

γίνομαι

greek

Meaning

- To Become
- To Come into being
- Generate
- To Happen
- Brought to pass

Verb.

Different from εἶμι (which means “to be” - a state of existence); γίνομαι, instead, emphasizes coming to be - a transition or event.

Biblical Examples and Theological Significance

Incarnation

- Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο — “And the Word became flesh.” ([John 1:14](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigJohn 1:14)

Greek καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. ESV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. NIV The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth....)

- Here γίνομαι expresses the profound truth of divine becoming: the eternal Word entered creation

Creation and Existence

- πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο — “All things came into being through Him.” ([John 1:3](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigJohn 1:3)

Greek πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν ESV All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. NIV Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. NLT God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.)

- It conveys creation ex nihilo - everything came into existence through the Logos.

Historical Events (“it came to pass”)

- Frequently used in narrative openings (especially in Luke and Acts) to mark events unfolding in history.

Transformation and Calling

- γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου — “Let your will be done.” (Matthew 6:10plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigMatthew 6:10)

Greek ἐλθάτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς. ESV Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. NIV your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. NLT May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.)

- Used in prayers and divine actions expressing God’s will being brought into effect.

Comparison with similar verbs

Verb	Meaning	Key Distinction
εἶμί	to be (stative existence)	describes state, not change
γίνομαι	to become (dynamic process)	emphasizes transition, result
ποιέω	to make, do	focuses on producing something, not on becoming

Grammatical forms

Present Indicative Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γίνομαι	I become / I am becoming
2nd person singular	γίνῃ	You become / You are becoming
3rd person singular	γίνεται	He / she / it becomes
1st person plural	γινόμεθα	We become
2nd person plural	γίνεσθε	You (plural) become
3rd person plural	γίνονται	They become

Future Indicative Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γενήσομαι	I will become
2nd person singular	γενήσῃ	You will become
3rd person singular	γενήσεται	He / she / it will become
1st person plural	γενησόμεθα	We will become
2nd person plural	γενήσεσθε	You (plural) will become
3rd person plural	γενήσονται	They will become

Aorist Indicative Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	ἐγενόμην	I became
2nd person singular	ἐγένου	You became
3rd person singular	ἐγένετο	He / she / it became
1st person plural	ἐγενόμεθα	We became
2nd person plural	ἐγένεσθε	You (plural) became
3rd person plural	ἐγένοντο	They became

Perfect Indicative Active

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γέγονα	I have become
2nd person singular	γέγονας	You have become
3rd person singular	γέγονεν	He / she / it has become
1st person plural	γεγόναμεν	We have become
2nd person plural	γεγόνατε	You (plural) have become
3rd person plural	γεγόνασι(ν)	They have become

Pluperfect Indicative Active

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	ἔγεγονειν	I had become
2nd person singular	ἔγεγονεις	You had become
3rd person singular	ἔγεγονει	He / she / it had become
1st person plural	ἔγεγονειμεν	We had become
2nd person plural	ἔγεγονεῖτε	You (plural) had become
3rd person plural	ἔγεγονεισαν	They had become

Present Subjunctive Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γίνωμαι	that I may become
2nd person singular	γίνη	that you may become
3rd person singular	γίνηται	that he / she / it may become
1st person plural	γινώμεθα	that we may become
2nd person plural	γίνεσθε	that you (plural) may become
3rd person plural	γίνωνται	that they may become

Aorist Subjunctive Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γένωμαι	that I may become
2nd person singular	γένη	that you may become
3rd person singular	γένηται	that he / she / it may become
1st person plural	γενώμεθα	that we may become
2nd person plural	γένησθε	that you (plural) may become
3rd person plural	γένωνται	that they may become

Present Imperative Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
2nd person singular	γίνου	become! / be becoming!
3rd person singular	γινέσθω	let him / her / it become!
2nd person plural	γίνεσθε	become! (you plural)
3rd person plural	γινέσθωσαν	let them become!

Aorist Imperative Middle (Active in Meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
2nd person singular	γένοῦ	become! / come to be!
3rd person singular	γενέσθω	let him / her / it become!
2nd person plural	γένεσθε	become! (you plural)
3rd person plural	γενέσθωσαν	let them become!

Aorist Passive Imperative (Active in meaning)

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
2nd person singular	γενήθητι	Become! / Come into being! / Be brought into being!
3rd person singular	γενηθήτω	Let him / her / it become!
2nd person plural	γενήθητε	Become! (you plural)
3rd person plural	γενηθήτωσαν	Let them become!

Aorist Passive Subjunctive

Person and Number	Greek Form	English Translation
1st person singular	γενηθῶ	that I may become
2nd person singular	γενηθῇς	that you may become
3rd person singular	γενηθῇ	that he / she / it may become
1st person plural	γενηθῶμεν	that we may become
2nd person plural	γενηθῆτε	that you (plural) may become
3rd person plural	γενηθῶσι(ν)	that they may become

Infinitives (most common forms)

Tense / Voice	Greek Form	English Translation
Present Middle	γίγνεσθαι	to become / to be becoming
Aorist Middle	γενέσθαι	to become (as a completed event)
Aorist Passive	γενηθῆναι	to be brought into being / to happen

Participles (Aorist Passive)

Gender / Number	Greek Form	English Translation
Masculine singular	γενηθείς	having been brought into being / having become
Feminine singular	γενηθείσα	having been brought into being / having become
Neuter singular	γενηθέν	having been brought into being / having become
Masculine plural	γενηθέντες	having been brought into being / having become
Feminine plural	γενηθείσαι	having been brought into being / having become
Neuter plural	γενηθέντα	having been brought into being / having become

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