

# Politics and Government

Expanding Your Greek Vocabulary

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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# Words for Power

- δύναμαι, "I am powerful; I am able"
- ἡ δύναμις, "power, strength; ability"
  - Generic term for power or ability of any kind
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> declension, πολίς-type
    - gen. sing. *δυναμews*, acc. sing. *δυναμιν*, nom. plur. *δυναμεις*
- ἡ ἐξουσία, "authority, power"
  - A more specific term for the power (or right) to exercise control over others



# Words for Ruling

- ἄρχω, "I am first, I rule"
  - 1<sup>st</sup> aorist active: ἤρξα
  - Future active: ἄρξω
- ὁ ἄρχων, "ruler"
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> decl, ἄμπελων-type (gen. ἄρχοντος)
    - Dative plural is awkward: ἄρχοντ + σι -> ἄρχουσι
  - Anyone who exercises power, is "first" in rank (human or spirit)
- ὁ ἑκατοντάρχης, "centurion"
  - Masc. 1<sup>st</sup> declension noun (gen. ἑκατονταρχου)
  - A "hundred-leader" in the Roman military system
  - Highest military rank encountered by ordinary people



# More Words Related to Ruling

- ἄρχομαι, "I begin"
  - The middle form of ἄρχω is essentially a different (middle-only) verb
  - Same changes to remember as with ἄρχω
    - aorist: ἤρξαμην, future: ἀρξομαι
- ἡ ἀρχή, "beginning"
  - Derived from ἄρχομαι, not ἄρχω
- ἡγέομαι, "I lead; I think, consider"
  - Contract verb: ἡγείται (pres. 3p. sing.), ἡγουμεθα (pres. 1p. plur.)
  - No visible augment in aorist: ἡγησάμην
  - Focus is not just on exercising power



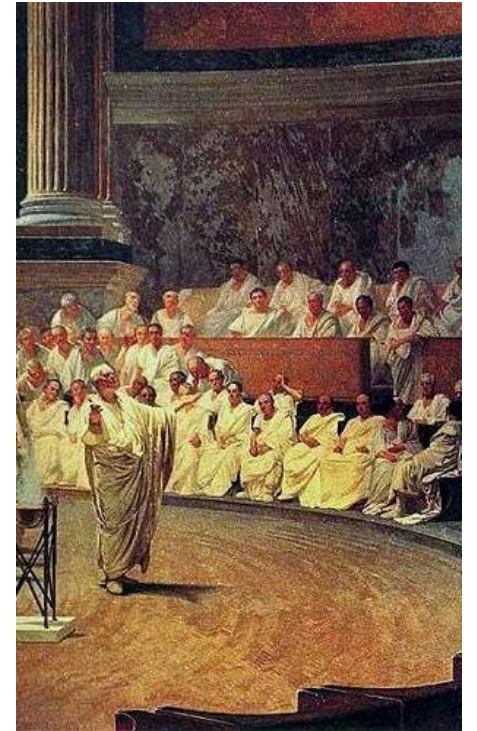
# The Kingdom

- ὁ βασιλεύς, "king"
  - What distinguished ὁ βασιλευς from ὁ τυραννος?
- ἡ βασιλεία, "kingdom; reign"
  - Political power was personal loyalty
  - The king's personal sphere of control
  - Hence the βασιλεια θεου
- ὁ θρόνος, "throne, chair"
  - Sign of power to be seated while others stood
    - Chair of the king or tyrant was a symbol of his power
  - But θρονος is also just an ordinary chair



# The City

- ἡ βουλή, "counsel, advice; council"
  - Cities originally ruled by a council of land-owning men
- βουλεύω, "discuss, deliberate"
- βούλομαι, "desire, plan, intend"
  - Focuses on intention rather than the activity of discussion
  - Middle-only
  - Often acts like epsilon contract verb (fut. βουλήσομαι)
- ἡ ἐκκλησία, "assembly; church"
  - General term for any large public gathering
  - Used in the Greek Bible for the "assembly" of all Israel



# A Different Meaning in the Middle

- ἄρχω, "I rule"
- ἄρχομαι, "I begin, start"
  - 1<sup>st</sup> aorist middle: ἤρξαμην
  - Future middle: ἀρξομαι

