

# The Uses of Καί (BDAG)

## INTRODUCTION

- Conjunction. Sometimes functions as an adverb.
- Most frequently used particle in the Greek NT.
- Its uses in different ways and circumstances from other Greek literature contributes to the distinctive style of NT.
- Vivaciously versatile – far more complex and can mean far more than merely, “and.”
- At an advanced level of Greek, one should be able to understand and translate appropriately the various uses of καί found in biblical Greek.

## 1. MARKER OF CONNECTIONS [*and*]

### a. Single words

- Generally [*and*]
  - i. Ἰάκωβος καὶ Ἰωσήφ καὶ Σίμων καὶ Ἰούδας **Mt 13:55**.
- Connects two occurrences of the same word for emphasis [*and*]
  - i. μείζων κ. μείζων *greater and greater* Hermas 4, 1, 6.
    1. Actually, μειζονος και μειζονος! Perhaps BDAG has an older text.
  - ii. ἔτι κ. ἔτι *again and again* Barnabas 21:4
- With numerals, the larger number comes first [*untransl. / or*]
  - i. δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ *ten and eight = 18* **Lk 13:16**.
  - ii. “Or”
    1. εἶς καὶ δύο *one or two*
    2. σήμερον καὶ αὔριον *today or tomorrow* **Js 4:13**.
- Adding the whole to the part [*and in general*]
  - i. Πέτρος καὶ οἱ ἀπόστολοι *Peter and the rest of the apostles* **Ac 5:29**.
- Adding an especially important part to the whole [*and especially*]
  - i. πᾶς Ἰουδαὶ καὶ Ἱερουσαλήμ *all Judah and especially Jerusalem* 2 Ch 35:24.
- Hendiadys [*attributive*]
  - i. ἐξίσταντο ἐπὶ τῇ συνέσει καὶ ταῖς ἀποκρίσεσιν αὐτοῦ *they were amazed at his intelligent answers* **Lk 2:47**. Literally, *they were amazed at his understanding and his answers*.
- Coordination of two verbs, one of which should have been a participle [*untransl.*]
  - i. ἀποτολμᾷ κ. λέγει = ἀποτολμῶν λέγει *he is so bold as to say* **Ro 10:20**.

### b. Clauses and sentences

- Generally [*and*]
  - i. εἰσῆλθον ... κ. ἐδίδασκον *they entered...and kept on teaching* **Ac 5:21**.
  - ii. Connect two questions, or quotations, and dialogue, or alternate possibilities.
- Hebrew *waw* [*that*]

- i. Hebraism: a connective where more discriminating usage would call for other particles.
  - ii. Καί replaces οτι - και εἶδον και (for ὅτι) σεισμὸς ἐγένετο **Rv 6:12**
  - iii. Frequent with historical narrative.
    - 1. και ἐγένετο ... και (like 1 ... ʾḫʾ) *and it happened or came about...that* **Mt 9:10**.
- Rapid succession [*and...and...and...and*]
  - i. From speech of everyday life.
  - ii. Like Hebrew *waw* above, it occurs with ἐγένετο.
  - iii. Και εἶδον ὅτε ἤνοιξεν τὴν σφραγίδα τὴν ἕκτην, και σεισμὸς μέγας ἐγένετο και ὁ ἥλιος ἐγένετο μέλας ὡς σάκκος τρίχινος και ἡ σελήνη ὅλη ἐγένετο ὡς αἷμα **Rv 6:12ff**.
  - iv. This joins independent clauses (parataxis), rather than subordinating them (hypotaxis).
- Time [*when*]
  - i. Coordinates rather than subordinates with expressions of time.
  - ii. ἤγγικεν ἡ ὥρα κ. παραδίδοται *the time has come when he is to be given up* **Mt 26:45**.
  - iii. κ. ἐσταύρωσαν αὐτόν *when they crucified him* **Mk 15:25**
- Apodosis [*(if)...then*]
  - i. Due to Hebrew and LXX influence, but not offensive to ears trained in good Greek.
  - ii. ἐάν τις ἀκούσῃ τῆς φωνῆς μου και ἀνοίξῃ τὴν θύραν, [και] εἰσελεύσομαι πρὸς αὐτόν και δειπνήσω μετ' αὐτοῦ και αὐτὸς μετ' ἐμοῦ. **Rev 3:20**.
- Negative clause → affirmative clause [*and*]
  - i. οὔτε ἄντλημα ἔχεις κ. τὸ φρέαρ ἐστὶ βαθύ *you have no bucket, and the well is deep* **J 4:11**.
- Negative clause → negation continues [*and not*]
  - i. ἵνα μὴ γυμνὸς περιπατῇ και βλέπωσιν τὴν ἀσχημοσύνην αὐτοῦ. *So that he might not walk naked and (so that) they (might not) see his shame* **Rev 16:15**.
- Result [*and then, and so*]
  - i. Introduces a result from the preceding clause, especially after an imperative or imperatival expression.
  - ii. δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου και ποιήσω *come after me and then I will make* **Mt 4:19**.
- Confirmatory [*and so*]
  - i. Introduces a short clause that confirms the existence of something that ought to be.
  - ii. ἵνα τέκνα θεοῦ κληθῶμεν, και ἐσμέν *that we should be called children of God; and so we really are* **1 John 3:1**.
- Surprising fact [*and yet, and in spite of that, nevertheless*]
  - i. Emphasizes a surprising, unexpected, or noteworthy fact.
  - ii. κ. σὺ ἔρχῃ πρὸς μέ; *and yet you come to me?* **Mt 3:14**.
- Surprising fact with an attempt [*but*]
  - i. ζητεῖ κ. οὐχ εὕρισκει *he searches but he finds none* (no resting place) **Mt 12:43**.

- Contrasting response [*but*]
    - i. καὶ ἀποδώσεις μοι *Take it, but return (it) to me* Hermas 2, 1, 3.
  - Abrupt question [*then?*]
    - i. Introduces an abrupt question, which may often express wonder, ill-will, incredulity, etc.
    - ii. κ. τίς; *who then?* **Mk 10:26.**
    - iii. καὶ πῶς σὺ λέγεις ... ; *how is it, then, that you say ...* **J 14:9.**
  - Parenthesis [( )]
    - i. Introduces a parenthesis.
    - ii. κ. ἐκωλύθην ἄρχι τοῦ δεῦρο (*but so far I have been prevented*) **Ro 1:13.**
- c. Explicative [*that is, namely*]
- A word or clause is connected with another word or clause, for the purpose of explaining what goes before it.
  - καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος *that is, grace upon grace* **J 1:16.**
  - Another type of explicative: καὶ οὗτος, καὶ τοῦτο, καὶ ταῦτα
    - i. Only καὶ τοῦτο is present in NT. The first and last are in earlier Greek.
- d. Intensive\* (correcting BDAG's terminology) [*indeed, and indeed, and at that*]
- Incorrectly calls this ascensive, but later calls *indeed* "intensive."
  - See ascensive below.
  - Ἰ Χρ., καὶ τοῦτον ἐσταυρωμένον *J. Chr., indeed him on the cross* **1 Cor 2:2.**
  - ἔρχεται ὥρα καὶ νῦν ἐστὶν *an hour is coming, indeed it is already here* **J 5:25.**
- e. Pleonastic (aka redundant) [untransl.]
- After πολὺς and before a second adj.
  - πολλὰ ... κ. ἄλλα σημεῖα *many other signs* **J 20:30.**
- f. New development [untransl., *now, and*]
- Introduce something new with loose connection.
  - Καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Ἰωάννου, *This is the testimony of John* **John 1:19.**
- g. Both-and (καί...καί) [*both...and, although...yet, now...now*]
- Can connect single expressions, whole clauses or sentences, and even contrasts.

## 2. ADVERBIAL [*also, likewise*]

Marker to indicate an additive relation that is not coordinate to connect clauses and sentences. Functions as an adverb. This use of καί, then, does not connect (coordinate), but rather modifies verbs (adverbs, adverbial).

- a. Simply [*also*]
- κ. τὴν ἄλλην *the other one also* **Mt 5:39.**
  - Frequently used with pronouns
    - i. κἀγὼ *I also*; καὶ σὺ *you also*; κ. ὑμεῖς *you also*; κ. αὐτός *he also*.

- b. Ascensive\* [*even*]
- Wrongly identified by BDAG as “intensive.” Later it identifies “intensive” as *indeed*, not *even*.
  - Ascensive connotes a surprising, unanticipated factor which builds intensity with an ascending, upward movement. It takes it a step further, to another level (climbing stairs), the next step up. It surely has an intensive element, but with an ascending and surprising force.
  - καὶ τὰς ψυχὰς τῶν πεπελεκισμένων *even the souls of those who had been beheaded* **Rev 20:4**.
  - τὸ γὰρ πνεῦμα πάντα ἐραυνᾷ, καὶ τὰ βάθη τοῦ θεοῦ. *For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God* **1 Cor 2:10**.
  - Sometimes used with a comparative: κ. περισσότερον προφήτου *one who is even more than a prophet* **Mt 11:9**.
- c. Pleonastic Contrast/Comparison [*also, so also, thus also*]
- In sentences denoting a contrast, καί appears in various ways, sometimes in both members of the comparison, and often pleonastically.
    - i. καθάπερ ..., οὕτως καὶ *just as..., so also* **2 Cor 8:11**.
  - καί can also stand alone in the second member
    - i. ὡς ... καὶ *as...so also* **Mt 6:10**
- d. Pleonastic Cause/Result [(*also*) / untransl.]
- Used with expressions that introduce cause or result, here also pleonastic to a considerable degree.
  - διὰ τοῦτο καὶ *for this reason (also)* **Lk 11:49**.
- e. After interrogative [*at all, still*]
- τί καὶ βαπτίζονται; *why are they baptized (at all)?* **1 Cor 15:29**.
- f. Relative independence [untransl.]
- Used with a relative, it often gives greater independence to the following relative clause.
    - i. ὃ καὶ παρέδωκα ὑμῖν, ὅτι ὁ κύριος Ἰησοῦς ἐν τῇ νυκτὶ ἣ παρεδίδοτο ἔλαβεν ἄρτον *what (also) was handed down to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took the bread* **1 Cor 11:23**.
    - ii. ὃ καὶ ἐσπούδασα αὐτὸ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι. *the very thing which (also) I was eager to do* **Gal 2:10**.
- g. Pleonastic Preposition [untransl.]
- Redundant with prepositions: μετὰ, σύν.
  - μετὰ καὶ Κλήμεντος καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν συνεργῶν μου *with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers* **Phil 4:3**.
- h. Double names [*also*]
- Σαῦλος, ὁ καὶ Παῦλος *Saul who is also (called) Paul* **Ac 13:9**.

- i. Particle [determined by other particle(s)]
- With other particles
    - i. καὶ γάρ *for*
    - ii. καὶ γὰρ ... ἀλλά *granted that...but* **2 Cor 13:4**.
    - iii. καὶ γὰρ οὐ(κ): *neither* **1 Cor 11:9**; *for even...not* **2 Cor 3:10**.
    - iv. καί γε: *intensive, indeed, and indeed*.
    - v. καὶ ... δέ *and also, but also*
    - vi. καίτοι
      - 1. With a finite verb: *yet, on the other hand* **Acts 14:17**.
      - 2. With a genitive absolute: **Heb 4:3**.
      - 3. καίτοι γε or καί τοι γε: *although* **John 4:2**.