

A USER'S GUIDE TO THE NESTLE-ALAND 28
GREEK NEW TESTAMENT



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Society of Biblical Literature
Atlanta

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PREFACE

In honor of two of its historical editors, the *Novum Testamentum Graece* is often simply referred to as the “Nestle-Aland.” In the fall of 2012 it appeared in its 28th thoroughly revised edition. It was prepared for publication by the Institute for New Testament Textual Research in Münster, Westphalia, under the direction of Dr. Holger Strutwolf. This concise edition, which provides a survey of the manuscript evidence and a scholarly reconstruction of the oldest text of the Greek New Testament, has now grown to more than a thousand printed pages. In its new iteration, NA28 is easier to use than its predecessors, and it promises not only to continue playing a leading role for scholarly exegesis and academic instruction but also to supply the source text for Bible translators.

The present book is structured in three parts. The first part, “Structure and Intention of the Edition,” has in mind readers who are using this edition of the Greek New Testament for the first time. Although knowledge of the Greek language is helpful, it is not a prerequisite to understand the narrative. The objective is to communicate the structure and concept of NA28 and also to create critical awareness for the problems and uncertainties encountered by reconstructions of the oldest Greek text. College students are the intended audience as well as a general readership interested in a better understanding of the references to text variations in Bible manuscripts that are found in most English translations of the New Testament and in exegetical publications. Exercises accompanying the explanations are designed to rehearse and apply important information. They may also prove helpful in the context of academic instruction. The solutions are given at the end of the book.

The second part, “Exercises and Learning Aids,” demonstrates the application of the edition through specific examples. It explains tech-

nical terms and how to apply the information of the introduction, the technical apparatus, and the appendices. In an academic setting, such a level of knowledge and skill would be expected of a graduate student with a special interest in biblical literature.

The third part, "NA28 as an Edition for Scholars," provides an overview of the strengths and the limitations of NA28 for researchers and teachers who interpret the New Testament professionally. It also summarizes the important differences between the 28th edition and previous editions of the *Novum Testamentum Graece*.

Readers will need to have a copy of the 28th edition of the Nestle-Aland at hand to appreciate fully the detailed explanations. Unless otherwise indicated, numbers in parenthesis refer to pages of NA28.

My hope is that readers will find the book useful and that they will appreciate the effort of the colleagues who put together this concise critical edition of the Greek New Testament.

September 2013

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