

Verse Analysis – Acts 2:12

Categories:

A	adjective
C	conjunction
D	adverb
I	interjection
N	noun
P	preposition
DA	definite article
DP	demonstrative pronoun
IP	interrogative/indefinite pronoun
PP	personal pronoun
RP	relative pronoun
V	verb
X	particle

Person:

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person

Voice:

A	active
M	middle
P	passive

Case:

N	nominative
G	genitive
D	dative
A	accusative
V	vocative

Gender:

M	masculine
F	feminine
N	neuter

Tense:

P	present
I	imperfect
F	future
A	aoist
X	perfect
Y	pluperfect

Mood:

I	indicative
D	imperative
S	subjunctive
O	optative
N	infinitive
P	participle

Number:

S	singular
P	plural

Degree:

C	comparative
S	superlative

Frequency:

Number of times the word is used in the NT. Words with freq. < 30 are not worth memorizing. They are why God made the Internet.

H	High frequency – used more than 750 times
M	Medium frequency – Used from 101 to 750 times
L	Low frequency – Used from 30 to 100 times
R	Rare – Used less than 30 times

→ Memorizing all words used 150+ times will give you a handle on 70% of the NT.
 → Memorizing all words use 30+ times will give you a handle on 85% of the NT.

Acts 2:12

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Word	Root	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
ἐξίσταντο	ἐξίστημι	to amaze, astound; (intr.) to be amazed, out of one's senses	R	V	3	I	M	I		P		
δὲ	δέ	but, and, then, rather	H	C								
πάντες	πᾶς	all, every (thing, one), whole; always	H	A					N	P	M	
καί	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	H	C								
διηπόρουν	διαπορέω	to be perplexed, puzzled, in wonder	R	V	3	I	A	I		P		
ἄλλος	ἄλλος	another, other	M	A					N	S	M	
πρὸς	πρός	(gen.) to, for; (dat.) on, at, near, by; (acc.) to, toward; with; in order to; against	M	P								
ἄλλον	ἄλλος	another, other	M	A					A	S	M	

Word	Root	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
λέγοντες	λέγω	say, said, the most general term for speaking in the NT, translated contextually with more specific	H	V		P	A	P	N	P	M	
τί	τίς	who?, what?, which?, why?	M	IP					N	S	N	
θέλει	θέλω	to exercise the will, properly by an unimpassioned operation; to be willing, Mt. 17:4; to be inclined,	M	V	3	P	A	I		S		
τούτο	οὗτος	this, this one, these; (as object) him, her, it, them; with διά or εις it means for this reason	H	DP					N	S	N	
εἶναι	εἶμι	to be, exist, be present	H	V		P	A	N				

Greek Verse

Acts 2:12 ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ διηπόρουν, ἄλλος πρὸς ἄλλον λέγοντες· Τί θέλει τοῦτο εἶναι;

Word-for-Word
Translation

They were all amazed and mystefied, and another said to another, "What does this wish to be?"

Proper Translation

They were all amazed and confused and said to each other, "What does this mean?"

Comments and
Questions

ἄλλος πρὸς ἄλλον

This is the only time in the NT this clearly-idiomatic phrase is used.

Check BDAG: ἄ. πρὸς ἄ. λέγοντες one said to the other Ac 2:12.

For support, BDAG cites Xenophon as well as an analogous usage later in Acts:

ἄλλοι μὲν οὖν ἄλλο τι ἔκραζον now some were shouting one thing, some another (X., An. 2, 1, 15 ἄλλος ἄλλα λέγει; Nicol. Dam.: 90 Fgm. 130, 25 p. 409, 25 Jac. ἄλλοι δὲ ἄλλα ὑπελάμβανον) 19:32

Interesting that this is an adjective. It is masculine singular so it must refer back to a neuter noun. The most likely candidate is πλῆθος, the "crowd", which is the closest neuter noun.

But still it is an odd usage.

ἄλλος πρὸς ἄλλον is a Hellenistic development of a classical idiom; cf. Plato, Symposium 220c, ἄλλος ἄλλω ἔλεγεν, they said one to another.

C. K. Barrett, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, International Critical Commentary* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2004), 125.

"What does this mean?" Appears to be an idiomatic expression. See FFBg p. 86 and cf. 17:20.

The LSJ is crippled for this word at StepBible. Click on the word instead in <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0155%3Abook%3DActs%3Achapter%3D2%3Averse%3D12>, then choose LSJ.

Another source: εἶναι sts bears the sense of mean owing to the lack of a Sem. equivalent.

Max Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor, *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament* (Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1974), 353.

The clause τί θέλει τοῦτο εἶναι is an idiomatic phrase mng. "what can this mean?" (BDAG 448c, cf. 17:18).

L. Scott Kellum, Acts, ed. Andreas J. Köstenberger and Robert W. Yarbrough, *Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament* (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2020), 33.

§ The word διαπορεῖν is a term that only Luke uses (once in the Gospel, and three times in Acts), and is a term that constantly employed by medical writers (Hobart, *Medical Language, etc.*, p. 163).