

# Appreciating the Bible

(Class notes Dale Younce, University of Mobile)

1. Observing what it says: who, what, when, where, how much, how many.
2. Interpreting what it means: words, grammar, context, historical background, literary form, figures of speech, cultural setting, harmony with scripture.
3. Applying it to me. There is only one interpretation, but many applications. God's word is dynamic; you and your circumstances change. Meditation-thinking it through for me.

More than you  
might want to know  
about Greek tenses.

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# What is an aorist tense?

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- Scholarly commentaries often refer to Greek words, and seems to find it significant that a verb is in the aorist tense.
  - See next slide with information from Learn to Read New Testament Greek by David Alan Black

“Unlike English, the most significant feature of tense in Greek is the **kind of action.**

A secondary consideration of tense, and one that applies only in the indicative mood, is time of action. But the essential signification of the Greek tense system is the kind of action—whether it is represented as ongoing, finished or simply as an occurrence.”

p.14.

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“Hence the basic issue with regard to tense is always the question of how much—or how little—the writer wishes to say about the kind of action involved.”

p. 15

# The aorist:

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focuses on the verbal idea in its entirety, without commenting upon either the process or the abiding results of the action. The aorist does not deny that these aspects may be present; in keeping with its name- α οριστος, 'undefined'—it simply chooses not to comment.

# Uses of the aorist.

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P. 50

- Action from the vantage point of its conclusion.
  - “I *have learned* to be content.” Phil. 4.11
- The beginning of an action.
  - “Christ died and *lived*.” Romans 14.9
- Views an action in its totality.
  - “This temple *was built* in forty-six years.” John 2.20