

# “Behold, I Come Quickly”

## Word Study on the Greek Word

### “*tachos*”

The New Testament was originally written in [“Koine Greek”](#). The Koine Greek is a very specific language that can give us further insight into the meanings of words and phrases used throughout the New Testament.

A study of a particular word in the Koine Greek can establish patterns for a more complete understanding of statements of Truth we read about in the New Testament. Today, we are going to be examining the Greek word **“tachos”** and its many uses throughout the New Testament.

The word **“tachos”** and all the different related forms of this Greek word is used over 30 times in the Greek New Testament.

It’s meaning is: **“briefly”** in time, **“speedily”** in manner, **“rapidly”**, **“hastily”**, **“quickly”**, **“shortly”**, **“soon”**. It clearly denotes something that is **“shortly”** going to take place with emphasis on **“no delay”** if any at all. When the writers wanted to express imminency of any event or happening, a form of **“tachos”** was one of the Greek words that was often used.

We derive our English word, [“tachometer”](#) from this Greek word. A tachometer is an instrument that measures the rotation speed of a shaft or disk in an engine.

#### **tacho-**

word-forming element of Greek origin meaning "speed," often short for **tachometer**, ultimately from Latinized form of Greek *takhos* "speed, swiftness, fleetness, velocity," which Beekes calls a derivative of *takhys* "swift," a word of unknown origin.

In order to get a consistent application of the meaning and use of this Greek word, **“tachos”**, we must look at several verses in which this word was used.

Let's begin in **Acts 12:7**.

**Act 12:7** And, <sup>G2532</sup> behold, <sup>G2400</sup> the angel <sup>G32</sup> of the Lord <sup>G2962</sup> came upon <sup>G2186</sup> him, and <sup>G2532</sup> a light <sup>G5457</sup> shined <sup>G2989</sup> in <sup>G1722</sup> the <sup>G3588</sup> prison: <sup>G3612</sup> and <sup>G1161</sup> he smote <sup>G3960</sup> Peter <sup>G4074</sup> on the <sup>G3588</sup> side, <sup>G4125</sup> and raised him up, <sup>G1453</sup> <sup>G846</sup> saying, <sup>G3004</sup> Arise up <sup>G450</sup> quickly. <sup>G1722</sup> <sup>G5034</sup> And <sup>G2532</sup> his <sup>G846</sup> chains <sup>G254</sup> fell off <sup>G1601</sup> from <sup>G1537</sup> his hands. <sup>G5495</sup>

**G5034**

**τάχος**

tachos

takh'-os

From the same as **G5036**; a **brief** space (of time), that is, (with **G1722** prefixed) in **haste**: - + **quickly**, + **shortly**, + **speedily**.

Here the angel told Peter to rise up quickly (**tachos**). Peter didn't waste any time when the angel told him this.

In **Acts 22:17-18**, Paul is giving his testimony to an angry Jewish mob in Jerusalem. He related that while he was praying, he fell into a trance and saw Jesus telling him to **“Make haste and get thee quickly (**tachos**) out of Jerusalem....”** Already we can see that **“tachos”** is used to communicate urgency.

**Act 22:17** And <sup>G1161</sup> it came to pass, <sup>G1096</sup> that, when I <sup>G3427</sup> was come again <sup>G5290</sup> to <sup>G1519</sup> Jerusalem, <sup>G2419</sup> even <sup>G2532</sup> while I <sup>G3450</sup> prayed <sup>G4336</sup> in <sup>G1722</sup> the <sup>G3588</sup> temple, <sup>G2411</sup> I <sup>G3165</sup> was <sup>G1096</sup> in <sup>G1722</sup> a trance; <sup>G1611</sup>  
**Act 22:18** And <sup>G2532</sup> saw <sup>G1492</sup> him <sup>G846</sup> saying <sup>G3004</sup> unto me, <sup>G3427</sup> Make haste, <sup>G4692</sup> and <sup>G2532</sup> get <sup>G1831</sup> thee quickly <sup>G1722</sup> <sup>G5034</sup> out of <sup>G1537</sup> Jerusalem: <sup>G2419</sup> for <sup>G1360</sup> they will not <sup>G3756</sup> receive <sup>G3858</sup> thy <sup>G4675</sup> testimony <sup>G3141</sup> concerning <sup>G4012</sup> me. <sup>G1700</sup>

In **1 Timothy 3:14**, Paul is communicating with Timothy that he will be coming to see him **“shortly” (**tachos**)**. It clearly was saying that it would just be in a little while.

**1Ti 3:14** These things <sup>G5023</sup> write <sup>G1125</sup> I unto thee, <sup>G4671</sup> hoping <sup>G1679</sup> to come <sup>G2064</sup> unto <sup>G4314</sup> thee <sup>G4571</sup> shortly: <sup>G5032</sup>

**G5032**

**τάχιον**

tachion

takh'-ee-on

Neuter singular of the comparative of **G5036** (as adverb); **more swiftly**, that is, (in manner) **more rapidly**, or (in time) **more speedily**: - out [run], quickly, shortly, sooner.

In **Matthew 5:23-25**, Jesus is teaching a concept associated with giving; **“Agree with thine adversary ‘quickly’ (**tachos**) ...”**

G5032

τάχιον

tachion

takh'-ee-on

Neuter singular of the comparative of G5036 (as adverb); *more swiftly*, that is, (in manner) *more rapidly*, or (in time) *more speedily*: - out [run], quickly, shortly, sooner.

In **Matthew 28:7**, the angel told the women at the empty sepulcher of Jesus to “**...go ‘quickly’ (*tachos*) and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead....**”

**Mat 28:7** And<sup>G2532</sup> go<sup>G4198</sup> quickly,<sup>G5035</sup> and tell<sup>G2036</sup> his<sup>G846</sup> disciples<sup>G3101</sup> that<sup>G3754</sup> he is risen<sup>G1453</sup> from<sup>G575</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> dead;<sup>G3498</sup> and,<sup>G2532</sup> behold,<sup>G2400</sup> he goeth before<sup>G4254</sup> you<sup>G5209</sup> into<sup>G1519</sup> Galilee;<sup>G1056</sup> there<sup>G1563</sup> shall ye see<sup>G3700</sup> him:<sup>G846</sup> lo,<sup>G2400</sup> I have told<sup>G2036</sup> you.<sup>G5213</sup>

Those women went both speedily and quickly. In this same setting in **Mark 16:8**, “**And they went out ‘quickly’ (*tachos*) and fled from the sepulcher**”.

**Mar 16:8** And<sup>G2532</sup> they went out<sup>G1831</sup> quickly,<sup>G5035</sup> and fled<sup>G5343</sup> from<sup>G575</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> sepulchre;<sup>G3419</sup> for<sup>G1161</sup> they<sup>G846</sup> trembled<sup>G5156</sup> <sup>G2192</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> were amazed:<sup>G1611</sup> neither<sup>G2532</sup> said<sup>G2036</sup> they any thing<sup>G3762</sup> to any<sup>G3762</sup> man; for<sup>G1063</sup> they were afraid.<sup>G5399</sup>

The word “**tachos**” is also used in the Greek in **Luke 15:22** in the parable of the prodigal son. This scripture is unique because the word “**tachos**” is not translated into the English but is rather “understood”.

It should read, “**.... quickly (*tachos*) bring forth the best robe....**”

In **John 11:29**, we find Mary’s reaction to the arrival of Jesus soon after the death of Lazarus; “**As soon as she heard that, she arose ‘quickly’ (*tachos*) and came unto Him.**”

**Joh 11:29** As soon as<sup>G5613</sup> she<sup>G1565</sup> heard<sup>G191</sup> that, she arose<sup>G1453</sup> quickly,<sup>G5035</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> came<sup>G2064</sup> unto<sup>G4314</sup> him.<sup>G846</sup>

G5035

ταχύ

tachu

takh-oo'

Neuter singular of G5036 (as adverb); *shortly*, that is, *without delay*, *soon*, or (by surprise) *suddenly*, or (by implication of ease) *readily*: - lightly, quickly.

Also, in **John 11:31**, Mary “**.... rose up ‘hastily’ (*tachos*) and went out....**” to weep at the grave of Lazarus.

**Joh 11:31** The<sup>G3588</sup> Jews<sup>G2453</sup> then<sup>G3767</sup> which were<sup>G5607</sup> with<sup>G3326</sup> her<sup>G846</sup> in<sup>G1722</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> house,<sup>G3614</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> comforted<sup>G3888</sup> her,<sup>G846</sup> when they saw<sup>G1492</sup> Mary,<sup>G3137</sup> that<sup>G3754</sup> she rose up<sup>G450</sup> hastily<sup>G5030</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> went out,<sup>G1831</sup> followed<sup>G190</sup> her,<sup>G846</sup> saying,<sup>G3004</sup> She goeth<sup>G5217</sup> unto<sup>G1519</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> grave<sup>G3419</sup> to<sup>G2443</sup> weep<sup>G2799</sup> there.<sup>G1563</sup>

Jesus told the parable of the great supper in **Luke 14:21**; “.... **Go out ‘quickly’ (*tachos*) into the streets and lanes of the city....**”

**Luk 14:21** So<sup>G2532</sup> that<sup>G1565</sup> servant<sup>G1401</sup> came,<sup>G3854</sup> and shewed<sup>G518</sup> his<sup>G848</sup> lord<sup>G2962</sup> these things.<sup>G5023</sup> Then<sup>G5119</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> master of the house<sup>G3617</sup> being angry<sup>G3710</sup> said<sup>G2036</sup> to his<sup>G848</sup> servant,<sup>G1401</sup> Go out<sup>G1831</sup> quickly<sup>G5030</sup> into<sup>G1519</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> streets<sup>G4113</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> lanes<sup>G4505</sup> of the<sup>G3588</sup> city,<sup>G4172</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> bring in<sup>G1521</sup> hither<sup>G5602</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> poor,<sup>G4434</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> the<sup>G376</sup> maimed,<sup>G2532</sup> and<sup>G5560</sup> the halt,<sup>G2532</sup> and<sup>G5185</sup> the blind.

**G5030**

ταχέως

tacheōs

takh-eh'-oce

Adverb from **G5036**; briefly, that is, (in time) speedily, or (in manner) rapidly: - hastily, quickly, shortly, soon, suddenly.

Another parable in **Luke 16:6**: “.... **take thy bill and sit down ‘quickly’ (*tachos*) and write fifty.**”

**Luk 16:6** And<sup>G1161</sup> he<sup>G3588</sup> said,<sup>G2036</sup> An hundred<sup>G1540</sup> measures<sup>G943</sup> of oil.<sup>G1637</sup> And<sup>G2532</sup> he said<sup>G2036</sup> unto him,<sup>G846</sup> Take<sup>G1209</sup> thy<sup>G4675</sup> bill,<sup>G1121</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> sit down<sup>G2523</sup> quickly,<sup>G5030</sup> and write<sup>G1125</sup> fifty.<sup>G4004</sup>

In **1 Corinthians 4:19**, Paul says “**But I will come to you ‘shortly’ (*tachos*)**” speaking about a soon visit he would be making.

**1Co 4:19** But<sup>G1161</sup> I will come<sup>G2064</sup> to<sup>G4314</sup> you<sup>G5209</sup> shortly,<sup>G5030</sup> if<sup>G1437</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> Lord<sup>G2962</sup> will,<sup>G2309</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> will know,<sup>G1097</sup> not<sup>G3756</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> speech<sup>G3056</sup> of them which are puffed up,<sup>G5448</sup> but<sup>G235</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> power.<sup>G1411</sup>

This same context is found in **Philippians 2:19, 24**. Paul says, “**But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus ‘shortly’ (*tachos*) unto you....**” “**But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall come ‘shortly’ (*tachos*)**”

**Php 2:19** But<sup>G1161</sup> I trust<sup>G1679</sup> in<sup>G1722</sup> the Lord<sup>G2962</sup> Jesus<sup>G2424</sup> to send<sup>G3992</sup> Timotheus<sup>G5095</sup> shortly<sup>G5030</sup> unto you,<sup>G5213</sup> that<sup>G2443</sup> I also<sup>G2504</sup> may be of good comfort,<sup>G2174</sup> when I know<sup>G1097</sup> your state.<sup>G4012</sup> <sup>G5216</sup>

**Php 2:24** But<sup>G1161</sup> I trust<sup>G3982</sup> in<sup>G1722</sup> the Lord<sup>G2962</sup> that<sup>G3754</sup> I also<sup>G2532</sup> myself<sup>G846</sup> shall come<sup>G2064</sup> shortly.<sup>G5030</sup>

Also in **2 Timothy 4:9**, Paul says, “**Do thy diligence to come ‘shortly’ (*tachos*) unto me.**”

**2Ti 4:9** Do thy diligence<sup>G4704</sup> to come<sup>G2064</sup> shortly<sup>G5030</sup> unto<sup>G4314</sup> me:<sup>G3165</sup>

**G5030**

ταχέως

tacheōs

takh-eh'-oce

Adverb from **G5036**; briefly, that is, (in time) speedily, or (in manner) rapidly: - hastily, quickly, shortly, soon, suddenly.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told Judas in **John 13:27**, “.... *That thou doest, do ‘quickly’ (tachos)*”.

**Joh 13:27** And<sup>G2532</sup> after<sup>G3326</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> son<sup>G5596</sup> Satan<sup>G4567</sup> entered<sup>G1525</sup> into<sup>G1519</sup> him.<sup>G1565</sup> Then<sup>G3767</sup> said<sup>G3004</sup> Jesus<sup>G2424</sup> unto him,<sup>G846</sup> **That<sup>G3739</sup> thou doest,<sup>G4160</sup> do<sup>G4160</sup> quickly.<sup>G5032</sup>**

**G5032**

τάχιον

tachion

takh'-ee-on

Neuter singular of the comparative of **G5036** (as adverb); *more swiftly*, that is, (in manner) *more rapidly*, or (in time) *more speedily*: - out [run], quickly, shortly, sooner.

In **James 1:19**, “**tachos**” is translated as “**swift**”.

**Jas 1:19** Wherefore,<sup>G5620</sup> my<sup>G3450</sup> beloved<sup>G27</sup> brethren,<sup>G80</sup> let every<sup>G3956</sup> man<sup>G444</sup> be<sup>G2077</sup> **swift<sup>G5036</sup>** to hear,<sup>G191</sup> slow<sup>G1021</sup> to speak,<sup>G2980</sup> slow<sup>G1021</sup> to<sup>G1519</sup> wrath.<sup>G3709</sup>

**G5036**

ταχύς

tachus

takh'-oos'

Of uncertain affinity; *fleet*, that is, (figuratively) *prompt* or *ready*: - swift.

In **Galatians 1:6**, Paul says, “*I marvel that ye are so ‘soon’ (tachos) removed from him that called you....*”

**Gal 1:6** I marvel<sup>G2296</sup> that<sup>G3754</sup> ye are so<sup>G3779</sup> **soon<sup>G5030</sup>** removed<sup>G3346</sup> from<sup>G575</sup> him that called<sup>G2564</sup> you<sup>G5209</sup> into<sup>G1722</sup> the grace<sup>G5485</sup> of Christ<sup>G5547</sup> unto<sup>G1519</sup> another<sup>G2087</sup> gospel:<sup>G2098</sup>

In **Romans 16:20**, we can see that Satan’s defeat is coming very “**shortly**” (**tachos**).

**Rom 16:20** And<sup>G1161</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> God<sup>G2316</sup> of peace<sup>G1515</sup> shall bruise<sup>G4937</sup> Satan<sup>G4567</sup> under<sup>G5259</sup> your<sup>G2257</sup> feet<sup>G4228</sup> **shortly.<sup>G1722</sup>**  
**G5034** The<sup>G3588</sup> grace<sup>G5485</sup> of our<sup>G2257</sup> Lord<sup>G2962</sup> Jesus<sup>G2424</sup> Christ<sup>G5547</sup> be with<sup>G3326</sup> you.<sup>G5216</sup> Amen.<sup>G281</sup>

**G5034**

τάχος

tachos

takh'-os

From the same as **G5036**; a *brief* space (of time), that is, (with **G1722** prefixed) in *haste*: - + quickly, + shortly, + speedily.

In all of these examples that we have cited so far, no one would have any difficulty at all understanding the use of the word “**tachos**”.

We can see time and time again that this Greek word denotes something that is happening very **shortly, quickly, swiftly, and without delay.**

There is no debate about what **“tachos”** means in all of the above passages. Now that we have clearly established the meaning in several Scriptural examples, let us continue to examine this same word in many other Scriptural references.

**In Revelation 1:1, “...to shew unto his servant’s things which must ‘shortly’ (tachos) come to pass....”**

**Rev 1:1** The Revelation<sup>G602</sup> of Jesus<sup>G2424</sup> Christ,<sup>G5547</sup> which<sup>G3739</sup> God<sup>G2316</sup> gave<sup>G1325</sup> unto him,<sup>G846</sup> to shew<sup>G1166</sup> unto his<sup>G848</sup> servants<sup>G1401</sup> things which<sup>G3739</sup> must<sup>G1163</sup> **shortly**<sup>G1722 G5034</sup> come to pass,<sup>G1096</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> he sent<sup>G649</sup> and signified<sup>G4591</sup> *it* by<sup>G1223</sup> his<sup>G848</sup> angel<sup>G32</sup> unto his<sup>G848</sup> servant<sup>G1401</sup> John:<sup>G2491</sup>

John, in the very first verse of the Book of Revelation, makes a very strong time statement. He said that everything recorded in the Book of Revelation was going to **“shortly”** come to pass.

This is the same John who was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day and was told by Jesus to write down **EVERYTHING** he saw. **(Revelation 1:10,17-19)**

If anyone knew about the timing of these events in Revelation, it would be the one who saw it and experienced it, the Apostle John. Let’s continue to travel through the Book of Revelation and notice all the uses of the word **“tachos”**

**In Revelation 2:5, Jesus says, “... or else I will come unto thee ‘quickly’ (tachos)...”**

**Rev 2:5** Remember<sup>G3421</sup> therefore<sup>G3767</sup> from whence<sup>G4159</sup> thou art fallen,<sup>G1601</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> repent,<sup>G3340</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> do<sup>G4160</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> first<sup>G4413</sup> works;<sup>G2041</sup> or else<sup>G1490</sup> I will come<sup>G2064</sup> unto thee<sup>G4671</sup> **quickly**,<sup>G5034</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> will remove<sup>G2795</sup> thy<sup>G4675</sup> candlestick<sup>G3087</sup> out of<sup>G1537</sup> his<sup>G848</sup> place,<sup>G5117</sup> except<sup>G3362</sup> thou repent.<sup>G3340</sup>

Jesus proclaims in **Revelation 3:11, “Behold, I come ‘quickly’ (tachos)....”**

**Rev 3:11** Behold,<sup>G2400</sup> I come<sup>G2064</sup> **quickly**,<sup>G5035</sup> hold that fast<sup>G2902</sup> which<sup>G3739</sup> thou hast,<sup>G2192</sup> that<sup>G2443</sup> no man<sup>G3367</sup> take<sup>G2983</sup> thy<sup>G4675</sup> crown.<sup>G4735</sup>

**In Revelation 22:6, “...the Lord God.... sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must ‘shortly’ (tachos) be done.”**

**Rev 22:6** And<sup>G2532</sup> he said<sup>G2036</sup> unto me,<sup>G3427</sup> These<sup>G3778</sup> sayings<sup>G3056</sup> *are* faithful<sup>G4103</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> true:<sup>G228</sup> and<sup>G2532</sup> the Lord<sup>G2962</sup> God<sup>G2316</sup> of the<sup>G3588</sup> holy<sup>G40</sup> prophets<sup>G4396</sup> sent<sup>G649</sup> his<sup>G848</sup> angel<sup>G32</sup> to shew<sup>G1166</sup> unto his<sup>G848</sup> servants<sup>G1401</sup> the things which<sup>G3739</sup> must<sup>G1163</sup> **shortly**<sup>G1722 G5034</sup> be done.<sup>G1096</sup>



## Revelation 22:7, “Behold, I come ‘quickly’ (*tachos*)....”

Rev 22:7 Behold, G2400 I come G2064 quickly: G5035 blessed G3107 is he that keepeth G5083 the G3588 sayings G3056 of the G3588 prophecy G4394 of this G5127 book. G975

## Revelation 22:12, “And, behold, I come ‘quickly’ (*tachos*)”

Rev 22:12 And, G2532 behold, G2400 I come G2064 quickly: G5035 and G2532 my G3450 reward G3408 is with G3326 me, G1700 to give G591 every man G1538 according as G5613 his G848 work G2041 shall be. G2071

### G5034

τάχος

tachos

takh'-os

From the same as G5036; a *brief* space (of time), that is, (with G1722 prefixed) in *haste*: - + quickly, + shortly, + speedily.

## Revelation 22:20 says, “.... Surely, I come ‘quickly’ (*tachos*)....”

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth G3140 these things G5023 saith, G3004 Surely G3483 I come G2064 quickly: G5035 Amen. G281 Even so, G3483 come, G2064 Lord G2962 Jesus. G2424

### G5035

ταχύ

tachu

takh-oo'

Neuter singular of G5036 (as adverb); *shortly*, that is, *without delay*, *soon*, or (by surprise) *suddenly*, or (by implication of ease) *readily*: - lightly, quickly.

So, we can clearly see, the Book of Revelation begins with a very clear time statement of imminency and closes with this same predominant time statement.

When we get to the Book of Revelation, the Greek word “*tachos*” does not, all of a sudden, take on a different meaning.

“*Tachos*” still means **briefly in time, speedily in manner, rapidly, hastily, quickly, shortly, and soon.**

This is the exact same way that this Greek word is used throughout the Scriptures. We can see this over and over again clearly through all of the examples cited in this study.

## Conclusion

When it comes time to see the meaning of this same word, “**tachos**” being used by Jesus to proclaim His coming “**quickly**” (**tachos**), many try to twist the meaning here to agree with their theology.

If our theology doesn't agree with the Scriptures and what Jesus said, is it high time to adjust our theology so we can be in total agreement with the Word of God.

To believe something other than what the Word of God is clearly telling us, is to believe another Gospel. It is our responsibility to **STUDY** to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (**2 Timothy 2:15**)

[\*\*BACK\*\*](#)