Chapter 56
_____

The Perfect Tense
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56.1 So far we have dealt with two Past Tenses of the verb -

the Imperfect, implying continuous or repeated action in the past, built upon the Present Stem,

       e.g. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ἔλεγον ὅτι . . .   The Pharisees were saying that . . . .

and the Aorist, implying single or completed action in the past, built upon the Aorist Stem.

       e.g. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι εἶπον ὅτι . . .   The Pharisees said that . . .

Now we come to the **Perfect** (I have done something)

       e.g. I have finished my homework, and here it is.

In both English and Greek, the Perfect implies that something happened in the past, with consequences or some effect on present conditions. There is a sequence of events - I finished my homework (some time ago in the past), the finished homework is here as evidence (in the present, or at the time of speaking).

Greek is a bit stronger than English in the implied effect that the Perfect has on the present state of affairs. One of the most common Greek Perfects in the New Testament is **γέγραπται = "it has been written"** (Aorist Passive of γράφω) used in reference to Scripture - it has been written (in the past), and it is still valid today.

NOTE : In many cases where the English translation uses a Perfect, the Greek original has an Aorist.

56.2 The **Perfect Indicative Active** is built upon the **Perfect Active Stem** of the verb (the **Fourth Principal Part** of the verb. For the majority of a verbs, the Perfect Active Stem is formed by a duplication of the first letter of the Present Stem, followed by an -ε-. This is referred to as "**reduplication**" - it repeats the sound of the first consonant of the stem. In the case of contract verbs, the vowel at the end of the stem is also lengthened.

	Present		Perfect Active	
I loose	λύω		λέλυκα	I have loosed

The basic pattern for the Perfect Indicative Active is

I	*P*STEM-**κα**	*P*STEM-**καμεν**	we
you (singular)	*P*STEM-**κας**	*P*STEM-**κατε**	y'all
he/she/it	*P*STEM-**κεν**	*P*STEM-**καν**	they

For λύω, this becomes

I have loosed	λέλυκα	λελύκαμεν	we have loosed
you have loosed	λέλυκας	λελύκατε	y'all have loosed
he/she/it has loosed	λέλυκεν	λέλυκαν	they have loosed

Possibilities for weirdness :

Contract verbs (including καλέω and its compounds) broaden the contract vowel.

For compound verbs, the prefix comes before the reduplication of the stem.

Verbs beginning with an aspirate are reduplicated by the smooth consonant : φ by π-, θ by τ-, χ by κ-

Verbs beginning with a vowel lengthen the vowel (as for the addition of the augment)

Verbs beginning with σ-, ζ-, ξ- merely add an augment.

Verbs beginning with γν-, many beginning with γλ-, and some beginning with βλ-, merely add an augment.

Verbs beginning with a ῥ- double the ῥ and add an ἐ- as a prefix.

Examples	Present		Perfect Active	
I honor	τιμάω	τετίμηκα	I have honored
I do, act, make	ποιέω	πεποίηκα	I have done, acted, made
I fulfil	πληρόω	πεπλήρωκα	I have made fulfilled
I love	φιλέω	πεφίληκα	I have loved

Further examples are given in the table of Principal Parts of Verbs - see Appendix D 01

Some verbs which begin with a vowel (in κοινή Greek) originally began with a consonant which had dropped out of use before the time of the New Testament. However, the Perfect had already been formed, and may be encountered in the GNT.

	originally	Present	Future	Aorist	Perfect Active
I have (I hold)	σέχω	ἔχω	ἕξω	ἔσχον	ἔσχηκα
I see	ϝοράω	ὁράω	ὄψομαι	εἶδον	ἑώρακα or ἑόρακα

ἵστημι, (I stand, put) was originally σίστημι. It will be dealt with in more detail in chapter 69.

Some verbs do not use the -κ- but have the endings -α -ας -εν -αμεν -ατε -εν directly on the stem. These are referred to as Second (or Strong) Perfects. The reduplication will indicate that they are Perfects.

e.g.	I become	γίνομαι	γέγονα	I have become
	I write	γράφω	γέγραφα	I have written
	I shout	κράζω	κέκραγα	I have shouted

NOTE : Common Perfects are listed in the table of Principal Parts of Verbs - see Appendix D 01.
They should be learned as soon as possible.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. τῇ τε γυναικὶ ἔλεγον ὅτι Οὐκέτι διὰ
    τὴν σὴν λαλιὰν πιστεύομεν,
    αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀκηκόαμεν καὶ οἴδαμεν
    ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς
    ὁ σωτὴρ τοῦ κόσμου.

    Then they were saying to the woman that
      "(It's) no longer because of your saying (that)
      we believe, for we ourselves have heard and
      we know that this one is truly
        the Savior of the world. *(John 4:42)*

    (οἴδαμεν *is perfect in form but is translated as a present = "we know", see Chapter 68)*

2. τὰ ἔργα ἃ δέδωκέν μοι ὁ πατὴρ . . .

    The works which the Father has given to me .
        (John 5:36)

3. αὐτὰ τὰ ἔργα ἃ ποιῶ μαρτυρεῖ περὶ ἐμοῦ
    ὅτι ὁ πατήρ με ἀπέσταλκεν.

    The very same works which I do testify about
      me, that the Father has sent me. *(John 5:36)*

4. καὶ ὁ πέμψας με πατὴρ ἐκεῖνος
    μεμαρτύρηκεν περὶ ἐμοῦ.

    And the Father who sent me (he)
        has born witness about me. *(John 5:37)*

    (*"The having-sent-me Father", that one has born witness . . .*)

5. οὔτε φωνὴν αὐτοῦ πώποτε ἀκηκόατε
    οὔτε εἶδος αὐτοῦ ἑωράκατε.

    You have neither heard his voice at any time
        nor have seen his appearance (form).
        (John 5:37)

6. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐπαισχύνομαι, οἶδα γὰρ ᾧ
    πεπίστευκα καὶ πέπεισμαι ὅτι δυνατός
    ἐστιν τὴν παραθήκην μου φυλάξαι
    εἰς ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν.

    But I do not feel shamed, for I know in whom
      I have believed and I am convinced that
      he is able to guard what I have entrusted
        (to him) until that Day. *(2 Tim. 1:12)*

    (ἡ παραθήκη - *"something entrusted", trust deposit, from* παρατίθημι - *I entrust*)

7. ἐγὼ φῶς εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἐλήλυθα.

    I have come (as) a light into the world.
        (John 12:46)

8. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Πιλᾶτος, Ὃ γέγραφα,
    γέγραφα.

    Pilate answered, "What I have written,
      I have written." *(John 19:22)*

9. εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Παῦλος, . . . Εἰ μὲν οὖν ἀδικῶ
    καὶ ἄξιον θανάτου πέπραχά τι,
    οὐ παραιτοῦμαι τὸ ἀποθανεῖν.

    Paul said, "If I am guilty
      and have done anything worthy of death,
      I do not decline to die. *(Acts 25:10-11)*

10. καὶ ἡμεῖς πεπιστεύκαμεν
    καὶ ἐγνώκαμεν
    ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ ἅγιος τοῦ θεοῦ.

    And we have believed (and still believe)
      and have known (and still know)
        that you are the holy (one) of God.
        (John 6:69)

56.3 The Perfect Indicative Middle and Passive are built upon the Perfect Passive Stem - which in most cases is the same, or very similar to, the Perfect Active Stem. The Perfect Middle and Perfect Passive personal endings are the same - one finds out from the rest of the sentence whether the verb is to be translated in a Middle or a Passive sense.

There is one rather weird (though logical) construction - for both the Perfect and Pluperfect Middle and Passive, the Third Person Plural uses the Perfect Participle with εἰσί(ν) (Perfect) and ἦσαν (Pluperfect). The Participle must agree (in gender) with the gender of the subject.

The basic pattern for the Perfect Indicative Active is

I	PSTEM-**μαι**	PSTEM-**μεθα**	we
you (singular)	PSTEM-**σαι**	PSTEM-**σθε**	y'all
he/she/it	PSTEM-**ται**	*P-Participle* εἰσίν	they

For λύω, this becomes

I have been loosed	λέλυμαι	λελύμεθα	we have been loosed
you have been loosed	λέλυσαι	λέλυσθε	y'all have been loosed
he/she/it has been loosed	λέλυται	λελυμένοι εἰσίν	they have been loosed

In the case of λύω, the personal endings go directly on the Perfect stem without any problems in pronunciation. However, if the verb stem ends in a consonant a short vowel sound is added to the stem for ease of pronunciation. In the Indicative, an -ο- is added before μ or ν, and an -ε- before other consonants. The vowel is referred to as the thematic, variable, or euphonic vowel. We met it, without realizing it, in the endings of the Present Middle -ομαι, -η (contracted from -εσαι), -εται, -όμεθα, -εσθε, -ονται

Possibilities for weirdness

Some verbs whose stem now ends in a short vowel, e.g. τελέω (I complete, accomplish) originally ended with a sigma, e.g. τελέω was originally τελέσω. The sigma may re-appear in the Perfect, giving τετέλεσμαι etc.   Verbs ending in a sigma will drop one sigma in the Second Person Singular (τετέλεσαι, not τετέλεσσαι)

The sigma of -σαι and -σθε combines with labials, dentals, mutes, gutturals in ways similar to the sigma of the Future and First Aorist tenses.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν, Τετέλεσται, καὶ κλίνας
   τὴν κεφαλὴν παρέδωκεν τὸ πνεῦμα.

   Jesus said, "It is finished", and having bowed
      his head he gave up the spirit. *(John 19:30)*

2. Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν . . . καὶ . . . ἐτάφη
   καὶ .. ἐγήγερται τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ
   κατὰ τὰς γραφάς.

   Christ died . ... and was buried
      and has been raised on the third day
      according to the scriptures. *(1 Cor. 15:3-4)*

3. ἀκούσαντες δὲ οἱ ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις
   ἀπόστολοι ὅτι δέδεκται ἡ Σαμάρεια
      τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, ἀπέστειλαν πρὸς
      αὐτοῦς Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην.

   The apostles in Jerusalem, having heard that
      Samaria had accepted
         the word of God, sent
            Peter and John to them. *(Acts 8:14)*

4. καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι
   Τεθέαμαι τὸ πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον ὡς
      περιστερὰν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ,
      καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐπ' αὐτόν.

   And John bore witness, saying
      "I saw (have seen) the Spirit coming down
         like a dove out of heaven
            and remaining on him. *(John 1:32)*

5. τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον
   τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα.

   I have fought the good fight, I have finished
      the race, I have kept the faith. *(2 Tim. 4:7)*

6. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι,
   Ὑμῖν δέδοται γνῶναι τὰ μυστήρια
      τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν,
      ἐκείνοις δὲ οὐ δέδοται.

   He (having answered) said to them,
   "To you it has been granted to know the
      mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, but
         to them (those) it has not been granted."
                                    (Matt. 13:11)

7. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Πάλιν γέγραπται,
    Οὐκ ἐκπειράσεις κύριον τὸν θεόν σου.

Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written,
    "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."
        (Matt. 4:7)

8. καὶ ἡμεῖς τεθεάμεθα καὶ μαρτυροῦμεν
    ὅτι ὁ πατὴρ ἀπέσταλκεν τὸν υἱὸν
    σωτῆρα τοῦ κόσμου.

We have looked upon and we bear witness
    that the Father has sent (his) Son
    (as the) savior of the world. *(1 John 4:14)*

9. ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς . . . λέγων ὅτι
    Πεπλήρωται ὁ καιρὸς καὶ ἤγγικεν
    ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ.

Jesus came . . . saying,
    The time has been fulfilled, and the kingdom
    of God has come near. *(Mark 1:14-15)*

10. οὕτως γὰρ ἐντέταλται ἡμῖν ὁ κύριος,
    Τέθεικά σε εἰς φῶς ἐθνῶν.

For in this way the Lord has commanded us,
    "I have put you as a light to the Gentiles"
    (Acts 13:47)

56.4 The Perfect Participles are built on the Perfect Stem.
    The Perfect Participle Active of λύω is λελυκώς, λελυκυῖα, λελυκός
    The Perfect Participle Middle / Passive of λύω is λελυμένος λελυμένη λελυμένον
        The participles will be dealt with in Chapter 58

56.5 The Perfect Infinitives are built on the Perfect Stem.

    The basic forms are

    Perfect Infinitive Active   *P*STEM-κέναι   e.g. λελυκέναι to have loosed
    Perfect Infinitive Middle / Passive *P*STEM-σθαι   e.g. λελύσθαι to have been loosed

    Verbs with a Second Perfect form the Perfect Infinitive Active as *P*STEM-εναι
Infinitives (particularly Perfect Infinitives) are often found in Indirect Statements (see Chapter 61), where
they take the place of the verb in the statement.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. Ἀγρίππας δὲ τῷ Φήστῳ ἔφη,
    Ἀπολελύσθαι ἐδύνατο ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος
    εἰ μὴ ἐπεκέκλητο Καίσαρα.

Agrippa said to Festus,
    "This man could have been released
    if he had not appealed to Caesar."
    (Acts 26:32)

2. λέγω γὰρ Χριστὸν διάκονον γεγενῆσθαι
    περιτομῆς ὑπὲρ ἀληθείας θεοῦ,
    εἰς τὸ βεβαιῶσαι τὰς ἐπαγγελίας
    τῶν πατέρων.

For I say that Christ has become a servant
    of the circumcision on behalf of God's truth
    in order to confirm the promises
    of (to) the fathers. *(Romans 15:8)*

3. εἴ τις δοκεῖ ἐγνωκέναι τι,
    οὔπω ἔγνω καθὼς
    δεῖ γνῶναι.

If someone supposes to know (that he knows)
    something, he has not yet (known) as
    he ought to know. *(1 Cor. 8:2)*

4. διὰ τοῦτο ὑπήντησεν αὐτῷ ὁ ὄχλος
    ὅτι ἤκουσαν τοῦτο αὐτὸν πεποιηκέναι
    τὸ σημεῖον.

Because of this, the crowd went to meet him,
    (because) they heard that he had done this
    sign (miracle). *(John 12:18)*

5. ἐγὼ δὲ κατελαβόμην μηδὲν
    ἄξιον αὐτόν θανάτου πεπραχέναι.

I found out (that) he had done nothing
    worthy of death. *(Acts 25:25)*

6. λογίζομαι γὰρ μηδὲν ὑστερηκέναι
    τῶν . . . ἀποστόλων.

I reckon (that) in nothing have I fallen short
    of the apostles. *(2 Cor. 11:5)*

7. ἐλπίζω δὲ καὶ ἐν ταῖς συνειδήσιν ὑμῶν
    πεφανερῶσθαι.

I hope (that) it has been revealed
    to your consciences also. *(2 Cor. 5:11)*

8. τοῦτο δηλοῦντος τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ ἁγίου,
    μήπω πεφανερῶσθαι
    τὴν τῶν ἁγίων ὁδόν.

The Holy Spirit makes (making) this clear
    (that) the way of (to) the sanctuary
    has not yet been revealed. *(Heb. 9:8)*

    (τὸ ἅγιον or τὰ ἅγια = *"the holy thing(s)"* = *the sanctuary*)

9. ἀδελφοί, ἐγὼ ἐμαυτὸν   Brethren, I do not reckon myself
    οὐ λογίζομαι κατειληφέναι.   to have obtained (it). *(Philip. 3:13)*

10. τίς τούτων τῶν τριῶν   Which of these three does it seem to you
    πλησίον δοκεῖ σοι γεγονέναι   became (to have become) a neighbor
    τοῦ ἐμπεσόντος εἰς τοὺς λῃστάς ;   of the one who fell to the robbers ?
                                                     (Luke 10:36)

56.6 The Perfect Imperatives

The **Perfect Imperative Active** uses a Perfect Participle with Imperatives from εἰμί .
The **Perfect Imperative Middle/Passive** uses the Perfect stem with endings similar to those of the Present Imperative Middle/Passive.

So for λύω we have

λελυκὼς ἴσθι = Be "having loosed" (singular)   λελυκὼς ἔστω = let him be having loosed
λελυκότες ἔστε = Be "having loosed" (plural)   λελυκότες ὄντων = let them be having loosed
λέλυσο = Be in a state of having been loosed (singular) λελύσθω = let him be "having been loosed"
λέλυσθε = Be in as state of having been loosed (plural) λελύσθων = let them be having been loosed

Note : ἔρρωσο (singular) or ἔρωσθε (plural), the Perfect Imperatives of ῥώννυμαι (I am healthy), were often used at the conclusion of a letter, with the meaning "farewell", "good-bye"

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. καὶ διεγερθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τῷ ἀνέμῳ καὶ   And having awakened, he rebuked the wind
    εἶπεν τῇ θαλάσσῃ, Σιώπα, πεφίμωσο.   and said to the sea, "Be calm, be silent.
                                                    (Mark 4:39)

2. ἀπέχεσθαι εἰδωλοθύτων καὶ αἵματος   Abstain from meat offered to idols, and blood,
    καὶ πνικτῶν καὶ πορνείας,   and (things that have been) strangled, and
    ἐξ ὧν διατηροῦντες ἑαυτοὺς   unchastity, from which, keeping yourselves
    εὖ πράξετε. ἔρρωσθε.   you will do well. Farewell. *(Acts 15:29)*
         (τὸ εἰδωλοθύτον = *meat offered to idols*)

56.7 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ὁ οὖν ὄχλος ὁ ἑστὼς καὶ ἀκούσας ἔλεγεν βροντὴν γεγονέναι,
    ἄλλοι δὲ ἔλεγον, Ἄγγελος αὐτῷ λελάληκεν.   *(John 12:29)*
        (ἑστώς = *"standing", Perfect Participle Active of* ἵστημι - *see Chapter 69*)

2. ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν,
    Μετανοιεῖτε, ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.   *(Matt. 4:17)*

3. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δοῦλος, Κύριε, γέγονεν ὃ ἐπέταξας.   *(Luke 14:22)*

4. εἰ δέ τις λελύπηκεν, οὐκ ἐμὲ λελύπηκεν, ἀλλὰ . . . πάντας ὑμᾶς.   *(2 Cor. 2:5)*

5. ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ Ἰησοῦς, Ἐγὼ παρρησίᾳ λελάληκα τῷ κόσμῳ.   *(John 18:20)*

6. Περιτομὴ μὲν γὰρ ὠφελεῖ ἐὰν νόμον πράσσῃς, ἐὰν δὲ παραβάτης νόμου ᾖς,
    ἡ περιτομή σου ἀκροβυστία γέγονεν.   *(Rom. 2:25)*
  (ὁ παραβάτης = *transgressor, one who disobeys a law, from* παραβαίνω = *I break, disobey*)

7. οἶδα καὶ πέπεισμαι ἐν κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ ὅτι οὐδὲν κοινὸν δι' ἑαυτοῦ. *(Rom. 14:14)*
    (οἶδα *is Perfect in form, but is translated as a Present =* "I know" - "I have learned")

8. οἴδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ἥκει καὶ δέδωκεν ἡμῖν διάνοιαν
    ἵνα γινώσκωμεν τὸν ἀληθινόν.   (*1 John 5:20)*
    (οἴδαμεν = *"we know" - see Chapter 68*   ἥκει = *"he has come, he is present"*
    τὸν ἀληθινόν = *"him who is true" - note that the* τὸν *shows that it refers to a masculine object)*

9. ὁ γὰρ εἰπών, Μὴ μοιχεύσῃς, εἶπεν καί, Μὴ φονεύσῃς,
    εἰ δὲ οὐ μοιχεύσεις, φονεύεις δέ, γέγονας παραβάτης νόμου.   *(James 2:11)*
       (ὁ παραβάτης = *transgressor, one who breaks the law)*

10. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς στραφεὶς καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν εἶπεν,
    Θάρσει, θύγατερ, ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέν σε.   *(Matt. 9:22)*

56.8 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text several times, while saying aloud :   Rev. 15:4

τίς σε οὐ μὴ φοβηθῇ, κύριε,   Who shall not fear thee, Lord,

     καὶ δοξάσει τὸ ὄνομά σου ;   and glorify thy name?

ὅτι μόνος ὅσιος,   Because (thou) alone (art) holy,

   ὅτι πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ἥξουσιν   because all the nations shall have come

     καὶ προσκυνήσουσιν ἐνώπιόν σου,   and (shall) worship before thee,

56.9 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : 1 John 1:1-4

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps to translate it.

ὃ ἦν	"that which was"	
ὃ	"which"	(*the Neuter Nominative/Accusative singular Relative Pronoun*)
ἐψηλάφεσαν	(they) touched	(*Aorist of ψηλάφω - I touch, feel*)
ᾖ	(it) may be	(*Third Person singular Present Subjunctive of εἰμί - I am*)
πεπληρωμένη	have been filled/fulfilled	

           (*Feminine Nominative singular Perfect Participle Passive of πληρόω - I fill, fulfil*)

56.10 Vocabulary to learn

Start to learn the first five Principal Parts of the verbs listed in Appendix D 01

ἀγνοέω	I am ignorant, do not understand
διατηρέω	I keep
βεβαιόω	I confirm, strengthen, prove to e true
δηλόω	I make clear, show, inform
διεγείρω	I wake up, awake
ἐμπίπτω	I fall into, fall among
ἐπαισχύνομαι	I feel shame for, am ashamed
ἐπικαλέω	I call, name (*Middle - I appeal to, call upon*)
ἥκω	I have come, am present, am here (*3rd Person plural ἥκασιν*)
λυπέω	I grieve, cause pain, injure (*Passive - I am sorrowful, sad*)
οἶδα	I know (I have learned) (*Perfect in form, but translated as a Present.*)
παραιτέομαι	I ask to be excused, refuse, reject
πράσσω	I do, practice, act
ῥώννυμαι	I am healthy (*Perfect Imperative used at end of a letter = "farewell"*)
σέβομαι	I worship
φιμόω	I silence, muzzle
ἡ ἀκροβυστία	uncircumcision
ἀκροβυστίαν ἔχω	I am a Gentile
διάνοια	mind, understanding
ὁ δρόμος	course, race course, course of life
τὸ εἶδος -ους	appearance, view, visible form
ἡ κοινωνία	fellowship
ἡ λύπη	pain, grief, sorrow
ἡ παρρησία	openness, frankness. (*Dative παρρησίᾳ used as an adverb = openly*)
καίπερ	although, though
πώποτε	at any time, ever
κοινός, -ή, -όν	common, unclean (by Jewish law)