Chapter 18
Verbal System: -μι Verbs

THE BASICS

✓ -ω and -μι Verbs
✓ Conjugation of -μι Verbs
✓ ἀφίημι, ἀπόλλυμι, δείκνυμι

18.1 Vocabulary

18.1.1 Second-Declension Adjective

διάβολος, -ον   slanderous; as a noun: the slanderer, devil (cf. "diabolical")

18.1.2 Verbs

ἰδού   Look! See! Behold!

18.1.3 -μι Verbs

ἀπόλλυμι, ἀπολέσω or ἀπολῶ [liquid], ἀπώλεσα, ἀπόλωλα
      act.: I ruin, destroy, lose; *mid. and pass.:* I perish, die, am ruined
ἀφίημι, ἀφήσω, ἀφῆκα, ——, ἀφεῖμαι, ἀφέθην
      I send away, cancel, pardon, forgive, leave, allow, let
δείκνυμι or δεικνύω, δείξω, ἔδειξα, ——, ——, ἐδείχθην
      I show
δίδωμι, δώσω, ἔδωκα, δέδωκα, δέδομαι, ἐδόθην
      I give, yield, hand over, give up
      ἀποδίδωμι
          I give away, pay, return, give back
      παραδίδωμι
          I hand over, deliver, pass on, hand down
ἵστημι, στήσω, ἔστησα (tr.) or ἔστην (intr.), ἕστηκα, ——, ἐστάθην
      transitive (pres., impf., fut., 1st aor. act.): I put, place, set; *intransitive (2d aor., pf., plupf. act.; fut. mid. and pass.; 1st aor. pass.):* I stand, appear, stand still (see comments on p. 163)

ἀνίστημι
>   I raise, raise up; rise, stand up

παρίστημι
>   I place beside, present, offer; stand

τίθημι, θήσω, ἔθηκα, τέθεικα, τέθειμαι, ἐτέθην
>   I put, place, lay

ἐπιτίθημι
>   I lay upon, put upon

φημί
>   I say, affirm. Only three forms occur in the GNT: φησίν, 3d per. sg., and φασίν,
>   3d per. pl., pres. act. indic. (both enclitics); ἔφη, 3d per. sg., 2d aor. act. indic.

18.2 -ω and -μι Verbs

Aside from the irregular verb εἰμί, all of the verbs introduced thus far have belonged to the -ω conjugation. Now the second class of Greek verbs needs to be learned: the -μι verbs. They are so named because the first person singular, present active indicative, has this ending.

Over the centuries, the -μι forms were gradually replaced by -ω forms in Greek. Thus, when you encounter a verb identified as having a -μι verb stem but having many or all -ω forms, you should not be surprised.

The -μι verbs have peculiar patterns of formation in the first and third principal parts (present, imperfect, and aorist tenses). Special attention is paid below to δίδωμι, τίθημι, and ἵστημι not only because they are the most common -μι verbs (apart from εἰμί), but also because numerous compound verbs in the GNT are formed with them.

18.3 Conjugation of -μι Verbs

18.3.1 *The First Principal Part*

Present active. Four novel characteristics should be noted:

1. *Reduplication with ι.* In the first principal part of many -μι verbs, the initial stem consonant is reduplicated. Unlike perfect tense reduplication, however, the vowel placed between the reduplicated consonants is ι, not ε. For stems beginning with σ, an ι with a rough breathing mark is added in place of reduplication. This reduplication is a sure indication of the present stem of a -μι verb; hence the δι of δίδωμι (impf. ἐδίδουν; but cf. pf. δέδωκα), the τι of τίθημι (impf. ἐτίθην; cf. pf. τέθεικα), and the ἱ of ἵστημι (impf. ἵστην; cf. pf. ἕστηκα).

2. *The stem itself.* The plural forms of the present active indicative contain the characteristic stem vowel, while the singular forms have a *lengthened form* of the stem.

vowel. Thus the stems of δίδωμι, τίθημι, and ἵστημι are δο-, θε-, and στα- respectively (1st pl.: δίδομεν, τίθεμεν, ἵσταμεν).

3. *No linking vowels.* Endings are attached directly to the stem, with the final vowel of the stem lengthening in the singular.

4. *The endings.* The first and third singular forms and, to a lesser degree, the third plural differ from -ω verbs, as shown in the bold-type forms below:

	Singular	Plural
1	**-μι**	-μεν
2	-ς	-τε
3	**-σι(ν)**	**-ασι(ν)**

Present Active Indicative of Common -μι Verbs

Singular

1	δί δω μι	τί θη μι	ἵ στη μι
2	δί δω ς	τί θη ς	ἵ στη ς
3	δί δω σι(ν)	τί θη σι(ν)	ἵ στη σι(ν)

Plural

1	δί δο μεν	τί θε μεν	ἵ στα μεν
2	δί δο τε	τί θε τε	ἵ στα τε
3	δι δό ασι(ν)	τι θέ ασι(ν)	ἱ στᾶ σι(ν)

The only inconsistency in the paradigms above is that contraction occurs in the third person plural form ἱστᾶσι(ν) (α + α). The circumflex accent is a clue that contraction has occurred.

Present middle/passive. This tense uses the primary middle endings without linking vowels. The second person singular does not contract. The stem vowel does not change.

Present Middle/Passive Indicative of Common -μι Verbs

Singular

1	δίδο μαι	τίθε μαι	ἵστα μαι
2	δίδο σαι	τίθε σαι	ἵστα σαι
3	δίδο ται	τίθε ται	ἵστα ται

Plural

1	διδό μεθα	τιθέ μεθα	ἱστά μεθα
2	δίδο σθε	τίθε σθε	ἵστα σθε
3	δίδο νται	τίθε νται	ἵστα νται

Imperfect active. The augment is regular (where it exists), and secondary active endings are attached without linking vowels. There is odd variation in the lengthened stem vowel of the singular. Still, identification is straightforward because the imperfect manifests the reduplicated present stem and familiar secondary active endings. (Note: The third person plural uses the alternate -σαν rather than -ν.)

Imperfect Active Indicative of Common -μι Verbs

Singular

1	ἐ δίδου ν	ἐ τίθη ν	ἵστη ν
2	ἐ δίδου ς	ἐ τίθει ς	ἵστη ς
3	ἐ δίδου	ἐ τίθει	ἵστη

Plural

1	ἐ δίδο μεν	ἐ τίθε μεν	ἵστα μεν
2	ἐ δίδο τε	ἐ τίθε τε	ἵστα τε
3	ἐ δίδο σαν	ἐ τίθε σαν	ἵστα σαν

Imperfect middle/passive. The secondary middle/passive endings are attached without linking vowels, and the second person singular does not contract. The stem vowel does not change.

Imperfect Middle/Passive Indicative of Common -μι Verbs

Singular

1	ἐδιδό μην	ἐτιθέ μην	ἱστά μην
2	ἐδίδο σο	ἐτίθε σο	ἵστα σο
3	ἐδίδο το	ἐτίθε το	ἵστα το

Plural

1	ἐδιδό μεθα	ἐτιθέ μεθα	ἱστά μεθα
2	ἐδίδο σθε	ἐτίθε σθε	ἵστα σθε
3	ἐδίδο ντο	ἐτίθε ντο	ἵστα ντο

18.3.2 The Third Principal Part

Aorist active. The verbs δίδωμι and τίθημι use the secondary active endings of the -ω conjugation, but -κ- is used for the tense suffix, not -σ-, and the familiar α/ε linking vowels are used. Observe that -μι verbs use the lengthened stem vowel throughout the conjugation (ἐδω-, ἐθη-, ἐστη-). Because there is no reduplication in the aorist, there should be no confusion with the perfect tense.

First Aorist Active Indicative of Common -μι Verbs

Singular

1	ἔ δω κα	ἔ θη κα
2	ἔ δω κα ς	ἔ θη κα ς
3	ἔ δω κε(ν)	ἔ θη κε(ν)

Plural

1	ἐ δώ κα μεν	ἐ θή κα μεν
2	ἐ δώ κα τε	ἐ θή κα τε
3	ἔ δω κα ν	ἔ θη κα ν

ἵστημι merits individual attention because it has both first and second aorist principal parts. The first aorist form ἔστησα (conjugated like any -ω first aorist) is transitive; that is, it takes a direct object. It means "I caused (something) to stand; I placed (something)," and so on. The second aorist form ἔστην (note that the third plural ending is -σαν, not -ν) is intransitive; that is, it does not take a direct object. It means "I stood; I stood firm."

First Aorist Active (Transitive) *I caused to stand*	**Second Aorist Active (Intransitive)** *I stood*

Singular

1	ἔ στη σα	ἔ στη ν
2	ἔ στη σα ς	ἔ στη ς
3	ἔ στη σε(ν)	ἔ στη

Plural

1	ἐ στή σα μεν	ἔ στη μεν
2	ἐ στή σα τε	ἔ στη τε
3	ἔ στη σα ν	ἔ στη σαν

Aorist middle tense. Of the three verbs just considered, only τίθημι occurs in the aorist middle tense. It conjugates precisely as a second aorist middle of the -ω conjugation (cf. ἠγαγόμην on p. 123). Aside from the contraction in the second singular, the only difference between the imperfect middle/passive and this tense is the imperfect's reduplication of the first principal part; compare the imperfect ἐτιθε- and the aorist ἐθε-.

	Singular	*Plural*
1	ἐ θέ μην	ἐ θέ μεθα
2	ἔ θου (ἔθε + σο)	ἔ θε σθε
3	ἔ θε το	ἔ θε ντο

18.3.3 Second and Fourth through Sixth Principal Parts

To conjugate the tenses of the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth principal parts, you simply use the stems of the principal parts and the endings employed in the -ω conjugation. Thus, the future active is στήσω, στήσεις, στήσει, and so on; the perfect active is τέθεικα, τέθεικας, τέθεικε, and so on; the perfect middle/passive is τέθειμαι, τέθεισαι, τέθειται and so on; and the aorist passive is ἐδόθην, ἐδόθης, ἐδόθη, and so on.

18.4 ἀφίημι, ἀπόλλυμι, δείκνυμι

These three verbs are of sufficient importance and frequency in the GNT to merit comment about their peculiarities. Only the forms that occur in the GNT are given.

18.4.1 ἀφίημι: I cancel

In the first principal part, ἀφίημι occurs with a mixture of -μι and -ω verb endings. The stem ἱε- (ε + reduplication) was obscured in the Koine period and even disappeared in the plural forms of the present active indicative with the addition of (-ω verb) linking vowels.[1]

	Present Active	Present Middle/ Passive	Imperfect Middle/ Passive
		Singular	
1	ἀφίημι	————	————
2	ἀφεῖς	————	————
3	ἀφίησι(ν)	ἀφίεται	ἤφιε(ν)
		Plural	
1	ἀφίομεν	————	————
2	ἀφίετε	————	————
3	ἀφίουσι(ν)	ἀφίενται or ἀφίονται	————

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[1] ἀφίημι is a compound verb (ἀπό + ἵημι). Eight compound verbs in the GNT are formed from ἵημι, including συνίημι ("understand, comprehend, grasp").

All other principal parts of ἀφίημι conjugate like -ω verbs, with the exception of the tense suffix -κ- in the aorist active (cf. ἔδωκα, ἔθηκα). Similar to contract verbs, the stem vowel ε lengthens to η consistently in the second and third principal parts. Otherwise both are regular. The reduplication with ι has properly disappeared, being characteristic of the first principal part only.

	Future Active	Aorist Active	Perfect Middle/ Passive	Aorist Passive	Future Passive
			Singular		
1	ἀφήσω	ἀφῆκα	——	——	——
2	ἀφήσεις	ἀφῆκας	——	——	——
3	ἀφήσει	ἀφῆκε(ν)	——	——	ἀφεθήσεται
			Plural		
1	——	ἀφήκαμεν	——	——	——
2	——	ἀφήκατε	——	——	——
3	ἀφήσουσιν	ἀφῆκαν	ἀφέωνται	ἀφέθησαν	——

18.4.2 ἀπόλλυμι: I ruin

Although ἀπόλλυμι is a -μι verb, no -μι forms occur in the first principal part. Note the past-tense augment (o lengthened to ω) in the imperfect and the use of familiar primary and secondary endings:

	Present Active	Present Middle/ Passive	Imperfect Middle/ Passive
		Singular	
1	——	ἀπόλλυμαι	——
2	——	——	——
3	ἀπολλύει	ἀπόλλυται	——
		Plural	
1	——	ἀπολλύμεθα	——
2	——	——	——
3	——	ἀπόλλυνται	ἀπώλλυντο

Observe the stem change in the second and third principal parts as well as the past-tense augmentation (o to ω) in the aorist tenses:

	Future Active	Future Middle	First Aorist Active	First Aorist Middle
			Singular	
1	ἀπολῶ	———	ἀπώλεσα	———
2	———	———	———	———
3	ἀπολέσει	ἀπολεῖται	ἀπώλεσε(ν)	ἀπώλετο
			Plural	
1	———	———	———	———
2	———	ἀπολεῖσθε	———	———
3	———	ἀπολοῦνται	———	ἀπώλοντο

18.4.3 δείκνυμι: I show

In the indicative mood, one finds only the following examples of δείκνυμι. Observe that the future and aorist have strictly -ω forms.

	Present Active	Future Active	First Aorist Active
		Singular	
1	δείκνυμι	δείξω	ἔδειξα
2	δεικνύεις	———	———
3	δείκνυσι(ν)	δείξει	ἔδειξε(ν)

EXERCISES

A. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. οὗτος ἔσται μέγας καὶ υἱὸς ὑψίστου* κληθήσεται, καὶ δώσει αὐτῷ κύριος ὁ θεὸς τὸν θρόνον Δαυὶδ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ.
2. καὶ βασιλεύσει* ἐπὶ τὸν οἶκον Ἰακὼβ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, καὶ τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔσται τέλος.
3. οὐδὲ γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ κρίνει οὐδένα,[2] ἀλλὰ τὴν κρίσιν πᾶσαν δέδωκεν τῷ υἱῷ.
4. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐ Μωϋσῆς δέδωκεν ὑμῖν τὸν ἄρτον ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ἀλλ᾽ ὁ πατήρ μου δίδωσιν ὑμῖν τὸν ἄρτον ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ τὸν ἀληθινόν.*
5. καὶ αὐτὴ εἶπεν, Ποῦ* τεθείκατε αὐτόν;

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[2]Greek often uses redundant double negatives where English idiom uses only one. Translate this clause using only one negative.

6. τὸ ἔθνος τοῦτο σημεῖον ζητεῖ, καὶ σημεῖον οὐ δοθήσεται αὐτῷ εἰ μὴ*3 τὸ σημεῖον Ἰωνᾶ.*

7. Ἤγαγον δὲ αὐτοὺς καὶ ἔστησαν4 ἐν τῷ συνεδρίῳ.* καὶ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ ἀρχιερεύς.

8. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Πάλιν γέγραπται, Οὐκ ἐκπειράσεις* κύριον τὸν θεόν σου.

9. Πάλιν παραλαμβάνει αὐτὸν ὁ διάβολος εἰς ὄρος ὑψηλὸν* λίαν,* καὶ δείκνυσιν αὐτῷ πάσας τὰς βασιλείας τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τὴν δόξαν αὐτῶν.

10. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ταῦτά σοι πάντα δώσω.

11. καὶ ὅτε ἐστήκατε καὶ προσεύχεσθε, ἀφήσετε εἴ τι ἔχετε κατά τινος, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

12. ὅτε ἤμην μετ᾽ αὐτῶν ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, καὶ ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας.*

13. ὑμεῖς ἐστε οἱ υἱοὶ τῶν προφητῶν καὶ τῆς διαθήκης* ἧς διέθετο* ὁ θεὸς πρὸς τοὺς πατέρας ὑμῶν.

14. εἶπεν δὲ ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Ἀβραάμ, Καὶ ἐν τῷ σπέρματί σου ἐνευλογηθήσονται* πᾶσαι αἱ πατριαί* τῆς γῆς.

15. Ἀλλὰ ἐρεῖ τις, Πῶς ἐγείρονται* οἱ νεκροί;

16. ὁ δὲ θεὸς δίδωσιν αὐτῷ σῶμα καθὼς ἠθέλησεν,* καὶ ἑκάστῳ τῶν σπερμάτων ἴδιον σῶμα.

B. Translate the following sentences into Greek:

1. Jesus knew that the woman was placing her hands upon his garment.
2. He turned and said to her, "Why did you touch me?"
3. She stood before him and said, "I perceived that you are the Prophet."
4. He said, "Your faith has saved you and your sins are forgiven."
5. She cried out with joy, "I will show myself to the priest now!"

3εἰ μή is an idiom. Search for it under εἰ.

4Bear in mind that the first aorist form of ἵστημι is *transitive* and thus calls for a direct object. In this case, the direct object is the same as for the previous verb.