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## Book of Mormon in Greek

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**Abstract:** This article is an announcement regarding the translation of the Book of Mormon in Greek. It includes an extract in Greek of 3 Nephi 11 and extols the beauty and value of the Greek language.

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## BOOK OF MORMON IN GREEK.

BY JOSEPH F. THORUP.

At last the Book of Mormon has been translated into the Greek language. I say at last, because several attempts have before been made. The first two books of Nephi have been oftenest translated, but these were one evening destroyed by accident, and we were therefore obliged to commence anew. The translation now completed is being read, revised and compared with the German, Danish and French editions. In this we have made good progress, but the comparing of the manuscripts with other translations makes the work laborious, consequently somewhat slow.



Paul Graziatos, Translator.  
Born in Cephalonia, in 1847.

In the translation of the Book of Mormon into Greek we have had the advantage of the language, as comparison will show, and

I only regret that we cannot all enjoy it. Probably of all the translations that have been made, none are so literal as the Danish, but the Greek language was the depository of the gospel, and in Greek only can we hope for the more perfect rendering of holy writ.

“In answer to your question,” says the translator, “I will say that Greek is above all languages the most fitting for the expression of religious representations and philosophical thoughts; arising to a matchless degree of perfection, through wonder-



L'Areopage—Mars Hill, Athens.

And they took Paul, and brought him into Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? \* \* Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' Hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.—Acts 17: 19, 22.

ful poets and prose writers, as were certainly Plato and Aristotle and the Stoics, this language was made by Alexander the Great the common property of the learned of the then civilized world. The scattered Jews in Egypt, in the loss of their national language, were compelled to translate their sacred books into Greek, that they might preserve the religion and nationality of their fathers. And at the time of the coming of Christ, Greek had become the world-organ of intellectual and commercial intercourse. In it was conceived and formulated the great man-God

ἐπὶ τῶν κεφαλῶν αὐτῶν, οὕτως ὥστε μικρὸν μετὰ τὴν ἀνάληψιν τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν, οὕτως ἀληθῶς ἐφανερώθη αὐτοῖς·

19. Διότι ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐδίδαξεν αὐτούς, καὶ ἔκθεσις τῆς διδασκαλίας αὐτοῦ θὰ δοθῇ ὕστερον. Διὸ ἐπὶ τοῦ παρόντος παύω ὁμιλῶν.

#### ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟΝ 11

Ἐν τῇ γῆ Ἰσραὴλ ἐφανερώθη ὁ Χριστὸς πρὸς τὸν λαὸν Νεφί, ὅτε ὁ ὄχλος συνήχθη ἐν τῇ γῆ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ ἐδίδαξεν αὐτούς, καὶ οὕτως ἐφανερώθη αὐτοῖς.

1. Καὶ ἐγένετο, ὄχλος πολὺς συνήχθη ἐκ τοῦ λαοῦ Νεφί περὶ τοῦ ναοῦ, ὅστις ἦτο ἐν τῇ γῆ Ἰσραὴλ· καὶ ἐθαύμαζον καὶ ἐξεπλήσσοντο καὶ ἐδεικνυον ἀλλήλοις τὴν γενομένην μεγάλην καὶ θαυμαστὴν μεταβολήν.

2. Συνδιελέγοντο δὲ καὶ περὶ τούτου τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, περὶ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ ὁποίου εἶχε δοθῆναι τὸ σημεῖον.

3. Καὶ ἐν ᾧ οὗτοι οὕτω διελέγοντο πρὸς ἀλλήλους, ἤκουσαν φωνῆς ὡσεὶ ἐρχομένης ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἔρριψαν τὰ βλέμματα αὐτῶν κύκλω, διότι δὲν κάτενόουν τὴν φωνήν, ἧς ἤκουον· δὲν ἦτο δὲ τραχεῖα, οὐδὲ μεγάλη ἡ φωνή, ἀλλὰ καίτοι οὔσα μικρὰ διεχώρει μέχρι τοῦ βάθους τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, οὕτως ὥστε ἐποίει τὰ σώματα αὐτῶν ὅλα νὰ τρέμωσι, ναί, διεπέρα αὐτούς μέχρις αὐτῆς τῆς ψυχῆς καὶ κατέφλεγε τὰς καρδίας αὐτῶν.

4. Καὶ πάλιν ἤκουσαν τῆς φωνῆς, καὶ δὲν κατενόησαν αὐτήν.

5. Καὶ πάλιν τὸ τρίτον ἤκουσαν τῆς φωνῆς καὶ ἤνοιξαν τὰ ὄμματα αὐτῶν, ἵνα ἀκούσωσιν αὐτῆς καὶ οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ αὐτῶν ἐστράφησαν πρὸς τὸν ἦχον αὐτῆς καὶ ἔβλεπον ἀτενῶς πρὸς τὸν οὐρανόν, ὅπουθεν ὁ ἦχος ἤρχετο.

6. Καὶ ἰδοὺ κατὰ τὸ τρίτον ἄκουσμα ἐνόησαν τὴν φωνήν, ἣν ἤκουον, καὶ ἦτις ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς.

7. «Ἰδοὺ ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ ἠυδοκῆσα, ἐν ᾧ ἐδόξασα τὸ ὄνομά μου, αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε.»

8. Καὶ ἐγένετο, ὅτε ἐνόησαν, ὑψωσαν τὰ ὄμματα αὐτῶν πάλιν πρὸς τὸν οὐρανόν καὶ εἶδον ἄνθρωπον καταβαίνοντα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ· ἦτο δὲ περιβεβλημένος λευκὸν ἱμάτιον, καὶ κατῆλθε καὶ ἔστη ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν, καὶ οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ παντὸς τοῦ ὄχλου ἐστράφησαν ἐπ' αὐτόν, δὲν ἐτόλμησαν δὲ νὰ ἀνοιξῶσι τὰ στόματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ εἰς πρὸς ἕτερον, καὶ δὲν ἐγίνωσκον τί τοῦτο ἐσήμαινε, διότι ὑπέλαβον, ὅτι ἄγγελος ἐφάνη αὐτοῖς.

doctrine; by it was developed and spread the saving Christian dogmas. The whole of the books of the New Testament, the Articles of Faith, the theological writings of the early Fathers of the church were written in Greek. The Book of Mormon, therefore, having such close relation to the holy scriptures as to style and matter, can, I think, only in the Greek language be translated faithfully and exactly."

It must not be thought that we have translated in a language other than Greek. Between the language of the translation and the language of the New Testament, there can be said to be but a shadow of difference, as indeed there is but little difference between the Greek of the New Testament and the Greek of the contemporary newspapers. Each year Greek is becoming more pure and classical: foreign elements and vulgarisms are being eliminated, and it will be but a matter of a little time and Greek is back again in its pristine purity and beauty.

Athens, Greece, Jan. 1, 1909.



Photo sent the ERA by K. N. Winnie, Nome, Alaska.

Group of Eskimos brought from Siberia, Russia, to form a part of the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, Seattle, 1909.