

Chapter 23: Verbs in the N.T. Using More than One Verbal Root

<i>present</i>	<i>future</i>	<i>(imperfect)</i>	<i>aorist act</i>	<i>perfect act</i>	<i>perfect mid/pass</i>	<i>aorist pass</i>	<i>Definition</i>
αἶρω	αἰρήσομαι	—	εἰλόμην	—	ἤρημαι	ἤρέθην	pick (fruit), choose
έρχομαι	ἐλεύσομαι	ἤρχόμην	ἦλθον/ἦλθα	ἤλῆλυθα	—	—	I come, go
ἐσθίω	φάγομαι	ἤσθιον	ἔφαγον	—	—	—	I eat
λέγω	ἐρω̄	ἔλεγον	εἶπον	εἶρηκα	εἶρημαι	ἐρρέθην	I say, speak
οἶδα	εἰδήσω	—	ἦδειν	—	—	—	I know, understand
ὁράω ¹	ὄψομαι	ἦδει	ὠψάμην	ἔώρακα	—	ὠφθην	I see, notice, experience
			εἶδον ²				
πάσχω	—	—	ἔπαθον	πέπονθα	—	—	I suffer
τρέχω	—	ἔτρεχον	ἔδραμον	—	—	—	I run
φέρω	οἴσω	ἔφερον	ἦνεγκα	ἐνήνοχα	ἐνήνεκμαι	ἤνέχθην	I carry, bear

¹ ὁράω was in the process of being replaced by βλέπω, θεωρέω, and ὀπτάνομαι

² used as the second aorist of ὁράω

The words listed above are all the verbs in the New Testament that use more than one verbal root in the formation of their principal parts. Actually, one verb does not actually use several verbal roots. For some reason or another, a verbal root was used only in certain tenses. Another verbal root was likewise restricted to other tenses. Eventually, verbal roots that were compatible in meaning with another verbal root would become associated with the other, and in fact would contribute to which tenses the other root functioned in. For example, the root behind ἔρχομαι was restricted for use just in the present tense, while the root *ελευθ in various forms was restricted to the future, aorist active/middle, and perfect active. Therefore, due to the nature of things, ἔρχομαι and ἦλθον came to be regarded as the same verb using different roots.