

*Leves homines futuri sunt improvidi.*¹



Bible Words: *regnum*

Regnum is a second declension neuter noun like *bellum* meaning “kingdom.” The Kingdom of God (*regnum Dei*) or the kingdom of heaven is often mentioned in the Bible. I’m sure you can think of related English words. Perhaps the most well-known reference is this one:

*neque dicent ecce hic aut ecce illic, ecce enim **regnum** Dei intra vos est* Luke 17:21

A more helpful word order for beginners would be:

*neque dicent ecce hic aut ecce illic, enim ecce **regnum** Dei est intra vos*

There are a number of words you already know here. *Aut* is one of those useful little words you can put in your notebook; it just means “or.” If I tell you that *dicent* means “they will say” (future tense) but of course this is negative because of the *ne* in *neque* I think you may be able to work out the rest.

In English this text can be rather puzzling to understand. Jesus is talking to the unbelieving Pharisees so it seems puzzling that he is telling them that the kingdom of heaven is *intra*, “within” them. Most commentators agree, however, that the Greek word used here can also mean “among.” This would mean that Jesus was telling them that the Kingdom was present there and then; it had already begun and the King himself was standing in front of them although they would not recognise him.

Here is an example from the Old Testament:

***regna** terrae cantate Deo psallite Domino (diapsalma) psallite Deo;* Psalm 68:32.

First decide by chanting the noun *regna* through like *bellum* if it is singular or plural. Now look at the next word. You know *terrae*. Can you work out the case and number? The words *cantate* and *psallite* are imperatives (commands) and are so similar in meaning that in English they are almost translated the same. The words “cantata” and “canticle” are related to *cantate* and *psallite* is related to the book of the Bible in which this text is found. Can you work out the case of *Deo* and *Domino*? Try both the options and decide which makes most sense. *Diapsalma* is the equivalent to “Selah” in our English Bibles. It means “a musical pause.”

¹ Light-minded men do not provide for the future. Tactus.