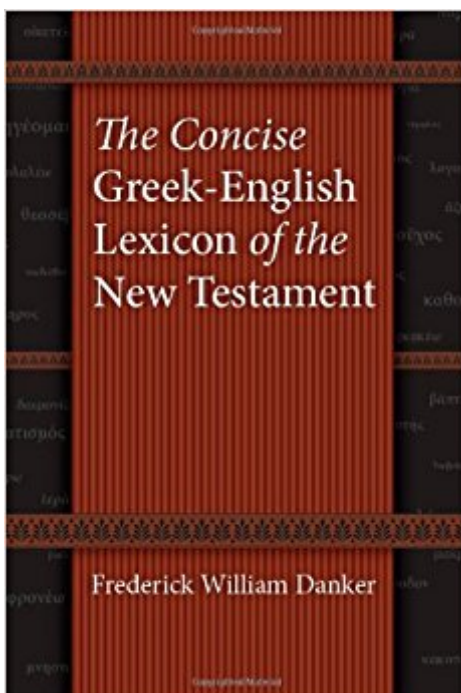


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The Concise Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament



Synopsis

Frederick William Danker, a world-renowned scholar of New Testament Greek, is widely acclaimed for his 2000 revision of Walter Bauer's *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. With more than a quarter of a million copies in print, it is considered the finest dictionary of its kind. Danker's *Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* will prove to be similarly invaluable to ministers, seminarians, translators, and students of biblical Greek. Unlike other lexica of the Greek New Testament, which give only brief glosses for headwords, *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon* offers extended definitions or explanations in idiomatic English for all Greek terms. Each entry includes basic etymological information, short renderings, information on usage, and plentiful biblical references. Greek terms that could have different English definitions, depending on context, are thoughtfully keyed to the appropriate passages. An overarching aim of *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon* is to assist the reader in recognizing the broad linguistic and cultural context for New Testament usage of words. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon* retains all the acclaimed features of *A Greek-English Lexicon* in a succinct and affordable handbook, perfect for specialists and nonspecialists alike.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Danker (emer., Lutheran School of Theology) has been widely acclaimed as the editor of *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3rd ed., 2000), a revision of an earlier work by Walter Bauer. This new volume can only enhance Danker's renown in

the academic world. Greek professors and students will be grateful for this volume, which incorporates all the features of a lexicon in a succinct handbook. Its size makes it appropriate for daily classroom use. The preface provides a splendid overview of the new directions Danker takes with this lexicon. Rather than presenting brief glosses for headwords, as other Greek New Testament lexica do, this volume provides extended definitions in idiomatic English for many Greek terms. Danker encourages users to formulate alternative renderings while keeping the extended definition as the governing agent. Irregular verb forms listed in bold type as headwords are especially useful for students. Entries include the headword, brief etymological data, extended definitions, short renderings, usage in specific passages, and an abundance of scriptural references. Organization of the data gives users easy access to rich resources. Skilled design in the page layout has resulted in an attractive, aesthetically pleasing, user-friendly volume. This lexicon will take its place alongside other standard Greek reference works. . . . Highly recommended. • (Choice)

Frederick William Danker is the Christ Seminary "Seminex Professor Emeritus of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois. He is the editor of *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, among other books.

In January, 2003 I interviewed Dr. Fredrick W. Danker in his St Louis apartment and we focused on his magnum opus that was recently published, *A Greek English Lexicon of the NT and Early Christian Literature*. I asked him if the rumor on the street was true: that he had worked 12 hours a day, six days a week, for ten years on what is called "BDAG." He replied innocently, "Well, we did take vacations." Also in that interview he pointed to his "Shorter Lexicon of the NT" and said that there was another project which he was working on but he couldn't say more about it. The book reviewed below was that "project." This new lexicon was published in October, and is edited by the KING of LEXICOGRAPHY, Frederick W. Danker. Danker is known as the "D" in BAGD and BDAG. He is the one who almost single-handedly brought out the 3rd edition of *A Greek English Lexicon of the NT and Early Christian Literature* (2000), which is the gold standard of lexicons. It also is so expensive that beginning Greek students have shuddered and hoped that a rich uncle would ask what they wanted for Christmas! Now those poor students can take heart that a very good lexicon is available in the price range of common folks. It would be tempting to think of the Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the NT (Univ of Chicago Press, 2009) as simply a condensation of its older sibling, but it actually is a fresh work with some unique and helpful features. It does leave out

the early Christian literature covered in BDAG by limiting its entries to words in the NT. While this pains my patristic loving soul, I realize that not all students share my love for the Fathers and will most often use a lexicon for studying their Greek New Testaments. While not its only virtue, the cost of The Concise Lexicon is also quite attractive. I got mine from Amazon for around \$40! Here are only a few of its additional virtues. Danker continues the great feature introduced in BDAG of listing brief definitions of the word as well as a one word "gloss" which can be used in an English translation. He also includes many etymological suggestions for the lexical entry, a feature not found in the big BDAG. While not including all of the Scripture references where the word appears (like BDAG), for every significant word, all occurrences are mentioned. Danker also includes some principal parts for those pesky irregular verbs. He even provides some brief but well chosen exegetical discussions where word meanings impact the exegetical decisions. If you desire more, there is always BDAG. In my opinion this is the lexicon of choice for MOST NT Greek students, especially those on a tight budget. It is enough to conclude this review with the fact that I am requiring it for my Intermediate Greek students in the Spring.

I have used the bound version of Wilbur Gingrich's abridged edition of the original Bauer: Arndt & Gingrich for 45 years during my reading of the Greek New Testament. (I am halfway through my 14th cover-to-cover reading of the Nestle text.) Now I have a Greek Bible on my Kindle and wanted a lexicon on the Kindle for at least the New Testament, too. In comparison to Wilbur Gingrich, Danker does not just give the meaning of word and cite some references where it is used, but he also adds flavors from its usage in all manner of Greek literature to make its meaning much more vivid. As a quick example, 'apokrima' is not just a death sentence, but is used in official documents for an imperial response or verdict, a judicial decision in which death is the verdict. As is, this volume is not easy to navigate on the Kindle. One reviewer suggested searching for the passage being read. That works in some cases, but this lexicon does not list every occurrence of a word and would not work in every case. I took some time to make an index to Kindle location numbers using the first two letter combinations and mail it to my Kindle electronically. For example, alpha begins at location 86 and includes words beginning with alpha - beta. Words beginning with alpha - gamma begin at location 95. Words beginning with alpha - delta begin at location 184. I have my index on my Kindle as both a Word document and a PDF. The Word document gives a more readable font size. The PDF version preserves the Greek fonts rather than making them the English alphabet. I can usually enlarge the PDF file enough to read my index. If a word is in the alpha - gamma section, I look at the rest of the word and guess if it is likely to be a third of the way or half of the way or three-fourths

of the way through and choose a location number accordingly. So far, I have found I need only scroll four or five screen pages to get to the word's entry in the lexicon. It may be a little slower than using a bound lexicon, but it works pretty well for those times when I have only my Kindle. Danker's little lexicon contains much more information than the Gingrich version I have used all of these years. Had I realized that, I would have bought Danker's lexicon much earlier, but, I would not have it on my Kindle. If you would like my index to the Kindle version of Danker's lexicon, leave a comment with your e-mail address. Spell out the 'at' and the 'dot' with (at) and (dot) so the e-mail address prints in your comment.

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