

## The Phrase "on the Lord's Day"

The phrase *on the Lord's Day* comes from our English translations of **Rev. 1:10**: *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard...* This verse in the Greek however is very different. Let's investigate.

The Greek has: *εν πνευματι εν τη κυριακη ημερα*, a very literal translation of which is "in spirit in the lording day". Most translations give us "in **the** Spirit **on** the **Lord's** day" and, as such, the words are usually interpreted to mean that John was in a trance on the day which many Christians call the Lord's day, i.e. Sunday. When we take a serious look at the Greek of this verse, we will find it makes no reference at all to a day of the week. There are four translation errors in this verse which change everything. Yes, four errors in just 6 Greek words.

The errors are:—

1). The definite article (bolded above) before spirit in our translations is not present in the Greek, so the Greek literally says: *I was in spirit...* not *I was in the Spirit*. We might then ask what does it mean to be *in spirit*? Are there any other occurrences of this phrase in the Greek NT. Yes, there are, but in keeping to the point of this article, the reader can investigate them for himself. To answer what it means to be *in spirit*, we can go to **Rom 8:9** where the Greek says: *But ye are not in flesh but in spirit, if so be that God's Spirit dwelleth in you*. This means that God's Spirit is that which changes us from being "in flesh" to being "in spirit". Being "in spirit" is a state of being clearly distinguished in the New Testament from the state of being called "in flesh". Thus John is telling us in Rev 1:10, the state of being he was in when he wrote down the revelation given to him. It is the state which enables him to see what is happening in the spiritual realm. More can be gleaned on the phrase "in spirit" by reading <https://the-logos.net/resources/PDF/s/The-Father-and-the-Son-An-Observation.pdf>

2). The s of spirit is capitalised in all our translations and with the added definite article before it, we are lead to believe it is talking about "the Spirit". There is no justification for capitalising the S and especially so when a study of the phrase "in spirit" gives much more light on what it means to be "in spirit". It must be remembered that the original Greek had no upper and lower case lettering as we do in English and hence there was no distinction in the Greek between s and S. Any such variation today are interpretations which may or may not be correct.

3). The translation, "**on** the Lord's day" is not correct. The Greek has "in" (*εν*) not "on" (*επι*). These two prepositions are quite distinct in Greek and are never confounded with one another. By writing on and not in, the impression is given with the following words (Lord's day) that all this happened on a particular day of the week, the day Christians call the Lord's day, i.e. Sunday. All of this understanding is wrong as the next error further explains.

4). This is the most important of the four errors. The Greek word *κυριακη* is NOT a noun as most translators suggest by their translation. Rather, in the Greek, it is an adjective qualifying the word, day. We don't have an adjective for the noun, lord, in English so we have to make one up which approximates the meaning without confusion. Thus, just as we would normally speak of a *frightening* day, or a *threatening* day, or a *terrifying* day, a *shocking* day, so here we need an adjective derived from its noun, *κυριος*, lord, which must be something like *lording*, hence *lording* day. I use the word, lording, in the same way I have used the word, *terrifying* and *frightening*, etc. Thus an accurate translation of the Greek phrase is "*in the lording day*". As such it has nothing to do with Sunday or any other day of the week but rather is speaking of the year long day of wrath of Yahweh, elsewhere in scripture referred to as the Day of Yahweh (Isaiah 34:8) and represented in Revelation by the seventh seal. Thus it will be a year long day of their (Yahweh and Jesus) wrath, (Rev 6:17), lording it over the peoples of the earth.