

## Aorist, Perfect & Pluperfect

### Chapter 9

## Aorist Tense

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### Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Constative Aorist

An action is portrayed in its entirety without regard to its beginning or end, or the length of time it took to accomplish the action.

**ἔβασίλευσεν** ὁ θάνατος ἀπὸ Ἀδὰμ μέχρι Μωϋσέως

Death **reigned** from Adam to Moses  
(Rom 5:14).

### Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Inceptive Aorist

Emphasizes the beginning of an action or a state. This is sometimes called the ingressive aorist (add “began” or “came/became”).

**ἐπτώχευσεν** πλούσιος ὧν

Though he was rich...he **became poor**  
(2 Cor 8:9).

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### Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Culminative Aorist

Emphasizes the cessation of an action or state.

ἐγὼ γὰρ **ἔμαθον**...αὐτάρκης εἶναι

For I **have learned** to be content  
(Phil 4:11).

### Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Gnomic Aorist

A statement that is timeless, universal, or generally true.

**ἐδικαιώθη** ἡ σοφία ἀπὸ πάντων τῶν τέκνων αὐτῆς

Wisdom **is vindicated** by all her children  
(Luke 7:35).

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Aorist Tense

Epistolary Aorist

The author writes from the perspective of the readers and thus uses the aorist instead of the expected present (typically used with ἔγραψα or ἔπεμψα).

ἐγὼ Παῦλος **ἔγραψα** τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ

I, Paul, **write** this with my own hand  
(Philm 19).

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Aorist Tense

Futuristic Aorist

Describes an event that has not yet taken place as if it had already occurred.

**ἔλθεν** κύριος ἐν ἀγlaίς μυριάσιν αὐτοῦ

The Lord **comes** with tens of thousands of his holy ones  
(Jude 14).

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Aorist Tense

Dramatic Aorist

Refers to an event that recently occurred, having present consequences (look for contextual markers, especially ἄρτι and νῦν).

ἡ θυγάτηρ μου **ἄρτι ἐτελεύτησεν**

My daughter **has just died**  
(Matt 9:18 ESV).

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Perfect Tense

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Perfect Tense

Intensive Perfect

Emphasizes the **present state** of the verb brought about by a past action.

**ἀφεώνται** σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου

Your sins **are forgiven** you  
(Luke 5:20).

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Perfect Tense

Consummative Perfect

Emphasizes the **completed action** that brought about the resulting state.

τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα **ἡγώνισμαι**

**I have fought** the good fight  
(2 Tim 4:7).

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Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Dramatic Perfect**

Vividly portrays a past event or state of affairs.

ἀπελθὼν **πέπρακεν** πάντα ὅσα εἶχεν

he went and **sold** everything he had  
(Matt 13:46).

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Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Present State Perfect**

Used with certain verbs that lost their perfect significance and conveys a present tense form meaning (οἶδα, ἔστηκα, πέποιθα, and μέμνημαι).

τὰς ἐντολὰς **οἶδας**

**You know** the commandments  
(Luke 18:20).

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Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Gnomic Perfect**

Communicates a customary or general truth.

ὁ δὲ μὴ πιστεύων ἤδη **κέκριται**

but anyone who does not believe **is** already **condemned**  
(John 3:18).

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Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Iterative Perfect**

The action of the verb occurred at intervals.

ὁ **ἐώρακαμεν** τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν

What **we have seen** with our eyes  
(1 John 1:1).

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**Pluperfect Tense**

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Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Intensive Pluperfect**

Emphasizes the **(past) results** brought about by a past action.

εἰς ὃν **πεπιστεύκεισαν**

in whom **they had believed**  
(Acts 14:23).

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## Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Consummative Pluperfect

Emphasizes the completion of a past action.

οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ **ἀπελγύθεισαν** εἰς τὴν πόλιν

His disciples **had gone** into town  
(John 4:8).

## Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

### Past State Pluperfect

Used with certain verbs that lost their pluperfect significance and convey a past state with no antecedent action (οἶδα [ᾔδειν], ἴστημι, εἴωθα, πείθω, and παρίστημι).

ὅτι **ᾔδεισαν** αὐτόν

Because **they knew** him  
(Mark 1:34).

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