

We may summarize them by saying that participles are chiefly descriptive and infinitives are mostly definitive. Bearing this in mind, the participles are studied first and the infinitives later...but I guess you can see this for yourself.

## B. THE PARTICIPLE

### 1. Simplicity

The participle, on the whole, is far simpler than the infinitive. The discussion in Harris, as well as that in the "Golden Tablets" is adequate (Harris, p. 30).

### 2. Adjectival usage

The participle, being a modifier, often has an adjectival usage. As an attributive adjective it tells something about the person while when in use as a predicative adjective it tells something of what the party was (is) doing.

The attributive adjective follows the word it modifies and agrees in number, gender and definiteness.

Deuteronomy 1:38:

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נּוּן הַעֹמֵד

"Joshua, the son of Nun, the one standing" and you could read it..."Joshua, the son of Nun, the one who stands." The attributive adjective (participle) describes Joshua by telling what he is positionally...and that is where the emphasis is.

On the other hand, the predicative adjective tells more of the action --while still describing the part-- as in Deuteronomy 1:32

אֵינְכֶם מֵאֵמְנִים

"none of you were believing"

It may follow or go before the word modified, will agree in gender and number, but may not agree in definiteness. (And, again, it may.) But its emphasis is on the action on the parts of the subjects.

It is safe therefore to say this: if the participle precedes the word it modifies or if it does not agree in definiteness wherever it stands, it is predicative. If it follows and agrees in definiteness, it is most likely attributive.

### 3. Substantive usage

The participle may also be used as a noun...an adjective given nominal properties. This is an extremely common usage and no example is given here. But in time some of these substantive participles become nouns and are treated only as nouns. You will