

Temple and Synagogue

Expanding Your Greek Vocabulary

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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Temples in the First-Century World

- ὁ ναός, "sanctuary, temple"
- το ἱερόν, "temple"
 - Note the breathing mark on the first vowel
 - Opening vowels pronounced separately (*he-air-on*)
 - English: "hierarchy"
- Temples were everywhere
 - Didn't look like we imagine
 - Weren't equivalent to "churches"



Words Related to ἱερον

- ὁ ἱερεύς, "priest"
 - ἱερο + εὐς
 - εὐς ending for the person who performs some action
 - so ἱερεὺς is "temple-worker"
 - ἀρχιερεὺς, "high priest"
- ἱερός, -ή, -όν (adjective), "holy, sacred"
 - τὸ ἱερόν = "the holy (thing)" or "the holy (place)"
 - a classic example of a substantive adjective
 - many neuter nouns are formed from adjectives in this way



Approaching To Ἱερον

- καθαρός, -ή, -όν (adjective), "clean, pure"
- ἀκαθαρός, -ή, -όν (adjective), "unclean, impure, dirty"
 - Both in ordinary and in ritual sense
- καθαρίζω, "I purify, clean"
- λούω, "I wash"
- τὸ λουτρόν, "washing, bathing, ablution"



The Holy and the Profane

- ἅγιος, -η, -ον (adjective), "holy"
 - Set aside from normal use
 - Reserved for use in sacrifice or other temple rituals
- ἁγιάζω, "I make holy"
 - Sometimes translated "sanctify"
- κοινός, -ή, -όν (adjective), "common, profane, not holy"
 - The opposite of ἱερός and ἅγιος
 - Not reserved for worship purposes
 - Not fit for worship purposes



Activities In and Around the Temple

- ἡ λειτουργία, "temple service, ritual service"
 - General term for the priests' activity in a temple is
 - English "liturgy"
- ἡ θυσία, "sacrifice"
- θυσιάζω, "I offer a sacrifice"
- ἡ ἑορτή, "festival"
 - Again, rough breathing mark on the first vowel
 - Usually the only break from work
- ἡ πάσχα, "Passover"



Offering Sacrifice

- το θυσιαστήριον, "the altar"
 - The platform on top of which sacrifices were offered
 - θυσια(σ) + τηριον
- ὁ οἶνος, "wine"
- το πρόβατον, "sheep" or "goat"
 - A general term for "small herd animal"
 - Often plural τα προβατα means "herd" or "flock"
- τὸ ἀρνίον, "lamb"
- τὸ αἷμα, "blood"
 - 3rd declension: gen. αἵματος (πνευμα-type)



Offering Sacrifice

- προσφέρω, "I present," "I offer"
 - Derived from φέρω, "I carry, lift"
- δίδωμι, "I give"
 - Used for "offering" a sacrifice
- τὸ δῶρον, "gift"
 - Derived from δίδωμι
 - Sacrifices were thought of as "gifts"
- "Religious" vocabulary often common language
 - Used in a religious context

