

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל עַבְדוֹ הַזֶּה זְנוּן בְּיָמָיו (1)

...and Abraham said unto the oldest servant of his house.....

הַפֶּשֶׁן בָּכֵן יֵשֶׁב עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ (2)

the one who ruled in all that was his

וְשָׂמְנוּ אֶת-יָדְךָ תַּחַת יָדַי יְרֻכִי (3)

put, I pray, your hand under my thigh.

In this verse,

- (1) denotes progressive action complete in past time (verbal clause)
- (2) denotes a fixed state or condition now in effect (noun clause)
- (3) denotes a progressive action being completed in the present (verbal clause).

Of these, two describes an existing situation while one and three show movement of various levels and times. Although this sentence is basically complex, the clauses noted above show the noun and verb clause differences in clear form.

### 3. Word arrangement in Clauses

There is a distinction made on the arrangement of subject and verb and it appears to be valid. Note the following carefully:

- a. When the verb is first the action is being stressed.
- b. When the subject is first it is likely that emphasis is being placed on the state of existence or the occurrence of being.

It becomes a matter of understanding as to how you will explain the character of the verse in your preaching.

### 4. Some irregularities

- a. Gender:

It is often not sharply defined in Hebrew and particularly so with the use of affirmatives and pronouns. Hence attempts to follow the speakers in a work like the Song of Solomon on the basis of the gender of the pronouns will not produce solid results. Note an obvious example in Ruth 1:8

"you have done"

וַיַּעַן נָאוֹם

But see that Naomi is here addressing her daughter-in-laws but