

## The Special Vocabulary of Syriac

Although the great majority of words in Syriac are standard Aramaic, because Syriac has the widest variety of genres, is heavily influenced by Byzantine Greek, and many of its authors and translators were especially concerned with christological matters, Syriac has quite a few common words that are not used or are found much more rarely in the other dialects

Greek <i>ἀήρ</i> , corresponds to אֵר in Jewish dialects and <b>aiar</b> in Mandaic.	air, sky	<u><b>ܐܪ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>āʾar</i> , <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>āyar</i> , <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>āʿer</i> ) n.f./m.	ܐܪܐ
Greek <i>εἶδος</i> .	form, species	<u><b>ܕܫܐ</b></u> , <u><b>ܕܫܐ</b></u> (* <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>ādaš</i> , <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>ādšā</i> ) n.m	ܕܫܐܢܐ
Greek <i>εὐαγγέλιον</i> .	gospel	<u><b>ܘܨܘܢܐ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>ewangelīōn</i> ) n.m	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ
Greek <i>οὐσία</i>	essence, being	<u><b>ܘܨܝܐ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>ūsīyā</i> ) n.f	ܘܨܝܐܢܐ
pronounced “ܘܐܟܝ”!	like (preposition), as (conj.)	<sup>ʾ</sup> <i>yk</i> → <u><b>ܚܝܟܐ</b></u> , <u><b>ܚܝܟܐ</b></u> ( <i>hayk/hēk/ʿak</i> ) <u>prep.</u>	ܚܝܟܐܢܐ
Greek <i>σχολή</i> . Note how borrowings from Greek words with initial clustered <i>sigma</i> take preformative <i>aleph</i> in Aramaic.	school	<u><b>ܫܘܠܐ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>eskōlē</i> / <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>ā</i> ) n.m	ܫܘܠܐܢܐ
Greek <i>σχῆμα</i> , i.e., English “scheme”.	character, manner	<u><b>ܫܚܡܐ</b></u> , <u><b>ܫܚܡܐ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>eskēm</i> , <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>eskēmā</i> ) .n.m	ܫܚܡܐܢܐ
Greek <i>ἐπίσκοπος</i> .	bishop	<u><b>ܦܝܨܩܘܦܐ</b></u> , <u><b>ܦܨܩܘܦܐ</b></u> ( <sup>ʾ</sup> <i>epīsqōpā</i> ) n.m	ܦܨܩܘܦܐܢܐ

Greek ὀρθόδοξος.	orthodox	<a href="#">ʔrtdwks,</a> <a href="#">ʔrtwdwks</a> adj	ܘܪܬܘܕܘܟܝܘܨ
also ܘܢܬܘܬܐ	between	<a href="#">.byt</a> (bēt) prep	ܒܝܬ
enclitic like Greek γαρ	for, indeed	<a href="#">gyr</a> (gēr) adv.	ܓܝܪ
usually spelled without nun in Syriac	treasure	<a href="#">gnz, gnzʔ</a> (ginzā, ganzā, .gazzā) n.m	ܓܢܙܐ
Greek γένος; normally in the absolute in Syriac, and pl. ܓܢܘܨܐ	kind, species	<a href="#">gns, gnsʔ</a> (gnes, .gensā) n.m	ܓܢܘܨܐ
enclitic like Greek δέ	then	<a href="#">dyn</a> (dēn) conj./ .adv	ܕܝܢ
common Aram. “dwelling”	monastery	<a href="#">dyr, dyrʔ</a> (dēr, .day/ērā) n.m/f	ܕܝܪܐ
	opposite, adversary	<a href="#">dlqwbl,</a> <a href="#">dlqwblʔ</a> (dalqūbel, .dalqūblā) n.m	ܕܠܩܘܒܠܐ
Greek ὕλη, same .word as hylʔ. pl ܘܠܐܢܐ	material, matter	<a href="#">hwlʔ</a> (hulā, hūlē) n.f.	ܘܠܐܢܐ
=hštʔ adv. : now in others	now	<a href="#">.hšʔ</a> (hāšā) adv	ܗܫܐ
	here	<a href="#">.hrkʔ</a> (hārkā) adv	ܗܪܟܐ
	sense, pain, the Passion	<a href="#">hš, hšʔ</a> (haš, haššā) n.m. #2	ܗܫܐ
	blessed, saintly	<a href="#">twbn</a> (tūbān) adj.	ܬܘܒܢܐ

Commonly “type” as in the Tanakh’s supposed foreshadowing of Christian scripture; see also s.v. <b>רִי</b> .	form, type	<a href="#"><u>twps, twps’</u></a> (tpōs/topos, tupsā/ tup̄sā) n.m.	רִי
Greek <i>τάξις</i>	order, rank, arrangement	<a href="#"><u>tkš, tkš’</u></a> (tekkes, .tekkəsā) n.m	רִי
with suffix = a type of reflexive pronoun; an expansion from “yt” marking d.o.	essence	<a href="#"><u>yt, yt’</u></a> (yāt, yātā) .n.m./f	רִי
	Nature, natural substance	<a href="#"><u>kyn, kyn’</u></a> (kyān, kyānā) n.m	רִי
	congregation, synagogue, Judaism	<a href="#"><u>knwšh,</u></a> <a href="#"><u>knwšt’</u></a> (knuššā, .knuštā) n.f	רִי
	Christian	<a href="#"><u>krystyn</u></a> (.krīstyān) adj	רִי
	to be fitting; passive=to be threatening!	<a href="#"><u>lhm</u></a> vb, (e/a)	רִי
older form: <b>מִדְּמָה</b> , and can be made plural. Compare <b>מִדְּמָה</b> and <b>מִיָּד</b> in other dialects.	something, whatever	<a href="#"><u>mdm</u></a> (meddem) pron.	רִי
Both forms are enclitic in their clauses, paralleling the Greek <i>μὲν ... δὲ</i> .	on the one hand ... on the other	<a href="#"><u>mn</u></a> (man) adv.	רִי ... רִי

a poetic hymn of line by line varying meter designed to be sung to a fixed melody; i.e., quite different from Jewish midrash.	a type of hymn	<b><u>mdrš, mdršʿ</u></b> ( <u>madraš, mdršā/</u> <u>madrāš, mdrāšā</u> ) <u>n.m.</u>	ܡܕܪܫܐ
literally: placing on the head	punishment	<b><u>msm bryšʿ</u></b> ( <u>məsām brēšā</u> ) <u>n.m.</u>	ܡܫܡܒܪܝܫܐ
Note that the root “(md)” means “to sink” in Aramaic, unlike Hebrew.	baptist	<b><u>mʿmdn,</u></b> <b><u>mʿmdnʿ</u></b> ( <u>maʿmədān,</u> <u>maʿmədānā</u> ) <u>nom.ag.C,</u>	ܡܚܡܕܢܐ
	baptism	<b><u>mʿmwdy,</u></b> <b><u>mʿmwdytʿ</u></b> ( <u>maʿmōdī,</u> <u>maʿmōdītā</u> ) <u>n.f.</u>	ܡܚܡܘܕܝܬܐ
The root sʿr is common in Aramaic in the sense “to visit”, but “to do an action” is a special Syriac development.	action, event, visitation	<b><u>swʿrn, swʿrnʿ</u></b> ( <u>suʿrān, suʿrānā</u> ) <u>.n.m</u>	ܫܘܥܪܢܐ
Note the assimilated “d” in the singular.	church, the Church	<b><u>ʿdh, ʿdtʿ</u></b> (ʿētā) <u>.n.f</u>	ܥܕܬܐ
and so various forms of the root <b><u>slb vb.</u></b> “to crucify”	the Crucifixion	<b><u>slybw,</u></b> <b><u>slybwtʿ</u></b> (šlībū, <u>.slībūtā</u> ) <u>n.f</u>	ܫܠܝܒܘܬܐ

	resurrection, the Resurrection	<a href="#"><u>qymh, qymt<sup>7</sup></u></a> (qyāmā, qyāmtā (qayyāmtā) ) n.f.	ܩܝܡܬܐ
Greek <i>κατήγωρ</i> with metathesis, but also occurs as <i>ܩܝܘܐ</i> .	to accuse	<a href="#"><u>qtrg</u></a> vb.	ܩܝܘܐ
an important term in the christological arguments	person, essential nature, hypostasis	<a href="#"><u>qnwm, qnwm<sup>7</sup></u></a> (qnōm, qnōmā) n.m.	ܩܢܘܡܐ
common in Aramaic as “mystery”, but also used here like <i>ܩܘܡܐ</i> .	typological symbol	<a href="#"><u>rz, rz<sup>7</sup></u></a> (rāz, rāzā) .n.m	ܩܝܝܐ , ܩܝܝܝܐ
This is the same word as Rabbinic Hebrew <i>רמז</i> , but in Syriac it often has a special theological meaning: <i>the divine nod or wink as a creative or commanding manifestation of divine will.</i>	blink, hinting	<a href="#"><u>rmz, rmz<sup>7</sup></u></a> (rmez, remzā) n.m.	ܩܝܝܝܝܐ