## Wash Yourselves Says Isaiah

## A Liturgical Translator's Manual

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O Lord, through the prayers of our Holy Fathers Kosmos the

Poet, John of Damascus, and Nikodemos of the Holy

Mountain, give us understanding and grace to create

translations that are pleasing to You!

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2 Purpose

## **Purpose**

This handbook is for people who speak English as a foreign language and are translating the liturgical texts into a non-Indoeuropean language. It answers the following questions: What does the Greek text say? What does it mean? What problems might I have translating it and how might I solve those problems? It answers these questions by providing the Greek text, example English translations, notes about each Greek word or phrase, and a detailed grammatical analysis<sup>1</sup>.

## **Types of Translations**

The type of translation a person creates depends on what the priority is. If the priority is to preserve the order of the Greek words and phrases and to use words that give the literal meaning of the Greek, I call this a *Structure-Oriented Translation*. I created the GE-SOT as an example. If the priority is to convey the meaning of the Greek text, I call this a *Meaning-Oriented Translation*. I created the GE-MOT as an example. Some translations balance these two priorities, for example, the translation in *The Festal Menaion* by His Eminence Kallistos Ware and Mother Mary (TFM). I created the GEV as another example. Whether or not a translation is structure-oriented, or meaning-oriented, or falls in between, when you translate a hymn, it is important to create a translation that can be sung based on a melody. So, the translation sometimes has to be adjusted by using different words or a different word order. Fr. Seraphim Dedes' translation is an example.

## **About the Global English Translations**

The GEV, GE-SOT and GE-MOT use the Oxford 3000<sup>2</sup> list of the most important English words. People who speak English as a second language should know these words. By trying to use only these 3000 words, the Global English translations have to adjust the translation in ways similar to what happens when people translate the Greek into non-Indoeuropean languages. These translations demonstrate three types of translation. The GE-SOT is the closest to the Greek word order and the literal meaning. It is used for the word by word discussion of the meaning and for the interlinear grammar and dependency diagram. The GE-MOT will help you understand the meaning. It does this by adding information that is implied by the Greek text. If you must translate from English, ask your Bishop which translation He prefers. If He is not available to ask, then use the GEV.

#### **How to Use this Handbook**

If you can, first read the Greek text. Then study the translations. Note what is similar and different. Make a first draft translation from the Greek or the GEV. Write down questions you have. Look for answers in the notes and grammar sections. Make changes to your translation based on what you read. Let other people read your translation. Ask questions to learn how they understand it. Make changes as needed. Adjust the translation to fit the melody it will be sung to.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comments, corrections, and suggestions for improvement should be sent to Michael Colburn at m.colburn@ocmc.org.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/about/oxford3000.

# Wash Yourselves Says Isaiah

## **The Text and Translations**

AGES Topic~Key: me.m01.d06~meMA.Ode9C12.text me - Menaion (τά Μηναῖα), m01 - January (Ιανουάριος)

#### **Source Text**

If you know Greek, use this as your source text:

gr_gr_cog	Ό Ἡσαΐας λούσασθε, καὶ καθάρθητε φάσκει· τάς πονηρίας ἔναντι, ἀφέλεσθε Κυρίου· οἱ διψῶντες, ὕδωρ ἐπὶ ζῶν πορεύεσθε· ῥανεῖ γὰρ ὕδωρ καινοποιὸν Χριστός, τοῖς προστρέχουσιν αὐτῷ ἐν πίστει, καὶ πρὸς ζωὴν τὴν ἀνάρς και βαπτίζει Πνείνιστες
	ἀγήρω, βαπτίζει Πνεύματι.

## **Global English Translations**

If you do not know Greek, you can use the en\_uk\_gev as your source text (model):

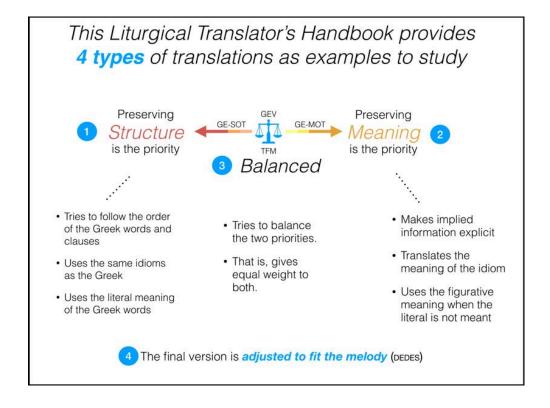
Structure Oriented (en_uk_gesot)	Wash yourselves, and clean yourselves! says Isaiah. The evil [of your acts] take away [from] [the] presence [of] [the] Lord. Those [who] are thirsty, come to living water! For [on] those [who] run [to] him in faith, Christ will sprinkle water [that] makes new; and he baptizes [them] [with] [the] Spirit into the life [of] not growing old.
Model (en_uk_gev)	Wash yourselves and be clean, the prophet Isaiah says. Take away from the presence of the Lord the evil acts that you do. You who are thirsty, come to the living water! For on those who run to him in faith, Christ will sprinkle water that makes them new; and he baptizes them with the Spirit into the life in which they will not grow old.
Meaning Oriented (en_uk_gemot)	Wash yourselves and be clean from your evil doing, says Isaiah, who spoke messages from God. Stop the evil that the Lord sees you doing! You who are thirsty for God, come to the living water! For Christ will help people who run to him in faith—he will shake onto them water that makes them new—he baptizes them with the Holy Spirit, which gives them a life in which they will not grow old.

#### The Text and Translations

#### **Other Translations**

en_uk_tfm	'Wash you, make you clean', says Isaiah. 'Put away the evil of your doings from before the Lord. Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the living waters: for Christ will sprinkle with the water of renewal those who hasten to Him in faith, and He baptizes them with the Spirit unto life that grows not old.'
en_us_dedes	Wash yourselves and be clean, says the Prophet Isaiah, * and put away your evildoing from before the Lord's eyes. * All you who are thirsty go now to the living water. * For Christ will sprinkle those who believing run to Him * with water that renews; and He baptizes them * with the Spirit unto undecaying life.

Note: some liturgical hymns originally used punctuation marks to indicate the boundary of metric feet. They do not have a grammatical role. They are called *scansion* symbols. In the modern version of source text or translations you might see asterisks (\*) or forward slashes (/) used as scansion symbols.



## **Notes About the Text**

### Summary

St. Nikodemos the Athonite says the purpose of this verse of the hymn is to encourage people to be baptized *EOPT*:289. He discusses how the poet makes use of the words of the Holy Prophet Isaiah. He says that when God says to wash and clean ourselves, he means we should make ourselves clean from sin through the Holy Mystery of Baptism. And that we need to guard this. That is, we need to keep ourselves clean by not doing things that are evil. This, he says, is the meaning of the words *Take away from the presence of the Lord the evil of your acts*.

#### References to the Bible

This liturgical text makes the following references to the Bible:

- **\* Those [who] are thirsty •** οἱ διψῶντες → Isa 55:1 Come, everyone who thirsts, to the waters! οἱ διψῶντες πορεύεσθε ἐφ' ὕδωρ The poet quotes the first part of this Bible verse, but adds the word *living* (ζῶν), which is a reference to Bible verses in the Gospel of John, e.g. John 4.10; 7.38. •
- ♦ Wash yourselves λούσασθε → Isa 1:16 Wash yourselves. Make yourself clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil. λούσασθε καθαροὶ γένεσθε ἀφέλετε τὰς πονηρίας ἀπὸ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν ἀπέναντι τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν μου παύσασθε ἀπὸ τῶν πονηριῶν ὑμῶν The poet quotes nearly the entire Bible verse, leaving out only the words Cease to do evil (παύσασθε ἀπὸ τῶν πονηριῶν ὑμῶν). The poet uses some different words than the Bible verse, and changes from before my eyes to in the presence of the Lord. So, it is not an exact quote. Keep in mind that the hymns were written as poetry and had to follow the rules of poetry. This is probably why the poet modified the quote from the Bible verse. THB:Isa:2161 note that this verse should be understood by looking at the one that follows it (verse 17), which says, Learn to do well. Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed. Defend the fatherless. Plead for the widow. This gives examples of the kind of evil God is talking about in verse 16. •
- ♦ will sprinkle water ῥανεῖ...ὕδωρ → Ezek 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you ῥανῶ ἐφ' ὑμᾶς ὕδωρ καθαρόν St. Nikodemos the Athonite (*EOPT* 290) believes this part of the hymn refers to the words God spoke to the Holy Prophet Ezekiel. •

#### **Discussion**

The notes are sorted based the order of words in the en\_uk\_gesot version of the text. English quotations from the Bible are from the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE) unless otherwise stated.

#### Notes About the Text

- ♦ Wash yourselves λούσασθε MEANING: The word *wash* is not being used the way we use it in ordinary life. In our hymn, it is not talking about washing off the dirt that gets on our bodies from work or play. When we do things that God says are sins, we become spiritually and morally dirty. God is telling us to wash ourselves from our sin. REFERS TO MYSTERY → Baptism (Το Άγιο Βάπτισμα): So says St. Nikodemos the Athonite *EOPT*:289.
- \* and clean yourselves καὶ καθάρθητε MEANING: The word *clean* is not being used in a physical way. See the comments about the word *wash. THB:Isa:2163* state that *being clean* is the result of *the washing*.
- \* says φάσκει MEANING: God spoke these words to the Holy Prophet Isaiah, who wrote them in the Old Testament book we call *Isaiah*. The word says refers to the words that God said to Isaiah.
- ♣ Isaiah Ὁ Ἡσαΐας REFERS TO HUMAN  $\Rightarrow$  Holy Prophet Isaiah: The poet is telling us that he is quoting the message that God gave to the prophet Isaiah.
- \* The evil [of your acts] τάς πονηρίας MEANING: BDAG says the meaning is the state or condition of a lack of moral or social values, wickedness, baseness, maliciousness, sinfulness. THB:Isa:2161 says that examples of this are given in Isa 1.17, which follows the one the poet is quoting.
- take away ἀφέλεσθε MEANING: The Greek word comes from ἀπο- (away)
   + αἰρέω (take).
- ❖ [from] [the] [presence] ἔναντι MEANING: L&N 83.33 defines the Greek word as a position in front of an object, whether animate or inanimate, which is regarded as having a spatial orientation of front and back and say that it can be translated in front of. In other words, if something has both a front and a back, and an object is placed in front of it, this word can be used. Other possible translations are: before, or, in the presence of (BrillDAG). In this hymn, what has been placed in front of God are the evil deeds of people. God says to remove them so that they are no longer in front of him, that is, take them away from his presence, or, away from his eyes, or, away from his sight. • GRAMMAR: This Greek word is technically an adverb, but it is often used as a preposition with a genitive (BrillDAG). EDG:109 says it derives from a compound of two prepositions εν (in) + άντί (opposite) and that άντί comes from the Indo-European noun meaning front or face. In our dependency analysis, we have treated it as an oblique rather than an adverb. • ADVICE FOR TRANSLATOR: The LXX says ἀπέναντι τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν μου (from before my eyes). Instead, the poet who wrote our hymn verse uses a single word, ἔναντι (before, in the presence of). THB:Isa:2170 say this does not mean that we are allowed to do evil if God does not see it. For example, if it is done behind his back. To avoid this possible misunderstanding, they suggest translating it similar to what the Good News Bible does, Stop all this evil that I see you doing. • CHECK YOUR BIBLE → Luke 1:8 before God • ἕναντι τοῦ Θεοῦ.
- [the] Lord. Kupíou REFERS TO GOD → God the Father:

- \* Those [who] are thirsty οἱ διψῶντες MEANING: The Greek has the plural definite article οἱ (the) and the participle διψῶντες (having thirst). This means the (ones who) are thirsty. Since God is talking to people who are like this and inviting them to come and drink living water, we could translate it as you who are thirsty.
   THEOLOGY: Although the Greek word can mean to physically thirst for water, it is used in this hymn in a figurative way. It means to be thirsty for God and the life he gives.
   CHECK YOUR BIBLE → Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην,ὅτι αὐτοὶ χορτασθήσονται..
- \* come πορεύεσθε GRAMMAR: This Greek verb and the Greek words for wash and clean are in the imperative mood, which is used for commands. Smyth 1835 says this mood is used for requests, entreaties, summons, prescriptions, exhortations, etc. That is, the Greek imperative mood is used not just for ordering someone to do something, but also inviting or encouraging them to do so. ADVICE FOR TRANSLATOR: Think about how your language gives orders to someone, or invites them to do something, or encourages them to do something. God orders us to wash and clean ourselves, and he invites us to come and drink the living water.
- to living water! ὕδωρ ἑπὶ ζῶν MEANING: The type of water that we are invited to come to is described as *living*. The Greek word is a participle in the present tense. In its literal meaning, the Greek phrase *living water* means *spring water LSJ*, that is, *water that comes out from a place under the ground*. St. Nikodemos describes it as water that gives life that does not end. This is the figurative meaning. He says this water comes from baptism and divine grace EOPT: 290. CHECK YOUR BIBLE  $\rightarrow$  John 4:10 living water ὕδωρ ζῶν: When Jesus Christ talked with the Samaritan woman at the well, he told her that if she asked him, he would give her living water. In verse 14, he says *whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.*
- \* For yαρ MEANING: The word *For* tells us that what we are about to hear or read will explain the reason for something that came beforehand. In this case, we will learn the reason that people who thirst are invited to come to the living water.
- [on] those [who] run τοῖς προστρέχουσιν MEANING: The Greek word προστρέχουσιν is a participle from the verb προστρέχω, which is προσ- (towards) + τρέχω (run).
- ★ to him αὐτῷ MEANING: The pronoun refers to Christ.
- \* Christ will sprinkle ῥανεῖ...Χριστός MEANING: The English word sprinkle means to shake small pieces of something or drops of a liquid on something OALD.
- \* water [that] makes new ὕδωρ καινοποιὸν MEANING: The Greek word literally means making new Lampe.
- ♣ and he baptizes [them] καὶ...βαπτίζει MEANING: The people whom Christ baptizes are the ones who run to him in faith.

#### Notes About the Text

- \* [with] [the] Spirit Πνεύματι CHECK YOUR BIBLE → Luke 3:16 He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit αὐτὸς ὑμᾶς βαπτίσει ἐν Πνεύματι ᾿Αγίω.
- ♣ into the life [of] not growing old πρὸς ζωὴν τὴν ἀγήρω MEANING: The Greek word ἀγήρω means not aging, that is, unaging. The word can also be translated ageless, immortal, eternal (Lampe). THEOLOGY: This life is the life referred to at the end of the Symbol of the Faith, I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. St. Nikodemos (EOPT:290) describes it using the word ἀτελεύτητος, which means not brought to an end (LSJ).



#### **Grammar**

## **Interlinear Text**

This section provides information about the grammar of words (that is, the morphology)  $^3$ . The Greek words appear in the same order as they do in the source text.

1 'O the ART.SG.M.NOM o	2 Ἡσαΐας Isaiah NOUN.SG.M.N Ἡσαΐας	3 <b>λούσασθ</b> wash.you OM VERB.2.F λούω		4 5 , καὶ , and  IP PM CONJ , καί
6 <b>καθάρθητε</b>	7 <b>φά</b> α	ZNCI		9 <b>τάς</b>
clean.yourselve	•			the
•	OR.MP.IMP VEF		,	ART.PL.F.ACC
καθαίρω	φάσ			Ö
10	11	12	13	
πονηρίας	 ἕναντι		ἀφέλεσθε	
evil.acts	[from].[the].p	oresence ,	take.away	
NOUN.PL.F.AC		PM	VERB.2.PL.AC	OR.MID.IMP
πονηρία	ἔναντι	,	ἀφαιρέω	
14	<i>15 16</i>	17		18
Κυρίου	· oi	διψ	ιῶντες	,
[of].[the].Lord	; Those	e [wh	o].are.thirsty	,
NOUN.SG.M.G	SEN PM ART.P		CP.ACT.PRS.M	I.PL.NOM PM
κύριος	· Ġ	διψ	άω	1
19	20 21		22	
ΰδωρ	ἐπὶ ζῶν		πορεύ	<b>ύεσθε</b>
water	to living		come	
		P.ACT.PRS.N.S		.2.PL.PRS.MID.IMP
ὔδωρ	ἐπί ζῶ		πορεύ	ω
23 24		25 26	2	-
· ῥανεῖ		γὰρ ὕδωρ		αινοποιὸν
· will.sprink		for water		hat].makes.new
	G.FUT.ACT.IND			DJ.SG.N.ACC
· ῥαίνω		γάρ ὕδωρ	K	αινοποιός

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>You can read about Greek grammar at https://ancientgreek.pressbooks.com.

28 29 30 31 Χριστός τοῖς προστρέχουσιν Christ [on].those [who].run NOUN.SG.M.NOM PM ART.PL.M.DAT PTCP.ACT.PRS.M.PL.DAT Χριστός Ò προστρέχω 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 αὐτῷ Ėν πίστει καὶ πρὸς ζωὴν [to].him in faith and into life PRON.SG.M.DAT PREP NOUN.SG.F.DAT PM PREP NOUN.SG.F.ACC αὐτός έv πίστις καί πρός ζωή 40 39 42 41 τὴν ἀγήρω βαπτίζει [of].not.growing.old he.baptizes.[them] the ART.SG.F.ACC ADJ.SG.F.GEN PM VERB.3.SG.PRS.ACT.IND Ò ἀγήραος βαπτίζω 43 44 Πνεύματι [with].[the].Spirit NOUN.SG.N.DAT PM πνεῦμα

Grammar



## **Dependency Diagram**

A dependency diagram shows the syntax of the text. *Syntax* means *the grammatical relationship between words*. It shows the relationships based on dependency grammar<sup>4</sup>. The order of each Greek word in the diagram is based on the word it depends on<sup>5</sup>. It appears indented and after the word it depends on. The first word in the diagram is the root, that is, the starting point of the dependencies.

```
|-7 root φάσκει says VERB.3.SG.PRS.ACT.IND φάσκω
  |-2 nsubj Ἡσαΐας Isaiah NOUN.SG.M.NOM Ἡσαΐας
     |-1 det 'O the ART.SG.M.NOM o
  |-3 parataxis λούσασθε wash.yourselves VERB.2.PL.AOR.MID.IMP λούω
    |-6 conj καθάρθητε clean.yourselves VERB.2.SG.AOR.MP.IMP καθαίρω
        4 punct , , PM ,
        |-5 cc καὶ and CONJ καί
        |-13 conj ἀφέλεσθε take.away VERB.2.PL.AOR.MID.IMP ἀφαιρέω
          |-10 obj πονηρίας evil.acts NOUN.PL.F.ACC πονηρία
            -8 punct · ; PM ·
            |-9 det τάς the ART.PL.F.ACC ὁ
          |-11 obl ἔναντι [from].[the].presence ADV ἔναντι
            |-14 nmod Κυρίου [of].[the].Lord NOUN.SG.M.GEN κύριος
          -12 punct , , PM ,
          |-22 conj πορεύεσθε come VERB.2.PL.PRS.MID.IMP πορεύω
            |-15 punct · ; PM ·
            |-17 csubj διψῶντες [who].are.thirsty PTCP.ACT.PRS.M.PL.NOM διψάω
               |-16 det oi Those ART.PL.M.NOM o
            |-18 punct , , PM ,
            |-19 obl ὕδωρ water NOUN.SG.N.ACC ὕδωρ
               |-20 case ἐπὶ to PREP ἐπί
                |-21 acl ζῶν living PTCP.ACT.PRS.N.SG.ACC ζῶ
  |-24 advcl ῥανεῖ will.sprinkle VERB.3.SG.FUT.ACT.IND ῥαίνω
     -23 punct · · PM ·
     |-25 mark yàρ for CONJ yáρ
     |-26 obj ὕδωρ water NOUN.SG.N.ACC ὕδωρ
        |-27 amod καινοποιὸν [that].makes.new ADJ.SG.N.ACC καινοποιός
     |-28 nsubj Χριστός Christ NOUN.SG.M.NOM Χριστός
     |-31 iobj προστρέχουσιν [who].run PTCP.ACT.PRS.M.PL.DAT προστρέχω
        |-29 punct,, PM,
        |-30 det τοῖς [on].those ART.PL.M.DAT ὁ
        |-32 obl αὐτῷ [to].him PRON.SG.M.DAT αὐτός
       |-34 obl πίστει faith NOUN.SG.F.DAT πίστις
          |-33 case ἐν in PREP ἐν
     |-42 conj βαπτίζει he.baptizes.[them] VERB.3.SG.PRS.ACT.IND βαπτίζω
        -36 cc καὶ and καί
        |-38 obl ζωὴν life NOUN.SG.F.ACC ζωή
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>See http://universaldependencies.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>depends on means is governed by or subordinate to.

12 Grammar

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|-35 punct , , PM ,
|-37 case πρὸς into PREP πρός
|-39 det τὴν the ART.SG.F.ACC ὁ
|-40 amod ἀγήρω [of].not.growing.old ADJ.SG.F.GEN ἀγήραος
|-41 punct , , PM ,
|-43 obl Πνεύματι [with].[the].Spirit NOUN.SG.N.DAT πνεῦμα
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## Wash Yourselves Says Isaiah

## **Abbreviations**

2 second person 3 third person ACC accusative ACT active ADJ adjective ADV adverb(ial) **AOR** aorist ART article CONJ conjunction DAT dative F feminine **FUT** future GEN genitive **IMP** imperative IND indicative Μ masculine MID middle middle-passive MP Ν neuter NOM nominative NOUN noun PLplural PMpunctuation mark PREP preposition PRON pronoun

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#### 14 Abbreviations

PRS present
PTCP participle
SG singular
VERB verb

acl clausal modifier of noun (adjectival clause)

advcl adverbial clause modifier

amod adjectival modifier

case case marking

cc coordinating conjunction

conj conjunct

csubj clausal subject

det determiner

en\_uk\_gemot GE-MOT Notes and Translations by Dr. Michael Colburn en\_uk\_gesot GE-SOT Notes and Translations by Dr. Michael Colburn

en\_uk\_gev GEV Notes and Translations by Dr. Michael Colburn

en\_us\_dedes Translations by Fr. Seraphim Dedes
gr\_gr\_cog Commonly used Orthodox Greek text

iobj indirect object

mark marker

nmod nominal modifier nsubj nominal subject

obj object

obl oblique nominal

parataxis parataxis

# wash Yourselves Says Isaiah punct punctuation root root

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OALD	Deuter, Margaret, Jennifer Bradbery, and Joanna Turnbull, editors (2015).  Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Oxford.
Lampe	Lampe, G. W., editor (1961). <i>A Patristic Lexicon</i> . Oxford.
LSJ	Liddell, H.G. and R. Scott, editors (1996). A Greek-Engish Lexicon.  With a Revised Supplement. Oxford.
L&N	Louw, Johannes and Eugene A. Nida, editors (1988–1989). Greek- English Lexicon of the New Testament. Based on Semantic Domains. New York.
BrillDAG	Montanari, Fronco, editor (2015). <i>The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek</i> . Leiden   Boston.
THB:Isa	Ogden, Graham S and Jan Stern (2011). <i>A Handbook on Isaiah</i> . New York.
Smyth	Smyth Herbert Weir, revised by Gordon M. Messing (1956). <i>Greek Grammar</i> . Cambridge, MA.
EOPT	ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΟΥ, ΝΙΚΔΗΜΟΥ ΤΟΥ (1987). ΕΟΡΤΟΔΡΟΜΙΟΝ. ΕΡΜΗΝΕΙΑ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΣΜΑΤΙΚΟΥΣ ΚΑΝΟΝΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΜΗΤΟΡΙΚΩΝ ΕΟΡΤΩΝ. ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ.

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