

Chapter Fifteen

Qal Participle Strong Verbs

Vocabulary

אָרַר	to curse	גָּנַשׁ	to approach
בוּשׁ	to be ashamed	נָהָר	river (m)
גּוֹאֵל	redeemer	סוֹפֵר	scribe (m)
גָּלָה	to uncover, reveal	פָּדָה	to ransom, redeem
חָשַׁב	to think	פָּשַׁע	to rebel, transgress
יּוֹשֵׁב	inhabitant	קָבַר	to bury
יּוֹצֵר	potter	רוֹאֵה	seer, prophet
יָצַר	to form	רוֹעֵה	shepherd
מוֹשִׁיעַ	savior, deliverer	שׁוֹפֵט	judge
מַלְאָךְ	angel, messenger	שָׁקַח	to water

Qal Participle

Participles are verbs that can function as nouns and are most nearly related to adjectives¹. As such, participles have characteristics of a verb as well as an adjective. As a verb, the participle possesses tense and voice. As an adjective, the participle possesses gender and number. The word participle comes from the Latin, *particeps* meaning, “sharing,” or “participating,” as it is used to describe participation in the action or state of the verb.

The Hebrew participle possesses the verbal characteristic of voice as it occurs in the active and passive voice.

- Active voice.* The active participle indicates a person or thing as being in the continual uninterrupted exercise of an activity.
- Passive voice.* The passive participle indicates the person or thing is in a state that has been brought about by external actions.

Qal Active Participle Form

The Qal active participle masculine singular for strong verbs is formed by adding the *holem* (or *holem vav*) in the first syllable, and the *sere* in the second syllable.

¹ Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, p. 356

Qal Active Participle				
Qal Perfect (3m. sg)			Qal Active Participle (m.sg)	
שָׁמַר	שָׁמַר	→	שֹׁמֵר	“Keeping”

In addition to the basic verbal form, participles must conjugate the adjective part as follows:

Qal Active Participle Masculine						
Singular	שֹׁמֵר	+		→	שֹׁמֵר	“guarding [him]”
Plural		+	ים	→	שֹׁמְרִים	“guarding [them]”

Qal Active Participle Feminine						
Singular	שֹׁמֵרָה	+	הַ	→	שֹׁמְרָה	“guarding [her]”
Plural		+	ות	→	שֹׁמְרוֹת	“guarding [them]”

Qal Passive Participle Form

The Qal passive participle masculine singular for strong verbs is formed by adding the *qames* in the first syllable and the *sureq* in the second syllable.

Qal Passive Participle				
Qal Perfect 3ms			Qal Passive Participle	
שָׁמַר	שָׁמַר	→	שְׁמוּר	“being kept”

In addition to the basic verbal form, participles must conjugate the adjective part as follows:

Qal Passive Participle Masculine						
Singular	שְׁמוּר	+		→	שְׁמוּר	“[him] being guarded”
Plural		+	ים	→	שְׁמוּרִים	“[them] being guarded”

Qal Passive Participle Feminine						
Singular	שְׁמוּרָה	+	הַ	→	שְׁמוּרָה	“[her] being guarded”
Plural		+	ות	→	שְׁמוּרוֹת	“[them] being guarded”

Usage of the Participle

Both active and passive participles may function as verbs, adjectives, or nouns.

2. *Adjective*. As an adjective the participle may function attributively or predicatively.

- a. *Attributive usage.* When the participle is used attributively, it normally follows the noun and agrees in number, gender, and definiteness. Definiteness refers to the presence of the definite article present with both noun and participle. In this case the participle is acting as a relative clause requiring the addition of the pronoun “who, which,” or “that.” The attributive position is of the form, *הָעָם הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ* “the people *who are dwelling* in the land” (Num. 13:28).
 - b. *Predicative usage.* A participle used predicatively may be placed before or after the noun it modifies and agrees in number, gender, but not definiteness. The participle never takes the definite article when used predicatively. When the participle is used predicatively, supply the “to be” verb. The predicative usage is of the form, *בָּעַר בְּאֵשׁ הַהָר* “the mountain *was burning* with fire” (Deut. 4:11).
3. *Verbs.* When participles are used as verbs normally they are preceded by an expressed subject that agree in gender and number, but they do not take the definite article. Since participles are timeless, time must be determined by the context. For example, *כְּבוֹד־אֱלֹהִים מְסַפְּרִים* “The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:2; Eng. 19:1)
 4. *Nouns.* A participle may be used as a noun. When a participle is used as a noun it indicated the “one who,” or the “ones who” are performing the action, state, or condition. When the participle is used as a noun it functions in every way as a noun, functioning as either an object or subject, and serve in apposition to other nouns. Dr. Kelley writes, “verbal nouns that describe a person’s major or vocationally identifying activity. They include such forms as *גֹּאֵל*, “redeemer,” *יוֹשֵׁב*, “inhabitant,” *יוֹצֵר*, “potter,” *מוֹשִׁיעַ*, “savior, deliverer,” *סוֹפֵר*, “scribe,” *רוֹאֵה*, “seer,” *רוֹעֵה*, “shepherd,” and *שׁוֹפֵט*,”²
 - a. Participles used as nouns in the absolute state. When a participle is used as a noun it may function in the absolute or construct state. An example is, *וְהָלְכוּ שָׁם גְּאוּלָּיִם* “And the redeemed shall go (walk) there.” (Isa. 19:17)
 - b. Participles in the construct state. An example is, *הֲשֹׁמֵר אָחִי אָנֹכִי* “Am I the keeper of my brother?” (Gen. 4:9)

Participles with Prefixes and Suffixes

Participle can take prefixes such as the definite article and prepositional prefixes. They may also take pronominal suffixes.

1. *Definite article.* An example of a participle with the definite article is found in, *לִקְרֹאתֵנוּ מִי־הָאִישׁ הַלֵּוֶה הַזֶּה בְּשָׂדֵה* “who [is] the man, this one, the one that walks in the field to meet us?” (Gen. 24:65).
2. *Pronominal suffix.* An example of a participle with a pronominal suffix attached is found in, *כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה לְרַפְּאֵךְ* “for I am the LORD who heals you” (Ex. 15:26).

² Page Kelley, p. 201

Practice

I. Memorize the vocabulary.

II. Translate the following:

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה בְּנֵי דָוִד (1 Sam. 26:25)
2. וְקָרְאוּ לָהֶם עַם-תְּקֵהֶשׁ גְּאוּלֵי יְהוָה (Isa. 62:12)
3. כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֲהַב מִשְׁפָּט (Isa. 61:8)
4. וְהָהָר בְּעַר בְּאֵשׁ (Deu. 4:11)