A STUDY OF VERB FORMS IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

L. Mark Bruffey

The purpose of this study is twofold: first, to concord and chart the finite verbs, infinitives and participles found in the epistle to the Ephesians; and secondly, to make observations based on the data gathered and charted. The study will be divided into separate sections dealing with finite verb forms, infinitives, and participles.[1] Each section will include charts and evaluations including observations.

One of the frustrations of this type of project is knowing that this material could be analyzed from a score of different perspectives. For instance, all the forms of *eimi* could be charted and analyzed as to their point of concentration. Verbs in subordinate clauses could be separated from main verbs for a more accurate indication of emphasis, and on and on the possibilities go.

Hopefully some of these charts will be of value to those who would further analyze this epistle. Tremendous thanks and credit are due to those who have invested their lives in producing Project Gramcord.[2]

A SURVEY OF FINITE VERBS

Charts

Tense	Voice	Mood	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	PRS	IMF	FTR	ARS	PRF	PLP	Total
PRS	ACT	IND	4	8	4	9	18	9	52						
IMF	ACT	IND	0	1	0	0	2	0		3					
FTR	ACT	IND	0	0	0	0	2	1			3				
ARS	ACT	IND	5	6	3	8	5	1				28			
PRF	ACT	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	ACT	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			9	15	7	17	27	11							86

PRS	MID	IND	1	0	2	2	1	0	6						
IMF	MID	IND	0	1	0	0	0	0		1					
FTR	MID	IND	0	0	0	0	1	3			4				
ARS	MID	IND	2	1	0	1	0	0				4			
PRF	MID	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	MID	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			3	2	2	3	2	3							15
PRS	PAS	IND	0	1	2	0	2	0	5						
IMF	PAS	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	PAS	IND	0	0	0	0	1	0			1				
ARS	PAS	IND	2	2	5	5	0	0				14			
PRF	PAS	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	PAS	IND	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			2	3	7	5	3	0							20
PRS	ACT	SUB	0	0	0	2	1	0	3						
IMF	ACT	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	ACT	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	ACT	SUB	1	3	2	4	2	3				15			
PRF	ACT	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	1					1		
PLP	ACT	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			1	3	2	6	3	4							19
PRS	MID	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
IMF	MID	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	MID	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	MID	SUB	0	2	0	0	0	2				4			
PRF	MID	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	MID	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			0	2	0	0	0	2							4
PRS	PAS	SUB	0	0	0	0	1	0	1						
IMF	PAS	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	PAS	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	PAS	SUB	0	0	2	0	0	2				4			
PRF	PAS	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	PAS	SUB	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			0	0	2	0	1	2							5
PRS	ACT	IMV	0	1	0	7	10	6	24						
IMF	ACT	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	ACT	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	ACT	IMV	0	0	0	0	1	2				3			
PRF	ACT	IMV	0	0	0	0	1	0					1		
PLP	ACT	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			0	1	0	7	12	8							28
PRS	MID	IMV	0	0	0	2	3	0	5						
IMF	MID	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	MID	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	MID	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	2				2			
PRF	MID	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	MID	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			0	0	0	2	3	2							7

PRS	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	1	3	1	5						
IMF	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	1	0	0				1			
PRF	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PLP	PAS	IMV	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total			0	0	0	2	3	1							6

	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	PRS	IMF	FTR	ARS	PRF	PLP	Total
TOTALS	15	26	20	42	54	33	101	4	8	75	2	0	190

Evaluation

The most striking observation from this chart is the enormous abundance of present and aorist tense verbs compared to the other tenses combined. The occurrence of 101 present tense verbs together with 75 aorist verbs encompass over 90% of the finite spread. There is an apparent lack of perfect verbs (only two); as well as the shortage of imperfect verbs (four).

An examination of the total number of verb occurrences would seem to indicate that in chapter 1 (with nearly as many verses as chapter 2) the finite verbs occur less frequently. Chapter 2 contains twice as many finite verbs as chapter 1. The opposite phenomena occurs in comparing chapters 1 and 5. Here the totals indicate that there is much more action expressed[3] because, even though chapter 5 is almost double the length of chapter 1, it has four times as many verbs. This high frequency of verbs might be explained by the practical emphasis in chapters 4-6.

That some emphasis on the past is found in Ephesians is supported by the occurrence of 45 aorist indicative verbs. On the other hand, the use of 101 present tense verbs may reflect Paul's method of using God's tremendous plan of salvation as a foundation for constructing an argument for continuing Christian service and warfare.[4]

Person/Number Distributions

Charts

Tense	Voice	Mood	PGN	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL	Total
PRS	ACT	IND	1SG	0	0	1	2	1	2	6						
PRS	ACT	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
PRS	ACT	IND	3SG	3	2	1	6	13	7			32				
PRS	ACT	IND	1PL	1	2	2	1	1	0				7			
PRS	ACT	IND	2PL	0	4	0	0	1	0					5		
PRS	ACT	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	2	0						2	
Total				4	8	4	9	18	9							52
IMF	ACT	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
IMF	ACT	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
IMF	ACT	IND	3SG	0	0	0	0	1	0			1				
IMF	ACT	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
IMF	ACT	IND	2PL	0	1	0	0	1	0					2		
IMF	ACT	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total				0	1	0	2	0	0						3	
FTR	ACT	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
FTR	ACT	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
FTR	ACT	IND	3SG	0	0	0	0	2	1			3				
FTR	ACT	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
FTR	ACT	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
FTR	ACT	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total				0	0	0	0	2	1							3
ARS	ACT	IND	1SG	0	0	1	0	0	1	2						
ARS	ACT	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
ARS	ACT	IND	3SG	5	5	1	5	5	0			21				
ARS	ACT	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
ARS	ACT	IND	2PL	0	1	1	2	0	0					4		
ARS	ACT	IND	3PL	0	0	0	1	0	0						1	
Total				5	6	3	8	5	1							28
PRF	ACT	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP	ACT	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PRS	MID	IND	1SG	1	0	1	1	0	0	3						
PRS	MID	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
PRS	MID	IND	3SG	0	0	0	1	1	0			2				
PRS	MID	IND	1PL	0	0	1	0	0	0				1			
PRS	MID	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
PRS	MID	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total				1	0	2	2	1	0							6

IMF	MID	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
IMF	MID	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			
IMF	MID	IND	3SG	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
IMF	MID	IND	1PL	0	1	0	0	0	0				1	
IMF	MID	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
IMF	MID	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Total				0	1	0	0	0	0					1
FTR	MID	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
FTR	MID	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	1		1			
FTR	MID	IND	3SG	0	0	0	0	0	1			1		
FTR	MID	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
FTR	MID	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	1					1
FTR	MID	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	1	0					1
Total				0	0	0	0	1	3					4
ARS	MID	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
ARS	MID	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			
ARS	MID	IND	3SG	2	1	0	1	0	0			4		
ARS	MID	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
ARS	MID	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
ARS	MID	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Total				0	1	0	1	0	0					4
PRF	MID	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP	MID	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PRS	PAS	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PRS	PAS	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			
PRS	PAS	IND	3SG	0	0	1	0	2	0			3		
PRS	PAS	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
PRS	PAS	IND	2PL	0	1	1	0	0	0					2
PRS	PAS	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Total				0	1	2	0	2	0					5
IMF	PAS	IND	1SG	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FTR	PAS	IND	1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
FTR	PAS	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			
FTR	PAS	IND	3SG	0	0	0	0	1	0			1		
FTR	PAS	IND	1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	
FTR	PAS	IND	2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
FTR	PAS	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Total				0	0	0	0	1	0					1
ARS	PAS	IND	1SG	0	0	1	0	0	0	1				
ARS	PAS	IND	2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			
ARS	PAS	IND	3SG	0	0	4	1	0	0			5		
ARS	PAS	IND	1PL	1	1	0	0	0	0				2	
ARS	PAS	IND	2PL	1	1	0	4	0	0					6
ARS	PAS	IND	3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Total				2	2	5	5	0	0					14
PRF	PAS	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP	PAS	IND		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

PRS ACT SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
PRS ACT SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
PRS ACT SUB 3SG	0	0	0	1	1	0			2					
PRS ACT SUB 1PL	0	0	0	1	0	0				1				
PRS ACT SUB 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0			
PRS ACT SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0		
Total	0	0	0	2	1	0							3	
IMF ACT SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
FTR ACT SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
ARS ACT SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
ARS ACT SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
ARS ACT SUB 3SG	1	2	1	2	2	2			10					
ARS ACT SUB 1PL	0	1	0	2	0	0				3				
ARS ACT SUB 2PL	0	0	1	0	0	1					2			
ARS ACT SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0		
Total	1	3	2	4	2	3							15	
PRF ACT SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
PRF ACT SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
PRF ACT SUB 3SG	0	0	0	0	0	0			0					
PRF ACT SUB 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0				
PRF ACT SUB 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	1					1			
PRF ACT SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0		
Total	0	0	0	0	0	1							1	
PLP ACT SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
PRS MID SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
IMF MID SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
FTR MID SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
ARS MID SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	1	1							
ARS MID SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
ARS MID SUB 3SG	0	2	0	0	0	1			3					
ARS MID SUB 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0				
ARS MID SUB 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0			
ARS MID SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0		
Total	0	2	0	0	0	2							4	
PRF MID SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
PLP MID SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
PRS PAS SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
PRS PAS SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
PRS PAS SUB 3SG	0	0	0	0	1	0			1					
PRS PAS SUB 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0				
PRS PAS SUB 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0			
PRS PAS SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0		
Total	0	0	0	0	1	0							1	
IMF PAS SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
FTR PAS SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

ARS PAS SUB 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
ARS PAS SUB 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
ARS PAS SUB 3SG	0	0	1	0	0	1			2				
ARS PAS SUB 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
ARS PAS SUB 2PL	0	0	1	0	0	1					2		
ARS PAS SUB 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	2	0	0	2							4
PRF PAS SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP PAS SUB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PRS ACT IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
PRS ACT IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	1	1		2					
PRS ACT IMV 3SG	0	0	0	3	2	0			5				
PRS ACT IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
PRS ACT IMV 2PL	0	1	0	4	7	5					17		
PRS ACT IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	1	0	7	10	6							24
IMF ACT IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FTR ACT IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARS ACT IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
ARS ACT IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	1	0		1					
ARS ACT IMV 3SG	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS ACT IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
ARS ACT IMV 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	2					2		
ARS ACT IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	0	1	2							3
PRF ACT IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
PRF ACT IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
PRF ACT IMV 3SG	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
PRF ACT IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
PRF ACT IMV 2PL	0	0	0	0	1	0					1		
PRF ACT IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	0	1	0							1
PLP ACT IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PRS MID IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
PRS MID IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
PRS MID IMV 3SG	0	0	0	1	0	0			1				
PRS MID IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
PRS MID IMV 2PL	0	0	0	1	3	0					4		
PRS MID IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	2	3	0							5
IMF MID IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FTR MID IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARS MID IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
ARS MID IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
ARS MID IMV 3SG	0	0	0	0	0	0			0				
ARS MID IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
ARS MID IMV 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	2					2		
ARS MID IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	0	0	2							2

	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL	Total
PRF MID IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP MID IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PRS PAS IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
PRS PAS IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
PRS PAS IMV 3SG	0	0	0	0	1	0			1				
PRS PAS IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
PRS PAS IMV 2PL	0	0	0	1	2	1					4		
PRS PAS IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	1	3	1							5
IMF PAS IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
FTR PAS IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARS PAS IMV 1SG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
ARS PAS IMV 2SG	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
ARS PAS IMV 3SG	0	0	0	1	0	0			1				
ARS PAS IMV 1PL	0	0	0	0	0	0				0			
ARS PAS IMV 2PL	0	0	0	0	0	0					0		
ARS PAS IMV 3PL	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0							1
PRF PAS IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLP PAS IMV	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTALS	15	26	20	42	54	33	13	4	99	15	55	4	190

Evaluation

The first observation that can be made is that in the twenty-four divisions of this chart, the third person singular dominates (99 times). This is especially true in the active voice and indicative mood. The high frequency of second person plural verbs (55 times) should also be noted. By contrast, only four third person plurals, only thirteen first person singulars, only fifteen first person plurals, and only four second person singulars are observed as occurring. The lack of third person plural and second person singular verbs would seem to indicate that God is not directing His message toward those outside the Ephesian church,[5] nor is He directing His message toward one individual, but toward a group, a local church, as indicated by the use of fifty-five second person plurals. This may relate to the rebuke contained in Revelation 2 in which the church at Ephesus had become focused on heretics rather than on Christ. They had become diverted from their absolute fascination with Christ. If Ephesians was written prior to that period of backsliding, its warning is certainly supported by such an emphasis here. The lack of third person plural verbs contrasted with the abundance of third person singular and

second person plural verbs suggests that God is not as concerned with "they/them" (those outside the local church) as with those within the local body. It also suggests that God's concern is with what that body should do corporately as a result of understanding His action[6] on their behalf.

A second observation to note is that in the present active, present middle, and present passive imperative groupings the second person plural far surpasses the uses of either the second or third person singular forms. This probably reflects, as stated above, that the recipients of the letter were a single group, a local church. By glancing down the last three chapter columns in the imperative divisions it is easy to see that nearly all imperatives are concentrated in the practical section of the book (chapters 4-6) as would be expected.

A third observation results from considering the sub-total rows under each division. These indicate that ten of the fourteen aorist passive indicative verbs are found in chapters 3 and 4. Of the five uses occurring in chapter 3, four are in the third person singular and are located in the first half of that chapter where Paul is discussing the "tools" given to him for his ministry. Likewise, the four uses in chapter 4 are found near the beginning of the chapter where Paul reviews the basis on which he is calling for the Ephesians' worthy walk.

Summary of Finite Verbs According to Tense

Chart

Tense	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	PRS	IMF	FTR	ARS	PRF	PLP	Total
PRS	5	10	8	23	39	16	101						
IMF	0	2	0	0	2	0		4					
FTR	0	0	0	0	4*	4			8				
ARS	10	14	12	19	8	12				75			
PRF	0	0	0	0	1	1					2		
PLP	0	0	0	0	0	0						0	
Total	15	26	20	42	54	33							190

* The function is actually imperative.

Evaluation

In viewing the finite verb chart it may be observed that thirty-nine present tense verbs are found in chapter 5. This is partially

accounted for by the sixteen imperatives which stress the ongoing aspect expected in the Christian lifestyle.

It should also be noted that the future tense verbs all occur in chapters 5 and 6. One-half of these usages reflect the imperatival nuance. Of these occurrences several are found in OT quotations[7] and fit the exhortatory theme in this portion of the epistle.

It can also be observed that the aorist mood dominates in chapters 1-3 which lay the doctrinal foundation/basis for the exhortation contained in chapters 4-6 which use the present tense primarily.

Summary of Finite Verbs According to Voice

Chart

Voice	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	ACT	MID	PAS	Total
ACT	10	19	9	30	42	23	133			
MID	3	4	2	5	5	7		26		
PAS	2	3	9	7	7	3			31	
Total	15	26	20	42	54	33				190

Evaluation

As might be expected, the active voice predominates (95 occurrences) in the exhortatory section (chapters 4-6). This is seen in contrast to only nine uses in chapter 3 where Paul focuses on what he had received from God and what he desired that the Ephesians receive from God.

The middle voice occurs mainly in the exhortatory section, being especially focused in chapter 6 (seven times) where Paul's personal exhortation that each Christian arm himself is found. At this point the reflexive idea is found in its greatest concentration.

The passive voice, as might be expected, has its single greatest number of occurrences in chapter 3. Nevertheless, nearly half of the thirty-one occurrences (14) are found in chapters 4 and 5. For example, the command in 5:18 to "be filled" shows the use of the passive element to emphasize obedience in these chapters. The Christian life is not only what the believer does for God; it also involves what God desires to accomplish in and with the believer (4:23, 30).

Finally, it can be seen that the active voice dominates in every chapter except in chapter 3 where it occurs as frequently as the

passive voice. Active verbs outnumber passive verbs four to one which suggests a major emphasis upon the subject performing the action in the majority of the discussion.

Summary of Finite Verbs According to Mood

Chart

Mood	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	IND	SUB	IMV	Total
IND	14	20	16	25	32	14	121			
SUB	1	5	4	6	4	8		28		
IMV	0	1	0	11	18	11			41	
Total	15	26	20	42	54	33				190

Evaluation

The reality of what God has done for the Christian is supported by the dominance of the indicative mood in the first three chapters. As Paul moves into the section (chapters 4-6) concerning what God desires in believers, the moods of unreality increase. This is reflected in the high occurrence of the imperative mood. Imperatival usage in chapters 4-6 exhibit a 40:1 dominance over usage in chapters 1-3. In the first half of the book the ratio of indicative mood verbs to imperative mood verbs is 50:1, while the ratio of indicative verbs to subjunctive verbs is only 5:1. In the second half of the book the ratio drops off drastically to 1.8:1 and 4:1 respectively.

It should also be noted that the occurrences of both the indicative and imperative moods reach their peaks in chapter 5. This suggests that what is in fact reality (indicated by the indicative mood) has a strong relationship to what reality should be (as expressed by the imperative mood).[8]

Summary of Finite Verbs According to Person/Number

Chart

PGN	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL	Total
1SG	1	0	4	3	0	4	12						
2SG	0	0	0	0	2	2		4					
3SG	11	12	9	22	32	13			99				
1PL	2	5	3	4	1	1				16			
2PL	1	9	4	12	15	14					55		
3PL	0	0	0	1	3	0						4	
Total	15	26	20	42	53	34							190

Evaluation

The first person singular usage has its apex in chapters 3 and 4 (seven times) where Paul is speaking of his personal history and desires. It also occurs four times in chapter 6 where Paul again is speaking of his desires and actions. It should be noted that in chapter 6, where Paul becomes very personal in his exhortations, the ratio of third person singulars to second person plurals drops from 2:1 (chapters 4-5) to 1:1 (chapter 6).

A SURVEY OF PARTICIPLES

Chart

Type	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	Totals
Present	9	14	4	15	14	5	61
Aorist	9	7	3	5	1	6	31
Perfect	3	3[1]	3	3	0	3	15
Active	15	15	3	11	10	7	61
Middle	2	1	1	4	2	5	15
PRS ACT	6	10	2	7	9	4	38
ARS ACT	7	5	1	3	1	1	18
PRF ACT	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
PRS MID	2	1	1	3	2	1	10
ARS MID	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
PRF MID	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

PRS PAS	1	3	1	5	3	0	13
ARS PAS	1	2	2	1	0	1	7
PRF PAS	2	3[1]	3	2[2]	0	1	11
Substantial	3	5	1	5	3	1	18
Adjectival	7	6	6	5	3	1	28
Adverbial	10	11	3	11	8	12	55
Verbal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

[1]Two of these are perfect periphrastics.
[2]One of these is a participial periphrastic (Hebrew infinitive absolute.)

Evaluation

It can be observed that while the ratio between present and aorist finite verb forms is 4:3 the ratio between present and aorist participles is 2:1. Conversely, the 50:1 ratio between present and perfect finite verb forms compares to a ratio of only 4:1 among the participles.

The reduced occurrences of active participles in chapter 3 corresponds to the similar drop in finite active verbs in that chapter. Adverbial participles consistently outnumber adjectival uses except in chapter 3 where Paul's emphasis is on the nature of what God has done rather than upon how it was accomplished.

A SURVEY OF INFINITIVES

Chart

Type of Usage	Number of Occurences	Location of Occurences
Substantival	10	
Subject of Finite Verb	1	4:28
Object of Finite Verb	6	3:13, 16; 4:22, 23, 24, 28
Appositive	3	3:8, 9; 4:17
Adverbial	9	
Purpose	7	1:4, 10, 12; 3:4, 6; 4:3; 6:11
Result	2	3:17; 6:19
Verbal Complement	10	3:18, 19, 20; 4:1; 5:28; 6:11, 13, 13, 16, 20

Evaluation

Because of the relatively small number of occurrences statistical analysis is far less complicated. One will note from the list above that chapter 1, where God explains His plan for mankind, contains half of the purpose usages. It is interesting that in 4:17 a present infinitive is used to express the same "manner-of-life" idea that the aorist is used for in 4:1. Perhaps the aorist merely states the matter (*peripatesai*) while the present (*peripatein*) emphasizes the continual nature of expected action.

Editor's Note: The merit of this article is twofold: (1) First, it offers a springboard from which others might investigate more closely the book of Ephesians and arrive at their own conclusions. (2) Secondly, it demonstrates the flexibility and breadth of study available through Project Gramcord.

Notes

[1] The optative mood has been ignored with respect to charts since it does not occur in Ephesians.

[2] Project Gramcord is a software package making possible lexical and syntactical searches of the Greek NT. All inquiries concerning this software package should be addressed to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, which owns exclusive rights for its distribution. Other works referred to in preparing this study include: *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament* by H E Dana and J R Mantey (New York: Macmillan, 1927), "Greek Syntax" unpublished class syllabus by Gordon H Lovik (Lansdale, PA: Calvary Baptist Seminary, 1986), *Greek Enchiridion* by W G MacDonald (Peabody, MA: Hendrikson, 1976), and *A Grammar of New Testament Greek* by J H Moulton (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1976)

[3] At least, the action is much more prevalent. It may be incorrect to say that much action does occur since several imperative verb forms in chapter 5 may simply reflect action that is desired and not actually occurring.

[4] Compare Romans 1-11 which is followed by *parakalo sun* in 12:1 and recurring imperatives through chapter 16; also compare Gal 1-4 with 5:1, *stekete sun* and following arguments in chapters 5-6.

[5] Compare the epistle to the Galatians which has thirty third person plurals in its discussion against the Judiazers outside of the local church.
[6] In 45 of 99 third person plural uses a member of the Trinity is the subject performing the action.
[7] Compare Eph 5:14 with Isa 26:19, 51:17, 52:1; Eph 5:31 with Gen 2:24; Eph 6:3 with Exod 20:12, Deut 5:16; Eph 6:16 with Psa 7:13, 120:4.
[8] Note that the indicative mood is frequently found in subordinate clauses supporting or explaining the imperative mood verb; compare 5:2 "walk in love (impv) as Christ also loved (indic) us;" 5:3 with 5:5; and 5:6-7 with 5:8.