

Lesson 10: The End of All Things1. Some notes on clauses

What we are mentioning in this section is the sort of material you may hear being used some day to make a big exegetical point. Just read this for familiarity and I will try to cut the mistakes to the minimum.

--CONDITIONAL CLAUSES:

These are clauses in which there is an expression of condition (classically called the protasis) and a given consequence (known grammatically as the apodosis). There are essentially four varieties of condition but only three are witnessed in full form in the Greek New Testament. We spell them out like this:

--with the INDICATIVE MOOD:

- (1) Conditions expressed as certainty, reality in any time sphere.

The condition has the particle  $\epsilon\lambda$  with past, present, and future tenses. The consequence uses any appropriate indicative form.

- (2) Conditions express as contrary to fact or unreal: Condition has particle  $\epsilon\lambda$  with Aorist/Imperfect (any secondary) tense. The consequence will have the particle  $\gamma\alpha\rho$  with a secondary tense.

--with the SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD:

- (3) Conditions uncertain in the future:

Condition with particle  $\epsilon\alpha\upsilon$ . Consequence any form but usually future indicative.

- (4) Conditions uncertain/undetermined in a general sense:

Condition has particle  $\epsilon\alpha\upsilon$ .

Consequence has any appropriate form.

(These two are sometimes combined in some grammars)

So you can see that "if" as it is often rendered in the English may better be translated "since" or "when" depending on the condition. You can also see why the Greek reader feels more or less certain about something after having read a passage.