Word Order and Emphasis in Greek

1) Due to the linear nature of the Greek language, in general, words at the beginning of a sentence/clause have more prominence than words at the end.

2) Emphasis in Greek is oftentimes shown by words occurring out of their customary order in relation to other words in the sentence.

3) The normal order of words in Greek is not well understood yet. It has generally been taught that for a sentence on the whole, the normal order would be “verb - subject - object/complement”. However, it has been show that when a subject of the verb is explicitly stated, it oftentimes comes first in the sentence. Thus a more accurate order may instead be “subject - verb - object/complement”

4) Emphatic Word Order
   a) Splitting of Syntactical Units
      i) E.g. John 7:38b “ποταμοί ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ἑρέσσουσιν ὄδατος ζῶντος.” “from within him shall flow rivers of living water.”
      ii) 2 Cor. 7:1 “παύτας ὄν ἐχοντες τὰς ἔπογγελίας,” “Having therefore these promises,”
      iii) 3 John 4 “μείζοντερα τούτων οὐκ ἔχω χαράν,” “Greater joy have I none than this,”
   b) “Nominative Absolutes” placed at beginning of clause, without regard to the syntax focuses on the subject.
      i) E.g. Rev. 3:12 “ὁ νικῶν ποιήσω αὐτὸν στόλον” “He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar”
   c) Extra Words or Repeated Words
      i) E.g. 1 Cor. 1:24 “Χριστόν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν.” “Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”
   d) Direct Object or Predicate Nominatives/Adjectives preceding subject and/or verb.
      i) E.g. Heb. 4:12 “Ζῶν γὰρ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ ἐνεργῆς” “For the word of God is living, and active,”
      ii) John 19:18 “ὅπου αὐτῶν ἐστάσαρσαν, καὶ μετ' αὐτῶν ἄλλους δῶ” “where they crucified him, and with him two others,”
   e) Genitive nouns/pronouns preceding the noun they modify
      i) E.g. Matt. 27:54 “Ἀληθῶς θεοῦ υἱὸς ἃν οὗτος.” “Truly this was the Son of God.”
      ii) 1 Cor. 2:7 “ἀλλὰ λαλοῦμεν θεοῦ σοφίαν ἐν μυστηρίῳ,” “but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery,”
      iii) See 1 Cor. 1:24 above.
   f) Prepositional Phrases or Indirect Object preceding the verb.
      i) E.g. John 1:46 “Εἰς Ναζαρετ ἔδωκατα τι ἁγιόθον εἶναι;” “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

5) Intrinsically Emphatic Word Classes (see “Black” pg. 183)
   a) Adverbs (ἀλήθεια, εὐπρόσωπος)
   b) Emphatic Personal Pronouns
   c) Emphatic Possessive Adjectives
   d) Nominative Personal Pronouns (εγώ, ἡμεῖς)
      i) E.g. John 10:11 “Εγώ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός.” “I am the good shepherd.”
   e) Intensive Pronouns (ἀυτός)
      i) E.g. Matt. 1:21 “αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν.” “for it is he that shall save his people from their sins.”
   f) Intensive Adverbs (νῦν, οὕτως)
      i) E.g. Eph. 2:13 “νῦν δὲ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ὑμεῖς οἱ ποτε ὄντες μακρὰν ἐγεννηθῆτε ἐγγὺς ἐν τῷ αἰματὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.” “But now in Christ Jesus you that once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ.”
   g) Double Negatives (οὐ μὴ)
      i) Mark 14:31 “οὐ μὴ σε ἀπαρνήσομαι.” “I will not deny you.”

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