Chapter 52

Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs

52.1 Adjectives and Adverbs have three degrees - Positive, Comparative, Superlative.

In English, the Comparative is often made by adding -er to the Positive, and the Superlative by adding -est to the Positive.

e.g.	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
	the **big** dog	the **bigger** dog	the **biggest** dog
	the dog barked **loudly**	the dog barked **louder**	the dog barked **loudest**

In Greek, the usual endings are

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives :	STEM-ος, -η, -ον	STEM-ότερος, -ότερα, -ότερον	STEM-ότατος, -οτάτη, -ότατον
Adverbs :	STEM-ως	STEM-ότερον	STEM-ότατα

Note that the comparative adverb is the same as the neuter singular form of the comparative adjective, and the superlative adverb has the same form as the neuter plural superlative adjective.
Sometimes Greek will use a comparative where English would use a superlative.

e.g.	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
abundant	περισσός	περισσότερος	(περισσότατος)
abundantly	περισσῶς	περισσότερον	(περισσότατα)
		or περισσοτέρως	
wise	σοφός	σοφ**ώ**τερος	(σοφ**ώ**τατος)
aged	πρεσβύτης	πρεσβύτερος	-

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. τότε πορεύεται καὶ παραλαμβάνει μεθ' ἑαυτοῦ ἑπτὰ ἕτερα πνεύματα πονηρότερα ἑαυτοῦ.	Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. *(Matt. 12:45)*
2. τὸ μωρὸν τοῦ θεοῦ σοφώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστίν, καὶ τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων.	The foolishness of God is wiser (than that) of men, and the weakness of God (is) stronger (than that) of men. *(1 Cor. 1:25)*
3. περισσότερον αὐτῶν πάντων ἐκοπίασα.	I labored more abundantly than all of them *(1 Cor. 15:10)*
4. νῦν γὰρ ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτερία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν.	For now our salvation (is) nearer than when we (first) believed. *(Rom. 13:11)*
5. αὐτὸς ἔβαλεν αὐτοὺς εἰς τὴν ἐσωτέραν φυλακήν.	He threw them into the inner prison. *(see Acts 16:24)*
6. ὕστερον δὲ πάντων ἀπέθανεν ἡ γυνή.	Last of all the woman died. *(Matt. 22:27)*
7. τολμηρότερον δὲ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν . . .	I wrote more boldly to you . . *(Rom. 15:15)*
8. ὁ Χριστὸς κατέβη εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς.	Christ went down into the lower parts of the earth. *(see Eph. 4:9)*
9. οἱ υἱοὶ τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου φρονιμώτεροι ὑπὲρ τοῦς υἱοὺς τοῦ φωτὸς εἰς τὴν γενεὰν τὴν ἑαυτῶν εἰσιν.	The sons of this age are more practical than the sons of light in their generation. *(Luke 16:8)*
10. ὁ δὲ ἐπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἰσχυρότερός μού ἐστιν.	But the one coming after me is mightier than me. *(Matt. 3:11)*

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52.2 Irregular Comparisons

As in English there are some irregular comparatives and superlatives, e.g. good, better, best (adjective) and well, better, best (adverb) so also in Greek. The following should be learned.
Words in parentheses do not occur in the GNT and need not be learned.

	Positive		Comparative	Superlative
good (adjective)	ἀγαθός		κρείττων	κράτιστος
		or	κρείσσων	
well (adverb)	εὖ		βελτίον	(βέλτιστος)
		or	κρείττων	κράτιστα
bad	κακός		χείρων	(χείριστος)
well (adverb)	καλῶς		κάλλιον	κάλλιστα
much, more	μάλα		μᾶλλον	μάλιστα
big, great	μέγας		μείζων	μέγιστος
small	μικρός		μικρότερος	(μικρότατος)
		or	ἐλάττων	ἐλάχιστος or ἐλαχιστοτερος
much, many	πολύς		πλείων	πλεῖστος
before	πρό		πρότερος (former)	πρῶτος (first)
swift, quick	ταχύς or ταχινός		τάχιον	τάχιστος
swiftly, quickly	ταχύ or ταχέως		τάχιον	τάχιστα
high	ὕψος		-	ὕψιστος

κρείττων, κράτιστος are derived from κρατος, -η, -ον (powerful).
κράτιστος occurs as the Vocative κράτιστε in Luke's Gospel, as an address to Θεόφιλος, where it is used as a title "Your Excellency"

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. λέγει οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς,
   Ὃ ποιεῖς ποίησον τάχιον.
   Then Jesus says to him, "That which you do, do (more) quickly. *(John 13:27)*
2. . . . καὶ λαβόντες ἐντολὴν . . .
   ἵνα ὡς τάχιστα ἔλθωσιν πρὸς αὐτὸν . . .
   . . . Having received a command that they should come as quickly as possible to him *(Acts 17:15)*
3. ἔδοξε κἀμοι . . σοι γράψαι,
   κράτιστε Θεόφιλε . .
   It seemed (right) to me also . . to write to you most excellent Theophilus *(Luke 1:3)*
4. νῦν γὰρ ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτερία
   ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν.
   For now our salvation is nearer than when we (first) believed. *(Rom. 13:11)*
5. καὶ συνάγεται πρὸς αὐτὸν ὄχλος πλεῖστος.
   And a very large crowd is gathered (to) him. *(Mark 4:1)*
6. ζηλοῦτε δὲ τὰ χαρίσματα τὰ μείζονα.
   But desire earnestly the greater gifts. *(1 Cor. 12:31)*
7. ὁ δὲ μικρότερος ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ
   τῶν οὐρανῶν μείζων αὐτοῦ ἐστιν.
   But the smallest if the kingdom of the heavens is greater than he. *(Matt. 11:11)*
8. Τότε ἤρξατο ὀνειδίζειν τὰς πόλεις ἐν αἷς
   ἐγένοντο αἱ πλεῖσται δυνάμεις αὐτοῦ,
   ὅτι οὐ μετενόησαν.
   Then he began to reproach the cities in which the most of his (acts of) power were done. because they did not repent. *(Matt.11:20)*
   (ἐγένοντο - Aorist, Third Person Plural, of γίνομαι)
9. Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ.
   Glory in the highest (places) to God. *(Luke 2:14)*
10. καὶ ἔσται ἡ ἐσχάτη πλάνη
    χείρων τῆς πρώτης.
    And the last error will be worse than the first. *(Matt. 27:64)*

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52.3 Comparison using μᾶλλον, μάλιστα

μαλλον (the comparative, more) and μάλιστα (the superlative, most) of μάλα (much) can be used with other adjectives or adverbs to make comparatives and superlatives.

Note also the idiom πόσῳ μᾶλλον as "how much", "how many", "how great", "how long"

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. Μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. It is more blessed to give than to receive. *(Acts 20:35)*
2. σὺν Χριστῷ εἶναι, πολλῷ μᾶλλον κρεῖσσον. To be with Christ - How much better! *(Phil. 1:23)*
3. . . . . οὐκέτι ὡς δοῦλον ἀλλὰ ὑπὲρ δοῦλον, No longer as a slave, but above a slave,
   ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν, μάλιστα ἐμοί, a beloved brother, most (beloved) to me,
   πόσῳ δὲ μᾶλλον σοὶ and how much more to you
   καὶ ἐν σαρκὶ καὶ ἐν κυρίῳ. both in the flesh and in the Lord. *(Philem. 16)*

52.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. Οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δοῦλοι τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου εἰσίν. *(Acts 16:17)*
2. καὶ γίνεται τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκείνου χείρονα τῶν πρώτων. *(Matt. 12:45)*
3. τὸ μωρὸν τοῦ θεοῦ σοθώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστίν,
   καὶ τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων. *(1 Cor. 1:25)*
4. νυνὶ δὲ μένει πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη, τὰ τρία ταῦτα,
   μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη. *(1 Cor. 13:13)*
5. Μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. *(Acts 20:35)*
6. τοῦτο δὲ παραγγέλλων οὐκ ἐπαινῶ ὅτι οὐκ εἰς τὸ κρεῖσσον
   ἀλλὰ εἰς τὸ ἧσσον συνέρχεσθε. *(I Cor. 11:17)*
   (ἧσσον, Hellenistic form of ἥττον - inferior, less)
7. οὐχὶ ἡ ψύχὴ πλεῖόν ἐστιν τῆς τροφῆς καὶ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ ἐνδύματος ; *(Matt. 6:25)*
8. Ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἑνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου
   τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. *(Matt. 25:40)*
   (ἐφ' ὅσον = ἐπὶ ὅσον = upon whatever)
9. πόσῳ μᾶλλον ὑμεῖς διαφέρετε τῶν πετείνων ; *(Luke 12:24)*
10. εἰ οὖν οὐδὲ ἐλάχιστον δύνασθε, τί περὶ τῶν λοιπῶν μεριμνᾶτε ; *(Luke 12:26)*

52.5 Writing Practice : Write the Greek several times, while saying aloud (Rev. 15:3-4)

Μεγάλα καὶ θαυμαστὰ τὰ ἔργα σου,	Great and wonderful (are) thy works
κύριε ὁ θεὸς ὁ παντοκράτωρ,	Lord God Almighty,
δίκαιαι καὶ ἀληθιναὶ αἱ ὁδοί σου,	Just and true (are) thy ways,
ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν ἐθνῶν,	King of the nations.
τίς σε οὐ μὴ φοβηθῇ, κύριε,	Who shall not fear thee, Lord,

52.6 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : Hebrews 1:1-4

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate it.

πολυμερῶς	in many ways	*(πολύς - many + μέρος - part)*
πολυτρόπως	in various ways	*(πολύς - many + τρόπος - manner, conduct)*
ἔθηκεν	Third Person Singular, Aorist Active of τίθημι - I place	
τὸ ἀπαύγασμα	reflected brightness - radiance	*(ἀπό - from + αὐγάζω - I beam, irradiate*
ὁ χαρακτήρ	an exact mark, exact image	
ἡ ὑποστάσις	confidence, essence, assurance, substance	
ἡ μεγαλωσύνη	majesty	
διαφορώτερον	Comparative of διάφορος - different (with reference to excellence)	
κεκληρονόμηκεν	Third Person Singular Perfect Indicative Active of κληρονομέω - I inherit	

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52.7 Vocabulary to learn - this includes some adjectives and adverbs that we have met in earlier vocabularies.

ἐλάχιστος	least (adjective)
ἔσχατος	last (adjective)
κρείττων	better, superior (adjective, also used as adverb)
μάλιστα	especially, most of all, particularly (superlative adverb of μάλα = very)
μᾶλλον	more than, to a greater degree, rather, much (comparative adverb)
περισσός	above measure, abundantly (adjective, also used as adverb)
περισσότερος	more, even more (adjective, also used as adverb)
περισσοτέρως	even more, far greater, more abundantly, especially (adverb)
πλεῖστος	most, very large (adjective)
πλείων	more, many (adjective)
πρότερος	former, before (adjective, also used as adverb)
ὕστερος	later (comparative), last (superlative) (adjective)
ὕστερον	later, afterwards (comparative), finally, last of all (superlative) (adverb)
ὑψηλός	high, lofty, exalted (adjective)
ὕψιστος	highest, most exalted (superlative adverb)
χείρων	worse (adjective, also used as adverb)
ἐπαινέω	I praise, approve
ζηλόω	I desire earnestly *(originally, "I have warmth")*
ὀνειδίζω	I reproach, defame
ὕψόω	I lift up, raise up, exalt
ἡ πλάνη	error
τὸ τάχος, -εος	speed , used as an adverb in the phrase ἐν τάχει - "in haste" = quickly
τὸ ὕψος, -εος	height

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