁ αἰών	αἰῶνος	αἰῶνες	αἰῶνων	age
guttural, <i>-γ, -κ, -χ</i>	ἡ γυνή	γυναϊκός	γυναῖκες	γυναικων	woman
	ἡ θρίξ	τριχός	τριχες	τριχων	hair
labial, <i>-β, π, -φ</i>	ὁ Αἰθίοψ	Αἰθίοπος	Αἰθίοπες	Αἰθίοπων	Ethiopian
dental, <i>-δ, -τ, -θ</i>	ἡ ἐλπίς	ἐλπίδος	ἐλπίδες	ἐλπίδων	hope
	ὁ ἢ παις	παιδος	παιδες	παιδων	lad, lass
<i>-υ</i>	ὁ ἰχθύς	ἰχθύος	ἰχθυες	ἰχθυων	fish
<i>-ι</i> change to <i>-εως</i>	ἡ πόλις	πόλεως	πολεις	πολεων	city
<i>-ευ</i> change to <i>-εως</i>	ὁ βασιλεύς	βασιλέως	βασιλεῖς	βασιλεων	king
<i>-ου</i>	ὁ ἢ βους	βοός	βόες	βοῶν	bull, cow

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἀστὴρ γὰρ ἀστεροσ διαφερει ἐν δοξῇ. For star differs from star in glory. (*1 Cor. 15:41*)
2. καὶ ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν
τοῦ ἀρχοντος. And Jesus came into
the ruler's house. (*see Matt. 9:23*)
3. καὶ ἶδου ἄνηρ Αἰθιοψ εὐνουχος
δυναστησ Κανδακης
βασιλισσης Αἰθιοπων. Look - a man, an Ethiopian, a eunuch,
a high official of Kandace,
Queen of the Ethiopians. (*Acts 8:27*)

4. χαρις ὑμιν και ειρηνη ἀπο θεου πατρος ἡμων και κυριου Ἰησου Χριστου.	Grace and peace (be) to you from God our Father and (from) the Lord Jesus Christ. (<i>Romans 1:7</i>)
5. οἱ ὄχλοι ἠκολουθησαν αὐτῷ ἀπο των πολεων.	The crowds followed him from the cities. (<i>see Matt. 14:13</i>)
6. ἐξεπορευοντο ἐξω της πολεως.	And they went outside the city. (<i>Mark 11:19</i>)
7. νυνι δε μενει πιστις, ἐλπις, ἀγαπη . . . μειζων δε τουτων ἡ ἀγαπη.	Now there remain faith, hope, love . . . and the greatest of these is love. (<i>1 Cor. 13:13</i>)
8. συ εἶ ὁ βασιλευς των Ἰουδαιων ;	Are you the king of the Jews? (<i>Matt. 27:11</i>)
9. Ὡς ὠραιοι οἱ ποδες των εὐαγγελιζομενων τα ἀγαθα.	How beautiful (are) the feet of those announcing (the) good things. (<i>Rom. 10:15</i>)
10. οὗτοι μετα του ἀρνιου πολεμησουσιν, και το ἀρνιον νικησει αὐτους, ὅτι κυριος κυριων ἐστιν και βασιλευς βασιλεων.	They (these) will fight against the Lamb and the Lamb will conquer them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings. (<i>Rev. 17:14</i>)

34.4 Third Declension Families of Neuter Nouns

Neuter Nouns always have the same endings for Nominative-Vocative and Accusative Singular, and usually an -α for Nominative-Vocative and Accusative Plural.

Stems ending in -ας drop the sigma and contract with the vowels of the endings. The Genitive -ος ending becomes -ους, the Nominative/Accusative -α ending becomes -η.

stem ends in	Singular		Plural		English
	Nom/Voc/Acc	Genitive	Nom/Voc/Acc	Genitive	
-τ	το σῶμα	σῶματος	σῶματα	σῶματων	body
	το ὕδωρ	ὑδατος	ὑδάτα	ὑδάτων	water
	το φῶς	φωτός	φωτα	φωτων	light
sigma -ας, -ές, -ος	το γένος	γένους	γενη	γενων	family
"one of a kind"	το πῦρ	πυρός	πυρα	πυρων	fire

Practice - until you can read and translate easily :

1. οὐ . . . ὁ λεγων μοι, Κυριε, κυριε, εἰσελευσεται εἰς την βασιλειαν των οὐρανων, ἀλλ' ὁ ποιων το θελημα του πατρος μου ἐν τοις οὐρανοις.	Not the one saying to me "Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father in the heavens. (<i>Matt. 7:21</i>)
2. οἱ ἀρχοντες των ἐθνων κατακυριεuousιν αὐτων.	The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them (<i>Matt. 20:25</i>)
3. αὐτος δε ὁ Ἰωαννης εἶχεν το ἐνδυμα αὐτου ἀπο τριχων καμηλου.	John himself had (his) clothing of camel's hair(s). (<i>Matt. 3:4</i>)
4. και αἱ πολεις των ἐθνων ἐπεσαν.	And the cities of the Gentiles fell. (<i>Rev. 16:19</i>)
5. Ὑμεις δε ἐστε σωμα Χριστου και μελη ἐκ μερους.	You are the body of Christ and parts individually. (<i>1 Cor. 12:27</i>)
6. και ὁ τριτος (ἀγγελος) ἐξεχεεν την φιαλην αὐτου εἰς τους ποταμους και τας πηγας ὑδατων.	And the third (<i>angel</i>) poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters. (<i>Rev. 16:4</i>)
7. πολλακις γαρ πιπτει εἰς το πυρ και πολλακις εἰς το ὕδωρ.	For he often falls into the fire and often into the water. (<i>Matt. 17:15</i>)
8. οἱ δε ὀφθαλμοι αὐτου ὡς φλοξ πυρος.	His eyes (were) like a flame of fire. (<i>Rev. 19:12</i>)
9. Ὑμεις ἐστε το φως του κοσμου.	You are the light of the world. (<i>Matt. 5:14</i>)

10. και δώσω τερατα ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἄνω And I will give wonders in heaven above
 και σημεια ἐπι της γης κατω, and signs on the earth below,
 αίμα και πυρ και ἀτμιδα καπνου. blood and fire and clouds of smoke. (Acts 2:19)

34.5 The Vocative

Nouns of the ἄνηρ and πατήρ family have a shortened vowel in the Vocative singular.

Nouns of the βασιλευς -εως family, and those with stems ending in a dental (ἔλπις -ιδος family) or guttural, are reduced to the bare stem in the vocative singular.

Most other families of Third Declension Nouns are identical in the Nominative and Vocative singulars.

Vocative plurals are always identical in form to the Nominative plural.

NOTE : Because the Definite Article has no Vocative form, if there is a Definite Article with the word, both of them will use the Nominative.

Singular Nominative	ἄνηρ	πατήρ	γυνή	βασιλευς	ἐλπις	βους	παις	ἰχθυς
Vocative	ἄνερ	πατερ	γυναί	βασιλευ	ἐλπι	βου	παι	ἰχθυ

Practice - until you can read and translate easily :

- αἱ γυναῖκες εἶπον, Ἄνερ ἀπίστε, ὑπάγε. The women said, "Faithless man - go away!"
- οἱ ἱερεῖς εἶπον, The priests said,
 Γυναί, που ἐστὶν ὁ ἄνηρ σου ; "Woman, where is your husband?"
- Χαιρε, βασιλευ των Ἰουδαιων. Hail, King of the Jews. (Matt. 27:29)
- πιστευεις, βασιλευ Ἀγριππα, King Agrippa, do you believe
 τοις προφηταις ; (in) the prophets? (Acts 26:27)
- πορευσομαι προς τον πατερα μου I will go to my father
 και ἐρω αὐτῷ, Πατερ, ἡμαρτον and I will say to him, "Father, I sinned
 εἰς τον οὐρανον και ἐνώπιον σου. against heaven and before you." (Luke 15:18)
 (πατερα is the Accusative singular of πατήρ)
- και ὁ Ἰησους ἐλεγεν, Αββα ὁ πατήρ. And Jesus was saying, "Abba, Father."
 (see Note above re. the Definite Article) (see Mark 14:36)
- ἐν ἐκείνῳ τῷ καιρῷ . . . ὁ Ἰησους At that time . . . Jesus said,
 εἶπεν, Ἐξομολογουμαι σοι, πατερ, "I give thanks to you, Father,
 κυριε του οὐρανου και της γης. Lord of heaven and earth. (Matt. 11:25)
- και λεγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησους, And Jesus said (says) to her,
 Τί ἐμοι και σοι, γυναί ; "What (is that) to me and you, ma'am? (John 2:4)
- ὁ Παυλος ἐκραζεν ἐν τῷ συνεδριῷ, Paul was crying out in the Sanhedrin,
 Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοι, ἐγὼ Φαρισαιος εἰμι, "Guys, brothers, I am a Pharisee,
 υἱος Φαρισαιων· περι ἐλπιδος και a son of Pharisees. I am being judged about the hope
 ἀναστασεως νεκρων κρινομαι. and the resurrection of the dead. (Acts 23:6)
- ὁ Ἰησους εἶπεν αὐτῇ, Θαρσει, θυγατήρ, Jesus said to her, "Take heart, daughter,
 ἡ πιστις σου σωζει σε. your faith saves you." (see Matt. 9:22)

34.6 Sentences for reading and translation

- ὁ θεος σωζει ἡμας ἐκ χειρος των ἐχθρων ἡμων.
- θελομεν ποιειν το θελημα του πατρος.
- αἱ μητερες ἡμων ἀναγινωσκουσιν το βιβλιον του Μωϋσεως.
- και ἦλθον οἱ μαθηται αὐτου, και ἐθαυμαζον ὅτι μετα γυναικος ἐλάλει. (John 4:27)
- λεγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησους, Πιστευε μοι, γυναί, ὅτι ἐρχεται ὥρα ὅτε οὔτε ἐν τῷ
 ὄρει τουτω οὔτε ἐν Ἱεροσολυμοις προσκυνησετε τῷ πατρι. (John 4:21)
 (ὄρει is the Dative singular of τὸ ὄρος - mountain)
- ὁ πινων ἐκ του ὕδατος τουτου διψησει παλι. (John 4:13)
- οὗτος ὁ νομος οὐκ ἐκ του Μωϋσεως ἐστιν ἀλλ' ἐκ των πατερων. (see John 7:22)
- οἱ ἄγγελοι βαλουσιν αὐτους εἰς την καμινον του πυρος. (see Matt. 13:42)

9. ὁ βασιλευς των Ἰουδαιων οὗτος. (Luke 23:38)
 10. αἱ γυναικες οὐχ εὔρον το σωμα του κυριου Ἰησου. (see Luke 24:3)

34.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:6)

μακαριοι οἱ πεινωντες και διψωντες Happy are the ones hungering and thirsting
 την δικαιοσυνην, (for) righteousness,
 ὅτι αὐτοι χορτασθησονται. for they shall be fed.

34.8 New Testament Passages for reading and translation : Matt. 24:29-31, 1 Cor. 15:38-41
 In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

την θλιψιν	trouble, suffering	(Accusative of ἡ θλιψις -εως - trouble)
σκοτισθησεται	will be darkened	(Future Passive of σκοτιζω - I darken)
πεσουνται	(they) will fall	(Future of πιπτω - I fall. See chapter 28)
σαλευθησονται	(they) shall be shaken	(Future Passive of σαλευω - I shake)
φανησεται	(it) will appear	(Future Passive of φαινομαι - I appear)
πασα	all	(Fem. Nominative plural of πας, πασα, παν - each, every, all)
πολλης	much	(Fem. Accusative singular of πολυς, πολλη, πολυ - much, many)
μεγαλης	great	(Feminine Accusative singular of μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα - great)
ἐπισυναξουσιν	they will gather together	(Future of ἐπισυναγω - I gather together)
τεσσαρων	four	(Genitive plural of τεσσαρες - four)
το ἄκρον	boundary, top	
ἀπ' ἄκρων . . . ἕως ἄκρων	= from one end to the other	
διδωσιν	(he) gives	(Present Indicative of διδωμι - I give)
ἠθελησεν	he wished	(Aorist of θελω - I want, wish)
πασα	all	(Fem. Nom. singular of πας, πασα, παν - each, every, all)
ὁ αὐτος, ἡ αὐτη	the same	
ἄλλη	other, another	(Fem. Nom. singular of ἄλλος, ἄλλη, ἄλλο - other)
ἐπιγεια	earthly	(from ἐπι + γη - earth)

34.9 Vocabulary to learn - Including all the Third Declension Nouns which were given in earlier vocabularies. Now learn the full entry (Nominative and Genitive singular, with gender). Do not try to learn all the words all at once. Take time, divide them into families, and learn one family at a time.

M/F, stems ending in ρ

ὁ ἀνὴρ, ἀνδρὸς	man, husband
ὁ ἀστὴρ, -έρος	star
ἡ θυγάτηρ, -τρός	daughter
ἡ μήτηρ, -τρός	mother
ὁ πατήρ, πατρός	father
ἡ χεὶρ, χειρός	hand

M/F, stems ending in -v

ὁ αἰών, -ῶνος	age
ὁ ἀμπελών, -ῶνος	vineyard

M/F, stems ending in -οντ

ὁ ἄρχων, -οντος	ruler
ὁ δράκων, -οντος	dragon

M/F, stems ending in labial

ὁ Αἰθίοψ, Αἰθίοπος	Ethiopian
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M/F, stems ending in guttural

ἡ γυνή, -αικός	woman, wife, lady
ἡ θρίξ, τριχός	hair
ἡ σάλπιγξ, σάλπιγγος	trumpet
ἡ σὰρξ, σὰρκος	flesh, meat
ἡ φλόξ, φλογός	flame

M/F, stems ending in dental

ἡ ἀτμίς, ἀτμίδος	vapor, mist
ἡ ἐλπίς, ἐλπίδος	hope
ὁ ἡ παῖς, παιδός	child, servant, boy, girl
ὁ πούς, ποδός	foot
ἡ χάρις, χάριτος	grace

M/F, stems ending in -ου

ὁ ἡ βοῦς, βοός	bull, cow
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M/F, stems ending in υ

ὁ ἰχθύς, -ύος	fish
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F, stems in -ι, like πιστις

ἡ ἀνάστασις, -εως	resurrection
ἡ ἄφεσις, -έως	forgiveness, release
ἡ δύναμις, -εως	power, strength, ability
ἡ θλίψις, -εως	trouble, persecution
ἡ κρίσις, -εως	judgment
ἡ πίστις, -εως	faith
ἡ πόλις, -εως	city

(hence politics - how one runs a city)

M, stems ending in -έυ, like βασιλεύς

ὁ ἀρχιερεύς, -έως	high priest
ὁ βασιλεύς, -έως	king
ὁ γραμματεύς, -έως	scribe, lawyer, scholar
ὁ ἱερεύς, -έως	priest
ὁ Μωϋσῆς, -έως	Moses

"One of a kind" noun

το πῦρ, πυρός	fire
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N, stems end in -τ like ὄνομα

το αἷμα, -τος	blood (hence hemo-)
το ἔνδυμα, -τος	clothing
το θέλημα, -τος	wish, will
το κάλυμμα, -τος	veil
το κτήμα, -τος	possession, property
το ὄνομα, -τος	name
το ὀφείλημα, -τος	debt
το πνεῦμα, -τος	spirit, wind, breath
το σπέρμα, -τος	seed
το σῶμα, -τος	body
το τέρας, -ατος	wonder, omen
το ὕδωρ, ὕδατος	water
το φῶς, φωτός	light

N, stems end in -ας, -ές, -ος, like ἔθνος

το γένος, -ους	family, race
το ἔθνος, -ους	nation, people
τα ἔθνη	the Gentiles
το ἔτος, -ους	year
το κτήνος, -ους	farm animal
το μέλος, -ους	part, member (of body)
το μέρος, -ους	part, piece
ἐκ μέρους	in part, individually
το ὄρος, -ους	mountain, hill
το φέγγος, -ους	light

other Vocabulary to learn

κατακυριεύω	I lord it over
σαλεύω	I shake
ἡ βασίλισσα	queen
ὁ δυνάστης	ruler, high official
ὁ εὐνοῦχος	eunuch
ἡ καμινός	furnace, oven (First Declension in -ος)
ὁ καπνός	smoke
ἡ πηγή	spring, fountain, well
το πτηνόν	bird
ἡ σελήνη	moon
ἡ φυλή	tribe
ἀνω	above, up
ἄνωθεν	from above
εὐθέως	immediately, at once
πολλάκις	often
ἐκλεκτός, -η, -ον	chosen (ἐκ + καλεῶ - I call)
ἐπουράνιος, -α, -ον	heavenly
ὠραῖος, -α, -ον	beautiful, welcome