



Coptic Lesson 3: Five New Coptic Letters

Gerges Gad, St. Mary and Archangel Michael Church, Houston TX

In lesson one, we learned the letters that look and sound like English letters:

Α Β Ε Ζ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ο Σ Τ Ψ Ω

We also learned three letters that look like English letters but are pronounced differently: **Η Ρ Χ**

In lesson two, we learned Seven New Coptic Letters:

Ϛ ϛ Ϝ ϝ Ϟ ϟ Ϡ

Now let us learn a few more Coptic Letters. Below is the shape of the letter (in caps and lowercase), its name, and its pronunciation.

Note: not all pronunciation rules will be included, just the basic ones, to avoid confusion.

Letter	Shape	Pronunciation	Example
<i>Theta</i>	Θθ	TH (as in Think) T (as in Tree)	θαι (Thai = this) ασπαζεσθ (As-pa-zes-te = Greet)

*Theta is normally pronounced TH as in **θαι** (Thai = this)*

*It is pronounced T as in **ασπαζεσθ** (As-pa-zes-te = Greet)*

*If it follows one of the following: **Ϛ.Τ.Λ.Σ***

Fee	Φφ	PH (as in Phone)	φερι (phe-ri = new)
Epsi	Ψψ	PS (as in Psalmody)	Ψαλωσ (psal-mos = psalm)
Fai	Ϝϝ	F (as in Fish)	ϝαι (foi= hair)
Tee	Ϟϟ	Ti or tee (as in teepee)	σωτ (so-tee= save)

Now let's read some words using these letters, along with the ones we have already learned:



<i>Word</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Word Meaning</i>
ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΣ	<i>Atha-nas-ios</i>	Athanasius
ΓΟΛΓΟΘΑ	<i>Ghol-gho-tha</i>	Golgotha
Σεραφίμ	<i>Se-ra-pheem</i>	Seraphim
Φαλαφέλ	<i>Fa-la-fel</i>	Falafel
Φιλιππος	<i>Phi-lip-pos</i>	Philip
Ψαλμοδια	<i>Psal-mo-dia</i>	Psalmody
Ψαλι	<i>Psa-li</i>	Psali
Ψαλμος	<i>Psal-mos</i>	Psalm
Λεβτ	<i>Levt</i>	Beets
Ψωτ	<i>Fo-tee</i>	Towel
Λακάνη	<i>La-ka-nee</i>	Liturgy of the Waters (Lakan)
Τύβλα	<i>Ti-vla</i>	Drum
Τύεπιστολή	<i>Ti-epes-tolee</i>	Epistle

Try to read these words on your own:

Πατήρ		Father
Υιός		Son
Τριάς		The Trinity
Χερε		Hail
Εκκλησία		The Church
Οίκος		The House
όντες		of
Αγγελοι		The Angels
Παρθένος		The Virgin
έτεκε		gave birth