Figure 3.2

3.5 OLD ENGLISH CASES (§40)

Grammatical function—subject, object, etc.—is indicated by case endings. (It is the subsequent loss of these endings that causes Modern English to rely more basically on word order in signaling function.) The main functions of the five cases of Old English nouns and pronouns are as listed below.

Nominative

Subject: Sēo *stōw* is ġehāten 'Heofonfeld' on Englisc.
That place is called 'Heavenfield' in English.

Subject complement: Bēowulf is mīn *nama*.

       Beowulf is my name.

Direct address: *Cedmon,* sing mē hwæthwugu.

       Cædmon, sing me something.

Accusative

Direct object: Hē þone *fēond* ofercwōm.

       He that enemy overcame.

Adverbial noun of time: Wunodon þǣr ealne þone *winter.*

        (They) stayed there all that winter.

Note: See also *Instrumental.*

Object of prepositions implying movement: Ġewāt þā ofer *wǣġholm.*

         (It) went then over sea.

Note: Prepositions implying movement sometimes take the dative, and the accusative is sometimes used when no movement is implied.

Genitive

Possession: *Godes* mildheortnys ūs forestæpð.

     God's mercy   us precedes.

Genitive of measure:

    þǣr wearþ Cīrus ofslæġen ond twā þūsend *monna* mid him.

    There was Cyrus slain and two thousand men with him.

Object of verbs of depriving: Cynewulf benam Siġebryht his *rīċes.*

        Cynewulf deprived Sigebryht of his kingdom.

Dative

Object of most prepositions: Crīst wæs on *rōde.*

       Christ was on cross.

Indirect object: Sē kyng þā ġeaf gryð *Ōlāfe.*

      That king then gave truce Olaf.

Sole object of certain verbs: Hyra *fēore* burgon.

       Their life (they) saved.

Expression of means or manner without a preposition:

    Ic him þēnode dēoran *sweorde.*

    I them served (with) excellent sword.

Instrumental

Note: The instrumental has merged with the dative and occurs only occasionally in Old English. There are separate forms for the masculine and neuter definite article but no separate forms for the noun.

Object of prepositions expressing means or manner:

> þā scēat hē mid þȳ *spere.*
>
> Then thrust he with that spear.

Object of prepositions expressing accompaniment:

> Oferfōr hē mid þȳ *folce.*
>
> Traversed he with that people.

Adverbial noun of time: Ond þȳ ilcan *ġēare* fōr sē here ofer sǣ.

> And that same   year   went that army over sea.

The passage below is a fairly literal translation from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,* about half the entry for the year 894. The Old English noun phrases and pronouns that appear in parentheses in the Modern English translation are listed below the text with their cases. Explain the choice of case for each by naming the function of the noun or pronoun in the sentence.

894. And then immediately after that, in this year, *the Viking army (sē here)*[1] marched from Wirral in on the Welsh, because they were not able to stay there: that was because they were deprived of [*benumene,* past participle of *beniman* 'to deprive of'] both *the cattle (þæs ċeapes)*[2] and *the grain (þæs cornes)*[3] that they [the English] had captured. When *they (hīe)*[4] turned back out from the Welsh with *the plunder (þǣre herehȳðe)*[5] which they had seized there, they then marched over the *Northumbrians' (Norðhymbra)*[6] *land (lond)*[7] and also the East Anglians', so that *the [English] army (sēo fird)*[8] could not reach *them (hīe)*[9]—until they came on the eastern part of the East Saxons' land onto *an island (an īġland)*[10] that is out on *the sea (þǣre sǣ),*[11] *that (þæt)*[12] is called Mersea.

	Case	Function
1. sē here	nominative	subject
2. þæs ċeapes	genitive	
3. þæs cornes	genitive	
4. hīe	nominative	
5. þǣre herehȳðe	dative	
6. Norðhymbra	genitive	
7. lond	accusative	
8. sēo fird	nominative	
9. hīe	accusative	
10. an īġland	accusative	
11. þǣre sǣ	dative	
12. þæt	nominative	

3.6 OLD ENGLISH NOUNS (§§41—42)

The three declensions of nouns that appear in Baugh and Cable account for about 70 percent of the nouns that you will encounter in Old English texts: the masculine *a*-stem, or strong masculine, as in *stān* (about 35 percent); the feminine *ō*-stem, or strong feminine, as in *ģiefu* (about 25 percent); and the masculine consonant-stem, or weak masculine, as in *hunta* (about 10 percent).[6] (The stem endings, *a* and *ō*, occurred in Germanic but not in Old English.) Three additional nouns that illustrate these declensions are *cyning, wund,* and *oxa.*

		Strong Masculine	Strong Feminine	Weak Masculine[7]
Singular	N.	cyning 'king'	wund 'wound'	ox-a 'ox'
	G.	cyning-es	wund-e	ox-an
	D.	cyning-e	wund-e	ox-an
	A.	cyning	wund-e	ox-an
Plural	N.	cyning-as	wund-a	ox-an
	G.	cyning-a	wund-a	ox-ena
	D.	cyning-um	wund-um	ox-um
	A.	cyning-as	wund-a	ox-an

A fourth important declension is the neuter *a*-stem, or strong neuter, which includes about 25 percent of Old English nouns. This group is subdivided according to whether the stem is short or long (see question 1 on page 32).

		Strong Neuter (Short Stem)	Strong Neuter (Long Stem)
Singular	N.	scip 'ship'	scēap 'sheep'
	G.	scip-es	scēap-es
	D.	scip-e	scēap-e
	A.	scip	scēap
Plural	N.	scip-u	scēap
	G.	scip-a	scēap-a
	D.	scip-um	scēap-um
	A.	scip-u	scēap

Finally there are a few minor and irregular declensions: mutated plurals (*fōt* 'foot'), *-ru* plurals (*æġ* 'egg'), nouns of relationship (*fæder* 'father'), and others.

		Mutated Plurals	-ru Plurals	Nouns of Relationship
Singular	N.	fōt 'foot'	æġ 'egg'	fæder 'father'
	G.	fōt-es	æġ-es	fæder
	D.	fēt	æġ-e	fæder
	A.	fōt	æġ	fæder

[6]These percentages are from Randolph Quirk and C. L. Wrenn, *An Old English Grammar* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1957), pp. 19–20.

[7]To the weak masculine nouns should be added the weak feminine nouns, which account for another five percent of all nouns. These differ from weak masculines only in having an *e* in the nominative singular, for example, *eorðe* 'earth'. There are only two weak neuter nouns, *ēaġe* 'eye' and *ēare* 'ear'.

		Mutated Plurals	-ru Plurals	Nouns of Relationship
Plural	N.	fēt	ǽġ-(e)ru	fæder-as
	G.	fōt-a	ǽġ-(e)ra	fæder-a
	D.	fōt-um	ǽġ-(e)rum	fæder-um
	A.	fēt	ǽġ-(e)ru	fæder-as

Refer to the foregoing paradigms as necessary to answer the following questions.

1. A syllable is short if it contains a short vowel (or short diphthong) followed by a single consonant. A syllable is long if it contains either (i) a long vowel (or long diphthong) or (ii) a short vowel (or short diphthong) followed by more than one consonant. Tell whether the following neuter nouns belong to the short-stem or long-stem declension.

_____ word 'word'   _____ bān 'bone'

_____ fæt 'vessel'   _____ lim 'limb'

_____ hors 'horse'   _____ swīn 'swine'

2. In which two endings do the long-stem neuter nouns differ from the short-stem neuter nouns?

_____

3. Note that the paradigms for the strong neuter nouns (both short- and long-stem) are similar to the paradigm for the strong masculine nouns. In which endings are they

different?_____

4. Old English *dēor* 'deer' (nominative singular) had the form *dēor* in the nominative and accusative plural. Which of the above declensions does it follow in its unchanged

plural? _____

5. The Early Modern English nouns *sheep, horse,* and *ox* had plurals without *-s,* as in Shakespeare's lines (written about 1590):

> Sheepe run not halfe so trecherous from the Wolfe,
> Or Horse or Oxen from the Leopard,
> As you flye from your oft-subdued slaues.

[*1 Henry VI* 1.5.30–32]

Sheepe and *horse* follow the Old English declension in which the nominative and accusative plural remain unchanged. Which declension is this? _____

Ox follows the Old English declension in which an *n* is added in the pural. Which declension is this?_____

6. Old English *fisc* 'fish' had the form *fiscas* in the nominative and accusative plural.

To which of the above declensions did it belong in Old English? _____

Which declension is its usual plural modeled on now? _____

7. Old English *scōh* 'shoe' followed the strong masculine declension in its nominative and accusative plural *(scōs),* but its genitive plural was *scōna,* with an *n.* Which declension did the genitive plural follow? _____

8. The plural of *shoe* in the speech of Shakespeare's Cade is *shooen:* "Spare none, but such as go in clouted shooen" (*2 Henry VI* 4.2.195), written about 1590. Notice in the preceding question that *scōh* had an *n* only in the genitive plural. Here the weak declension has generalized to other cases. We shall see in Chapter 7 (§114) that this direction of change was unusual. Which Old English declension does *shoe* in Present-day English ultimately follow? _____

_____

9. Which paradigm do the Modern English forms *tooth/teeth* follow? What other Modern English words form their plurals according to this paradigm?

_____

_____

10. Modern English *child* has a double plural, *children.* Examine the nominative and accusative forms of the paradigms above to determine the two sources of the Modern English ending *-ren.* One source accounts for the *r,* the other for the *n.*

_____

3.7 NOUNS IN SENTENCES (§41)

Examine the italicized Old English nouns for case, number, and function Refer to the paradigms above (§3.6) for help in determining case and number. Section 3.5 lists the grammatical functions of the various cases.

1. Ond þā ġefeaht *sē cyning* Æþerēd wiþ *þāra cyninga* ġetruman.

And then fought   the king   Æthelred against the   kings'   troops.

sē cyning: Case ___N___   Number ___Sg___   Function _Subject_

þāra cyninga: Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

2. Norþhymbre and Ēastengle hæfdon Ælfrēde *cyninge* āþas ġeseald.

Northumbrians and   East-Angles had   Alfred   king   oaths given.

Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

3. Hē mid gāre stang wlancne wīcing þe him *þā wunde* forġeaf.

He with spear stabbed   bold   viking   who him the wound   gave.

Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

4. Wīġend crungon *wundum* wēriġe.

Warriors   fell   (by) wounds exhausted.

Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

5. Iċ bōhte ān ġetȳme *oxena.*
   I bought a team (of) oxen.

   Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

6. Ðā ġenam Abimelech *oxan* and *scēp.*
   Then took Abimelech oxen and sheep.

   oxan: Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

   scēp (= scēap):   Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

7. And *þā scēap* ġehȳrað his stefne.
   And the sheep hear his voice.

   Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

8. Ġē ne synt of mīnum *scēapum.*
   Ye not are among my sheep.

   Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

9. Hwylċ man is of ēow þe hæfð hund *scēapa?*
   Which one is among you who has a hundred sheep?

   Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

10. And on *scyp* stīġende hī fōron onsundran on wēste stōwe.
    And on ship moving they went privately to barren place.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

11. þā men of Lundenbyriġ ġefetodon *þa scipu.*
    Those men of London fetched the ships.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

12. Ond þǣr forwearþ cxx *scipa* æt Swānawīċ.
    And there perished 120 ships at Swanage.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

13. Ċealde ġeþrungen wǣron mīne *fēt.*
    By cold pinched were my feet.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

14. Stincende āttor singāllīċe of ðām tōswollenum *fōtum* flēow.
    Stinking poison continuously from the swollen feet flowed.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

15. Oððe ġyf hē bit *ǣġ,* seġst þū rǣcð hē him scorpionem?
    Or if he requests egg, say'st thou he gives him scorpion?

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

16. Selle mon uuēġe cǣsa, ond fisces, ond butran, ond *ǣġera.*
    Give one a weight of cheeses, and fish and butter, and eggs.

    Case _____   Number _____   Function _____

3.8 OLD ENGLISH ADJECTIVES (§43)

Old English adjectives took the *weak* inflectional endings if a definite article or possessive pronoun preceded and the *strong* inflectional endings if no such word was present. The adjectives in the following sentences are marked for case, number, and gender. (The abbreviation gpm stands for genitive plural masculine; nsn for nominative singular neuter, etc.) The full paradigms for the strong and weak declensions are given in Baugh and Cable §43. Circle Strong or Weak, and supply the appropriate ending if an ending is needed. (Two of the adjectives will not require an ending.)

1. Þā stōd sē earming ætforan þām ārlēas-_____ (dsm) dēofle.
   Then stood the wretch   before   the   cruel   devil.

   Strong   Weak

2. Hēo ne rōhte his worda for þæra wōdlic-_____ (dsf) ontendnysse.
   She did not care about his words because of the mad   passion.

   Strong   Weak

3. Byrhtnōþ maðelode, bord hafenode, wand wāc-_____ (asm) æsc.
   Byrhtnoth spoke,   shield raised,   waved slender   spear.

   Strong   Weak

4. Hēo on flet ġecrong—sweord wæs swātiġ-_____ (nsn).
   She on floor died—   sword was bloody.

   Strong   Weak

5. Wēan oft ġehēt earm-_____ (dsf) teohhe ondlong-_____ (asf) niht.
   Woe often (he) vowed (to) wretched   band   entire   night.

   earm-:   Strong   Weak

   ondlong-: Strong   Weak

6. Ōswold oferwann þone wælhrēow-_____ (asm) cynincg.
   Oswold defeated   the   cruel   king.

   Strong   Weak

7. Þā bær man þām cyninge cynelīc-_____ (apm) þēnunga on ānum
   Then bore one (to) the king   royal   services on a
                                                      of food

   sylfrenan disce.
   silver   dish.

   Strong   Weak

8. Hāma ætwæġ tō þære byrht-_____ (dsf) byriġ Brōsinga mene.
   Hama carried off to the bright   city Brosings' necklace.

   Strong   Weak

9. Ongann ċeallian þā ofer ċeald-_____ (dsn) wæter Byrhthelmes bearn.
Began   to call   then over cold   water   Byrhthelm's   son.

Strong   Weak

10. Hē hine ætbrǣd þām flǣsclīc-_____ (dpm) lustum.
He himself refrained from the fleshly   desires.

Strong   Weak

11. Ond þǣr wearþ Hēahmund bisceop ofslæġen, ond fela gōd-_____ (gpm)
And there   was   Heahmund   bishop   slain,   and many good
monna.
men.

Strong   Weak

12. Ac hine sē hālga wer gyrde grǣg-_____ (isn) sweorde.
But himself the holy man girded (with) gray   sword.

Strong   Weak

13. Þā ēode hē furður oð hē ġemette ðā gram-_____ (apf) gydena.
Then went he further until he found   the angry   goddesses.

Strong   Weak

14. Þū eart mæġenes strang-_____ (nsm), ond on mōde frōd.
Thou art of might   strong,   and in mind   wise.

Strong   Weak

3.9 OLD ENGLISH PRONOUNS (§45)

Beside each Old English personal pronoun, write the Modern English pronoun, if any, that has derived from it. The Modern English form may be exactly the same as the Old English, or it may reflect phonological changes. If the Old English pronoun has not survived into Modern English—either because a loanword or an analogical form has replaced it or because a grammatical distinction was lost—write "0". You can check the Old English forms of your proposed Modern English words in a collegiate dictionary, where the Old English form should appear in the etymology. Part of the chart is filled in. Complete the rest.

		1st Person		2nd Person		3rd Person M		F		N	
Singular	N. iċ	*I*	ðū	*thou*	hē	*he*	hēo	*0*	hit	*it*
	G. mīn		ðīn		his		hiere		his	
	D. mē		ðē		him		hiere		him	
	A. mē		ðē		hine		hīe		hit	

Figure 3.3

Dual	N. wit	*0*	ġit	*0*
	G. uncer		incer	
	D. unc		inc	
	A. unc		inc	

Plural	N. wē		ġē		hīe	
	G. ūre		ēower		hiera	
	D. ūs		ēow		him	
	A. ūs		ēow		hīe	

Figure 3.3 (cont.)

3.10 OLD ENGLISH STRONG VERBS (§46)

1. From the principal parts of the strong verbs in Baugh and Cable §46, write the vowels and diphthongs that occur in the roots (the first vowel or diphthong).

Class	Infinitive	Preterite Singular	Preterite Plural	Past Participle
I	ī	ā	i	i
II				
III				
IV				
V				
VI				
VII				

2. Use the above table to complete the principal parts of the following strong verbs. The infinitive ending is *-an,* as given; the preterite indicative third-person singular has no ending; the preterite indicative plural ending is *-on;* the past participle ending is *-en.* Below the Old English forms give the past tense and past participle in Modern English. The forms of *bītan* have been filled in as an example.

Infinitive	Preterite Singular	Preterite Plural	Past Participle
bītan (I)	bāt	biton	biten
'bite'	bit		bitten or bit
healdan (VII)			
'hold'			
teran (IV)			
'tear'			
meltan (III)			
'melt'			
stelan (IV)			
'steal'			
tredan (V)			
'tread'			
rīdan (I)			
'ride'			
dragan (VI)			
'draw'			
scēotan (II)			
'shoot'			
swellan (III)			
'swell'			
wefan (V)			
'weave'			
wrītan (I)			
'write'			

3.11 OLD ENGLISH SYNTAX AND METER (§51)

English is known as a "stress-timed" language, which means that varying numbers of unstressed syllables occur before and after stressed syllables, and yet the stressed syllables are perceived as occurring at approximately equal intervals of time. The tight control of Old English meter allows us to see this feature of the English language at its earliest period. One way of thinking about the meter of Old English is as a series of four positions:

4. Notice that the first twelve examples all begin with a conjunction or an adverb. List each initial *conjunction* and its Modern English translation:

Old English   Modern English

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

5. List each initial *adverb* and its Modern English translation:

Old English   Modern English

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

3.12 THE LANGUAGE ILLUSTRATED (§47)

Ælfric

The West Saxon translation of the account of Moses and the Red Sea is from the work known as *Ælfric's Heptateuch.* The most prolific and learned writer of his age, Abbot Ælfric (c. 955– c. 1012) is especially known for the grace, art, and lucidity of his prose style. Although his actual share in the Old Testament translations from the fourth-century Latin Vulgate is uncertain, we have his own testimony that he translated the crossing of the Israelites through the Red Sea.[10]

[10]Reprinted by permission of the Council of the Early English Text Society from *The Old English Version of the Heptateuch, Ælfric's Treatise on the Old and New Testament, and his Preface to Genesis,* ed. S. J. Crawford, EETS OS 160 (London, 1922), pp. 250–51.

Moses and the Red Sea
Exodus 14:21–31

Ðā Moyses āðenode his hand ofer ðā sǣ ðā sende Drihten miċelne wind ealle
When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea then sent the Lord great wind all

ðā niht and ġewende ðā sǣ tō drīum; and þæt wæter wearð on twā tōdǣled, and
the night and turned the sea to dry land; and that water became in two divided, and

lǣġ ān drīġe strǣt ðurh ðā sǣ. And ðæt wæter stōd on twā healfa ðǣre strǣte
lay a dry street through the sea. And the water stood on two sides of the street

swylċe twēġen hēaġe weallas: ðā fōr eall Ysrahela folc ðurh ðā sǣ on þone weġ ðe
like two high walls; then went all Israel's folk through the sea on the way which

Drihten him ġeworhte, and ðā cōmon hāle and ġesunde þurh ðā sǣ, swā Drihten
the Lord for them made, and they came whole and sound through the sea, as the Lord

him behēt. Ðā Pharao cōm tō ðǣre sǣ, and eal his here, ðā fōr hē on þone ylcan
them promised. When Pharaoh came to the sea, and all his army, then went he on the same

weġ æfter Israhela folce on dægrēd mid eallum his folce and mid eallum his wǣpnum.
way after Israel's people at daybreak with all his people and with all his weapons.

Ðā cwæð Drihten tō Moyse: Āðene ðīne hand ofer ðā sǣ and ofer Faraon and ofer
Then said the Lord to Moses: Stretch out thine hand over the sea and over Pharoah and over

ealne his here. And hē āhefde ūp his hand, and sēo sǣ slōh tōgædere and āhwylfde
all his army. And he raised up his hand, and the sea struck together and covered

Pharaones cratu, and ādrenċte hine sylfne and eal his folc, þæt ðǣr ne wearð furðon ān
Pharaoh's carts and drowned himself and all his people so that there not remained even one

tō lāfe þe līf ġebyrede. Sōðliċe Moyses and Israhela folc fōron ðurh ðā sǣ
whom life belonged to. Truly Moses and Israel's people went through the sea

drīum fōtum. And Drihten ālȳsde on ðām dæġe Israhela folc of ðǣra
with dry feet. And the Lord freed on that day Israel's people from the

Egyptiscra handum. And hi ġesawon þā Egyptiscan dēade ūp tō lande āworpene,
Egyptians' hands. And they saw the Egyptians dead up on land thrown

þe heora ǣr ēhton on ðām lande þe hi ðā tō cumene wǣron: and ðæt Israhelisce
who them earlier pursued on the land which they had come to: and that Israelite

folc ondrēdon him Drihten and hȳrdon Gode and Moyses his ðēowe.
people feared the Lord and heard (obeyed) God and Moses his servant.

West Saxon Gospels

The translation known as the *West Saxon Gospels,* from about the beginning of the eleventh century, was one of the results of the Benedictine Reform (Baugh and Cable §63). In its original form, which has not survived, the West Saxon version was a continuous gloss of the Latin Vul-

gate. In the surviving manuscripts the translation is in straight idiomatic prose that remains fairly faithful to the original.[11]

The Nativity
Luke 2.1–14

Sōþlīċe on þām dagum wæs ġeworden ġebod fram þām cāsere Augusto, þæt eall
Verily   in those days   was   made   a command by   the emperor Augustus,   that all

ymbehwyrft wǣre tōmearcod. Þēos tōmearcodnes wæs ǣryst ġeworden fram þām
the world   be   enumerated.   This census   was first   made   by   the

dēman Syriġe Cirino. And ealle hiġ ēodon, and syndriġe fērdon on hyra
ruler of Syria   Cyrenius. And   all   they proceeded, and separately went   to their

ċeastre. Ðā fērde Iosep fram Galilea of þǣre ċeastre Nazareth on Iudeisce ċeastre
city.   Then went Joseph from   Galilee from the   city   Nazareth into the Judaic   city

Dauides, sēo is ġenemned Bethleem, for þām þe hē wæs of Dauides hūse and
of David, which is named   Bethlehem,   because   he was   of David's   house and

hīrede; þæt hē fērde mid Marian þe him beweddod wæs, and wæs ġeēacnod.
family; so that   he   went   with Mary   who to him wedded   was,   and was with child.

Sōþlīċe wæs ġeworden þā hī þār wǣron, hire dagas wǣron ġefyllede þæt hēo cende.
Verily was come to pass while they   there were,   her   days   were   fulfilled   that she   gave birth.

And hēo cende hyre frumcennedan sunu, and hine mid ċildclāþum bewand, and
And she   bore   her   first-born   son   and him   with swaddling-clothes wrapped, and

hine on binne ālēde, for þām þe hiġ næfdon rūm on cumena hūse. And hyrdas wǣron
him in manger laid,   because   they did not have room in guests'   house. And shepherds   were

on þām ylcan rīce waciende, and nihtwæċċan healdende ofer heora heorda. Þā stōd
in   the same country keeping awake, and   nightwatch   holding   over   their   herds.   Then stood

Drihtnes engel wiþ hiġ, and Godes beorhtnes him ymbe scēan; and hī him
Lord's angel beside them, and God's   brightness   them around shone;   and they for themselves

myċelum eġe ādrēdon. And sē engel him tō cwæð, Nelle ġē ēow ādrǣdan;
with great awe feared.   And the angel to them   said,   Do not ye for yourselves fear;

sōþlīċe nū iċ ēow bodie myċelne ġefēan, sē bið eallum folce; for þām tō
verily   now I to you proclaim great   joy,   which is to all   people; for

dæġ ēow ys Hǣlend ācenned, sē is Drihten Crīst, on Dauides ċeastre. And þis tācen
today to you is Savior   born,   who is Lord   Christ, in David's   city.   And   this sign

ēow byð: Ġē ġemētað ān ċild hræġlum bewunden, and on binne ālēd. And þā
to you is: Ye will find   a child   in cloths   wrapped,   and   in   manger laid.   And then

wæs fǣringa ġeworden mid þām engle myċelnes heofonlīċes werydes, God heriendra
was suddenly come about   with the   angel   great   heavenly   host,   God   praising

<hr />

[11]From James W. Bright, ed., *The Gospel of Saint Luke in West-Saxon* (Boston: Heath, 1906), pp. 10–12.

and þus cweþendra, Gode sȳ wuldor on hēahnesse, and on eorðan sybb mannum
and thus   saying   to God be   glory   in highest,   and on earth   peace to men

gōdes willan.
of **good** will.

Ohthere's Voyage

In the Alfredian translation of Orosius's *Compendious History of the World,* there is an interpolated geographical text that supplements the original Latin. The new material updates the fifth-century history by reporting the firsthand accounts of two contemporary voyagers, Ohthere and Wulfstan. The prose is of special interest for giving a glimpse of informal English during the late ninth century in a text that is not a translation. The following excerpt tells of Ohthere's voyage around the north coast of Norway into the White Sea.[12]

Ōhthere sǣde his hlāforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna norþmest
Ohthere   told   his lord,   Alfred   king   that he of all   Norsemen   northmost

būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þǣm lande norþweardum wiþ þā Westsǣ. Hē
lived.   He said   that he   lived in that   land   northward   along the West Sea. He

sǣde þēah þæt land sīe swīþe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton
said however that   land is   very   far   north thence; but it is all waste,   except that

on fēawum stōwum styċċemǣlum wīciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, ond on
in a few   places   here and there   camp   Lapps,   in hunting   in winter,   and in

sumera on fiscaþe be þǣre sǣ. Hē sǣde þæt hē æt sumum ċirre wolde fandian
summer in fishing along   that   sea. He said   that   he at one   time   wanted to see

hū longe þæt land norþryhte lǣġe, oþþe hwæðer ǣniġ mon be norðan þǣm wēstenne
how far   that land due north   extended, or whether   any   man   north   of that waste

būde. Þā fōr hē norþryhte be þǣm lande: lēt him ealne weġ þæt wēste
lived.   Then went he due north along that   land: kept him all the way that   waste

land on ðæt stēorbord, ond þā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord þrīe dagas. Þā wæs hē
land   on the starboard,   and   the open sea on the   port   three days.   Then was he

swā fēor norþ swā þā hwælhuntan firrest faraþ. Þā fōr hē þāġīet norþryhte
as   far north as   the whale hunters   farthest go.   Then went he still due north

swā fēor swā hē meahte on þǣm ōþrum þrim dagum ġesiġlan. Þā bēag þæt
as   far   as   he was able   in the   next   three days   to sail.   Then bent that

land þǣr ēastryhte, oþþe sēo sǣ in on ðæt lond, hē nysse hwæðer, būton hē
land there due east,   or   that sea in on that land, he knew not   which,   except that he

wisse ðæt hē ðǣr bād westanwindes ond hwōn norþan, ond siġlde ðā ēast
knew that he there awaited a west wind and slightly from the   north,   and   sailed   then east

---

[12]From Henry Sweet, ed., *King Alfred's Orosius,* EETS OS 79 (London, 1883), p. 17.

be lande swā swā hē meahte on fēower dagum ġesiġlan. . . . Ðā
along land as (far) as he was able   in   four   days   to sail.   Then

læġ þǣr ān miċel ēa ūp in on þæt land. þā ċirdon hīe ūp in on
extended there a great   river inland on that land.   Then turned they ashore   on

ðā ēa, for þǣm hīe ne dorston forþ bī þǣre ēa siġlan for unfriþe,
that river, because they not   dared   forth along that river sail because of hostility,

for þǣm ðæt land wæs eall ġebūn on ōþre healfe þǣre ēas. Ne mētte hē ǣr nān
because   that land   was   all   cultivated on other side   of the river.   Not found he before no

ġebun land siþþan hē from his āgnum hām fōr. Ac him wæs ealne
cultivated land since   he from   his own   home went. But to him was all the

weġ wēste on þæt stēorbord, būtan fiscerum ond fugelerum ond huntum,
way waste land on the starboard,   except fishers   and fowlers   and hunters,

ond þæt wǣron eall Finnas; ond him wæs ā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord.
and that   were   all   Lapps;   and to him was always open sea on the   port.