

#15. "The" is the definite article in English. When the definite

article τοῖς in this case, see word #8] appears alone here, it

functions as a relative pronoun and is translated with the last

word in verse one, κλητοῖς, as "to the (ones) which are called."

A definite article actually goes with its noun or substantive (a

word used as a noun) and agrees with it in case, gender, and

number. In this instance both the lone definite article or

pronoun (τοῖς) and the substantive with which it agrees

(κλητοῖς) are dative, masculine, plural, and the word order puts

the emphasis on the divine calling or summons.

Learn this rule: A definite article agrees with its

substantive (noun or pronoun or

word used as a noun) in gender, number and case.

POSSIBLE TRANSLATION:

*to the called ones having been loved in Elohim HaAv*

Elohim HaAv loves us from all eternity and we are called or

invited or summoned not on the basis of merit or deserts or divine debt,

as though G-d owes us anything. Yehuda is writing "to the Called

ones, which in Elohim HaAv are beloved." This participle

ηγαπημενοις is in the passive voice, meaning it is not

referring to our love of G-d but His love of us, of which we are

viewed here as the passive recipients. This participle is in the

perfect tense, which means His love for us before time began has

continuing effects on us even now in the present.

We will explain this more as we go along.

But we need to pause here and meditate on these

words and savor the fact that Elohim HaAv has been loving

us and is still loving us from before the creation and in that

love we are called. And the love for us that He had back in the

primal past has continuing effects on us even now. What a

tremendous amount of meaning is packed into one word, word #12.

