

The Ancient Household

More Greek Vocabulary

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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Words For Family Roles

- So far we've been learning
 - The sounds made by letters of the Greek alphabet
 - How to say "yes" and "no"
 - How to say "well done" and "not bad"
- Now we've learned enough of the alphabet to start learning some more Greek words
 - We're going to get to know the townspeople
 - Talking about their places in the family



The Household

- ὁ οἶκος, "household, house"
 - The basic unit of ancient society
- Primarily the people and the structure of their life together
 - Not the nuclear family
 - could include three generations
 - included slaves and dependent clients
- Secondly the place where they live
 - Not necessarily a freestanding "house"
 - apartment in a tenement block
 - apartment above a shop or larger home
 - Simply the place where the household lives



Women and Men

- ὁ ἄνθρωπος, "person, human being"
 - a universal term for a human being
 - does not really mean "man" (as in a male)
 - so properly translated "person" or "human being" in modern English
- ἡ γυνή, "woman, wife"
- ὁ ἀνὴρ, "man, husband"
 - this pair of words *is* gender specific
 - each can be used for a spouse
 - no other specific terms for "husband" and "wife"
 - a man has "his woman" and a woman has "her man"



Parents

- ὁ πατήρ, "father"
- ἡ μήτηρ, "mother"
- Sound quite similar to our English word
 - Especially if we realize that certain consonant sounds are closely related
 - ρ/π and f/φ
 - τ/τ and th/θ
- Fathers were often remote figures
 - Mothers and/or slaves entirely responsible for raising children
- ὁ γονεὺς, "parent" (usually plural)



Children

- ὁ/ἡ παῖς, "child"
 - Can be either masculine or feminine, depending on the gender of the child.
- τὸ τέκνον, "child"
 - *Neuter gender* may reflect attitude that children were "genderless" until entering the adult world



Children

- Diminutive forms from ἡ/ὁ παῖς
- ὁ παίδισκος, "little boy"
- ἡ παίδισκη, "little girl"
- These forms *are* gendered
 - Perhaps because these were often used in more intimate, personal contexts



Sons and Daughters

- ὁ υἱός, "son"
- ἡ θυγάτηρ, "daughter"
- Here again there are separate gendered words
 - Gender mattered in one's relationship to parents
- ὁ υἱός would inherit the household
 - Eventually gain authority himself as πατήρ
 - Groomed for future public roles
 - early on worked with his father learning his trade
 - wealthier might be trained to read, deliver political speeches



Sons and Daughters

- ὁ υἱός, "son"
- ἡ θυγάτηρ, "daughter"
- Here again there are separate gendered words
 - Gender mattered in one's relationship to parents
- ἡ θυγάτηρ would always remain dependent property
 - Passed from possession of her father directly to possession of her husband



Sons and Daughters

- ὁ υἱός, "son"
- ἡ θυγάτηρ, "daughter"
- So being God's υἱός was different than being God's θυγάτηρ
 - *Both* men and women are given status of God's υἱός
 - Not just servants or dependents
 - heirs who inherit God's household



Brothers and Sisters

- ὁ ἀδελφός, "brother"
- ἡ ἀδελφή, "sister"
- Masculine and feminine forms of the same word
 - Only the ending is different, marking gender
 - Perhaps reflecting mutual relationship of siblings



Masters and Servants

- ὁ κύριος, "master, lord"
 - A person with power and authority over someone else
- public power
 - "Lord" or "ruler" over a town or region
 - "Administrator" controlling some sector of city affairs
 - One's "boss" in a workplace
- household power:
 - A "master" over household slaves
 - Also used for "husband" since
 - a man was understood to be the "ruler" of his wife



Masters and Servants

- ὁ κύριος, "master, lord"
 - A person with power and authority over someone else
- Could also be a generic term of respect
 - Like English "sir"
 - Implies the addressee is the speaker's social superior
- Jews applied the term to God in all of these senses
 - Israel as God's subjects, God's servants, God's wife, God's children



Masters and Servants

- ὁ δοῦλος, "(male) slave"
- ἡ δοῦλη, "(female) slave"
 - Terms reserved specifically for slaves
 - Often mistranslated "servant" in English versions
 - almost always meant "slave" in the Roman Empire
 - few servants were not slaves (or recently freed slaves)
 - Perhaps less slavery in Judea and Galilee
 - but even there 'servants' were often in a bonded arrangement
 - not free workers, under bondholder's control



Masters and Servants

- ὁ δοῦλος, "(male) slave"
- ἡ δοῦλη, "(female) slave"
 - Terms reserved specifically for slaves
- Terms for "children" could also be used for slaves
 - Slaves called παις or even παιδισκος / παιδισκη
 - Reflects the fact that they did not have adult status
 - like children, property of the πατηρ
 - constantly reinforced their social inferiority



Friends and Neighbours

- ὁ φίλος, "(male) friend"
- ἡ φίλη, "(female) friend"
 - From an adjective meaning "dear" or "beloved"
 - Friends were often not equals
 - relationship of between more powerful patron and less powerful client
- ὁ/ἡ γείτων, "neighbour"
 - Same word can be masc. or fem.
 - Urban neighbourhoods were important to their inhabitants
 - shared local baths, fountains, altars, etc.
 - often strong sense of local community



The Household of Σιμων

- Here are the core members of the household of Σιμων
 - The other members of Simon's οἶκος are slaves
 - Φοιβη
 - Ἰαπων
 - and you!

