

## *Dechomai*

- A. The verb *dechomai* has the following cognates:
1. *Dechomai* (δέχημαι) (verb), “to take, receive, accept, approve.”
  2. *Anadechomai* (ἀναδεχέομαι) (verb), “to receive, welcome.”
  3. *Apodektos* (ἀπόδεκτος) (adjective), “pleasing, acceptable, agreeable.”
  4. *Apodechomai* (ἀποδέχομαι) (verb), “to welcome, receive favorably, accept, receive with pleasure.”
  5. *Apodoche* (ἀποδοχή) (noun), “acceptance, approval.”
  6. *Dektos* (δεκτός) (adjective), “acceptable, accept, favorable.”
  7. *Diadechomai* (διαδεχέομαι) (verb), “to receive in turn.”
  8. *Diadochos* (διάδοχος) (noun), “successor.”
  9. *Doche* (δοχή) (noun), “reception, feast.”
  10. *Eisdechomai* (εἰσδέχομαι) (verb), “to take in, receive, welcome.”
  11. *Ekdechomai* (ἐκδέχομαι) (verb), “to wait for, expect, look forward to.”
  12. *Endechomai* (ἐνδέχομαι) (verb), “to be possible, to allow.”
  13. *Epidechomai* (ἐπιδέχομαι) (verb), “to welcome, receive hospitably, admit, accept.”
  14. *Euprosdektos* (εὐπρόσδεκτος) (adjective), “acceptable, pleasant, well-received, approved.”
  15. *Paradechomai* (παραδέχομαι) (verb), “to accept, acknowledge (as correct), to receive, to delight in.”
  16. *Prosdechesthe* (προσδέχεσθε) (verb), “to receive someone, welcome.”
  17. *Hupodechomai* (ὑποδέχομαι) (verb), “to receive, answer, suppose, to take up, bear up, support.”
- B. Classical
1. Liddel and Scott (Greek-English Lexicon, New Edition, pages 382-383):
    - a. of things as the object, take, accept, receive; catch; of mental reception, take, accept without complaint; accept graciously; give ear to, hear; take or regard; take upon oneself
    - b. of persons as the object, welcome; admit; receive as an enemy, await the attack of; of a hunter waiting for game; expect, wait;
    - c. rarely with a thing as the subject, occupy, engage one; receive, hold; admit of; geometry, contain, circumscribe
    - d. intr. Succeed, come next
  2. *Dechomai* was used from Homer onwards and is cognate with the Latin *dexter*, “(on) the right hand.”
  3. The basic meaning of this verb is “to receive, accept” (Homer Iliad 23, 647).
  4. It emphasizes the passive attitude of receiving.
  5. The object received differ:
    - a. gifts
    - b. letters
    - c. payments
    - d. offering
  6. The word was used specifically in the sense of “receiving” words, i.e. to hear, understand.
  7. Herodotus employed the word in the sense of “receiving” of prophecy as in the flight of birds” (I, 63).
  8. It was used as a religious term in the sense of “reception of a sacrifice by the deity” (Homer Iliad, 2, 240).
  9. The word was used in magical incantations and also took on the sense of “to suffer.”
  10. *Dechomai* was employed for the hospitality which was honored and regarded as sacred in the ancient world (Xenophon Oec. 5, 8).
  11. Man is generally the subject who is able to accept things increasingly even to the point of enduring blows of fate (Homer, Iliad, 18, 115).
  12. More rarely the subject is the godhead who receives sacrifices and prayers (Homer Iliad 2, 240).
  13. It also had the meaning of “to receive, hear or understand the words of someone” (Euripides Med. 924; Polybius I, 43).
  14. The word was used by Josephus for the acceptance of a wish (Vit. 193).
  15. *Dechomai* is also the primary word in many compounds.
- C. LXX
1. In the LXX there is a special use of *dechomai* in translation of *ratsah* (רָצַח), “to find pleasure, to receive favorably.”
  2. The most common Hebrew counterpart to *dechomai* though is *laqach* (לָקַח), which is also a multi-purpose word and can mean “to take, seize, remove, acquire.”

3. It is used for the Hebrew *nasa* (נָסָה), “receive, accept.”
4. *Dechomai* is used to translate the following Hebrew terms:
  - a. *zaraq* (זָרַק), “sprinkle” (2 Ch. 30:16).
  - b. *chazaq* (חָזַק), “be strong”; hiphil: “support” (Jb. 8:20).
  - c. *kul* (כּוּל), Hiphil: “hold” (2 Ch. 7:7).
  - d. *qaval* (קָבַל), Piel: “take” (2 Ch. 29:16); “accept” (Jb. 2:10).
  - e. *shuv* (שׁוּב), “turn, return”; hiphil: “recall” (Dt. 30:1).

D. NT

1. The verb *dechomai* appears 55 times in the Greek NT and appears predominately in the Gospels.
2. The word has 3 basic usages in the Greek NT:
  - a. to receive someone, to welcome
  - b. to take hold of, seize something
  - c. to approve, accept something (intangible)
3. Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament (volume 1, pages 292):
  - a. taking, receiving a object
  - b. acceptance and receiving of a person
  - c. acceptance of facts
4. Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains (volume 2):
  - a. to receive or accept an object or benefit for which the initiative rests with the giver, but the focus of attention in the transfer is upon the receiver – ‘to receive, receiving, to accept’ (page 572).
  - b. to accept the presence of a person with friendliness – ‘to welcome, to receive, to accept, to have as a guest’ (page 453).
  - c. to readily receive information and to regard it as true – ‘to receive readily, to accept, to believe’ (page 372).
  - d. to take hold of something or someone, with or without force – ‘to take hold of, to grasp, to grab’ (page 220).
5. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (page 177):
  - a. to take, receive literally
  - b. to take in hand, grasp
  - c. put up with, tolerate someone or something
6. The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon (pages 130-131):
  - a. to take with the hand; to take hold of
  - b. to take up, receive; to receive, grant access to, a visitor; not to refuse intercourse or friendship; to receive to hospitality; to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one’s own, approve, not to reject; to receive, to take upon one’s self, sustain, bear, endure
  - c. to receive, get
7. The Analytical Greek Lexicon Revised (page 88):
  - a. to receive
  - b. to receive into and retain, contain
  - c. met. To receive by the hearing, learn, acquire a knowledge of
  - d. to receive, admit, grant access to, receive kindly, welcome
  - e. to receive in hospitality, entertain
  - f. to bear with, bear patiently
  - g. met. To receive, approve, assent to
  - h. to admit and by implication to embrace, follow
8. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, “*dechomai*, “to receive by deliberate and ready reception of what is offered,” is used of (a) taking with the hand, taking hold, taking hold of or up, e. g., Luke 2:28, RV, “he received (Him),” KJV, “took he (Him) up”; 16:6,7; 22:17; 6:17; (b) “receiving,” said of a place “receiving” a person, of Christ into the Heavens, Acts 3:21; or of persons in giving access to someone as a visitor, e. g., John 4:45; 2 Cor 7:15; Gal 4:14; Col 4:10; by way of giving hospitality, etc., e. g., Matt. 10:14,40 (four times), 41 (twice); 18:5; Mark 6:11; 9:37; Luke 9:5,48,53; 10:8,10; 16:4; v. 9, of reception, “into the eternal tabernacles,” said of followers of Christ who have used “the mammon of unrighteousness” to render assistance to (“make... friends of”) others; of Rahab’s reception of the spies, Heb 11:31; of the reception, by the Lord, of the spirit of a departing believer, Acts 7:59; of “receiving” a gift, 2 Cor 8:4 (in some mss.; RV follows those which omit it); of the favorable reception of testimony and teaching, etc.,

Luke 8:13; Acts 8:14; 11:1; 17:11; 1 Cor 2:14; 2 Cor 8:17; 1 Thess 1:6; 2:13, where *paralambano* (No. 2) is used in the 1st part, "ye received," *dechomai* in the 2nd part, "ye accepted," RV (KJV, "received"), the former refers to the ear, the latter, adding the idea of appropriation, to the heart; James 1:21; in 2 Thess 2:10, "the love of the truth,:" i. e., love for the truth; cf. Matt 11:14, "if ye are willing to receive it," an elliptical construction frequent in Greek writings; of "receiving," by way of bearing with, enduring, 2 Cor 11:16; of "receiving" by way of getting, Acts 22:5; 28:21, of becoming partaker of benefits, Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17; Acts 7:38; 2 Cor 6:1; 11:4 (last clause "did accept": cf. *lambano* in previous clauses); Phil 4:18."