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Classical Armenian

Text Sample 3 – Bible: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)



Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 1. Եւ եղել ընդ աւուրսն ընդ այնոսիկ ել հրաման յԱւգոստոս կայսերէ աշխարհագիր առնել ընդ ամենայն տիեզերս.
- *Ew ełew and awowrsn and aynosik el hraman yAwgostos kayserē ašxarhagir arnel and amenayn tiezers:*
- Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις ἐξῆλθεν δόγμα παρὰ Καίσαρος Αὐγούστου ἀπογράφεσθαι πᾶσαν τήνοικουμένην.
- And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 1. *Ew etew and awowrsn and aynosik...*
 - *ew* ‘and’
 - *etew*: aor.3sg. of *linim, etanim* ‘become’ (*medium tantum*)
 - *and* + acc.: ‘in’ (with expressions of time)
 - *awowrsn*: acc.pl. of *awr* ‘day’
 - *and* (note repetition before demonstrative)
 - *aynosik*: acc.pl. with emphatic *-ik* of *ayn* ‘that’, formed from *ay-* and the far-deictic marker *-n* (cf. *ays, ayd*)
- Adjectives are usually inflected when they follow the noun (as here), but not when they precede the noun.
- Zero-complementation: ‘it happened in those days [that]...’

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 1. ...*el hraman yAwgostos kayserē*...
- *el*: aor. 3sg. of *elanim* ‘go out, exit’
- *hraman*: nom.sg. ‘command’, from Middle Northwest Iranian (cf. Parthian *frm’n* /*farmān*/, Aramaic *hrmn*’)
- *i* ~ *y-* + abl.: ‘from’
- *Awgostos*: ‘Augustus’ (N.B. not inflected)
- *kayserē*: abl.sg. of *kayser* ‘emperor’ (*a*-stem)

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 1. ...*ašxarhagir aṛnel and amenayn tiezers*.
- *ašxarhagir*: acc.sg. ‘geography’ < *ašxarh-* ‘world, land’ (← Parthian *xšahr* < Old Iran. *xšaθra-* ‘rule, dominion’) + linking vowel *-a-* + *gir* ‘writing’ (cf. *grem* ‘write’, Mod. Arm. *girk^c* ‘book’)
- *aṛnel*: inf. of *aṛnem* ‘do, make’
- *amenayn*: ‘all’ (uninflected)
- *tiezers*: acc. pl. of *tiezerk’* ‘world, universe’ (plurale tantum; originally compound *ti-ezer-?* cf. *ezr* ‘edge’)

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 2. Այս առաջին աշխարհագիր եղել ի դատաւորութեան Ասորոց Կիրենեայ.
- *Ays arajin ašxarhagir ełew i dataworowt'ean Asorwoc' Kiwreneay.*
- αὕτη ἀπογραφὴ πρώτη ἐγένετο ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς Συρίας Κυρηνίου.
- (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 2. *Ays arajin ašxarhagir ełew i dataworowt'ean Asorwoc' Kiwreneay.*
- *ays*: nom. sg. of *ays*, near-deictic 'this'
- *arajin*: 'first'
- *i* ~ *y-* + loc.: 'in'
- *dataworowt'ean*: loc.sg. of *dataworowt'iwn* ← *dat* 'law, judgment' + *-awor* 'bearer' (*datawor* 'governor') + abstract suffix *-owt'iwn*
- *Asorwoc'*: gen.pl. of *Asori* 'Syrian'
- *Kiwreneay* (< **Kiwreni-ay*): gen. of *Kiwrenios*, Gr. *Kyrenios* (*a*-stem, subclass of proper names)

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 3. Եւ երթային ամենեքեան մտանել յաշխարհագիր յիրաքանչիւր քաղաքի.
- *Ew ert'ayin amenek'ean mtanel yašxarhagir yiwrak'anč'iwr k'atak'i.*
- καὶ ἐπορεύοντο πάντες ἀπογράφεσθαι, ἕκαστος εἰς τὴν ἑαυτοῦ πόλιν.
- And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Text sample 3: the birth of Jesus (Luke 2.1–3)

- 3. *Ew ert'ayin amenek'ean mtanel y-ašxarhagir yiwrak'anč'iwr k'atak'i.*
- *ert'ayin*: imperfect 3pl. of *ert'am* 'go'
- *amenek'ean*: nom.pl. of *amenayn* (*amen-ek'-ean*)
- *mtanel*: inf. of *mtanem* 'go in, enter'
- *i ~ y-* + acc.: 'into'
- *iwrak'anč'iwr*: 'each' (uninflected; cf. *iwr* 'her/himself, themselves')
- *k'atak'i*: loc.sg. of *k'atak'* 'city' (*a*-stem)

շնորհակալութիւն

Thank you for your attention!