

The Power of The Word of God - Heb 4:12

1. Introduction--This morning I will exegete Heb 4:12; a verse describing the energy and power of the Word of God. First, however, I want to read Psalm 29 to demonstrate the power of God Himself.

Psa 29:1 Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Psa 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Psa 29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

Psa 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

Psa 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

Psa 29:6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, the Anti-Lebanon range like a young wild ox.

Psa 29:7 The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

Psa 29:8 The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh-barnea.

Psa 29:9 The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

Psa 29:10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

Psa 29:11 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

2. Now let's see what we can learn of the power of God's Word by exegeting an old favorite--Heb 4:12.

KJV-New Sentence

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

NIV

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

FOR THE WORD OF GOD γαρ ο λογος ο Θεος

1. **Gar Ho Logos Ho Theos** is better translated "For you see the Word of God ...

2. **Gar** is an explanatory particle followed by the monadic noun **Logos** and the monadic proper noun **Theos**.

IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL, ζαω και ενεργησ

1. **Zao Kai Energes** is better translated “is most certainly living and energetic and capable of performing its assigned task ...”

2. **Zao** is a verb parsed as a present active participle followed by the connective conjunction **Kai** and the noun **Energes**, declined as a nominative singular.

AND SHARPER και τομωτεροσ

1. **Kai Tomoteris** is well translated “and sharper ...”

2. **Kai** is a conjunction used as a simple connective followed by the adjective **Tomoteris**, declined as a nominative singular. **Tomoteris** is related to **Tomos**, **Tomeo**, **Tome** and **Peritome**.

THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD υπερ πασ διστομοσ μαχαιρα

1. **Huper Pas Distomos Machaira** is better translated “beyond that of a Roman soldier’s double-edged sword ...”

2. **Huper** is a preposition followed by the adjective **Pas**, declined as an accusative singular and the noun **Machaira**, declined as an accusative singular; **Machaira** being modified by the adjective **Distomos**.

PIERCING EVEN διικνεομαι και

1. **Diikneomai Kai** is better translated “passing through even to the degree of penetrating ...”

2. **Diikneomai** is a verb parsed as a present active participle followed by the conjunction **Kai** used as an adverb and thus translated “even.”

TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER αχρι μεροσ

1. **Achri Meros** is better translated “resulting in a division and a fragmenting ...” or “literally “until” a division and a fragmentation.

2. **Achri** is an adverb followed by the noun **Meros**, declined as a genitive singular.

OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, ΨΥΧΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΝΕΥΜΑ

1. **Psuche Kai Pneuma** is better translated “of a believer’s soul and human spirit ...”
2. **Psuche** is a noun declined as a genitive singular followed by the conjunction **Kai** which connects the noun **Psuche** with the noun **Pneuma**, both being declined as genitive singulars.

AND OF THE JOINTS AND MARROW, ΑΡΜΟΣ ΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΜΥΕΛΩΝ

1. **Harmos Te Kai Muelon** is better translated “and of the joints and of the marrow ..” or “both of the joints and of the vascular tissue occupying the cavities of those bones ...”
2. **Harmos** is a noun declined as a genitive plural followed by the **Te ... Kai** correlative and the noun **Muelon**, declined as a genitive plural.
3. **Harmos** describes the points of contact between the elements of our skeleton with the parts that surround and support it. **Muelon** describes the vascular material found inside our bones.

AND IS A DISCERNER ΚΑΙ ΚΡΙΤΙΚΟΣ

1. **Kai Kritikos** is well translated “and is a discerner ...” or “and forms a standard of proper thought and conduct ...”
2. **Kai** is a conjunction used as a simple connective followed by the verb **Kritikos**, declined as a nominative singular.

OF THE THOUGHTS ΕΝΘΥΜΗΣΙΣ

1. **Enthumesis** is better translated “of a believer’s left lobe cogitations ...”
2. **Enthumesis** is a noun declined as a genitive plural.

AND INTENTS OF THE HEART; ΚΑΙ ΕΝΝΟΙΑ ΚΑΡΔΙΑ

1. **Kai Ennoia Kardia** is better translated “and application of the doctrine resident in the right lobe of his soul ...”
2. **Kai** is a conjunction followed by the noun **Ennoia**, declined as genitive plural and the noun **Kardia**, declined as a genitive singular.

3. Now let's see how our entire verse looks so far by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Heb 4:12 For you see The Word of God is most certainly living and energetic and capable of performing its assigned task; it is sharper than a Roman soldier's two-edged sword capable of penetrating and dividing a believer's soul and his human spirit, fragmenting the bones and the vascular tissue occupying the cavities of those bones and forming a standard of proper thought and conduct in his left lobe even revealing what doctrine, if any, is resident and producing in his right lobe.

QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.