Read This First!

Steven Runge, *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament: A Practical Introduction to Discourse Features for Teaching and Exegesis* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2009).

In producing the *Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, Dr. Steven Runge has provided an important key to grasping and applying the principles of Discourse Analysis to the New Testament text. By it as publication Logos Research Systems have made available a resource which makes Discourse Analysis more accessible than it has ever been and, thereby, have opened it up to those biblical exegetes and expositors who have hitherto been unable or unwilling to expend the considerable time needed to master what to many of them is a completely new discipline. As someone who has been grappling with the complexities of Discourse Analysis in the course of my own research into Aural Hermeneutics for nearly two years, Runge's function-based taxonomy of analytical devices has tamed the apparently many-headed hydra of Discourse Analysis and enabled me to re-organise my own rather eclectic mix of analytical tools into a more ordered toolbox of devices and also provided a much clearer picture of what Discourse Analysis is – and what it enables me to do in New Testament exegesis.

The *Discourse Grammar* offers to scholars and preachers a practical explanation of what the various devices of Discourse Analysis are and, just as important, how they have been deployed in the rest of Logos's *Lexham Bible Reference Series*. This, in turn, enables us to identify and understand the biblical authors' compositional choices, which further provides us with a means of elucidating the hermeneutical intentions of their texts. Importantly, the *Discourse Grammar* also gives us the confidence and encouragement to use the *Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament* as well as the other resources in the series as tools in our own exegesis, because Runge has laid out for us in a systematic way the rationale and presuppositions of his approach, as well as describing how the devices may be conveniently grouped. Under three functional-use headings Runge examines each analytical device – first, by looking at its conventionally understood explanation, before outlining its discourse explanation and exploring its exegetical application with numerous biblical examples. For each device he also provides a helpful reading list for further exploration.

For those, like me, who have previously acquired and begun to use the Logos Lexham Bible Series, the Discourse Grammar will help them get more out of the whole series and increase its usefulness. For those interested in exploring Discourse Analysis as an additional exegetical approach to biblical studies it is the ideal starting point. If you what to understand Discourse Analysis and how it works then – **read this first**!

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