Lesson 18: Key to Translation

main clause... condition   ... main clause

1) [τὸ σοφόν, (εἰ βραχύ,) νομίζουσι οἱ σώφρονες δὶς σοφόν.]

    D O   PN   V   S   adv   pred acc

Prudent men deem a wise //speech//, if //it is// brief, doubly wise.

2)(ἀδικίας ἀρχούσης) [πόλεις οὐ πολὺν χρόνον μενοῦσιν]

    gen absolute   S   acc of duration   V

"With injustice prevailing" = When / If injustice prevails, cities will not endure long.

3) [νῦν ἀκούωμεν τοῦ ἀνδρός,] [ἔπειτα ἀκούσαντες καὶ ἄλλοις ἀνακοινοσώμεθα[1]]

   adv   V   gen w/V   adv   pple w/S   adv   I O   V

Let us now listen to the man.   Then, having heard //him//, let us also inform the others.

4) [μὴ μεριμνήσητε λέγοντες·] [Τί φάγωμεν;[2]] ἢ· [Τί πίωμεν;[3]] ἢ· [Τί περιβαλώμεθα;[4]]

          V   pple w/ S   DO   V   conj   DO   V   conj   DO   V

Do not worry saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?"

5) [εἰσέλθετε διὰ τῆς στενῆς πύλης·] [ὅτι πλατεῖά ἐστιν ἡ πύλη] καὶ [εὐρεῖα ἡ ὁδὸς]
      main clause   *main clause*[5]   *main clause*[6]

        V   .... διά + gen .... conj   PN   V   S   PN   S

(ἣ ἀπάγει εἰς τὴν ἀπώλειαν,) καὶ [πολλοὶ βαίνουσι δι᾽ αὐτῆς.]
    relative clause   *main clause*[7]

 S   V   .... εἰς + acc   ....   S   V   διά + gen

Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the path is broad which lead(s) to destruction, and many walk through it.

6) (ὅταν ἀκούσητε φωνὴν ἐν τῇ πόλει,)[8] [καὶ ἀκούσετε / ἀκούσεσθε κλαυθμὸν καὶ ὀδυρμὸν πολύν.]
          temporal clause   *main clause*

   conj   V   DO   ἐν +dat   adv   V   V   .... D O ....

When you hear the voice in the city, you will also hear much wailing and lamentation.

7) (ἐὰν μὴ ἢ οἱ φιλόσοφοι βασιλεύωσιν ἐν ταῖς πόλεσιν,) ἢ
          conditional clause

   conj   S   V   .... ἐν +dat ....

(οἱ βασιλεῖς φιλοσοφήσωσιν γνησίως τε καὶ ἱκανῶς,)[9]
         conditional clause

        S   V   adv   adv

[οὔκ ἐστι κακῶν παῦλα ταῖς πόλεσιν.]
        main clause

    V   gen   S   I O

Unless the philosophers rule in the cities, or the rulers philosophize nobly and aptly, there is no bringing to an end the evils for the cities.

8) (ἐὰν καλὸν ἔχῃς σῶμα καὶ ψυχὴν κακήν,) [κακοδαίμων ἔσῃ.]
         conditional clause   *main clause*

  conj   DO....   V   ....DO   PN   V

If you (sg) have a fine body and a bad spirit, you will be ill-starred.

         main clause   *temporal clause*

9) [μαινόμεθα πάντες] (ὅταν ὀργιζώμεθα.)[10]

     V   S   conj   V

We are all out of our senses when we are angry.

         relative clause   *main cl.*   *indirect statement: "clause of perception"*

10) (ὅστις ἂν εἰς τὸ ἄστυ ἀφικνῆται) [ὁρᾷ] (τὸν Σωκράτην   διαλεγόμενον   σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς.)

       S   .. εἰς + acc ..   V   V   S in acc   predicate: pple in acc   .... σύν + dat ....

Whoever comes to the city sees Socrates conversing with his students.

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[1] The aorist in the subjunctive has no past connotation: it is punctual. Its translation would be the same if it were a present subjunctive.

[2] Deliberative subjunctive

[3] = 1

[4] = 1

[5] These three clauses marked as "main clauses" could be considered causal clauses, since they are introduced by ὅτι. I interpret this ὅτι as equivalent to the particle γάρ , which establishes a causal connection without introducing a dependent clause.

[6] = 5

[7] = 5

[8] ἄν + Subjunctive referring to the future.

[9] Both conditions are generalizing.

[10] A generalizing ἄν + Subjunctive.