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AN ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT-BEFORE-FINITE-VERB
CLAUSES IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS BASED
ON TRADITIONAL GRAMMARIANS

A Dissertation
Presented to
the Faculty of
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Philosophy

by
Kyoungwon Choi
May 2006

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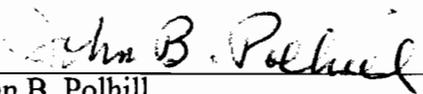
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Kyoungwon Choi

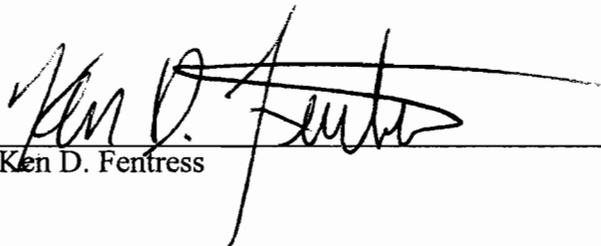
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PREFACE

This work would not have been accomplished without the help and encouragement of a number of individuals. Professor Russell T. Fuller, my supervising professor, has guided me through this project. His pursuit of excellence has challenged me and, as a result, has made this a better dissertation than it otherwise would have been. Professors John B. Polhill and Ken D. Fentress have provided tremendous assistance and sustaining support throughout the process. Professor Isaac Jerusalem, Hebrew Union College–Jewish Religious Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, gave me a marvelous insight to Semitic languages during my coursework. I will always be grateful for having studied under such fine scholars.

I also acknowledge my friends and colleagues who have faithfully and fervently prayed for me during this journey. In particular, I wish to express my gratitude to Terry J. Betts, Eric A. Mitchell, John P. Flanagan, and Matthew C. Simpson for their friendship as we worked together over these past six years. And I also want to express my appreciation for Dean Russell D. Moore for showing me confidence in my work.

Many others have given me support along the way. My parents have given me so much support that I could not adequately express my gratitude for them. My son, Hayyim, has been patient with his father's busy schedule, for which I am grateful. No words can express my gratitude for my wife, Jiyou. She was willing to follow me to this country and make tremendous sacrifices in order to support me during this season of our lives. Never once did she express anything but encouragement and support during this process. I look forward to what God has in store for us.

Most of all, I want to express my thanksgiving and praise to my Lord, Jesus Christ. My prayer is that the results of this dissertation will bring glory to Him and edify

the church. It is only by His sustaining grace that I have been privileged and able to complete this work.

Kyoungwon Choi

Louisville, Kentucky

May 2006

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

**Definitions of Verbal and Nominal Clauses According
to Traditional and Modern Grammarians**

Traditional grammarians of Biblical Hebrew classified Hebrew clauses into two general categories: verbal and nominal.¹ Verbal clauses focus on the verb, its development and progress. Nominal clauses, by contrast, focus on the subject, describing or emphasizing it in some manner.

Traditional grammarians and modern grammarians defined nominal and verbal clauses differently. Influenced by the Arab grammarians, Medieval Jewish grammarians applied the Arabic classification of clauses to Biblical Hebrew clauses, classifying the clauses according to the first element of the clause: a clause beginning with a finite verb is verbal, and a clause beginning with a subject is nominal.² Verbal clauses focus on the verb, focusing on what the subject *does*; and nominal clauses focus on the subject, describing what the state of the subject *is*. This distinction between verbal and nominal clauses is essential to traditional grammarians.³ Later, around the turn of the 20th century,

¹Traditional grammarians are Medieval Hebrew grammarians and Arabic grammarians. Other grammarians who follow the approach and methodology of Medieval Jewish grammarians and Arabic grammarians may also be considered traditional grammarians.

²For Arabic classification of clauses, see Carolus Paulus Caspari, *Grammatica Arabica in usum Scholarum Academicarum* (Lipsiae: Sumtibus C. L. Fritzschi, 1848), §501; Farhat J. Ziadeh and Winder, R. Bayly, *An Introduction to Modern Arabic* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1957), 23.

³Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §113 REM. *b*.

grammarians of Biblical Hebrew changed this classification by redefining verbal and nominal clauses based upon the predicates – a clause with a finite verb predicate is a verbal clause; a clause with a noun, adjective (including participle), or prepositional-phrase predicate is a nominal clause.⁴ In fact, the change from the traditional definition to the modern definition of verbal and nominal clauses occurred in the West seemingly without debate. Most grammarians today accept the new definition, classifying any clause with a finite verb as verbal, and any clause without a finite verb as nominal.⁵ Yet, this new definition is problematic as Kautzsch, a catalyst in changing the definition, admitted:

Though this [Arab grammarians'] definition of the different kinds of sentence, which we formerly accepted⁶ . . . the subject does sometimes precede even in the verbal-clause proper, in the continuation of the narrative; . . . especially so if there is special emphasis upon it. . . . In the great majority of instances, however, the position of the subject at the beginning of a verbal-clause is to be explained from the fact that the clause is not intended to introduce a new fact carrying on the narrative, but rather to describe a *state*. Verbal-clauses of this kind approximate closely in character to noun-clauses, and not infrequently (viz. when the verbal form might just as well be read as a participle) it is doubtful whether the writer did not in fact intend a noun-clause.⁷

Similarly, T. Muraoka downplayed the significance of the contrast between verbal and nominal clauses, as traditionally understood, stating, “This division [between nominal and verbal clauses] ought not to be pressed so far as to obscure some significant features

⁴This is a standard definition accepted by grammarians since the 25th edition of *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, edited by Kautzsch. Kautzsch's classification excludes clauses with the verb הָיָה as a copula in the sense of *to be*.

⁵See P. Paul Joüon S. J., *Grammaire de l'hébreu Biblique*, 2nd ed. (Rome: Institut Biblique Pontifical, 1947), §153; Eduard König, *Historisch-Kritisches Lehrgebäude der Hebräischen Sprache* (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1881-1897), 363-64, 424, and 434; Carl Brockelmann, *Hebräische Syntax* (Neukirchen: Neukirchener Verlag, 1956), 9, and 30-31.

⁶Wilhelm Gesenius, *Wilhelm Gesenius' Hebräische Grammatik*, 22th-24th eds., ed. E. Kautzsch, (Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1878, 1881, 1885), §144a.

⁷Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, trans. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982), §142a.

shared by the two types of clause.”⁸ Most modern grammarians follow Muraoka’s opinion of de-emphasizing the distinction between nominal and verbal clauses.

Survey of Modern Understanding of Nominal Clauses

Modern scholars have investigated verbal and nominal clauses. They have focused on the various tenses and aspects of verbs within verbal clauses since verbal clauses carry the actions or events of the narrative. Though the conjugations have a “natural” tense and aspect,⁹ the study of verbal clauses often falls into exegetical studies, rather than grammatical.¹⁰ Currently, modern scholars generally agree on the function of verbal clauses. Thus, modern scholars have mostly focused on the nominal clauses, now understood as “verbless clauses,”¹¹ following the work of C. Albrecht.¹² Continuing the research for verbless clauses, C. Brockelmann and R. Williams¹³ investigated the word order, concluding that the normal word order is subject first then the predicate. If the

⁸Paul Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*, trans. and rev. T. Muraoka (Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991), §153. Of course, indigenous Semitic grammarians do place a greater stress on the distinction between verbal and nominal clauses than modern grammarians.

⁹Perfect – past, simple action; imperfect – present/future, on-going action; participle – present, on-going action. Context ultimately determines the tense and aspect of a particular verb or participle.

¹⁰Francis I. Andersen, *The Hebrew Verbless Clause in the Pentateuch*, Journal of Biblical Literature Monograph 14 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1970), 17. Joüon noticed this problem and recognized that the tenses are not subject to absolutely rigid rules; rather, in Biblical Hebrew, the writers have a certain grammatical freedom in the tense they employ. See Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*, §111a.

¹¹Most modern grammarians consider all clauses with a finite verb as verbal.

¹²C. Albrecht, “Die Wortstellung im hebräischen Nominalsatze,” *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, 7 (1887): 218-24; 8 (1888): 249-63.

¹³Carl Brockelmann, *Grundriss der Vergleichenden Grammatik der Semitischen Sprachen* (Berlin: Reuther & Reichard; New York: Lemcke & Buechner, 1908-13), 24-25; Ronald J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1967), 98.

predicate is first, the predicate is emphatic. F. Andersen criticized this concept of emphasis claiming that it was exegetical, not grammatical, and studied the grammatical functions of the clauses and suggested nine rules for analyzing the verbless clauses. Andersen concluded that for verbless clauses without participles or infinitives when the subject is first, the clause is “identification”; when the predicate is first, the clause is “classification.”¹⁴ Later, J. Hoftijzer criticized Andersen’s presentation as “self-evidently highly determined by the special type of linguistic approach he prefers.”¹⁵ He also challenged Andersen’s presuppositions, which he deemed vague, for identifying the subject and predicate. After a careful investigating of Andersen’s research and after studying nominal clauses with a predicate preceding a subject, Hoftijzer concluded that “a prepositional phrase preceding a determined noun category in such a clause indicated that the preceding core constituent was of a contrastive character . . . a determined noun category preceding a prepositional phrase gave no indications whether one of the core constituents was contrastive or not.”¹⁶ Even though modern scholars differ on the

¹⁴ Andersen, *The Hebrew Verbless Clause in the Pentateuch*, 17, and 39-49. The nine rules are as follows: (1) The sequence is S-P in a clause of identification, in which both S and P are definite. (2) A pleonastic pronoun in a clause of identification comes before the predicate, in keeping with Rule 1. Contrast Rule 4. (3) The sequence is P-S in a clause of classification, in which P is indefinite relative to S. (4) A pleonastic pronoun in a clause of classification comes after the predicate, in keeping with Rule 3. Contrast Rule 2. (5) Circumstantial clauses of classification have sequence S-P, in contrast with Rule 3 and 4. (6) When a suffixed noun is predicate, the sequence S-P (Rule 1) is used for a clause of identification in which the suffixed noun is definite; the sequence P-S (Rule 3) is used for a clause of classification in which the suffixed noun is indefinite. (7) When the predicate is a participle (phrase), the sequence is S-P in declarative clauses. Compare Rule 8. (8) When the predicate is a participle (phrase), the sequence P-S is preferred in precative clause. (9) The sequence P-S is used when the subject of a declarative clause is an infinitive; the predicate is always an indefinite noun. Compare Rule 3.

¹⁵ Jacob Hoftijzer. “Nominal Clause Reconsidered,” *Vetus Testamentum* 23 (1973): 446.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 509.

meanings and functions of the verbless clauses, they have come to partial consensus on the verbless clause.¹⁷

Although modern scholarship has focused on the verbless clauses, they have not devoted the same attention to the subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Probably, this lack of interest is due to their classification of these clauses as verbal. Some grammarians, however, have devoted some attention to subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Kautzsch asserted that subject-before-finite-verb clauses mostly describe pluperfect events.¹⁸ Joüon treated subject-before-finite-verb clauses as an alternate construction when the Vav-consecutive chain is broken. To Joüon, subject-before-finite-verb clauses express notions such as the pluperfect, contrast, simultaneous action, and restating of the action.¹⁹ Similarly, Gibson suggests the various functions of subject-before-finite-verb clauses as describing circumstances, emphasis, chiasmus, and contrast.²⁰ Some scholars explain that subject-before-finite-verb clauses describe background information, whereas the clauses with a finite verb occurring before the subject describe foreground events.²¹

¹⁷Andersen's views, with some modifications, represent the "partial consensus" today. Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990), §8.4a; J. C. L. Gibson, *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997), §49; Christo H. J. van der Merwe, Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999), §34.3, and §47.3 (248-9, 349-50). Also, see the various discussions about verbless clauses in Cynthia L. Miller, *The Verbless Clause in Biblical Hebrew: Linguistic Approaches*, ed. Cynthia L. Miller (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1999).

¹⁸See the numerous examples in *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., §106f, §107c, §111g, q, §118u, §142b, and so forth.

¹⁹Joüon, *Grammaire de l'hébreu Biblique*, §118d-g

²⁰Gibson, *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax*, §133, §136, §137, §140, and §141.

²¹J. Heimerdinger, "Topic, Focus and Foreground in Ancient Hebrew Narratives," *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series* 295 (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999); J. Joosten, "Biblical *w^eqatal* and Syriac *hwa qatel* Expressing Repetition in the Past," *Zeitschrift für Althebräistik* 5(1): 1-14 (1992), 3; Waltke and O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*, 521-23; Duane A.

Although traditional and modern grammatical works have commented on subject-before-finite-verb clauses, there has not been a systematic examination and analysis of these clauses. Since one can expect such a systematic presentation from the modern perspective in the future, this dissertation will follow the traditional perspective of Hebrew and Arabic grammarians. Traditional grammarians have studied and used these clauses for centuries. Many of these grammarians have spoken subject-before-finite-verb clauses from their birth. Their understanding of subject-before-finite-verb clauses is not an idle speculation, a theoretical construct – it is in their soul, it is part of who they are. Their understanding, knowledge, and experience with subject-before-finite-verb clauses are greatly needed for Biblical Hebrew. Students and scholars of Biblical Hebrew will both benefit from a study of subject-before-finite-verb clauses based on the work of traditional grammarians over the past centuries.

Thesis

The research of this dissertation, following the understanding of traditional grammarians concerning subject-before-finite-verb clauses, furnishes the following thesis: all subject-before-finite-verb clauses render the subject prominent by both emphasis and description.

Although the thesis is straightforward and simple, a few explanatory comments are necessary for further clarity. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses project the subject before the verb, the opposite of normal word order – verb first then subject – in Hebrew, rendering the subject conspicuous, immediately noticeable. This is what is meant by *prominent*²² in the thesis. This prominence manifests itself in an *emphasis*, a special attention given to the subject so as to make it stand out, giving it importance, stress,

Garrett, *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002), 318-20.

²²*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language.*

weight, and forcefulness,²³ and in a *description* that announces descriptive details about the subject. In subject-before-finite-verb clauses, the subject is prominently set forth for emphasis and description.

Methodology

To establish this thesis, this dissertation applies the understanding of traditional grammarians to all subject-before-finite-verb clauses in the book of Genesis. Chapter 2 briefly describes traditional grammarians, their methods and important personalities. Then their understanding of verbal and nominal clauses, including subject-before-finite-verb clauses, is outlined. Finally, analogies are given to understand better the meaning of subject-before-finite-verb clauses for English speakers. Chapter 3 applies the traditional grammarians' approach to subject-before-finite-verb clauses in the narrative portions²⁴ of Genesis. Chapter 4 applies the same approach to the non-narrative portions²⁵ of Genesis. Chapter 5 discusses selected issues in current scholarship and their impact upon this study. The first issue discusses the redefining of verbal and nominal clauses by modern grammarians, specifically E. Kautzsch. The second issue discusses normal, primary word order in Biblical Hebrew. If the normal word order in Biblical Hebrew were subject-verb, then the traditional approach fails. If, however, verb-subject

²³*Ibid.*

²⁴Narrative statements can be defined as any statements that are not a direct speech. Recently, A. Niccacci suggested separate analyzing clauses in narrative and in discourse. He suggested that finding general patterns in different speeches, namely narrative and discourse, is useful in interpreting the text. His study concludes that subject-before-finite-verb (he calls "complex nominal") clauses generally belong to the background in both categories of narrative and discourse (Qatal or Yiqtol in narrative; Yiqtol only in discourse), emphasizing the contrast between characters. Alviero Niccacci, *The Syntax of the Verb in Classical Hebrew Prose*, trans. W. G. E. Watson (Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990), 23-29, and 32-34.

²⁵Non-narrative statements include direct speech in narrative. Of course, narrative can occur within direct speech, but for this dissertation, narrative statements in direct speech will be considered non-narrative statements.

is the normal word order in Biblical Hebrew, then the traditional approach remains viable. Chapter 6 briefly summarizes the most important findings and furnishes a conclusion.

CHAPTER 2

HISTORY OF RESEARCH: TRADITIONAL GRAMMARIANS AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VERBAL AND NOMINAL CLAUSES

Influences of Arabic Grammar on Medieval Jewish Hebrew Grammarians

Biblical Hebrew had effectively disappeared as a vernacular sometime after the fourth century before Christ. With no more *native* speakers of Biblical Hebrew, later Rabbis taught it as a *foreign* language.¹ How Jewish scholars analyzed the grammatical structures and categories of Biblical Hebrew from the end of the Old Testament canon to Medieval times is unknown. Ancient translations, of course, reflect a general analysis of the language similar to traditional understandings. The study of Biblical Hebrew, as we know it, actually began in the Middle Ages, perhaps under the impact of Karaism.

The Medieval Jewish grammarians chose Arabic, a living Semitic language remarkably similar to Biblical Hebrew in many grammatical categories, as the model to analyze Biblical Hebrew. The Karaites and the Masoretes, along with other Medieval

¹Phillip Alexander stated, “By the late second century CE Hebrew was no longer in use as a vernacular, so there was no ‘native’ population from whom the Rabbis could have learned it as a ‘foreign’ language.” Learning Biblical Hebrew as a foreign language “is totally different from competence at the level of street-language. [Consequently,] the Rabbis were indeed interested in quirky, aggadic way in words, in etymologies and in syntactic structures, but they lacked an apparatus for the serious, scientific analysis of Hebrew: they did not distinguish the parts of speech; they had no sense of the triliteral structure of the Hebrew verb; and they had little scientific understanding of etymology or of the derivation of nouns.” See Philip S. Alexander, “How Did the Rabbis Learn Hebrew?” in *Hebrew Study from Ezra To Ben-Yehuda*, ed., William Horbury (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999), 72, 77. Alexander’s description of the Rabbis is exaggerated. His description is true for some Rabbis, but others were more “scientific” in their approach, such as Ibn Ezra and Ibn Barūn.

Jewish scholars – including Saadia ben Joseph (usually known as Saadia Gaon), Abu Joseph Ya‘qūb al Qirqisāni, Judah Ibn Quraysh, David Ibn Abraham, Dūnash Ibn Tamīm, Hai Gaon, Judah Ibn Ḥayyūj, Solomon Ibn Gabirol, Ibn Janāḥ, Samuel Hanāgīd, Abū Ibrāhīm Ibn Yashūsh, Moses Ibn Jiqāṭila, Judah Ibn Bal‘am, Abu ‘l-Fahm (Levi) Ibn al-Ṭubbān, and Ibn Barūn – following classic comparative methodology, applied Arabic grammatical categories to Biblical Hebrew.² Near the middle of the tenth century, Saadia Gaon (882-942),³ not only applied Arabic categories to Biblical Hebrew, but he even wrote his Hebrew grammar in Arabic.⁴ Although Hebrew was the focus of his study, Saadia considered Arabic as the model language for the study of Biblical Hebrew. In fact, Arabic was the language of most Hebrew grammatical works for the next two centuries after Saadia Gaon. Though their grammatical works, preserved only in fragments today, do not directly discuss verbal or nominal clauses, the Medieval Jewish grammarians certainly understood verbal and nominal clause similar to Arabic analysis, as later Hebrew grammarians – also influenced by Arabic – demonstrate. For example, H.

²See Geoffrey Khan, “The Karaite Tradition of Hebrew Grammatical Thought,” in *Hebrew Study from Ezra to Ben-Yehuda*, ed. William Horbury (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1999), 195, and 201-02; Alexander, “How Did the Rabbis Learn Hebrew?” 71-8. For Ibn Barūn, see Pinchas Wechter, *Ibn Barūn’s Arabic Works on Hebrew Grammar and Lexicography* (Philadelphia: The Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, 1964), 4-6. For Saadia Gaon, see Solomon L. Skoss, *Saadia Gaon, The Earliest Hebrew Grammarian* (Philadelphia: Dropsie College Press, 1955), 1-4.

³Saadia is the first Jewish author who has left records of philological research, titled *Agron*, which aims to provide a dictionary of the Hebrew language and to assist liturgical poets in constructing acrostics and finding suitable rhymes. In the later edition, Saadia added the Arabic translation of each word discussed, due to imperfectness of his first edition, as well as an Arabic preface with the new title *Book of Poetics*. Hartwig Hirshfeld, *Literary History of Hebrew Grammarians and Lexicographers: Accompanied by Unpublished Texts* (London: Oxford University Press, 1926), 11-15.

⁴On Saadia’s work, see S. L. Skoss, *Saadia Gaon, the Earliest Hebrew Grammarian* (Philadelphia: Dropsie College, 1955). Even though most of his works were lost centuries ago, his knowledge has come down through his successors, including Abraham Ibn Ezra, who produced his grammar in Hebrew around 1140 based on Arabic sources. See F. Greenspahn, “Abraham Ibn Ezra and the Origin of Some Medieval Grammatical Terms,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 76 (1985-86): 217-27.

Ewald, a noted Arabist and Hebraist, apparently accepted this classification for Biblical Hebrew clauses,⁵ as did E. Kautzsch in the 22nd to 24th editions of *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*.⁶

Medieval Jewish study of Biblical Hebrew emerged and flourished in Arab culture and society. When the Geonim⁷ were active around 650-1250 AD, Babylonia was under Arab dominion, and Baghdad, the capital, was the center of Arabic study and research. The Geonim learned from the Arab grammarians and brought their linguistic knowledge to the study of the Biblical text, leaving visible evidences of Arabic influence in their works on Hebrew philology.⁸ Naturally, therefore, the Medieval Jewish grammarians wrote their works in Arabic until the second half of the twelfth century, not only because some of their vernacular was Arabic, but also, as Hirshfeld properly pointed out, “for Hebrew philology there was scarcely any other possibility on account of method and terminology, which at that time was firmly established in Arabic, but was in its infancy in Hebrew.”⁹ Therefore, the understanding and presentation of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of Jewish grammarians were often identical to the understanding and presentation of Arab grammarians.

⁵Heinrich Ewald, *Ausführliches Lehrbuch der hebräischen Sprache des alten Bundes*, Sechste Ausgabe (Göttingen: Dieterich, 1855), 671-72.

⁶See Wilhelm Gesenius, *Wilhelm Gesenius' Hebräische Grammatik*, 24th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch (Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1885), §144a.

⁷*Geonim* (גאונים), Talmudic sages who were the generally accepted religious leaders (Rabbis) of the Jewish community in the early Medieval era, played an important role in teaching of Torah and Jewish law during the period of the Talmud.

⁸Hirshfeld, *Literary History of Hebrew Grammarians and Lexicographers*, 6-7. For example, the Jewish grammarians named the three principal short vowels, *a*, *i*, and *u*, *pataḥ*, *kasra*, and *damma* following Arabic terminology. Hebrew term *pataḥ*, identical to the Arabic term *fataḥ*, is still used today.

⁹*Ibid.*, 45-6.

Many Jewish grammarians employed Arabic in studying Hebrew grammar and philology. Abu Joseph Ya‘qūb al Qirqisāni, Judah Ibn Quraysh, and David Ibn Abraham, accepted the fundamental notions of the Arabic language and wrote their Hebrew grammatical works in Arabic. Abu Joseph Ya‘qūb al Qirqisāni wrote his commentary on the Pentateuch in Arabic.¹⁰ He even emended the Masoretic text – rearranging a number of verses – to provide a more “logical sense” to the Hebrew text and to conform verses and sections of the Masoretic text to Arabic style.¹¹ Judah Ibn Quraysh wrote to Jewish scholars to encourage the study of Arabic and Aramaic, especially the Targum, to understand properly the Biblical text. He employed Arabic lexicography to explain rare words in the Masoretic text. David Ibn Abraham took up the challenge of Ibn Quraysh by composing a dictionary in Arabic for students of Biblical Hebrew, similar to Saadia’s Arabic/Hebrew dictionary (*Agron*).¹²

When an occasional Jewish grammarian departed from the Arabic paradigm for Hebrew, other Jewish grammarians would correct any problems by Arabic. For example, Menaḥem Ibn Saruq, the first Jewish grammarian to write in Hebrew instead of Arabic, discarded Arabic and composed a dictionary of the Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Consequently, Menaḥem’s dictionary became extremely helpful to Jews outside the Arabic-speaking world in Asia and Europe, and became rapidly popular in Spain, France, and Italy.¹³ Dūnāsh Ibn Labrat, of course, immediately responded to Menaḥem’s work by improving it by Arabic. With his profound knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, and an incisive critical ability, Dūnāsh corrected many errors in Menaḥem’s

¹⁰Cf. Hartwig Hirshfeld, *Qirqisāni Studies* (London: Jews College, 1918).

¹¹Hirshfeld, *Literary History of Hebrew Grammarians and Lexicographers*, 15-16.

¹²*Ibid.*, 21.

¹³*Ibid.*, 24-26.

dictionary.¹⁴ Although Menaḥem's work was popular, Jewish grammarians continued to use an Arabic paradigm to understand Biblical Hebrew at the beginning of the twelfth century.

While an occasional Jewish grammarian neglected Arabic, most continued to write their works in Arabic and to base their understanding of Hebrew on Arabic. With a special attention to Arabic poetry, Dūnāsh for the first time attempted to adapt the laws of Arab poetry to Hebrew verse. Moses Ibn Jiqāṭila compiled an independent treatise on the *Masculine and Feminine Genders* in Arabic. Isaac Ibn Yashūsh wrote a treatise to *Conjugations* in Arabic. Some Medieval Jewish grammarians, such as Judah Ibn Bal'am, whose works are no longer extant, claimed that they followed Arabic models for understanding Biblical Hebrew.¹⁵

Later, Medieval Jewish grammarians continued to produce lexicographical works based on Arabic and grammatical works on philology, morphology, and syntactical comparisons between Arabic and Biblical Hebrew. Dūnash Ibn Tamīm wrote on lexical similarities between Arabic and Hebrew,¹⁶ and Judah Ibn Quraysh wrote a comprehensive comparative study of Arabic and Biblical Hebrew.¹⁷ At the end of the eleventh century, Yiṣḥāq Abū Ibrāhīm Ibn Barūn, a Spanish Jew, enhanced comparative philology in his work, *The Book of Comparison between the Hebrew and the Arabic Language*,¹⁸ that thoroughly examined lexical and grammatical similarities (and

¹⁴Ibid., 26-27.

¹⁵Ibid., 55-60.

¹⁶Wechter, *Ibn Barūn's Arabic Works on Hebrew Grammar and Lexicography*, 3.

¹⁷Ibid., 130.

¹⁸The Arabic title is الجزء الشابي من كتاب الموازنة بين اللغة العبرانية والعربية.

dissimilarities) of particles, nouns, verbs and matters relating to these categories between Arabic and Biblical Hebrew.¹⁹

In conclusion, Arabic and Hebrew shared many similarities with regard to morphology, phonology, and syntax. Consequently, Medieval Jewish grammarians established the study of Biblical Hebrew upon the foundation of Arabic grammar, which in turn influenced nearly all Hebrew grammarians to this day. Thus, the following discussion on the verbal and nominal clauses follows the understanding of traditional grammarians (Arab and Medieval Jewish).

Outline of Verbal and Nominal Clauses According to Traditional Grammarians

The following discussion summarizes and outlines verbal and nominal clauses according to traditional grammarians. The numeric system employed in the following discussion corresponds to the summary chart at the end of the outline.

Verbal Clause (I)

In verbal clauses, a finite verb occurs before the subject. The subject may be explicit (A) or implicit (B). Though the verb may occur without Vav-consecutive (A.1) as in *בְּשֵׁה דַבֵּר (כְּלַמּוֹ מֹשֶׁה)* “Moses spoke,” or with Vav-consecutive (A.2) as in *בְּשֵׁה וַיְדַבֵּר (וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה)* “And Moses spoke,” it always comes before its subject. The subject may be explicit as in following examples:²⁰

¹⁹The section concerning the particle is missing, though Ibn Barūn made reference to it in other portions. The final section of Ibn Barūn’s work is missing also. For the distinctive characteristics that both Arabic and Hebrew share, see Wechter’s work, *Ibn Barūn’s Arabic Works on Hebrew Grammar and Lexicography*, 25-53.

²⁰See the similar analysis of clause structures in Farhat J. Ziadeh and R. Bayly Winder, *An Introduction to Modern Arabic* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1957), 24.

Nominal Clause (II)

Traditional grammarians defined nominal clauses, in contrast to verbal clauses, as clauses where a finite verb does not precede the subject. This definition covers two categories: 1) a clause without a finite verb (= a verbless clause), and 2) a clause in which the subject occurs before a finite verb. In nominal clauses, Arab grammarians, in contrast to verbal clauses, called the subject *المبتدأ* *quo incipitur* (“that with which a beginning is made”) or *inchoativus* (“the inchoative”), and the predicate *الخبر* *enuntiativus* (“enunciative”) or “announcement (about the subject).”²² In analyzing nominal clauses, traditional grammarians focused on the subject and its state, and considered the subject as making “a new beginning.” Hence, in nominal clauses with a finite verb, the subject receives the prominence rather than the action by making a new beginning with an announcement about the subject. These subjects (“the new beginnings”) may start, transition/resume, and end narratives. These “new beginnings” also introduce a new subject (actor) to the narrative or contrast subjects. Therefore, to traditional grammarians, *מוֹשֶׁה טוֹב* “Moses was good,” *מוֹשֶׁה יָשַׁב* “Moses was dwelling,” and *מוֹשֶׁה דִּבֶּר* “Moses, he spoke” are all descriptive statements or announcements about the subject.

The predicate of nominal clauses may be a noun, adjective, prepositional phrase, or clause. The following diagram illustrates the structures of the predicate of nominal clauses according to traditional grammarians:

²²Ibid., §501.

Predicate of Nominal Clause

<p>A. Word</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noun 2. Adjective 3. Prepositional phrase 	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>Clause without a finite verb (Verbless clause)</p>
<p>B. Clause</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominal (verbless) clause 2. Verbal clause 		<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>

The following diagrams illustrate in more detail the structure of nominal clauses.

Nominal clauses may have words (noun or adjective) or prepositional phrases for predicate (A).²³ The predicate may be a noun (A.1).



“The Lord is my rock.” (2 Samuel 22:2)

Noun predicate may occur alone in the undetermined state in a clause as הַמֶּלֶךְ הַזֶּה נָעַר “The king is a lad.” When the predicate occurs with a pronominal suffix, construct package, or with a definite article,²⁴ the predicate is determined as in

²³Unlike many modern grammarians who consider הָיָה as a copula and clauses with הָיָה as nominal, traditional grammarians considered הָיָה as a verb that often takes an accusative. The predicate to הָיָה (כָּאֵן) occurs in the accusative case, not in the nominative, because Arabic, like Hebrew and Syriac, “has no abstract or substantive verb to unite the predicate with the subject of a nominal sentence, for הָיָה (כָּאֵן) is not an abstract verb, but, like all other verbs, an attribute, ascribing to the subject to the attribute of existence.” Thus, in the clause הָיָה נָעַר וְרֵחָבֹעַם הָיָה נָעַר “Rehoboam was a lad (وَرَحْبُعَامُ كَانَ فَتًى)” (2 Chr 13:7), the predicate נָעַר is in the accusative case (*Hal*, فَتًى) to be translated precisely “Rehoboam came to be *in the status of* a lad.” See Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §122.

²⁴A noun with a definite article is usually not a predicate of a clause, but an attributive apposition. Therefore, a clause הַמֶּלֶךְ הַזֶּה הַנָּעַר (אَلْمَلِكُ الْوَلَدُ) may be usually translated, “The king, the young lad.”

“The king is my lad” and “The king is the lad of Jesse.” Normally, the word order for these clauses is Subject–Predicate. If the predicate precedes the subject, the predicate is emphasized.²⁵

The predicate may be an adjective (A.2).²⁶

רָעִים	וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם
Predicate (Adjective)	Subject

“The men of Sodom were wicked.” (Genesis 13:13)

Adjective predicate may occur alone in the undetermined or determined state. The predicate usually occurs in undetermined state as in “The lad is young,” but rarely occurs in determined state as in “The Lord is the righteous one.” The adjective, as a predicate, usually precedes the subject but it may also follow the subject.

The predicate may be a prepositional phrase (A.3).

בְּהֵיכַל קֹדֶשׁוֹ	יְהוָה
Predicate (Prepositional phrase)	Subject

“The Lord is in His holy temple.” (Psalm 11:4)

Prepositional-phrase predicate may occur before or after the subject in the clauses, as in “The lad is in the temple” and “In the temple is the lad.” The normal word order of this clause is

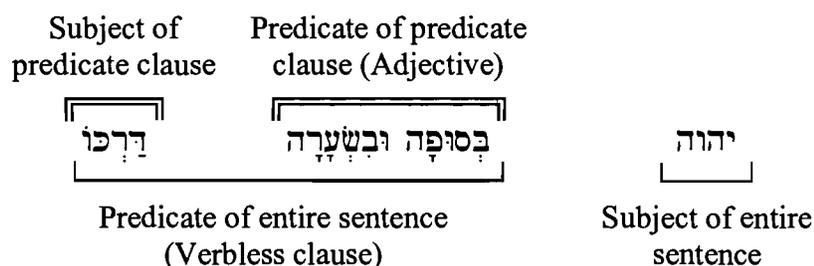
²⁵See Farhat J. Ziadeh and R. Bayly Winder, *An Introduction to Modern Arabic*, 24; Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, trans. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982), §141m; Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, vol. 2, §115c.

²⁶Traditional grammarians recognized only three parts of speech: verb, noun, and particle. The concept of adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns are classified as nouns. To traditional grammarians, a noun may be used adjectively or adverbially. Particles include conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections. See Farhat J. Ziadeh and R. Bayly Winder, *An Introduction to Modern Arabic*, 20.

Subject–Prepositional phrase. If the prepositional phrase precedes the subject, the prepositional phrase is often emphasized.

Nominal clauses may have clauses for predicate (B). These clause predicates may be a verbless clause or verbal clause. In these constructions, traditional grammarians considered the initial noun as the subject of the entire sentence and the following clause as the predicate to the subject.²⁷ The clause predicates may occur in a verbless clause (B.1), a verbal clause with an explicit subject (B.2.a), or a verbal clause without an explicit subject (B.2.b).

Nominal clauses (sentence) may have a predicate that is itself a verbless clause (B.1).



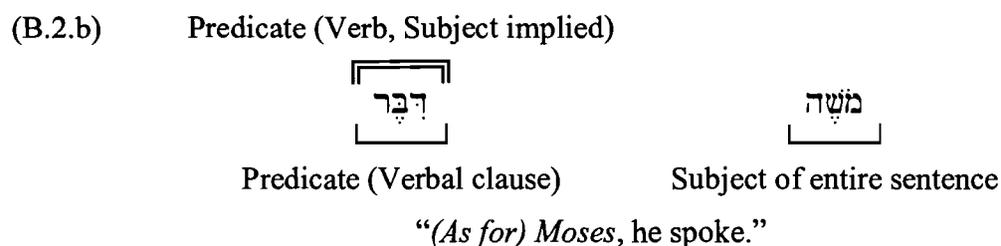
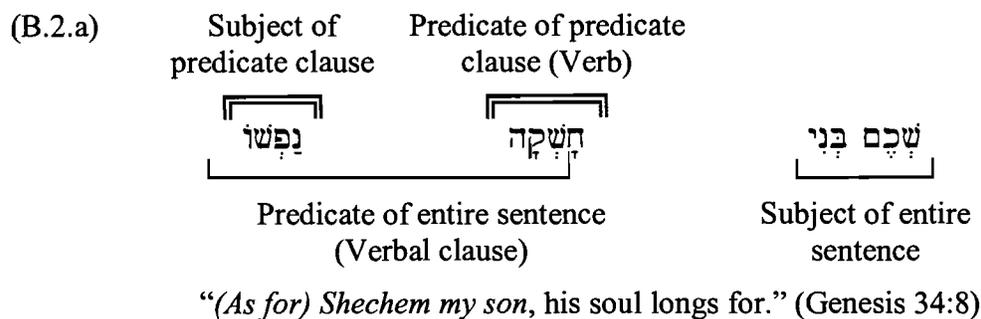
“*The Lord*, in whirlwind and storm is His way” (Nahum 1:3)

This entire sentence is a nominal clause (sentence). On the entire sentence level, יהוה is the subject of the predicate clause דָּרְכּוֹ בְּסוּפָה וּבְשֻׁעָרָה. On the predicate clause level, דָּרְכּוֹ is the subject for בְּסוּפָה וּבְשֻׁעָרָה. Therefore, the verbless clause בְּסוּפָה וּבְשֻׁעָרָה דָּרְכּוֹ is the predicate for the subject, יהוה. יהוה stands first for emphasis, and the entire predicate describes יהוה.

Nominal clauses (sentences) may have a predicate that is itself a verbal clause (B.2). The subject of the entire sentence will precede a finite verb. The predicate, a

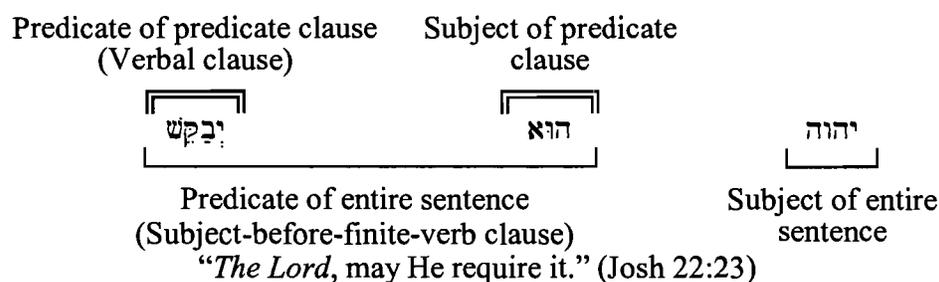
²⁷One can view this construction as *casus pendens* (“pending case”) construction. Arab grammarians view this element as the subject that “preoccupies the sentence.”

verbal clause, may have an explicit (B.2.a) or implicit (B.2.b) subject. Thus, the basic structures are as follows:



This entire sentence is a nominal clause (B.2.a). On the sentence level, שְׁכֵם בְּנֵי is the subject of the predicate clause חֲשָׁקָהּ נִפְשׁוֹ. On the predicate clause level, נִפְשׁוֹ is the subject for חֲשָׁקָהּ. Therefore, the verbal clause חֲשָׁקָהּ נִפְשׁוֹ is the predicate for the subject, שְׁכֵם בְּנֵי.²⁸ Within the predicate, the verb is merely a verb in verbal clauses and

²⁸Rarely, nominal clauses (sentences) may have a predicate that is itself a subject-before-finite-verb clause as in יהוה הוא יבקש “The Lord, may He require it” (Josh 22:23, cf. Gen 4:22, 19:38, Pss 23:4 and 27:2). The structure of this sort of clause is as follows:



If a clause (sentence) has a noun preceding a subject-before-finite-verb clause, the entire clause is also a nominal clause because the noun is the subject for the entire clause, and the subject-before-finite-verb clause is the predicate. As the entire clause is nominal, the subject-before-finite-verb-clause predicate is also a nominal clause with a subject and a predicate that is a verbal clause.

is not concealing a verbal clause. Yet, the entire sentence is a nominal clause (sentence) describing **בְּנֵי שָׂכָם**, the subject. Traditional grammarians regarded this construction (**בְּנֵי חֲשָׁקָה נִפְשׁוּ**) as having “two faces” – verbal and nominal aspects.²⁹ The entire sentence is a nominal clause describing the subject. The predicate, however, is a verbal clause, carrying the action of the subject. So the sentence partakes both of nominal and verbal aspects, hence, “two faces.”

A verbal-clause predicate may have a subject implied in the verb as in **דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה** “*As for Moses, he spoke*” (B.2.b). Again, on the entire sentence level, **מֹשֶׁה** is the subject of the predicate clause **דִּבֶּר**, that is not merely a verb but a verbal clause. On the predicate clause level, the verbal clause **דִּבֶּר** implies the subject. Therefore, a sentence such as **דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה** is a simple verbal clause (“Moses spoke”), but **מֹשֶׁה דִּבֶּר** is a nominal clause (sentence) with a predicate that is a verbal clause, consisting of a verb and an implied pronoun (“*As for Moses, he spoke*”). This construction (**מֹשֶׁה דִּבֶּר**) is the construction of “two faces,” having verbal and nominal aspects.

Summary Chart of the Discussion Above

I. Verbal Clauses

- A. With an Explicit Subject
 - 1. Without Vav-consecutive – **דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה**
 - 2. With Vav-consecutive – **וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה**
- B. Without an Explicit Subject
 - 1. Without Vav-consecutive – **דִּבֶּר**
 - 2. With Vav-consecutive – **וַיְדַבֵּר**

²⁹ Arab grammarians called this sort of clause as **جُمْلَةٌ ذَاتُ وَجْهَيْنِ** “*a clause with two faces or aspects*,” because it partakes both of the nominal and the verbal nature. See Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, vol. 2, §120.

II. Nominal Clause

A. Predicate: Noun, Adjective, or Prepositional Phrase

1. Noun

- a. Undetermined – הַמֶּלֶךְ הַנֶּעַר
- b. Determined
 - ① With pronominal suffix – יהוה סלעי
 - ② With construct package – הַמֶּלֶךְ נַעֲרֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
 - ③ With article (this is usually not a clause, but an attributive apposition) – הַמֶּלֶךְ הַנֶּעַר
- c. Word Order: If the predicate comes first, the predicate is emphasized.

2. Adjective

- a. Undetermined – וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם רָעִים
- b. Determined – יהוה הצדיק
- c. Word Order: If the predicate comes first, the predicate is emphasized.

3. Prepositional Phrase

- a. Prepositional Phrase – הַנֶּעַר בְּהִיכָל
- b. Word Order: If the predicate comes first, the predicate is emphasized.

B. Predicate: Clause

1. Nominal (Verbless) Clause – יהוה בסופה ובשערה דרכו
2. Verbal Clause
 - a. With an explicit noun with a verb or a pronoun attached to the verb – אָנֹכִי יִדְעָתִי; שְׁכֶם בְּנֵי חַשְׁקָה נִפְשׁוּ
 - b. With an implicit pronoun in the verb – מוֹשֶׁה דָּבַר

Verbal and Nominal Clauses According to Traditional Grammarians

For traditional grammarians the distinction between these two clauses is vital to understand the subtlety of Arabic and Biblical Hebrew clauses.³⁰ In fact, this distinction is so important that entire works on Arabic syntax are based on the difference between the verbal and nominal clause. This distinction determines whether the focus is on the action, as in a verbal clause, or on the subject, as in all nominal clauses, including subject-before-finite-verb clauses.

This distinction between verbal and nominal clause may be compared to a play on a stage.³¹ If an actor is pounding a hammer on an anvil on stage and the author of the play wishes to focus on the action rather than the actor, then the spotlight will be on the hammer and anvil, not the actor. Of course, audience sees the actor on the stage, but the attention of the audience is on the action of the hammer striking the anvil. Similarly, when an author of Scripture wants the reader to focus on the action (verb) of a clause rather than the actor (subject), he places the spotlight on the action by writing a verbal clause. If, however, an actor is pounding a hammer on an anvil on stage and the author of the play wishes to focus on the actor rather than the action, then the spotlight will be on the actor, not the hammer and anvil. Again, the audience sees the action on the stage, but the attention of the audience is on the actor himself, not his act of striking the anvil with a hammer. Likewise, when an author of Scripture wants the reader to focus on the

³⁰William Wright referred to the importance of this matter, stating “The difference between verbal and nominal sentences, to which the native grammarians attach no small importance, is properly this, that the former relates an act or event, the latter gives a description of a person or thing, either absolutely, or in the form of a clause descriptive of state. This is the constant rule in good old Arabic, unless the desire to emphasize a part of the sentence be the cause of a change in its position.” Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, vol. 2, §113 REM. *b*.

³¹I am thankful to Ihab Griess, an Egyptian and native Arabic speaker, who suggested the idea of stage, and I also want to thank him for reading over this and agreeing with the ideas of the zipper sign and the hourglass.

actor (subject) of a clause rather than the action (verb), he places the spotlight on the actor by writing a nominal clause. Verbal clauses, therefore, render the action prominent; nominal clauses render the subject prominent.

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses, as a subset of the nominal clause, render the subject prominent by description and emphasis. In every subject-before-finite-verb clause, the subject is both described and emphasized, but in some subject-before-finite-verb clauses, the subject is described more than emphasized, and in other subject-before-finite-verb clauses, the reverse is true – the subject is emphasized more than described. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses, then, may be compared to grains of sand in the upper and lower sections of an hourglass. Sometimes more sand is in the upper section; at other times, more sand is in the lower section; and yet at other times, the sand is equally distributed between the upper and lower sections. But for this analogy, there must always be sand in both the upper and lower section. Similarly for subject-before-finite-verb clauses, sometimes the sands of description are more than the sands of emphasis, and at other times the reverse is true – the sands of emphasis are more than the sands of description. And yet, other times, the sands of description and emphasis are equally distributed. But again, there must always be both description *and* emphasis.

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses with their description and emphasis are foreign to speakers of Indo-European languages. Their descriptive aspect may be compared somewhat to the English construction: The man who came here today (was unknown). The subject of the sentence, “the man,” is described by the relative clause, “who came here.”³² English speakers *feel* the descriptive nature of the relative clause, as Semitic speakers *feel* the descriptive nature of subject-before-finite-verb clauses on the

³²Isaac Jerusalmi, a noted Arabist and Hebraist, shows a similar understanding in his translation of the clause וַיִּשְׂרַאֵל אֹהֶב in Gen 37:3 as “As for Israel, »well»»why he loved . . .” Isaac Jerusalmi, *The Story of Joseph: A Philological Commentary* (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1981), 5.

subject. The relative clause in English, of course, is a dependent clause, but the subject-before-finite-verb clauses are independent for Hebrew and Arabic.³³ The emphatic aspect is more difficult to compare between the languages. If one asked the question, “Are you sure that the man came?” one could emphasize the subject by responding, “The man – he did come.” Again, English speakers *feel* the emphatic nature of the response, as the Semitic speaker *feels* the emphasis of the subject in subject-before-finite-verb clauses. English, however, cannot effectively combine the descriptive/emphatic aspects as subject-before-finite-verb clauses of Biblical Hebrew and Arabic can. Perhaps an analogy may be the electronic signs in Times Square, called zipper signs, that give news headlines in motion. Headlines run right to left across the zipper: World Headlines. Hebrews and Arabs are having trouble getting along, though they have reached agreement on the understanding of Semitic languages. Similarly, the subject-before-finite-verb clauses projects its subject like a zipper (though the message would run left to right on a zipper for Hebrew): “Melchizedek, the king of Salem, he brought forth bread and wine” (Gen 14:18). In the English example, the first element, “World Headlines,” is a heading; in the Hebrew example, the first element, “Melchizedek,” is prominent like a heading, but it also functions as the subject of the entire sentence. In English and Hebrew, however, the second element (the words after the dots) gives an *announcement* about the first element (the words before the dots). The prominent placement at the beginning of the clause furnishes the subject with emphasis; the announcement at the later half of the clause furnishes the subject with description.

All comparisons, of course, between English and Hebrew – the stage, the hourglass, the zipper sign – have their limitations. They are analogies to understand

³³Perhaps a better rendering of the subject-before-finite-verb clause would be “The man (is) he (who) came here today.” This renders the sentence as in independent clause with the descriptive feel of a relative clause.

better the idea, concept and meaning of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. No comparison or analogy is perfect, but they are certainly helpful.³⁴

Finally, subject-before-finite-verb clauses are more complicated, more nuanced than verbal clauses. The role of verbal clause is straightforward, carrying the actions of the subject. Verbal clauses have one “face.” Subject-before-finite-verb clauses, however, have “two faces.” Thus, subject-before-finite-verb clauses are nominal, describing the subject, but the predicate is a genuine verbal clause. The “two faces” of subject-before-finite-verb clauses have many usages particularly in narrative and a few usages in non-narrative statements.

³⁴For other analogy of verbal and nominal clauses, see p. 154.

CHAPTER 3
SUBJECT-BEFORE-FINITE-VERB CLAUSES
IN NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

The authors of Scripture employ subject-before-finite-verb clauses in various ways in narrative statements. Broadly speaking, as mentioned earlier, these clauses describe and emphasize the subject. Specifically, these clauses make “new beginnings”¹ by starting, by transitioning/resuming, and by ending sections and narratives. Moreover, they sometimes interrupt the flow of the verbal clauses, which carry the actions of the narrative, to give general announcements about the subject.² And sometimes, they appear to emphasize strongly the subject.

There are issues, to be sure, concerning functions of subject-before-finite-verb clauses in starting, transitioning/resuming, and ending sections and narratives. One issue, of course, is defining sections and narratives. A cursory reading of the translations of the Old Testament demonstrates the many ways into which sections and narratives are arranged into paragraphs in the Old Testament. For example, the NIV starts a new paragraph at Genesis 4:7; the ESV starts a new paragraph at Genesis 4:8; the NASB starts a new paragraph at Genesis 4:9; and the NRSV considers all these verses as one paragraph. Any translation, however, if followed for dividing the text into sections and narratives, would still show that subject-before-finite-verb clauses start,

¹Arab grammarians refer to the subjects of subject-before-finite-verb clauses as “new beginning.” Carolus Paulus Caspari, *Grammatica Arabica in usum Scholarum Academicarum* (Lipsiae: Sumtibus C. L. Fritzschi, 1848), §501.

²Subject-before-finite-verb clauses also avoid the successive notion of the Vav-consecutive.

transition/resume, and end sections and narratives. In this dissertation, for simplicity and because it follows the traditional approach, Masoretic “paragraph” markers will divide sections and the תּוֹלְדוֹת headings will divide the narratives.³ Any time, therefore, a subject-before-finite-verb clause follows a closed or open section marker or a תּוֹלְדוֹת heading, the subject-before-finite-verb clause starts a new section or narrative.⁴ And

³A section is defined as an open (פ) or closed (ס) sections of the Masoretic text; and the narrative is structured by the eleven “תּוֹלְדוֹת” headings, occurring at 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 36:9, and 37:2. It can be assumed that the beginning of the book also implies a heading.

Israel Yeivin describes these sections as “paragraphs (based on content), called *pisqot* פְּסֻקוֹת or *parashiyyot* פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת, are marked by spaces in the text. These spaces must occupy the width of at least three letters. They are of two types: the *petuhah* פְּתוּחָה (open) in which the word starting the new paragraph must be written at the beginning of the line, (so that if enough space cannot be left on the last line of the old paragraph, a whole line must be left blank) and the *setumah* סְתוּמָה (closed) in which the first word of the new paragraph is either written on the same line as the last of the old, or, if space is not available for this, it is written after an indentation on the next line.” Israel Yeivin, *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*, trans. and ed., E. J. Revell (Scholar’s Press, 1980) #74.

The Masoretic text has 93 sections: 43 are the open sections, and 50 are closed sections. The open sections are introduced by “פ” (abbreviation of פְּתוּחָה, meaning “opened”). These open section markers are located at (1:1), 1:6, 1:9, 1:14, 1:20, 1:24; 2:1, 2:4; 3:22; 5:1, 5:21, 5:25, 5:28; 6:5, 6:9; 9:18; 10:1; 11:1, 11:10; 12:10; 14:1; 18:1; 21:22; 22:1, 22:20; 25:1, 25:19; 32:4; 35:1, 35:9, 35:23; 36:1, 36:31; 37:1; 38:1; 40:1; 44:18; 46:28; 48:1; 49:1, 49:5, 49:13, and 49:27. The closed sections are introduced by “ס” (abbreviation of סְתוּמָה, meaning “closed”). These closed section markers are located at 3:16, 3:17; 4:1; 5:3, 5:6, 5:9, 5:12, 5:15, 5:18; 6:1, 6:13; 7:1; 8:15; 9:8; 10:15, 10:21; 11:12, 11:14, 11:16, 11:18, 11:20, 11:22, 11:24, 11:26; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1; 17:1, 17:15; 20:1; 21:1; 23:1; 24:1; 25:12; 26:1, 26:34; 27:1; 29:10; 33:18; 34:1; 36:20; 39:1; 40:1; 46:8; 49:8; 49:14, 49:16, 49:20, 49:21, and 49:22.

⁴Vav-consecutive may start a new section. Out of 93 open and closed sections in the book of Genesis, 64 sections start with a verbal clause (after פ – 1:1, 1:6, 1:9, 1:14, 1:20, 1:24, 2:1, 3:22, 5:21, 5:25, 5:28, 6:5, 9:18, 11:1, 12:10, 14:1, 18:1, 21:22, 22:1, 22:20, 25:1, 32:4, 35:1, 35:9, 35:22, 37:1, 38:1, 41:1, 44:18, 46:28, 48:1, and 49:1; after ס – 3:16, 3:17, 5:3, 5:6, 5:9, 5:12, 5:15, 5:18, 5:32, 6:13, 7:1, 8:15, 9:8, 10:21, 11:16, 11:18, 11:20, 11:22, 11:24, 11:26, 11:34, 17:1, 17:15, 20:1, 22:25, 26:1, 26:34, 27:1, 28:10, 33:18, 34:1, and 40:1).

Twenty sections start with a nominal clause (including a subject-before-finite-verb clause), occurring after פ – 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 25:19, 36:1, and 36:31; after ס – *4:1, *10:15, *11:12, *11:14, 15:1, *16:1, *21:1, *24:1, 25:12, *39:1, 36:20, and 46:8 (* indicates sections starting with a subject-before-finite-verb clause). Finally, 9 sections start with a non-narrative statement, occurring at 49:5, 49:8, 49:13, 49:14, 49:16, 49:20, 49:21, 49:22, and 49:27.

A Vav-consecutive may start a new story, section, or narrative, but also a whole book, such as Leviticus (וַיִּקְרָא) and Numbers (וַיִּדְבֹר). Vav-consecutive starts 2

when coming before a closed or open section marker or a תולדות heading, the subject-before-finite-verb clause ends a section or narrative. Another issue concerns defining “transitioning/resuming” the story within sections and narratives.⁵ Transitioning often introduces a new subject into the story. This is often a matter of individual judgment whether a particular subject-before-finite-verb clause is transitioning or resuming a narrative. Some examples clearly transition the section:

Gen 3:1⁶

וַיְהִיו שְׁנֵיהֶם עֲרוּמִים הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ^{2:25}

וְלֹא יִתְבַשְׁשׁוּ:

וַהֲנַחֵשׁ הָיְתָה עָרוֹם מִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים^{3:1}

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי-אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִכֹּל עֵץ הַגָּן:

^{2:25}And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. ^{3:1}**Now the serpent**⁷ – it was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

Other examples resume the section or narrative:

Gen 39:1

וַיֹּסֶף הַיֹּבֵד מִצְרַיִם

וַיִּקְנֶהוּ פוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרֹעֹה שֶׁר הַטַּבָּחִים אִישׁ מִצְרַיִם

מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדוּהוּ שָׂמָּה:

Kings and 2 Chronicles (continuing 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles). Additionally, וַיְהִי starts many books, such as Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and Esther.

⁵The term “story” should not be understood as implying fiction or anything that is not true; rather it should be understood as an historical account or narrative.

⁶The Masoretic text treats 2:4 to 3:15 as one section, divided by a closed section marker ם. If a verbal clause shifts a story within a section, this may be discerned only by context.

⁷To bring out the descriptive and emphatic notion, subject-before-finite-verb clauses will be translated literally.

Now Joseph – he had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there.

Resuming the section or narrative often occurs after a verbless clause or after subject-before-finite-verb clauses that give a general description:

Gen 13:14

¹¹וַיִּבְחַר-לוֹ לֹט אֶת כָּל-כַּבֵּד הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיֵּסַע לֹט מִקָּדֵם

וַיִּפְרְדוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אֶחָיו:

¹²אַבְרָם יָשָׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן

וְלֹט יָשָׁב בְּעָרֵי הַפְּזָר וַיֵּאָהֵל עַד-סֹדֶם:

¹³וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים

לַיהוָה מְאֹד:

¹⁴וַיְהִי־הָאָמֵר אֶל-אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְּרִדַּת-לֹט מֵעֲמוּ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה

מִן-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה שָׂם צָפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּזְמַח:

¹¹So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. ¹²Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. ¹³Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. ¹⁴**And the Lord – He said** to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward.”

Since deciding whether a particular subject-before-finite-verb clause is transitional or resumptive is often subjective, they will be combined: transitional/resumption. The reader may, according to the context, distinguish between transition and resumption.

There are also issues for subject-before-finite-verb clauses that provide general description and emphasis. All subject-before-finite-verb clauses describe the subject even when they start, transition/resume, and end narratives, but not all subject-before-finite-verb clause start, transition/resume, and end narratives. When a subject-before-finite-verb clause does not start, transition/resume, or end a narrative, *and* interrupts the actions of the storyline to state an announcement about the subject or to depict the subject in some manner, the subject-before-finite-verb clause is a statement of general description.

Whether a particular subject-before-finite-verb clause starts, transitions/resumes, and ends narrative may be debatable, but the issue of emphasis is even more difficult. Like description, all subject-before-finite-verb clauses have emphasis.⁸ Moreover, emphasis is subtle and often a matter of opinion. Yet, there are some clues when a subject-before-finite-verb clause strongly emphasizes a subject. First, contrastive constructions may be strongly emphatic:

Gen 37:11

וַיִּקְנְאוּ-בּוֹ אָחָיו
וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת-הַדְּבָר:

And his brothers were jealous of him, **but his father – he kept** the saying *in mind*.

Sometimes, however, the emphasis is mild:

Gen 11:3

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-רֵעֵהוּ הֲבָה נִלְבְּנָה לְבָנִים וְנִשְׂרָפָה לְשִׂרְפָּה
וַתְּהִי לָהֶם הַלְּבָנָה לְאֶבֶן וְתַחְמֹר הָיָה לָהֶם לְחֹמֶר:

And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, **and they used tar for mortar.**⁹

In contrastive statements, to be sure, both description and emphasis can be more or less equal:

⁸Caspari thought that all subject-before-finite-verb clauses are contrasting structures and emphasize the subject, stating, “[subject-before-finite-verb clauses] are always (tacitly or expressly) contrasted with another subject of a subject-before-finite-verb clause, having not the same predicate but a different or even an opposite one.” Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §119C. In most subject-before-finite-verb clauses that start, transition/resume, or end a narrative, the subject has weak or mild emphasis.

⁹If this subject-before-finite-verb clause were a verbal clause with Vav-consecutive construction (וַיְהִי הַחֹמֶר) then the notion of contrast would be lost, and the usual concept of succession (“and then”) of the verbal clause would be gained: “And they used brick for stone, and then they used tar for mortar.” Moreover, subject-before-finite-verb clauses view the verbal actions as simultaneous and not successive as with the Vav-consecutive construction.

Gen 14:10

וַעֲמַק הַשְּׂדִיִּים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת חֲמֹר וַיִּנְסוּ מִלְּדֹ-סֹדֶם וַעֲמִרָה וַיִּפְּלוּ-שָׁמָּה
וַהֲנַשְׂאָרִים הָרְהָ נָסוּ:

Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. **But those who survived – they fled to the hill country.**

Second, as a general rule, if subject-before-finite-verb clauses are not starting, transitioning, or ending sections/narratives and are not general descriptive statements, *and* they carry the action of a section/narrative like a verbal clause, then the subject-before-finite-verb clause may emphasize the subject:

Jonah 1:4

וַיִּקָּם יוֹנָה לְבָרַח תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּרֶד יָפוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֲנִיָּה | בְּאֵה תַרְשִׁישׁ
וַיֵּתֶן שָׂכָרָה וַיֵּרֶד בָּהּ לָבוֹא עִמָּהֶם תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה:
וַיַּהַזְּהוּ הַטָּיִל רוּחַ-גְּדוּלָּה אֱלֹהִים וַיְהִי סַעַר-גְּדוּל בַּיָּם
וַהֲאֲנִיָּה חֲשָׁבָה לְהִשָּׁבֵר:

³But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. ⁴**And the Lord – He hurled** a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.

Third, subject-before-finite-verb clauses may strongly emphasize the subject after certain introducing phrases and clauses:

Gen 22:1

וַיְהִי אַחֲרַי תְּדַבְּרִים הָאֵלֹהִים וַהֲאֵלֵהִים נִסָּה אֶת-אַבְרָהָם
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

Now it came about after these things, that **God – He tested** Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Complete Data of Subject-Before-Finite-Verb Clauses in Narrative Statements

All subject-before-finite-verb clauses have description and emphasis.

- I. Description (with weaker emphasis)
 - A. Start a new section or narrative
 - B. Transition/resume a story within a section
 - C. End a section or narrative
 - D. General description
- II. Description and Emphasis (more or less equal)
 - Contrastive constructions
- III. Emphasis (with weaker description)
 - A. Adding Particle and/or Independent Pronoun
 - B. Carrying the actions of the storyline (like a verbal clause)
 - C. After certain introductory formulas
 - D. Multiple subjects with modification

Classifying subject-before-finite-verb clauses yields the following chart.

These categories are general, suggestive, and often overlap. A verse may be contrastive, transitional, and emphatic at the same time. These categories, therefore, are given to show various usages of subject-before-finite-verb clauses – not to rigidly classify each verse.

Description (With Weaker Emphasis) [I]

Starting a New Section or Narrative (A)

Occurrences: 4:1, 6:9, 10:15, 11:12, 11:14, 11:27^a, 16:1, 21:1, 24:1^a, 25:19, 36:2, 37:2, and 39:1.

All these occurrences happen after ם (closed section marker). There is no example of one starting after פ (open section marker).

4:1

וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ
וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יְהוָה:

Now the man – he had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the Lord*.”

6:9

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדֹרֹתָיו
אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הִתְהַלְּךְ־נֹחַ:

These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. **Noah – he was a righteous man, blameless** in his time; Noah walked with God.

10:15

וַיִּכְנֹעַן יֶלֶד אֶת־צִידֹן בְּכָרוֹ וְאֶת־חֶת:

And Canaan – he became the father of Sidon, his first-born, and Heth.

11:12

וְאַרְפַּכְשָׁד חַי חָמֵשׁ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה
וַיּוֹלֵד אֶת־שֶׁלַח:

And Arpachshad – he lived thirty-five years, and became the father of Shelah.

11:14

וְשֶׁלַח חַי שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה
וַיּוֹלֵד אֶת־עֵבֶר:

And Shelah – he lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber.

11:27^a

וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת תָּרַח תָּרַח הוֹלִיד אֶת־אַבְרָם אֶת־נְחוֹר וְאֶת־הָרָן
וְהָרָן הוֹלִיד אֶת־לוֹט:

Now these are *the records of* the generations of Terah. **Terah – he became the father of** Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran – he became the father of Lot.

16:1

וּשְׂרַי אִשְׁתְּ אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ
וְלָהּ שְׂפָחָה מִצְרַיִת וּשְׁמָהּ הָגָר:

Now Sarai, Abram's wife – she had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.

21:1

וַיְהוֹה פָּקַד אֶת־שָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר
וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר:

Then the Lord – He took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised.

24:1^a

וַאֲבָרְהָם זָקֵן בָּא בַיָּמִים
וַיְהוֹה בֵּרַךְ אֶת־אֲבָרְהָם בְּכָל:

Now Abraham – he was old, advanced in age; and the Lord – He had blessed Abraham in every way.

25:19

וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָק בֶּן־אֲבָרְהָם
אֲבָרְהָם הוֹלִיד אֶת־יִצְחָק:

Now these are *the records of* the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: **Abraham – he became the father** of Isaac.

36:2

¹וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת עֵשָׂו הוּא אָדוֹם:
²עֵשָׂו לָקַח אֶת־נָשָׁיו מִבְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן

אֶת־עֲרֵה בַת־אֵילֹן הַחֲתָי וְאֶת־אֶהֱלִיבָמָה בַת־עֵנָה בַת־צִבְעוֹן הַחֲוִי:

Now these are *the records of* the generations of Esau (that is, Edom). **Esau – he took** his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite. (vv. 1-2)

37:2

אֵלֶּה תְּלִדּוֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שֶׁבַע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָה רֹעֵה אֶת־אֶחָיו בְּצֹאן
וְהוּא נֹעַר אֶת־בְּנֵי בְלָהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה נְשֵׂי אָבִיו
וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דִּבְתָּם רָעָה אֶל־אָבִיהֶם:

These are *the records of* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph a seventeen years of age** – **he was pasturing** the flock with his brothers while he was *still* a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father.

39:1

וַיּוֹסֵף הַיּוֹכָד מִצְרַיִם
וַיִּקְנֵהוּ פוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרֹעֵה שֶׁר הַטַּבָּחִים אִישׁ מִצְרֵי
מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדוּהוּ שָׁמָּה:

Now Joseph – **he had been taken down** to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there.

Transitioning/Resuming a Story within a Section (B)

Occurrences: 3:1, 4:18 (x3), 10:8^a, 10:13, 10:24 (x2), 10:26, 11:27^b, 13:14,
14:18, 18:17, 19:4, 19:24, 22:23, 25:3^a, 26:26, 27:6, 29:9, and 45:16.

All these occurrences make distinctive transitions/resumptions within sections.

They often introduce new subjects to the story.

3:1

וַיְהִי שְׁנֵיהֶם עָרֻמִּים הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ^{2:25}
וְלֹא יִתְבַּשְׁשׁוּ:
וַהֲנַחֵשׁ הָיָה עָרוֹם מִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים^{3:1}
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי־אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִכָּל עֵץ הַגָּן:

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **Now the serpent** – **it was** more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” (2:25-3:1)

4:18 (x3)

17 וַיֵּדַע כַּיֵּן אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ
 וַיְהִי בְנָה עֵיר וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הָעִיר כְּשֵׁם בְּנוֹ חֲנוֹךְ:
 18 וַיֻּלַּד לְחֲנוֹךְ אֶת־עִירָד וְעִירָד יָלַד אֶת־מְחֻיָּאֵל
 וּמְחֻיָּאֵל יָלַד אֶת־מֶתוּשָׁאֵל וּמֶתוּשָׁאֵל יָלַד אֶת־לָמֶךְ:
 19 וַיִּקְחֵלוּ לָמֶךְ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים
 שֵׁם הָאֶחָת עָדָה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית צִלָּה:

And Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. Now to Enoch was born Irad; **and Irad – he became the father** of Mehujael; **and Mehujael – he became the father** of Methushael; **and Methushael – he became the father** of Lamech. And Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. (vv. 17-19)

10:8^a

7 וּבְנֵי כוּשׁ סֶבָא וְחַוִּילָה וְסַבְתָּה וְרַעְמָה וְסַבְתֵּכָא
 וּבְנֵי רַעְמָה שֶׁבָא וְדַדָּן:
 8 וְכוּשׁ יָלַד אֶת־נִמְרוֹד
 הוּא הַחַל לְהִיּוֹחַ גִּבּוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ:
 9 הוּא־הָיָה גִבּוֹר־צִיד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
 עַל־כֵּן יֵאמָר כְּנִמְרוֹד גִּבּוֹר צִיד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:
 10 וַתְּהִי רֵאשִׁית מַמְלַכְתּוֹ בָּבֶל וְאַרְךְ וְאַכַּד וְכַלְנֵי
 בְּאֶרֶץ שִׁנְעָר:

And the sons of Cush *were* Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah *were* Sheba and Dedan. **Now Cush – he became the father** of Nimrod; he – he became a mighty one on the earth. He – he was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (vv. 7-10)

10:13

12 וַאֲתָרְסֵן בֵּין נִינְוָה וּבֵין כַּלַּח
 הוּא הָעִיר הַגְּדֹלָה:

¹³ וּמִצְרַיִם יָלַד אֶת־לוּדִים וְאֶת־עַנְמִים וְאֶת־לְהַבִּים וְאֶת־נַפְתּוּחִים:
¹⁴ וְאֶת־פַּתְרֻסִים וְאֶת־כַּסְלֻחִים אֲשֶׁר יֵצְאוּ מִשָּׁם פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְאֶת־כַּפְתָּרִים:

And Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. **And Mizraim – he became the father** of Ludim and Anamim and Lehabim and Naphtuhim. And Pathrusim and Casluhim (from which came the Philistines) and Caphtorim. (vv. 12-14)

10:24 (x2)

²³ וּבְנֵי אָרָם

עוּז וְחוּל וְגֶתֶר וּמָשׁ:

²⁴ וְאַרְפַּכְשָׁד יָלַד אֶת־שֶׁלַח

וְשֶׁלַח יָלַד אֶת־עֵבֶר:

²⁵ וּלְעֵבֶר יָלַד שְׁנֵי בָנִים

שֵׁם הָאֶחָד פֶּלֶג כִּי בַיָּמָיו נִפְלְגָה הָאָרֶץ וְשֵׁם אֶחָיו יֻקְטָן:

And the sons of Aram were Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash. **And Arpachshad – he became the father** of Shelah; **and Shelah – he became the father** of Eber. And two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. (vv. 23-25)

10:26

²⁵ וּלְעֵבֶר יָלַד שְׁנֵי בָנִים

שֵׁם הָאֶחָד פֶּלֶג כִּי בַיָּמָיו נִפְלְגָה הָאָרֶץ וְשֵׁם אֶחָיו יֻקְטָן:

²⁶ וַיֻּקְטָן יָלַד אֶת־אַלְמוּדָד וְאֶת־שֶׁלֶף

וְאֶת־חֲצַרְמוֹת וְאֶת־יֶרַח:

²⁷ וְאֶת־הָדוֹרָם וְאֶת־אוּזַל וְאֶת־דִּקְלָה:

And two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. **And Joktan – he became the father** of Almodad and Sheleph and Hazarmaveth and Jerah. And Hadoram and Uzal and Diklah. (vv. 25-27)

11:27^b

²⁷ וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת תְּרַח הַלְוִיָּהּ הוֹלִיד אֶת־אַבְרָם אֶת־נְחֹר וְאֶת־הָרָן

וְהָרָן הוֹלִיד אֶת־לוֹט:

²⁸ וַיָּמָת הָרָן עַל־פְּנֵי תְּרַח אָבִיו

בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹלְדוֹתוֹ בְּאֵוֹר כְּשָׂדִים:

Now these are *the records of* the generations of Terah. Terah – he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; **and Haran – he became the father** of Lot. And Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. (vv. 27-28)

13:14

¹¹ וַיִּבְחַר-לוֹ לֹט, אֶת כָּל-כַּנָּר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיֵּסַע לֹט מִקְדָם

וַיִּפְרְדוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו:

¹² אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן

וְלֹט יָשַׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפָר וַיֵּאָהֵל עַד-סֹדֶם:

¹³ וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם רָעִים וְחָטָאִים

לַיהוָה מְאֹד:

¹⁴ וַיְהִי הָאָמֵר אֶל-אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְּרֹד-לֹט מֵעִמּוֹ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה

מִן הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה שָׂם צַפְנָה וְנִגְבָה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּמָּה:

So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. **And the Lord – He said** to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward.” (vv. 11-14)

14:18

¹⁷ וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ-סֹדֶם לִקְרָאתוֹ אַחֲרֵי שׁוּבוֹ מִהַכּוֹת אֶת-כְּדֹרְלַעְמֹר

וְאֶת-הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ אֶל-עַמְקַ שְׁוֵה הוּא עַמְקַ הַמֶּלֶךְ:

¹⁸ וּמִלְכֵי-צֹדֵק מֶלֶךְ שָׁלֵם הוֹצִיא לֶחֶם וַיִּין

וְהוּא כֹהֵן לְאֵל עֵלְיוֹן:

¹⁹ וַיִּבְרַכְהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר

בְּרוּךְ אַבְרָם לְאֵל עֵלְיוֹן קֹנֵה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:

Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). **And Melchizedek king of Salem – he brought out** bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.” (vv. 17-19)

18:17

וַיִּקְמוּ מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּשְׁקְפוּ עַל־פְּנֵי סֹדֶם¹⁶

וְאָבְרָהָם הֵלֵךְ עִמָּם לְשַׁלְּחָם:

וַיִּהְיֶה אָמַר¹⁷

הַמְכַסֶּה אֲנִי מֵאֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה:

וְאָבְרָהָם הָיוּ יְהוּה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְעֲצוּם¹⁸

וַיִּבְרְכוּ בּוֹ כָּל גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ:

Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. **And the Lord – He said**, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do. Since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?” (vv. 16-18)

19:4

וַיִּפְצְרֵבֶם מְאֹד וַיִּסְרוּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ³

וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה וּמִצּוֹת אָפֶה וַיֹּאכְלוּ:

וְטָרַם יִשְׁכְּבוּ וְאֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר אֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם נִסְבּוּ עַל־הַבַּיִת מִנְעַר וְעַד־זֶקֶן⁴

כָּל־הָעָם מִקְצֵה:

וַיִּקְרָאוּ אֶל־לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֵיךְ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַלַּיְלָה⁵

הוֹצִיָאֵם אֵלֵינוּ וְנִדְעָה אֹתָם:

Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they lay down, **the men of the city, the men of Sodom – they surrounded** the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter. And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” (vv. 3-5)

19:24¹⁰

הַשָּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ²³

וְלוֹט בָּא צֹעְרָה:

וַיִּהְיֶה הַמְטִיר עַל־סֹדֶם וְעַל־עַמֻּרָה גֶפְרִית וְאֵשׁ²⁴

¹⁰This clause is also classified in I.D. General Description category.

מאת יהוה מן השמים:

The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. **Then the Lord – He rained** on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. (vv. 23-24)

22:23

וְאֶת־כֶּשֶׁד וְאֶת־חֲזוֹ וְאֶת־פִּלְדָּשׁ וְאֶת־יִדְלָף²²

וְאֵת בְּתוּאֵל:

וּבְתוּאֵל יָלַד אֶת־רִבְקָה²³

שְׁמֹנֶה אֱלֹהִים יָלְדָה מִלְכָּה לְנָחוֹר אָחִי אַבְרָהָם:

וּפִילְגֶשֶׁת וְשֹׁמֵה רְאוּמָה²⁴

וְתֵלָד גַּם־הוּא אֶת־טֶבַח וְאֶת־נַחֵם וְאֶת־תַּחַשׁ וְאֶת־מַעֲכָה:

”And Chesed and Hazo and Pildash and Jidlaph and Bethuel.” **And Bethuel – he became the father** of Rebekah: these eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother. And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah and Gaham and Tahash and Maacah. (vv. 22-24)

25:3^a

וַיִּסַּף אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה וְשֵׁמָּה קְטוּרָה:¹

וְתֵלָד לּוֹ אֶת־זִמְרָן וְאֶת־יֹקְשָׁן וְאֶת־מֵדָן וְאֶת־מִדְיָן²

וְאֶת־יִשְׁבָּק וְאֶת־שׁוּחַ:

וַיִּקְשָׁן יָלַד אֶת־שֶׁבָא וְאֶת־דֵּדָן³

וּבְנֵי דֵּדָן הָיוּ אֲשׁוּרִים וְלִטְוִשִׁים וְלֵאֲמִים:

וּבְנֵי מֵדָן עִיפָה וְעֶפְרָי וְחִנֹּךְ וְאַבִּידָע וְאַלְדָּעָה⁴

כָּל־אֵלֶּה בְנֵי קְטוּרָה:

Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. And she bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. **And Jokshan – he became the father** of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan – they were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. And the sons of Midian *were* Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these *were* the sons of Keturah. (vv. 1-4)

26:26

וַיִּבֶן שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וַיִּטֶּשֶׁם אֱהֱלֹו²⁵

וַיִּכְרוּ־שָׁם עַבְדֵי־יִצְחָק בְּאֵר:

וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ הַלֶּךְ אֵלָיו מִגֶּרָר²⁶

וְאַחֲזַת מְרַעְהוּ וּפִיכֹל שֶׁר־צָבָאוּ:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִצְחָק מִדּוּעַ בָּאתֶם אֵלָי²⁷

וְאַתֶּם שִׁנְאתֶם אֹתִי וְחָשַׁלְתֶּנִּי מֵאַתְכֶּם:

So he built an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well. **Then Abimelech** – he came to him from Gerar; with Ahuzzath his adviser, and Phicol the commander of his army. And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me, and have sent me away from you?" (vv. 25-27)

27:6

וְרִבְקָה שָׁמְעַת בְּדַבַּר יִצְחָק אֶל־עֵשָׂו בְּנֹו

וַיֵּלֶךְ עֵשָׂו הַשָּׂדֵה לְצוּר צִיד לְהָבִיא:

וְרִבְקָה אָמְרָה אֶל־יַעֲקֹב בְּנֵה לְאִמֹר⁶

הִנֵּה שָׁמְעֵתִי אֶת־אֲבִיךָ מִדְּבַר אֶל־עֵשָׂו אַחִיד לְאִמֹר:

And Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, **Now Rebekah** – she said to her son Jacob, "Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying." (vv. 5-6)

29:9

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נוֹכַל עַד אֲשֶׁר יֵאָסְפוּ כָּל־הָעֵדְרִים וְנִגְלְלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן⁸

מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וְהִשְׁקִינוּ הַצֹּאן:

עוֹדְנוּ מִדְּבַר עַמִּים⁹

וְרָחֵל בָּאָה עִם־הַצֹּאן אֲשֶׁר לְאִבְיָהּ כִּי רָעָה הָיָה:

וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָה יַעֲקֹב אֶת־רָחֵל בַּת־לָבָן אֶתִּי אִמֹו וְאֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֶתִּי אִמֹו¹⁰

וַיִּנָּשׂ יַעֲקֹב וַיִּגַּל אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וַיִּשֶׁק אֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֶתִּי אִמֹו:

But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep." While he was still speaking with them, **now Rachel** – she came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. And it came about, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went up, and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. (vv. 8-10)

45:16

15 וַיִּנָּשֶׂק לְכָל־אָחָיו וַיִּבֶךְ עֲלֵיהֶם
 וְאַחֲרַי כֵּן דִּבְרוּ אָחָיו אִתּוֹ:
 16 וַהֲקֵל נִשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בָּאוּ אֲחֵי יוֹסֵף
 וַיֵּיטֵב בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי עֲבָדָיו:
 17 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אָמַר אֶל־אֲחֵיךָ זֹאת עֲשׂוּ
 טַעֲנוּ אֶת־בְּעִירְכֶם וּלְכוּ־בָאוּ אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן:

And he kissed all his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him. **Now the news – it was heard** in Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go to the land of Canaan.'" (vv. 15-17)

Ending a Section or Narrative (C)

Occurrences: 6:4, 6:8, 17:27, and 37:36.

All these occurrences are followed by Masoretic section markers ם or פ.

6:4

הַנְּפִלִים הָיוּ בָאָרֶץ בְּיָמֵי הָהֵם
 וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם וַיֵּלְדוּ לָהֶם
 הַמְּזֵה הַגִּבּוֹרִים אֲשֶׁר מַעֲוָלָם אֲנָשֵׁי הַשָּׁמַיִם: פ

The Nephilim – they were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

6:8

וְנֹחַ מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה: פ

But Noah – he found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

17:27

וְכָל־אֲנָשֵׁי בֵיתוֹ יֵלֵד בְּיַת וּמִקְנַת־כֶּסֶף מֵאֵת בֶּן־נֶכֶד
 נִמְלְאוּ אִתּוֹ: פ

And all the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner – they were circumcised with him.

37:36

וְהַמְדָּנִים מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל-מִצְרַיִם
 לְפֹטִיפָרֹ סֵרִיס פְּרֹעֶה שֵׁר הַטְּבָחִים: ס

Meanwhile, the Midianites – they sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

General Description (D)

Occurrences: 1:2, 2:5 (x2), 2:6, 4:20, 4:21, 6:1, 7:6, 7:10, 8:5, 10:8^b, 10:9, 13:12^a, 14:3, 15:12, 15:17 (x2), 19:23 (x2), 19:24, 20:4, 24:1^b, 24:16, 25:3^b, 27:30, 31:19, 31:25^a, 31:34, 34:5 (x2), 34:7, 34:27, 36:12, 36:13, 36:14, 37:3, 38:25, 39:22, 41:56, 44:3 (x2), 44:4 (x2), and 48:10.

Interrupting the sequence of the actions, these occurrences supply information about the subject. These clauses, not starting, transitioning/resuming, or ending a section, describe the subject for a better understanding of the verbal actions of the storyline.¹¹ For these examples, if a verbal construction were used (instead of the subject-before-finite-verb clause), the meaning would be radically altered with the notion of succession by the verbal clause. When preceded by a nominal clause (and sometimes by a verbal clause), a subject-before-finite-verb clause may communicate an “overlapping” (see 15:17 below) notion with the preceding clause.

1:2

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים¹
 אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ:
 וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תְהוֹם וְנָהוּ וְחָשֶׁךְ עַל-פְּנֵי תְהוֹם²
 וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:

¹¹If these subject-before-finite-verb clauses were verbal clauses with Vav-consecutive construction, then the notion of simultaneity would be lost, and the usual concept of succession (“and then”) of the verbal clause would be gained.

3 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר

וַיְהִי־אוֹר:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **And the earth – it was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.** (vv. 1-3)

2:5 (x2) and 2:6

4 אֵלֹהִים תּוֹלְדוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ בְּהִבְרָאָם

בַּיּוֹם עָשׂוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶרֶץ וּשְׁמַיִם:

5 וְכָל־שִׁיחַ הַשָּׂדֶה טָרָם יִהְיֶה בְּאֶרֶץ וְכָל־עֵשֶׂב הַשָּׂדֶה טָרָם יִצְמַח
כִּי לֹא הִמְטִיר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְאָדָם אֵין לְעַבֵּד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה:

6 וְאָדָם יַעֲלֶה מִן־הָאָרֶץ

וְהִשְׁקָה אֶת־כָּל־פְּנֵי־הָאֲדָמָה:

7 וַיִּצְרֶה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עָפָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפְּחַ בְּאַפָּיו נְשִׁמַת חַיִּים

וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה:

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven. **Now shrub of the field – it was not yet in the earth, and plant of the field – it had not yet sprouted**, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth; and there was no man to cultivate the ground. **But a mist – it would rise** from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (vv. 4-7)

The repetition of כל (כָּל־) with subjects adds some emphasis to the subjects.

4:20 and 4:21

20 וַתֵּלֶד עֵדָה אֶת־יֹבֵל

הוּא הָיָה אָבִי יִשָׁב אֱהֵל וּמִקְנֶה:

21 וְשֵׁם אָחִיו יֹבֵל

הוּא הָיָה אָבִי כָל־תַּפְּשׁ כְּנֹר וְעֹגֵב:

22 וַצֵּלָה גַם־הוּא יִלְדָה אֶת־תּוֹבֵל קִין לִטָּשׁ כָּל־חֶרֶשׁ נְחֹשֶׁת וּבְרִזָּל

וְאַחֹת תּוֹבֵל־קִין גַּעֲמָה:

And Adah gave birth to Jabal, **he – he was** the father of those who dwell in tents and *have* livestock. And his brother's name was Jubal, **he – he was** the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. (vv. 20-22)

6:1

¹וַיְהִי כִּי־הִחֵל הָאָדָם לָרֵב עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה

וּבָנוֹת יָלְדוּ לָהֶם:

²וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה

וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרוּ:

Now when men began to multiply on the face of the land, **and daughters – they were born** to them. And the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. (vv. 1-2)

7:6

⁵וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ

כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּהוּ יְהוָה:

⁶וַנֹּחַ בֶּן־שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה

וְהַמַּבּוּל הָיָה מַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

⁷וַיָּבֵא נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְנָשֵׁי־בָנָיו אִתּוֹ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה

מִפְּנֵי מַי הַמַּבּוּל:

And Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him. Now Noah was six hundred years old when **the flood of water – it came upon** the earth. Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. (vv. 5-7)

7:10

⁹שְׁנַיִם שָׁנִים שָׁנִים בָּאוּ אֶל־נֹחַ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה

כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ:

¹⁰וַיְהִי לְשִׁבְעַת הַיָּמִים

וַיְמִי הַמַּבּוּל הָיָה עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

¹¹בַּשָּׁנָה שֶׁש־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי־נֹחַ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְשִׁבְעָה־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ

בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִבְקְעוּ כָּל־מַעֲיֵנֹת תְּהוֹמוֹת רֶבֶה וְאָרְבֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם נִפְתְּחוּ:

There went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came about after the seven days, that **the water of the flood – it came** upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. (vv. 9-11)

8:5

וַתִּנַּח הַתְּבֹהַבַּת בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּשִׁבְעָה-עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ⁴
עַל הַרֵי אֲרָרָט:
וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם הַלְלוֹךְ וַחֲסוֹר עַד הַחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי⁵
בְּעֲשִׂירֵי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ נִרְאוּ רֵאשֵׁי הַהָרִים:

And in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. **And the water – it decreased steadily** until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible. (vv. 4-5)

10:8^b and 10:9

וַיִּכּוֹשׁ יָלֵד אֶת-נִמְרוֹד⁸
הוּא הַחֵל לִהְיוֹת גִּבּוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ:
הוּא-הָיָה גִבּוֹר-צִיד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה⁹
עַל-כֵּן יֹאמֵר כְּנִמְרוֹד גִּבּוֹר צִיד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:
וַתְּהִי רֵאשִׁית מַמְלַכְתּוֹ בְּבֶל וָאֲרָץ וָאֲכַד וְכַלְנֵה¹⁰
בְּאֶרֶץ שִׁנְעָר:

Now Cush – he became a father of Nimrod; **he – he began** to become a mighty one on the earth. **He – he was** a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (vv. 8-10)

13:12^a

וַיִּבְחַר-לּוֹ לֹט אֶת כָּל-כֶּכֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסַּע לֹט¹¹
מִקְדָּם וַיִּפְרְדּוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו:
אֲבָרָם יָשָׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנַעַן¹²
וְלֹט יָשָׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפָר וַיֵּאֱהָל עַד-סְדֹם:
וְאֲנָשֵׁי סְדֹם רָעִים וְחָטָאִים¹³
לִיהוָה מְאֹד:

14 וַיְהִי אִמְרָא אֶל-אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפָּרֶד-לוֹט מֵעִמּוֹ שֶׁאֵן נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה
מִן-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה שָׂם צָפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיֹּמַר:

So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. **Abram – he settled** in the land of Canaan, but Lot – he settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. Now the Lord – He said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward.” (vv. 11-14)

14:3

1 וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם אֲמֵרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ-שִׁנְעָר אַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֶלְסָר
כְּדָרְלֵעֹמֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְחִדְעֵל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם: 2 עָשׂוּ מִלְחָמָה
אֶת-בְּרַעַ' מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם וְאֶת-בִּרְשָׁע מֶלֶךְ עֹמְרָה
שְׁנָאֵב מֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וְשִׁמְאֵבֶר מֶלֶךְ צְבוֹיִים וּמֶלֶךְ בֵּלַע הַיָּא-צְעָר:
3 כָּל-אֵלֶּה חִבְּרוּ אֶל-עִמְק הַשְּׂדִים
הוּא יָם הַמֶּלַח:
4 שְׁתַּיִם עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה עָבְדוּ אֶת-כְּדָרְלֵעֹמֶר
וּשְׁלֹש-עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מָרְדוּ:

And in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar; Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, *they* made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). **All these – they came as allies** to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (vv. 1-4)

15:12

11 וַיִּירָד הָעֵיט עַל-הַפְּגָרִים
וַיֵּשֶׁב אַתֶּם אַבְרָם:
12 וַיְהִי הַשְּׁמַשׁ לָבוֹא וְתִרְדָּמָה נָפְלָה עַל-אַבְרָם
וְהִנֵּה אֵימָה חֲשֹׁכָה גְדֹלָה נִפְלְתָה עָלָיו:
13 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תִּדַע כִּי-גַר יִהְיֶה זְרַעְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם
וְעַבְדוּם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:

And the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. When the sun went down, a **deep sleep** – it fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. And *God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.” (vv. 11-13)

15:17 (x2)

13 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע חָדַע כִּי־גֵר יִהְיֶה זְרַעְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם

וְעִבְדוּם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:

14 וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ הֵן אֲנֹכִי

וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְרַכְשׁ גָּדוֹל:

15 וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אֲבֹתֶיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם

תִּקָּבֵר בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה:

16 וְדוֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה

כִּי לֹא־שָׁלֵם עֹנֵן הָאֱמֹרִיעֵד־הַהִנֵּה:

17 וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בָּאָה וְעֹלָטָה הָיָה

וַהֲנֵה תִנּוֹר עֶשֶׂן וְלִפְיֵד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגְּזָרִים הָאֵלֶּה:

18 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר

לְזַרְעֶךָ נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְּהַר מִצְרַיִם עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פָּרָת:

And *God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.” And it came when **the sun – it had just set**, that **darkness – it came**, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.” (vv. 13-18)

If this clause were a verbal clause, the Vav-consecutive would communicate the notion of succession, “And the sun was about to set *and then* darkness fell upon Abram.” The subject-before-finite-verb clause communicates an “overlap” in time, “And the sun was just about to set, when sleep fell upon Abram.”

19:23 (x2)

²¹וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּה נִשְׁאַתִּי פָנֶיךָ גַם לְדַבֵּר הַזֶּה
 לְבַלְתִּי הַפְּכִי אֶת־הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:
²²מִהֵרָה הַמַּלְטָה שָׁמָּה כִּי לֹא אוֹכַל לַעֲשׂוֹת דְּבָר עַד־בֹּאֲךָ שָׁמָּה
 עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שֵׁם־הָעִיר צוּעַר:
²³הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ
 וְלוֹט בָּא צִעֲרָה:
²⁴וַיְהִי הַמָּטֵיר עַל־סֹדֶם וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה נִפְרִית וְאֵשׁ
 מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

And he said to him, “Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar. **The sun – it had just risen** over the earth, **Lot – when he came** to Zoar. Now as for the Lord, He rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. (vv. 21-24)

Just as the case in above, the subject-before-finite-verb clause communicates overlapping actions.

19:24¹²

²³הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ
 וְלוֹט בָּא צִעֲרָה:
²⁴וַיְהִי הַמָּטֵיר עַל־סֹדֶם וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה נִפְרִית וְאֵשׁ
 מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. **Then the Lord – He rained** on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. (vv. 23-24)

20:4

³וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָמָה בְּחֻלּוֹם הַלַּיְלָה

¹²This clause is also classified in I.B. Transition/Resume a Story within a Section category.

וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַנֶּהָ מֵת עַל־הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־לָקַחְתָּ וְהוּא בְּעַלְתָּ בְּעַל:
 וַיֹּאבְיָמְלֵךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ⁴
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי הַנְּוִי גַם־צְדִיק תִּהְרַג:

But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married."
Now Abimelech – he had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even *though* blameless?" (vv. 3-4)

24:1^b

וַאֲבָרָהֶם זָקֵן בָּא בַיָּמִים¹
 וַיְהוֶה בְּרַךְ אֶת־אֲבָרָהֶם בְּכֹל:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרָהֶם אֶל־עַבְדּוֹ זָקֵן בֵּיתוֹ הַמִּשְׁלַל בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ²
 שִׁים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יְרֵכִי:

And Abraham – he was old, advanced in age; **and Lord – He had blessed** Abraham in every way. And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh." (vv. 1-2)

24:16

וַיְהִי־הוּא שָׂרִם כִּלְה לְדַבֵּר¹⁵
 וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְבִתְוָאֵל בֶּן־מִלְכָּה
 אִשְׁתִּי נְחֹר אֲחִי אֲבָרָהֶם וְכִדָּה עַל־שִׁכְמָה:
 וְהִנֵּעַר טַבַּת מְרֹאֶה מְאֹד בְּתוֹלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יָדָעָה¹⁶
 וַתֵּרֶד הָעֵינָה וַתִּמְלֵא כִדָּה וַתַּעַל:
 וַיִּרְץ הָעַבֵד לִקְרֹאתָהּ¹⁷
 וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְּמִיאִינִי נָא מִעֲטָמִים מִכִּדָּה:

And it came about before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. And the girl was very beautiful, a virgin whom **a man – no one had had relations with her**; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar, and came up. Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar." (vv. 15-17)

25:3^b

וַיִּקְשֶׁן יָלֵד אֶת־שִׁבָּא וְאֶת־דָּרָן

וּבְנֵי דִדָן הָיוּ אֲשׁוּרִים וְלִטְוּשִׁים וְלִמְמִים:

And Jokshan – he became the father of Sheba and Dedan. **And the sons of Dedan – they were** Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim.

27:30

וַיְהִי כַאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה יִצְחָק לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וַיְהִי אַךְ יֵצֵא יֵצֵא יַעֲקֹב
מֵאֵת פְּנֵי יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַעֲשׂוֹ אָחִיו בָּא מִצִּידוֹ:

Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had just gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, **when Esau his brother – he came** in from his hunting.

This subject-before-finite-verb clause communicates overlapping actions to the prior clauses.

31:19

¹⁸וַיִּנְהַג אֶת־כָּל־מִקְנֵהוּ וְאֶת־כָּל־רֶכְשׁוֹ אֲשֶׁר רָכַשׂ מִקְנֵה קְנִיָּו
אֲשֶׁר רָכַשׂ בְּפַדָּן אֲרָם לָבוֹא אֶל־יִצְחָק אָבִיו אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן:
¹⁹וְלָבָן הִלָּךְ לָגֹז אֶת־צֹאֲנוֹ
וַתִּגְנֹב רָחֵל אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים אֲשֶׁר לְאָבִיהָ:
²⁰וַיִּגְנֹב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־לֵב לָבָן הָאֲרָמִי
עַל־בְּלִי הַגִּיד לוֹ כִּי בָרַח הוּא:

And he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered, his acquired livestock which he had gathered in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. **Laban – when he had gone** to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's. And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he was fleeing. (vv. 18-20)

31:25^a

²⁵וַיִּשָּׂג לָבָן אֶת־יַעֲקֹב
וַיַּעֲקֹב תָּקַע אֶת־אֹהֶלוֹ בְּהָר וּלָבָן תָּקַע אֶת־אֹהֶלוֹ בְּהָר הַגִּלְעָד:
²⁶וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב מָה עָשִׂיתָ וַתִּגְנֹב אֶת־לִבִּי
וַתִּנְהַג אֶת־בְּנֹתַי כַּשְּׁבוּת חָרָב:

And Laban caught up with Jacob. **Now Jacob – he had pitched** his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen – he camped in the hill country of Gilead.

Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword?” (vv. 25-26)

31:34

וַיָּבֹא לְבָן בְּאֵהֶל יַעֲקֹב וּבְאֵהֶל לֵאָה וּבְאֵהֶל שְׁתֵּי הָאֲמָהוֹת וְלֹא מָצָא³³
 וַיֵּצֵא מֵאֵהֶל לֵאָה וַיָּבֹא בְּאֵהֶל רָחֵל:
 וַרְחֵל לָקְחָה אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים וַתִּשְׂמֶם בְּכַר הַנָּמֶל וַתֵּשֶׁב עֲלֵיהֶם³⁴
 וַיִּמְשֹׁשׁ לְבָן אֶת־כָּל־הָאֵהֶל וְלֹא מָצָא:
 וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־אָבִיהָ אֶל־יִחָר בְּעֵינַי אֲדֹנָי כִּי לֹא אוּכַל לָקוּם מִפְּנֵיךָ³⁵
 כִּי־דָרַךְ נָשִׁים לִי וַיִּחַפֵּשׂ וְלֹא מָצָא אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים:

So Laban went into Jacob’s tent, and into Leah’s tent, and into the tent of the two maids, but he did not find *them*. Then he went out of Leah’s tent and entered Rachel’s tent. **Now Rachel – she had taken** the household idols and put them in the camel’s saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent, but did not find *them*. And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is upon me.” So he searched, but did not find the household idols. (vv. 33-35)

34:5 (x2)

וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁכֵם אֶל־חָמוֹר אָבִיו לֵאמֹר⁴
 קַח־לִי אֶת־הַיְלָדָה הַזֹּאת לְאִשָּׁה:
 וַיַּעֲקֹב שָׁמַע כִּי טָמְאָ אֶת־דִּינָה בְּחֹו וּבְנָיו הָיוּ אֶת־מִקְנֵהוּ בַשָּׂדֶה⁵
 וַהֲחָרַשׁ יַעֲקֹב עַד־בָּאֵם:
 וַיֵּצֵא חָמוֹר אָבִי־שָׁכֵם אֶל־יַעֲקֹב⁶
 לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ:

So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this young girl for a wife.” **Now Jacob – he heard** that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; **but his sons – they were** with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came in. Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. (vv. 4-6)

34:7

וַיֵּצֵא חָמוֹר אָבִי־שָׁכֵם אֶל־יַעֲקֹב⁶
 לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ:
 וּבְנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה כְּשָׁמְעִם וַיִּתְעַצְבוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּחָר לָהֶם מְאֹד⁷
 כִּי־נִבְלָה עָשָׂה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְשַׁכֵּב אֶת־בְּתוּי־יַעֲקֹב וְכֵן לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה:

⁸וַיִּדְבֹר חָמוֹר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר

שְׁכֶם בְּנֵי חֲשֵׁקָה נָפְשׁוּ בְּבַתְּכֶם תָּנוּ נָא אֶתָּה לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:

Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. **Now the sons of Jacob – they came in** from the field when they heard *it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done. But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage." (vv. 6-8)

34:27

²⁵וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בְּהִיוֹתָם כְּאֲבִים וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁנֵי־בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב שִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי

אֶתִּי דִינָה אִישׁ חָרְבוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ עַל־הָעִיר בְּטָח וַיַּהֲרֹגוּ כָּל־זָכָר:

²⁶וְאֶת־חָמוֹר וְאֶת־שְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ הָרָגוּ לְפִי־חָרֵב

וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־דִּינָה מִבֵּית שְׁכֶם וַיֵּצְאוּ:

²⁷בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ עַל־הַחֲלָלִים וַיָּבֹאוּ הָעִיר

אֲשֶׁר טָמְאוּ אֲחוֹתָם:

²⁸אֶת־צֹאנָם וְאֶת־בְּקָרָם וְאֶת־חֲמֹרֵיהֶם

וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־בְּעִיר וְאֶת־אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה לָקְחוּ:

²⁹וְאֶת־כָּל־חֵילָם וְאֶת־כָּל־טָפְסָם וְאֶת־נְשֵׁיהֶם שָׁבוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ

וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בַּבַּיִת:

Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, and killed every male. And they killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth. **Jacob's sons – they came** upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that *was* in the houses. (vv. 25-29)

36:12

¹¹וַיְהִי בְּנֵי אֵלִיפַז תִּימָן

אוֹמְרֵי צָפוּ וַנְּעַתֶּם וַקְנִי:

¹²וְתִמְנַעַן הִיְתָה פִּילָגֶשׁ לְאֵלִיפַז בֶּן־עֲשׂוֹ וַתֵּלֶד לְאֵלִיפַז אֶת־עַמְלֵק

אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי עֲדָה אֲשֶׁת עֲשׂוֹ:

And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho and Gatam and Kenaz. **And Timna – she was** a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These are the sons of Esau's wife Adah. (vv. 11-12)

36:13 and 36:14

¹³וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי רְעוּאֵל נָחַת וְזֶרַח שָׁמָּה וּמִזָּה

אֵלֶּה הָיוּ בְּנֵי בִשְׁמַת אִשְׁתּוֹ עֲשׂוֹ:

¹⁴וְאֵלֶּה הָיוּ בְּנֵי אֶהְלִיבָמָה בַת־עֵנָה בַת־צִבְעוֹן אִשְׁתּוֹ עֲשׂוֹ

וַתֵּלֶד לְעֲשׂוֹ אֶת־יְעוֹשׁ וְאֶת־יַעֲלָם וְאֶת־קָרַח:

And these are the sons of Reuel: Nahath and Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah. **These – they were** the sons of Esau's wife Basemath. **And these – they were** the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon: she bore to Esau, Jeush and Jalam and Korah. (vv. 13-14)

37:3

²אֵלֶּה תְּלִדוֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שִׁבְע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָה רְעָה אֶת־אָחִיו בְּצֹאן

וְהוּא נָעַר אֶת־בְּנֵי בְלָהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה נְשֵׁי אָבִיו

וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דְּבָרָתָם רְעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם:

³וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֶהָב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בִן־זִקְנִים הוּא לוֹ

וַעֲשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים:

These are *the records of* the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was *still* a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. **Now Israel – he loved** Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. (vv. 2-3)

38:25

²⁴וַיְהִי כַּמִּשְׁלֹשׁ חֳדָשִׁים וַיֵּגֶד לְיְהוָה לֵאמֹר זָנַחְתָּ תָמָר כְּלָחָד

וְגַם הִנֵּה הָרָה לְזָנוּנִים וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הוֹצִיאֹתָ וַתִּשְׁקָרְפִי:

²⁵הָיָה מוֹצֵאת וְהִיא שְׁלֵחָה אֶל־חַמִּימָה לֵאמֹר לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אֵלֶּה לוֹ אָנֹכִי הָרָה

וַתֹּאמֶר הִכָּרֵנָּה לְמִי הַחַתָּמָה וְהַפְתִּילִים וְהַמָּטָה הָאֵלֶּה:

²⁶וַיִּכְפַּר יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר צְדָקָה מִמְּנִי כִּי־עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נִתְתִּיחָה לְשִׁלְּהָ בְּנִי

וְלֹא־יִסָּף עוֹד לְדַעְתָּה:

Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot, and behold, she is also with child by harlotry.” Then Judah said, “Bring her out and let her be burned!” It was while she was being brought out that **she – she sent** to her father-in-law, saying, “I am with child by the man to whom these things belong.” And she said, “Please examine and see, whose signet ring and cords and staff are these?” And Judah recognized *them*, and said, “She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not have relations with her again. (vv. 24-26)

This could be classified as emphatic.

39:22

²¹וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְטַ אֵלָיו חֶסֶד

וַיִּתֵּן חֲנּוּ בְעֵינָי שֶׁר בֵּית־הַסֵּהר:

²²וַיִּתֵּן שֶׁר בֵּית־הַסֵּהר בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף אֶת כָּל־הַאֲסִירִים אֲשֶׁר בְּבַיִת הַסֵּהר

וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עֹשִׂים שָׁם הוּא הָיָה עֹשֶׂה:

²³אֵין שֶׁר בֵּית־הַסֵּהר רָאָה אֶת־כָּל־מְאוֹמָהּ בְּיָדוֹ בְּאֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אִתּוֹ

וְאֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מִצְלִיחַ:

But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. And the chief jailer committed to Joseph’s charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, **he – he was** responsible *for it*. The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph’s charge because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper. (vv. 21-23)

41:56

⁵⁵וַתִּרְעַב כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּצְעַק הָעָם אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לֵלְחֶם

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה לְכָל־מִצְרַיִם לְכוּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר־יֹאמַר לָכֶם תַּעֲשׂוּ:

⁵⁶וַהֲרַעַב הָיָה עַל כָּל־פְּנֵי הָאֶרֶץ וַיִּפְתַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בָּהֶם

וַיִּשְׁבֶּר לְמִצְרַיִם וַיִּחְזַק הָרַעַב בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do.” **Now the famine – it was spread** over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. (vv. 55-56)

44:3¹³ (x2) and 44:4 (x2)

וַיִּצַו אֶת־אֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּיתוֹ לֵאמֹר מִלֵּא אֶת־אֲמֹתַחַת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶכֶל¹
 כַּאֲשֶׁר יוּכְלוֹן שְׂאֵת וְשִׁים כֶּסֶף־אִישׁ בְּפִי אֲמֹתַחְתּוֹ:
 וְאֶת־גִּבְעֵי גִבְעֵי הַכֶּסֶף תָּשִׂים בְּפִי אֲמֹתַחַת הַקָּטָן וְאֵת כֶּסֶף שִׁבְרוֹ²
 וַיַּעַשׂ כַּדְּבַר יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר:
 הַבֶּקֶר אֹר³
 וְהָאֲנָשִׁים שָׁלְחוּ הֵמָּה וַחֲמֹרֵיהֶם:
 הֵם יֵצְאוּ אֶת־הָעִיר לֹא הִרְחִיקוּ⁴
 וַיֹּסֵף אָמַר לְאֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּיתוֹ קוּם רִדְף אַחֲרֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים
 וְהִשְׁגַּתְּם וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם לָמָּה שָׁלַמְתֶּם רָעָה תַּחַת טוֹבָה:
 הֲלוֹא זֶה אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁתֶּה אֲדֹנָי בּוֹ וְהוּא נָחַשׁ יִנְחַשׁ בּוֹ⁵
 הֲרַעַתְּם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם:
 וַיִּשְׁגֹּם⁶
 וַיִּדְבֶּר אֲלֵהֶם אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה:

Then he commanded his house steward, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph had told *him*. **As soon as it was light, the men were sent away** with their donkeys. **They had just gone out** of the city, and were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, "Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'" So he overtook them and spoke these words to them. (vv. 1-6)

In a consecutive subject-before-finite-verb clause constructions, the subject-before-finite-verb clauses of 44:3^b and 44:4^b also express overlapping actions.

48:10

וַיֵּרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־בְּנֵי יוֹסֵף⁸

¹³The subject-before-finite-verb clause of 44:3^b is also classified under III.A. Added Particle and/or Independent Pronoun category, because of הֵמָּה.

וַיֹּאמֶר מִי־אֵלֶּהּ:

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָבִיו בְּנֵי הֵם אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן־לִי אֱלֹהִים בְּזֶה

וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־סֵנָא אֵלַי וְאֶבְרַכְכֶם:

וַיֵּינֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּבָרָו מִזְקֵן לֹא יוּכַל לִרְאוֹת

וַיִּנָּשׂ אִתָּם אֱלֹוֵי וַיִּשָּׂק לָהֶם וַיַּחֲבֹק לָהֶם:

When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." So he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." **Now the eyes of Israel – they were dim** from age *that* he could not see. Then Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. (vv. 8-10)

Description and Emphasis (More or Less Equal) [II]

Contrastive Constructions

Occurrences: 4:2, 4:4, 4:22, 7:11, 11:3, 13:12^b, 14:10, 18:33, 19:38, 25:34, 29:17, 31:47, 31:25^b, 32:2, 33:17, 35:18, 36:4, 36:5, 37:11, 42:8, 45:14, and 47:26.

These occurrences exhibit a more or less equal amount of description and emphasis. Of course, like most subject-before-finite-verb clauses the notion of succession of the verbal clause is lost. The actions, therefore, are viewed as simultaneous.

4:2

וַתִּסֵּף לָלֶדֶת אֶת־אָחִיו אֶת־הֶבֶל

וַיְהִי־הֶבֶל רֹעֵה צֹאן וְקָיִן הָיָה עֹבֵד אֲדָמָה:

And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, **but Cain – he was** a tiller of the ground.

4:4¹⁴

וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים³

¹⁴This clause is also classified in III.A. Adding Particle and/or Independent Pronoun category because of the inclusion of **וְגַם־הוּא**.

וַיָּבֵא קַיִן מִפְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוָה:
 וְהַבֵּל הֵבִיא גַם־הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמִחֲלִבָּהוּן
 וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶל־הַבֵּל וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ:

So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. **And Abel – he also brought** of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering. (vv. 3-4)

4:22¹⁵

וַתֵּלֶד אֶדָּה אֶת־יָבֵל
 הוּא הָיָה אָבִי יֹשְׁבֵי אֶהָל וּמִקְנֵה:
 וְשֵׁם אָחִיו יוֹבֵל
 הוּא הָיָה אָבִי כָּל־תַּפֵּשׁ כְּנֹר וְעוּגָב:
 וְצִלְהָ גַם־הוּא יָלְדָהּ אֶת־תּוּבַל־קַיִן לְטֵשׁ כָּל־חֶרֶשׁ נְחֹשֶׁת וּבְרֹזָל
 וְנָאֲחֹת תּוּבַל־קַיִן נַעֲמָה:

And Adah gave birth to Jabel; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and *have* livestock. And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. **And Zillah – she also gave birth** to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. (vv. 20-22)

7:11

בְּשֵׁנֶת שָׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי־נֹחַ בְּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ
 בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִבְקְעוּ כָּל־מַעֲיֵנֹת תְּהוֹם רַבָּה וְאָרְבַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם נִפְתְּחוּ:

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, **and the floodgates of the sky – they were opened.**

11:3

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ הֲבָה נִלְבְּנָה לְבָנִים וְנִשְׂרָפָה לְשָׂרָפָה
 וַתְּהִי לָהֶם הַלְבָנָה לְאָבֹן וַתִּחְמָר הָיָה לָהֶם לְחֶמֶר:

¹⁵This clause is also classified in III.A. Adding Particle and/or Independent Pronoun category because of the inclusion of גַּם־הוּא.

And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, **and they used tar for mortar.**

13:12^b

¹¹וַיִּבְחַרְלוּ לוֹט אֶת כָּל־כַּפְר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסַּע לוֹט

מִקְדָּם וַיִּפְרְדּוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו:

¹²אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנָעַן

וְלוֹט יָשַׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפָר וַיֵּאָהֵל עַד־סְדֹם:

¹³וְאֲנָשֵׁי סְדֹם רָעִים וְחָטָאִים

לִיהוָה מְאֹד:

¹⁴וַיִּהְיֶה אָמַר אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְּרִדָּה לוֹט מֵעִמּוֹ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה

מִן־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה שָׂם צַפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּמָּה:

So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. Abram – he settled in the land of Canaan, **but Lot – he settled** in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. Now the Lord – He said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward.” (vv. 11-14)

14:10

וְעַמֶּק הַשְּׂדִיִּים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת חָמָר וַיִּנְסוּ מִלְּדַ־סְדֹם וְעַמְרָה וַיִּפְלוּ־שָׁמָּה

וְהַנִּשְׁאָרִים הָרָה נָסוּ:

Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. **But those who survived – they fled to the hill country.**

18:33

וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה לְדַבֵּר אֶל־אַבְרָהָם

וְאַבְרָהָם שָׁב לְמִקְמוֹ:

And as soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the Lord departed; **and Abraham – he returned** to his place.

19:38¹⁶

וַתֵּלֶד הַבְּכִירָה בֶן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מוֹאָב³⁷

הוא אבי־מוֹאָב עַד־הַיּוֹם:

וַהֲצַעִירָה גַם־הוּא יֶלֶדָה בֶן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶן־עַמִּי³⁸

הוא אבי בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹן עַד־הַיּוֹם:

And the first-born bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. **And the younger – she also bore** a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day. (vv. 37-38)

25:34

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב הַשְּׁבַעָה לִי כִּיּוֹם וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ³³

וַיִּמְכַר אֶת־בְּכִרְתּוֹ לַיַּעֲקֹב:

וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לֶחֶם וַיַּנְיֵד עֲדָשִׁים וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשֶׂת וַיִּקֶּם וַיֵּלֶךְ³⁴

וַיִּבֹז עֵשָׂו אֶת־הַבְּכִרָה:

And Jacob said, “First swear to me”; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. **Then Jacob – he gave** Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. (vv. 33-34)

29:17

וַיִּלְבֶּן שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת¹⁶

שֵׁם הַגְּדֹלָה לֵאמֹר וְשֵׁם הַקְּטָנָה רָחֵל:

וַעֲיַנִּי לֵאמֹר רַפּוֹת¹⁷

וְרָחֵל הִיְתָה יִפְתָּחַתָּאֵר וַיִּפְתַּח מְרֵאָה:

Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. And Leah’s eyes were weak, **but Rachel – she was** beautiful of form and face. (vv. 16-17)

31:47

וַיִּקְרָאֵהָ לֵבָן יַגֵּר שְׁהִדְוִיחָא⁴⁷

וַיַּעֲקֹב קָרָא לָהּ גִלְעָד:

¹⁶This clause is also classified in III.A. Adding Particle and/or Independent Pronoun category because of the inclusion of נִם־הוּא.

48 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן הַנֵּל הַזֶּה עִד בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ הַיּוֹם
עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ גִּלְעָד:

Now Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, **but Jacob – he called it Galeed**. And Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me this day.” Therefore it was named Galeed. (vv. 47-48)

31:25^b

25 וַיִּשָּׂן לָבָן אֶת־יַעֲקֹב
וַיַּעֲקֹב תָּקַע אֶת־אֹהֱלוֹ בְּהָר וּלָבָן תָּקַע אֶת־אֹהֱלוֹ בְּהָר הַגִּלְעָד:
26 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לַיַּעֲקֹב מַה עָשִׂיתָ וַחֲנַנְתָּ אֶת־לִבִּי
וַחֲנַנְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֹתַי כַּשְּׁבוּיֹת חָרָב:

And Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob – he had pitched his tent in the hill country, **and Laban with his kinsmen – he camped** in the hill country of Gilead. Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword?” (vv. 25-26)

32:2

1 וַיִּשְׁפֹּם לָבָן בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּנְשָׁק לְבָנָיו וּלְבָנוֹתָיו וַיְבָרֵךְ אֹתָהֶם
וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיֵּשֶׁב לָבָן לַמְּקוֹמוֹ:
2 וַיַּעֲקֹב הֵלֵךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ
וַיִּפְגְּעוּ־בּוֹ מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים:
3 וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב כִּי־אֲשֶׁר רָאִים מַחֲנֵה אֱלֹהִים זֶה
וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הַמְּקוֹם הַהוּא מַחֲנֵים:

And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place. **Now Jacob – he went** on his way, the angels of God met him. And Jacob said when he saw them, “This is God’s camp.” So he named that place Mahanaim. (vv. 1-3)

33:17

16 וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עָשׂוּ לְדַרְכּוֹ שְׁעִירָה:
17 וַיַּעֲקֹב נָסַע סִכְתָּה וַיִּבֶן לָהּ בַּיִת
וַלְמַקְנָהּוּ עָשָׂה סִכְתָּה עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שֵׁם־הַמְּקוֹם סִכּוֹת:
18 וַיָּבֵא יַעֲקֹב שָׁלֹם עִיר שָׁכֶם אֲשֶׁר בְּאַרְצָא כְּנָעַן בְּבֵאוֹ מִפְּתֵי אֲרָם

וַיָּחַן אֶת־פָּנָיו הָעִיר:

So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. **And Jacob – he journeyed to Succoth**; and built for himself a house, and made booths for his livestock, therefore the place is named Succoth. Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. (vv. 16-18)

35:18

וַיְהִי בְצֵאת נַפְשָׁהּ כִּי מָתָה וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶן־אוֹנִי
וְאָבִיו קָרָא־לוֹ בְּנִימִין:

And it came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Benoni; **but his father – he called** him Benjamin.

36:4 and 36:5

⁴וַתֵּלֶד עֲדָה לְעֵשָׂו אֶת־אֱלִיפָז
וּבְשֵׁמֹת יִלְדָה אֶת־רְעוּאֵל:
⁵וְאֵהֱלִיבָמָה יִלְדָה אֶת־יְעוֹשׁ וְאֶת־יַעֲלָם וְאֶת־קֹרַח
אֵלֶּה בְנֵי עֵשָׂו אֲשֶׁר יִלְדוּלוֹ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:

And Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, **and Basemath – she bore** Reuel. **And Oholibamah – she bore** Jeush and Jalam and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan. (vv. 4-5)

37:11

וַיִּקְנְאוּ־בּוֹ אָחָיו
וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדְּבָר:

And his brothers were jealous of him, **but his father – he kept** the saying *in mind*.

42:8

וַיִּכַּר יוֹסֵף אֶת־אָחָיו
וְהֵם לֹא הִכְרָהוּ:

But Joseph had recognized his brothers, **although they – they did not recognize** him.

45:14

וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צוּאָרֵי בְנֵימִן־אָחָיו וַיִּבְכֶּה

ובנימן בכה על-צואריו:

Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; **and Benjamin – he wept** on his neck.

47:26

וישם אתה יוסף לחק ער-היום הנה על-אדמת מצרים לפרעה לחמש
רק אדמת הכהנים לבדם לא היתה לפרעה:

And Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt *valid* to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; **only the land of the priests – it did not become** Pharaoh's.

Emphasis (With Weaker Description) [III]

Adding Particle and/or Independent Pronoun (A)

Occurrences: 4:4, 4:22, 19:38, 33:3, 38:14, 42:23, and 44:3^b.

4:4¹⁷

גיהי מקץ ימים³
ויבא קון מפרי האדמה מנחה ליהוה:
והבל הביא גם-הוא מבכרות צאנו ומחלבהן⁴
וישע יהוה אל-הבל ואל-מנחתו:

So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. **And Abel – he also brought** of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering. (vv. 3-4)

Abel receives even a stronger emphasis by the inclusion of ׀ particle and a pronoun (הוא) later.¹⁸

¹⁷This clause is also classified in II. Contrastive Constructions category.

¹⁸Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, trans. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982), §135a; Paul Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*, trans. and rev. T. Muraoka (Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991), §146a.

4:22¹⁹וַתֵּלֶד עָדָה אֶת־יֹבֵל²⁰

הוּא הָיָה אָבִי יֹשְׁבֵי אֶהָל וּמִקְנָה:

וַיִּשֶׂם אָחִיו יֹבֵל²¹

הוּא הָיָה אָבִי כָּל־תַּפֵּשׂ כְּנֹר וְעֹנֵב:

וַיִּצְלָה גַם־הוּא יֶלְדָה אֶת־תּוּבַל־קַיִן לְטֵשׁ כָּל־חֶרֶשׁ נְחֹשֶׁת וּבְרֹזֶל

וְאָחוֹת תּוּבַל־קַיִן נְעֻמָּה:

And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and *have* livestock. And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. **And Zillah – she also gave birth** to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. (vv. 20-22)

19:38²⁰וַתֵּלֶד הַבְּכִירָה בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מוֹאָב³⁷

הוּא אָבִי־מוֹאָב עַד־הַיּוֹם:

וַהֲצַעִירָה גַם־הוּא יֶלְדָה בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶן־עַמִּי³⁸

הוּא אָבִי בְנֵי־עַמּוֹן עַד־הַיּוֹם:

And the first-born bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. **And the younger – she also bore** a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day. (vv. 37-38)

33:3

וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־הַשְּׁפָחוֹת וְאֶת־יְלִדֵיהֶן רֵאשִׁנָּה²

וְאֶת־לֵאָה וַיְלִדֶיהָ אַחֲרָנִים וְאֶת־רָחֵל וַאֲתֵיּוֹסֵף אַחֲרָנִים:

וְהוּא עָבַר לְפָנֵיהֶם³

וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ אֶרְצָה שִׁבְעַת פְּעָמִים עַד־נִשְׁתּוֹ עַד־אָחִיו:

¹⁹This clause is also classified in II. Contrastive Constructions category.

²⁰This clause is also classified in II. Contrastive Constructions category.

And he put the maids and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. **But he himself – he passed on** ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. (vv. 2-3)

38:14

14 וַתֹּסֵר בְּגָדֵי אֲלֻמְנוּתָהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ וַתִּכְסֶּם בְּצַעֲרָהּ וַתַּחַעֲלֶף
וַתִּשָּׁבַב בַּפֶּתַח עֵינַיִם אֲשֶׁר עַל-דֶּרֶךְ תְּמַנְחָה
כִּי רָאָתָהּ כִּי-גָדַל שֶׁלֶחַ וְהוּא לֹא-נִתְּנָהּ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:
15 וַיִּרְאֶה יְהוּדָה וַיַּחְשְׁבֶהָ לְזוֹנָה
כִּי כִסְתָהּ פָּנֶיהָ:

So she removed her widow's garments and covered *herself* with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gateway of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah had grown up, **and she – she had not been given** to him as a wife. When Judah saw her, he thought she *was* a harlot, for she had covered her face. (vv. 14-15)

42:23

21 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-אָחִיו אָבֵל אֲשֶׁמִּים אָנַחְנוּ עַל-אָחִינוּ
אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ צָרָת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְחַנְּנוּ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמַעְנוּ
עַל-כֵּן בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת:
22 וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֲתָם לֵאמֹר הֲלוֹא אָמַרְתִּי אֲלֵיכֶם לֵאמֹר
אֲלִי-תִחַטְּאוּ בְיָדִי וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם וְגַם-דָּמּוּ הִנֵּה נִדְרָשׁ:
23 וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ כִּי שָׁמַע יוֹסֵף
כִּי הַמְלִיץ בֵּינְתֶם:
24 וַיֹּסֵב מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּבֶךְ
וַיֵּשֶׁב אֱלֹהִים וַיִּדְבֹּר אֱלֹהִים וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲתָם אֶת-שִׁמְעוֹן וַיַּאֲסֵר אֹתוֹ לְעֵינֵיהֶם:

Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.” And Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.” **But they – they did not know** that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. And he turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. (vv. 21-24)

44:3^{b21}

הַבָּקָר אֹר

וְהָאָנָשִׁים שָׁלְחוּ הָמָּה וְחִמְרֵיהֶם:

As soon as it was light, **the men – they were sent away** with their donkeys.

**Carrying the Actions of the
Storyline (like a verbal clause) [B]**

Occurrences: 7:19, and 41:57.

7:19

וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּרְבוּ מְאֹד עַל-הָאָרֶץ¹⁸

וַתִּלָּךְ הַחִבְהָעַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:

וְהַפְּלִיִם גָּבְרוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד עַל-הָאָרֶץ¹⁹

וַיִּכְסּוּ כָּל-הַהָרִים הַגְּבוּהִים אֲשֶׁר-תַּחַת כָּל-הַשָּׁמַיִם:

And the water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the surface of the water. **And the water – it prevailed** more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. (vv. 18-19)

41:57

וַהֲרַעַב הָיָה עַל כָּל-פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ וַיִּפְתַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר בָּהֶם⁵⁶

וַיִּשְׁבֶּר לְמִצְרַיִם וַיַּחְזֹק הָרָעַב בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

וְכָל-הָאָרֶץ בָּאוּ מִצְרַיִמָּה לְשִׁבֵר אֶל-יוֹסֵף⁵⁷

כִּי-חֲזַק הָרָעַב בְּכָל-הָאָרֶץ:

When the famine was *spread* over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. **And the people of all the earth – they came** to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth. (vv. 56-57)

²¹This clause is also classified in I.D. General Description category.

After certain Introductory Formulas (C)

Occurrence: 22:1.

22:1

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּבְחַן אֱלֹהִים נֹסָה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

Now it came about after these things, that **God – He tested** Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

This subject-before-finite-verb clause emphasizes the subject after an introductory clause וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה.

Multiple Subjects with Modification (D)

Occurrences: 7:16, 7:22, and 8:19.

7:16

¹⁵ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־נֹחַ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה
שְׁנַיִם שָׁנִים שְׁנַיִם מִכָּל־הַבֶּשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ הַיַּחַד חַיִּים:
¹⁶ וַהֲבֵאִים זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה מִכָּל־בֶּשֶׂר בָּאוּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים
וַיִּסְגֹּר יְהוָה בַּעֲדָיו:
¹⁷ וַיְהִי הַמַּבּוּל אַרְבַּעַיִם יוֹם עַל־הָאָרֶץ
וַיִּרְבּוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־הַתֵּבָה וַתָּרֶם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ:

So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. **And those that entered, male and female of all flesh – they entered** as God had commanded him; and the Lord closed *it* behind him. Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days; and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. (vv. 15-17)

7:22

²¹ וַיִּגְזַע כָּל־בֶּשֶׂר הַרְמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ בְּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבַחַיָּה
וּבְכָל־הַשָּׂרֵץ הַשָּׂרֵץ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְכָל־הָאָדָם:
²² כָּל אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁמַת־רוּחַ חַיִּים בְּאַפָּיו מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְבָה מִתּוֹ:

וַיִּמַח אֶת-כָּל-הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד-בְּהֵמָה עַד-רֶמֶשׂ²³
וְעַד-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּמְחוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁאֵר אֶדְ-נֹחַ וְאִשְׁרֵי אִתּוֹ בַּתְּבָה:

And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; **Of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life – they died.** Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. (vv. 21-23)

8:19

וַיֵּצֵא-נֹחַ¹⁸

וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּנְשֵׁי-בָנָיו אִתּוֹ:

כָּל-הַחַיָּה כָּל-הָרֶמֶשׂ וְכָל-הָעוֹף כֹּל רוֹמֵשׂ עַל-הָאָרֶץ¹⁹

לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵיהֶם יֵצְאוּ מִן-הַתְּבָה:

וַיָּבֹן נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה²⁰

וַיִּקַּח מִכָּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִכָּל הָעוֹף הַטְּהוֹר וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ:

So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. **Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth – they went out by their families** from the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. (vv. 18-20)

Conclusion

In narrative, the authors of Scripture interrupt the actions of verbal clauses for various reasons: starting, transitioning/resuming, ending sections or narratives, giving general descriptions about the subject, emphasizing the subject.²² Moreover, these “categories” often overlap in reality. In Genesis 19:24, for instance, the subject is resumed, emphasized, and also somewhat described. Subject-before-finite-verb clause, therefore, because of their flexibility, resist rigid classification. This explains why

²²Of course, there may be other reasons for using a subject-before-finite-verb clause. Sometimes a subject-before-finite-verb clause simply avoids the notion of succession of the verbal clause.

traditional grammarians avoid such categories. They simply give description and emphasis and let the context determine the proper categories. This is not to imply that the classifications above are unfounded. They simply show the various nuances and usages of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. With the understanding that these categories are not “air-tight,” these categories may be helpful.

One general conclusion is clear for narrative statements. While every subject-before-finite-verb clause has both description and emphasis, the descriptive notion seems stronger than the emphatic notion overall. There are exceptions, to be sure, when the emphasis is stronger than the description, but in general the descriptive notion is somewhat stronger than the emphatic notion in narrative statements.

CHAPTER 4

SUBJECT-BEFORE-FINITE-VERB CLAUSES IN NON-NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements¹ usually express an emphatic notion; occasionally, they express a descriptive notion in a contrastive sentence, in a narrative in direct discourse, or in a prophetic/poetical statement. In non-narrative statements, the descriptive categories of starting, transitioning, and ending of accounts usually do not apply. General statements of description only rarely apply. Apart from a rare exception, subjects in subject-before-finite-verb clauses of non-narrative statements are emphatic. The levels of this emphasis may vary.

In general, traditional grammarians recognize that repetition furnishes emphasis.² Repetition of substantives (or nouns), adjectives, or adverbs expresses exceptional or highest degree of quality.³ For example, 2 Kings 25:15 repeats nouns for emphasis:

וְאֶת־הַמַּחְתּוֹת וְאֶת־הַמְזֻרְקוֹת אֲשֶׁר זָהָב וְזָהָב וְאֲשֶׁר־כֶּסֶף כֶּסֶף
לָקַח רַב־טַבָּחִים:

The captain of the guard also took away the firepans and the basins, what was **pure (= finest) gold** and what was **pure (= finest) silver**.

¹Non-narrative statements are statements in direct speech. Of course, narrative can occur within direct speech.

²Mohammad Eid, *The Satisfactory Grammar* [in Arabic] (Cairo: Maktabat al-Shabab, 1987), IV. 5. §1.

³See Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, trans. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982), §123e, 133k, and 133l.

Repetition of adjectives in Isaiah 6:3 also expresses emphasis:

וְקָרָא זֶה אֶל־זֶה וַאֲמַר קְדוֹשׁ קְדוֹשׁ קְדוֹשׁ יְהוָה יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת
מְלֵא כָּל־הָאָרֶץ כְּבוֹדוֹ:

And one called out to another and said, “**Holy, Holy, Holy**, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

Not only twice, but three times an adjective is repeated for emphasis. An adverb can also be repeated to express emphasis, as Genesis 7:19 shows:

וְהַמַּיִם גָּבְרוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד עַל־הָאָרֶץ
וַיִּכְסּוּ כָּל־הַהָרִים הַגְּבוּהִים אֲשֶׁר־תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

And the water prevailed **more and more** upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.

As the examples above show, repetition of any grammatical element⁴ may generate emphasis.

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses also show an emphatic repetition of the subject with the pronominal element of the verb. Traditional grammarians considered the

⁴The Piel, Pual, and Hithpael repeat the second root letter for emphasis according to traditional grammarians. Caspari states, “The signification [of Piel] agrees with the form in respect of being intensive (للمبالغة) or extensive (للتكثير). Originally it implies that an act is done with *great violence* (intensive), or during *a long time* (temporarily extensive), or to or by a *number* of individuals (numerically extensive), or *repeatedly* (iterative or frequentative).” Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §40. Similarly, Ziadeh and Winder note, “A verb of form II [Piel] modifies the meaning of the root form so as to express the idea of a causative or intensive action.” Farhat J. Ziadeh and R. Bayly Winder, *An Introduction to Modern Arabic* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1957), 61. Kautzsch stated the same idea concerning the intensiveness of Piel, “The fundamental idea of Piel, to which all the various shades of meaning in this conjugation may be referred, is *to busy oneself eagerly* with the action indicated by the stem. This intensifying of the idea of the stem, which is outwardly expressed by the strengthening of the second radical, appears in individual cases as *a strengthening* and *repetition* of the action (cf. the *intensive* and *iterative* nouns with the middle radical strengthened).” Gesenius, *Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., §52f.

suffixed pronominal element of the perfect verb as explicit pronouns.⁵ The explicit pronouns include the pronominal suffixes of 1cs, 2ms, 2fs, 3fs, 1cp, 2mp, and 2fp. The 3ms and 3cp (with a “Vav of plurality”) have implicit pronouns. The following chart illustrates this:

	Perfect Forms	Pronominal Suffixes Considered by Traditional Grammarians as:
1cs	קָטַלְתִּי	explicit pronoun (cf. אָנֹכִי/אֲנִי)
2ms	קָטַלְתָּ	explicit pronoun (cf. אַתָּה)
2fs	קָטַלְתְּ ⁶	explicit pronoun (cf. אַתְּ)
3ms	קָטַל	implicit pronoun
3fs	קָטַלָּהּ	explicit pronoun תָּהָּ » הָּהּ (cf. קָטַלְתִּינִי)
1cp	קָטַלְנוּ	explicit pronoun (cf. אֲנַחְנוּ)
2mp	קָטַלְתֶּם	explicit pronoun (cf. אַתֶּם)
2fp	קָטַלְתֶּן	explicit pronoun (cf. אַתֶּן)
3mp		implicit pronoun
3fp	קָטַלְוּ	(with Vav of plurality)

Moreover, traditional grammarians considered the prefixed pronominal element of the imperfect verb as tense indicators⁷ and as pronoun substitutes with the suffixed

⁵Mohammad Eid, *Ibid.*, I. 18. §2; Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 1, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §94.

⁶The second person feminine singular independent pronoun was originally אַתְּ as in Aramaic (אַתְּ), Syriac (ܐܬܝܬ), and Arabic (أنت). This form is found seven times as *K² thīb* (Judg 17:2, 1 Kgs 14:2, 2 Kgs 4:16, 4:23, 8:1, Jer 4:30, and Ezek 36:13), and, especially, appears before pronominal suffixes to the finite verbal forms, as the perfect קָטַלְתִּינִי. See Sabatino Moscati, *An Introduction to the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages* (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1964), §13.8; and Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., §32h.

⁷Compare the imperfect forms with the imperative forms that are without tense indicators.

pronominal element considered as the actual pronoun. The pronoun substitute includes the prefixed element of all forms. Explicit pronouns include the suffixed forms: 2fs, 2fp, and 3fp. The 2mp and 3mp forms have the “Vav of plurality.” The following chart illustrates this:

	Imperfect Forms	Suffixed Element: Explicit Pronouns and Vav of Plurality	Prefixed Element: Tense Indicators/Pronoun Substitutes
1cs	אֶקְטַל		א
2ms	תִּקְטַל		ת
2fs	תִּקְטַלִּי	י	ת
3ms	יִקְטַל		י
3fs	תִּקְטַל		ת
1cp	נִקְטַל		נ
2mp	תִּקְטַלוּ	ו (Vav of plurality)	ת
2fp	תִּקְטַלְנָה	נָה	ת
3mp	יִקְטַלוּ	ו (Vav of plurality)	י
3fp	תִּקְטַלְנָה	נָה	ת

The pronouns of the Perfect and Imperfect actually repeat the subject of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. This repetition of the subject, which furnishes emphasis,⁸ can be a single repetition by the pronoun of the verb or a double repetition by the pronoun attached to the verb and an independent pronoun.⁹ Genesis 30:29 illustrates a single repetition of the subject by a pronoun attached to the verb:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַתָּה יְדֹעֶת אֵת אֲשֶׁר עָבַדְתִּיךָ

⁸Even for the subject-before-finite-verb clauses that are descriptive in narrative statements, repetition brings some degree of emphasis.

⁹This is similar to Greek, as Smyth states, “The nominative of the personal pronoun is usually omitted except when emphatic.” Herbert W. Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956), §1190.

וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה מִקִּנְיָ אֵתִי:

And he said to him, “**You – you know** how I have served you, and how your cattle have fared with me.”

The explicit pronoun (תָּ) of יָדַעְתָּ repeats the subject for emphasis.¹⁰ Joshua 22:23

illustrates a double repetition by the pronoun attached to the verb and an independent pronoun:

לְבָנוֹת לָנוּ מִזְבֵּחַ לָשׁוּב מֵאַחֲרַי יְהוָה וְאִם־לְהַעֲלוֹת עָלָיו עֹלָה וּמִנְחָה
וְאִם־לַעֲשׂוֹת עָלָיו זְבָחִי שְׁלָמִים יְהוָה הוּא יִבְקֹשׁ:

“If we have built us an altar to turn away from following the Lord, or if to offer a burnt offering or grain offering on it, or if to offer sacrifices of peace offerings on it, **the Lord – He – may He require it.**”

¹⁰According to traditional grammarians, the third person verbs (singular and plural) of verbal clauses do not imply a pronoun for repetition, but the verb and the subject form a grammatical package – somewhat like a construct package, as a verbal clause (דָּבַר מִשָּׁה) in Deut 1:3 shows:

וַיְהִי בְאַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בַעֲשֻׁת־עֶשֶׂר חֹדֶשׁ בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ
דָּבַר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶתֹּו אֱלֹהִים:

And it came about in the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, that **Moses spoke** to the children of Israel, according to all that the Lord had commanded him *to give* to them.

The original verbal form דָּבַר (with a Sere) is vocalized as דָּבַר (with a Segol) when it is read with its subject together (again similar to a construct package, such as שָׁם־בָּנוּ [Gen 11:31, 16:15, 21:3; 1 Sam 8:2; Pro 30:4, usually שָׁם as in שָׁם־יְהוּדָה], etc. Notice the Maqqef.) Notice conjunctive accent (Mahpāq) that packages the subject with the verb. On the other hand, when it is read separately from its subject, the expected form with Sere may be found in 1 Kgs 14:11,

הַמֵּת לְיִרְבְּעָם בְּעִיר יֹאכְלוּ הַכְּלָבִים וְהַמֵּת בַּשָּׂדֶה יֹאכְלוּ עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
כִּי יְהוָה דָּבַר:

“Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs will eat. And he who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat; for the Lord has spoken *it*.”

Notice the disjunctive accent (Tiphā) with יהוה which separates יהוה from the verb דָּבַר. Additionally, if an independent pronoun comes after the verb, traditional grammarians regarded the pronoun as a repetition, as Exod 4:16 shows:

וְדָבַר־הוּא לְךָ אֱלֹהִים
וְהָיָה הוּא יְהִי־לְךָ לִפֵּה וְאַתָּה תִּהְיֶה־לּוֹ לֵאלֹהִים:

“**And he shall speak** for you to the people; and it shall come about that he shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be as God to him.

The subject of the verbal clause is repeated independently (הוּא) for emphasis.

The independent pronoun (הוא) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (׳ in יִבְרַח) repeat the subject (יהוה) twice. This double repetition expresses a higher level of emphasis for the subject.

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements at times express a descriptive notion. Such cases are usually limited to narrative statements within direct speech or prophetic/poetical statements. Of course, the descriptive notion also frequently appears in contrastive sentences.

Classifying subject-before-finite-verb clauses yields the following chart:

I. Primarily Emphatic

- A. Noun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption
 - 1. Repetition of Explicit Pronoun
 - 2. Repetition of Implicit Pronoun
 - 3. Repetition of Pronoun Substitute
- B. Pronoun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption
 - 1. Repetition of Explicit Pronoun
 - 2. Repetition of Implicit Pronoun
 - 3. Repetition of Pronoun Substitute
- C. Noun Subject with Double Pronominal Resumptions
 - 1. Emphasis with Double Resumptive Subjects
 - 2. Emphasis with Double Resumptive Pronouns
- D. Pronoun Subject with Double Pronominal Resumptions
- E. Contrast

II. Primarily Descriptive

- A. Starting a story
- B. Transitioning a story
- C. General descriptive statement

The emphatic categories are based on the grammar of the passage; the descriptive categories are more subjective.¹¹

Noun subject with repetition of an explicit pronoun occurs as in (I.A.1):

Gen 37:20

וְעַתָּה לָכֵן וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנִשְׁלַכֵהוּ בְּאֶחָד הַבְּרוֹת וְאָמְרֵנוּ חִיָּה רְעָה אֲכָלְתָהוּ
וְנִרְאֶה מִה־יְהִי חִלְמֵתֵינוּ:

“Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘**A wild beast – it devoured him.**’ Then let us see what will become of his dreams!”

The pronominal element of the verb (חִיָּה רְעָה) explicitly repeats the subject (חִיָּה רְעָה) for emphasis. If the speaker did not desire emphatic notion, he would invert the word order into a verbal clause, as אֲכָלְתָהוּ חִיָּה רְעָה “a wild beast devoured him.”

Noun subject with repetition of an implicit pronoun occurs only in the perfect, third person masculine singular and common plural (with a “Vav of plurality”) [I.A.2]:

Gen 44:16

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה מִה־נֹּאמֵר לְאֲדֹנָי מִה־נִּדְבַר וּמִה־נִּצְטַדֵּק
הָאֱלֹהִים מָצָא אֶת־עֲוֹן עַבְדֶּיךָ הַנְּנוּ עַבְדִּים לְאֲדֹנָי
גַם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַם אֲשֶׁר־נִמְצָא הַנִּבְיַע בְּיָדֵנוּ:

So Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? **God – He has found out** the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.”

The verb (מָצָא) implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject (הָאֱלֹהִים) for emphasis. If the speaker did not intend emphatic notion, he would invert the word order into a verbal clause, as מָצָא הָאֱלֹהִים “God has found.” The third person verb in a verbal clause does not imply a pronoun if the subject is explicit.

¹¹See p. 31.

On the other hand, a noun subject with repetition of a pronoun substitute occurs in the third person singular or plural of the imperfect tense (I.A.3):

Gen 41:16

וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף אֶת־פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בְּלִעָדַי
אֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶה אֶת־שְׁלוֹם פַּרְעֹה:

Then Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; **God – He will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.**”

The pronoun substitute in the verb (יַעֲנֶה in ׀) explicitly repeats the subject (אֱלֹהִים) for emphasis. Just as the cases above, if the speaker did not intend emphatic notion, he would invert the word order, as יַעֲנֶה אֱלֹהִים “God will give an answer.”

Pronoun subject with repetition of an explicit pronoun occurs in the first and second persons, singular or plural, of the perfect tense (I.B.1):

Gen 16:5

וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אַבְרָם חֲמָסִי עָלֶיךָ
אֲנֹכִי נָתַתִּי שְׂפָחַתִּי בְּחִיקְךָ וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרָתָה וְאֶקַּל בְּעֵינֶיךָ
יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ:

And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done me be upon you. **I – I gave** my maid into your arms; but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes. May the Lord judge between you and me.”

The pronominal element of the verb (נָתַתִּי in ׀) explicitly repeats the pronoun subject (אֲנֹכִי) for emphasis. If the speaker did not desire emphatic notion, he would omit the pronoun subject, as נָתַתִּי “I gave.” Unlike the cases above (I.A.1, I.A.2, and I.A.3), inverted word order, נָתַתִּי אֲנֹכִי, also express emphasis according to the repetition of the pronoun subject.

Pronoun subject with repetition of an implicit pronoun occurs only in the third person singular of the perfect tense (I.B.2):

Gen 20:5

הֲלֹא הוּא אָמַר־לִי אֲחֹתִי הוּא וְהִיא־גַם־הוּא אָמְרָה אֲחִי הוּא

בְּחַם-לִבִּי וּבְנִקְיוֹן כַּפַּי עָשִׂיתִי זֹאת:

“**He – did he not himself say to me**, ‘She is my sister’? And she – even she – she said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

The verb (אָמַר) implies the pronoun subject (הוּא), generating emphasis. If the emphatic notion is not desired, the speaker would omit the pronoun and simply say לִי הֲלֹא אָמַר “Did he said to me?”

Pronoun subject with repetition of a pronoun substitute occurs in the first person singular and plural, the second person masculine singular, and the third person feminine singular (I.B.3):

Gen 21:24

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנֹכִי אֲשָׁבַע:

And Abraham said, “**I – I swear.**”

The pronoun substitute in the verb (אֲ in אֲשָׁבַע) explicitly repeats the pronoun subject (אֲנֹכִי) for emphasis. If the speaker did not intend emphatic notion, he would omit the pronoun subject אֲנֹכִי and simply said אֲשָׁבַע “I swear.”¹²

Moreover, noun subject with repetition of double resumptive subjects expresses a higher level of emphasis for the subject, expressing a very strong emphasis (I.C.1):

Gen 17:17

וַיִּפֹּל אֲבִרְהֵם עַל-פָּנָיו וַיִּצְחַק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלִבּוֹ
הֲלֹבֵן מֵאֵה-שָׁנָה יוֹלֵד וְאִם-שָׂרָה הִבְתִּתְשָׁעִים שָׁנָה תֵּלֵד:

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? **Or Sarah – will a ninety years old woman bear?**”

¹²For example, Gen 2:18 shows plain statement without independent pronoun:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לֹא טוֹב הָיִיתָ הָאָדָם לְבַדּוֹ
אֶעֱשֶׂה-לּוֹ עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ:

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; **I will make** him a helper suitable for him.”

The noun subject (בְּתִּישְׁעִים שָׁנָה) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (ת in תִּלְד) repeat the subject (שָׁרָה) for strong emphasis. The speaker expresses strong emphasis by repeating the subject twice.

Likewise, noun subject with repetition of double resumptive pronouns also expresses strong emphasis (I.C.2):

Gen 3:12

וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם

הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הִיא נָתְנָה-לִי מִן-הָעֵץ וָאֲכַל:

And the man said, “**The woman whom You gave to be with me – she – she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.**”

The independent pronoun (הוא) and the explicit pronoun to the end of the verb (הָ in נָתְנָה) repeat the subject (הָאִשָּׁה) for strong emphasis.

Pronoun subject with repetition of double resumptive pronouns also expresses strong emphasis (I.D):

Gen 20:5

הֲלֹא הוּא אָמַר-לִי אֶחְתִּי הוּא וְהִיא-נָם-הוּא אָמְרָה אֶתִּי הוּא
בְּחַסְ-לִבִּי וּבִנְקִוֹן כַּפֵּי עֲשִׂיתִי זֹאת:

“He – did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? **And she – even she – she said, ‘He is my brother.’** In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

The pronoun subject (the second הוא of the subject-before-finite-verb clause) and the explicit pronoun of the verb (הָ in אָמְרָה) repeat the subject (the first היא of the subject-before-finite-verb clause) for strong emphasis. A double repetition expresses a higher level of emphasis than single resumption of the subject expresses.

A subject that is a noun or pronoun within a contrasting structure may occur in any person, number, or tense (I.E). Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in a contrasting structure within non-narrative statements usually express emphasis:

Gen 15:15

וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תְּדַע כִּי־נָדָר יִהְיֶה זְרַעְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם¹³
 וְעִבְדוּם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:
 וְגַם אֶת־הַנְּוִי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ הֵן אֲנֹכִי¹⁴
 וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְרַכְשׁ גָּדוֹל:
 וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אֲבֹתֶיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם¹⁵
 תִּקְבֹּר בְּשִׂיבָה טוֹבָה:

And He said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. **But you – you shall go** to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.” (vv. 13-15)

At other times, subject-before-finite-verb clauses in a contrasting structure express descriptive notions as well as emphatic notions (II.A):

Gen 1:20

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִשְׂרָצוּ הַמַּיִם שָׂרִץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה
 וְעוֹף יַעֲוֹפֵף עַל־הָאָרֶץ עַל־פְּנֵי רִקִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם:

And God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, **and let birds fly** above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”

This subject-before-finite-verb clause may not express a strongly emphatic notion as the other examples above. It, however, may express more of a descriptive notion, or an equal degree of both emphatic and descriptive notions. All subject-before-finite-verb clauses that are contrastive view the actions as simultaneous, in contrast to the Vav-consecutive constructions that express successive actions.

Occasionally, there may be a speaker who relates narrative statements, a historical account, past event(s), or prophesy in direct speech (II.B).¹³ For the same

¹³In the book of Genesis, these are several places where a speaker relates a story: Abraham’s servant tells of Abraham and Isaac to Laban and Rebekah in Gen 24:34–49; Pharaoh’s cupbearer tells of Joseph to Pharaoh in Gen 41:9–13; Jacob blesses his sons in Gen 49:2–32, and so forth.

purpose with the functions in narrative statements, a speaker may employ subject-before-finite-verb clauses for starting a new section, transitioning within a section, ending a section, or giving general descriptions about the subject.¹⁴ In this case, subject-before-finite-verb clauses have more of a descriptive notion than an emphatic notion. As a general rule, if subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements are starting, transitioning, or ending sections and are giving general descriptions about the subject, they are descriptive just as the usage in narrative statements.¹⁵ For example, a subject-before-finite-verb clause in Genesis 24:35, occurring in direct speech of Abraham's servant, starts a new section, reporting the past event(s):

וַיֹּאמֶר³⁴

עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם אֲנִי:

וַיְהִי הָאֵל בְּרַךְ אֶת־אֲדֹנָי מְאֹד וַיִּגְדַּל³⁵

וַיִּתְּנוּ־לּוֹ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב וְעֶבְדִּים וְשִׁפְחֹת וְגַמְלִים וְחֲמֹרִים:

וַחֲלָד שָׂרָה אִשְׁתׁ אֲדֹנָי בֵּן לְאֲדֹנָי אַחֲרַי וְקָנְתָהּ³⁶

וַיִּתְּנוּ־לּוֹ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ:

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. **Now the Lord – He has blessed** greatly my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master in her old age; and he has given him all that he has. (vv.34-36)

The speaker starts an historical account by employing a subject-before-finite-verb clause after introducing himself.

¹⁴Of course, a speaker can start a story with a verbal clause in non-narrative statements just as in the case of narrative statements.

¹⁵A speaker can express personal emotion or interpretation to the past event(s), inserting emphasis of the subject by employing subject-before-finite-verb clauses in relating an historical account.

Finally, some prophetic/poetical statements may be more descriptive than emphatic. For example, in Genesis 49:13 and 49:16, Jacob prophesies about his sons, transitioning to each one by a subject-before-finite-verb clause:

49:13

זְבוּלֹן לְחֹף יָמִים יִשְׁכֵּן
וְהוּא לְחֹף אֲנִיּוֹת יִרְכָּתוּ עַל-צִידוֹן:

“Zebulun – he shall dwell at the seashore; and he *shall be* a haven for ships, and his flank *shall be* toward Sidon.”

49:16

דָּן יִדִין עַמּוֹ
כְּאַחַד שְׁבֵטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

“Dan – he shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.”

These individual names, standing at the first place of the sentences as the subject to the following verbless or subject-before-finite-verb clauses, make transitions of Jacob’s prophecies, just like some subject-before-finite-verb clauses transition a story in narrative statements.

Complete Data and Analysis: Primarily Emphatic (I)

Noun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption: Repetition of Explicit Pronoun (A.1)

Occurrences: 37:20 and 37:33.

37:20

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-אָחִיו¹⁹
הִנֵּה בַעַל הַחֲלָמוֹת הֵלְוָה בָּא:
וְעַתָּה לָכֵן וְנַהַרְגֶהוּ וְנִשְׁלַכֶהוּ בְּאֶתֶר הַבְּרוֹת וְאָמַרְנוּ חֲזָה רָעָה אֲכַלְתָּהוּ²⁰
וְנִרְאָה מִה-יְהִי חֲלֹמְתוֹ:

וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיִּצְלָהוּ מֵיָדָם²¹

וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נִכְנֹו נַפְשׁוֹ:

And they said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer! And now, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘**A wild beast – it devoured him.**’ Then let us see what will become of his dreams!” But Reuben heard *this* and rescued him out of their hands and said, “Let us not take his life.” (vv. 19-21)

The pronominal element of the verb (תָּח in אֶכְלָתְהוּ, pausal form of אֶכְלָתְהוּ) repeats the subject (חַיָּה רְעָה) for emphasis.

37:33

וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֶת־כִּתְנֵת הַפְּסִים וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל־אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹאת מְצָאנוּ³²

הַפְּרֹנָה הַכְּתֻנָּה בְּנֶךְ הוּא אִם־לֹא:

וַיִּכְיָרָה וַיֹּאמֶר כְּתֻנָּת בְּנֵי חַיָּה רְעָה אֶכְלָתְהוּ³³

טָרַף טָרַף יוֹסֵף:

וַיִּקְרַע יַעֲקֹב שְׂמֹלְתָיו וַיִּשֶׂם שָׁק בְּמַתְנָיו וַיִּתְאַבֵּל³⁴

עַל־בְּנוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים:

And they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, “We found this; please examine it to see whether it is your son’s tunic or not.” And he examined it and said, “It is my son’s tunic. **A wild beast – it devoured him;** Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!” So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. (vv. 32-34)

**Noun Subject with Single
Pronominal Resumption:
Repetition of Implicit Pronoun
(A.2)**

Occurrences: 3:13, 3:22, 18:12, 19:9, 19:31, 24:56, 31:5, 31:7, 31:29, 31:38, 31:42, 38:22, 39:8, 42:10, 43:23, 44:16, 44:20 (x2), 46:31, 47:1, 47:5, 48:2, 48:3, 49:26, 50:5, 50:16.

3:13

וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם¹²

הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הוּא נִתְּנָה־לִּי מִן־הָעֵץ וְאָכַל:

13 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאִשָּׁה מִה־זֹּאת עָשִׂית
 וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הִנָּחֵשׁ הִשִּׂיאָנִי וְאָכַל:
 14 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת
 אָרִיר אֶתְּךָ מִכָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִכָּל־חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה
 עַל־גִּחְוֹנֶךָ חֲלָדַי וְעָפָר תֹּאכַל כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ:

And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “**The serpent – it deceived me**, and I ate.” And the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life. (vv. 12-14)

The verb (הִשִּׂיאָנִי) implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject (הַנָּחָשׁ), generating emphasis.

3:22

22 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאֶחָד מִמֶּנּוּ לְדַעַת טוֹב וְרָע
 וְעַתָּה פָּרִישְׁלַח יָדוֹ וְלָקַח גַּם מִעֵץ הַחַיִּים וְאָכַל וְחַי לְעֹלָם:
 23 וַיִּשְׁלַחֵהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִגֶּן־עֵדֶן
 לְעַבֵּד אֶת־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִשָּׁם:

And the Lord God said, “Behold, **the man – he has become** like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” Therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. (vv. 22-23)

The verb (הָיָה) implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject (הָאָדָם).

18:12

11 וַאֲבָרְהָם וְשָׂרָה זְקֵנִים בָּאִים בְּיָמַי
 חָדַל לִהְיוֹת לְשָׂרָה אֶרֶח פְּנָשִׁים:
 12 וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה בְּקִרְבָּהּ לֵאמֹר
 אַחֲרַי בְּלִתִּי הִיִּתְהַלְּלִי עֲדָנָה וְאֵדְנִי זְקָן:
 13 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אֲבָרְהָם

לָמָּה זֶה צָחָקָה שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר הֲאֵף אֲמַנָּם אֶלֶד וְאֲנִי זָקֵנָה:

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure? **And my lord – he is old.**" And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child? And I – I am old.'" (vv. 11-13)

The verb (זָקַן) implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject

(אֶלַי).

19:9

⁶וַיֵּצֵא אֱלֹהִים לֹט הַפֶּתַח

וְהִדְלִיחַ סָנַר אַחֲרָיו:

⁷וַיֹּאמֶר

אֶל־נָא אַחֵי תִרְעוּ:

⁸הֲנֵה־נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ אִישׁ אוֹצִיאָה־נָא אֶתְהֶן אֵלֵיכֶם

וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם

רַק לֹא־נָשִׂים הֵאל אֶל־תַּעֲשׂוּ דָבָר כִּי־עַל־כֵּן בָּאוּ בְצַל קִרְתִּי:

⁹וַיֹּאמְרוּ גַשְׁהֲלָאָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֶחָד בָּא־לְגוֹר וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שְׁפוֹט עֵתָה נִרְעֵ לָךְ מֵהֵם

וַיִּפְצְרוּ בְאִישׁ בְּלוֹט מְאֹד וַיִּגְשׂוּ לְשֹׁבֵר הַדֶּלֶת:

But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him. And he said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof." But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "**This one – he came in** as an alien, and he is surely acting like a judge; now, we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against the man, against Lot, and came near to break the door. (vv. 6-9)

19:31

³⁰וַיַּעַל לֹט מִצּוֹעֵר וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּהָר וּשְׁתֵּי בָנָתָיו עִמּוֹ כִּי יֵרָא לְשֹׁבֵת בְּצוֹעֵר

וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּמַּעֲרָה הוּא וּשְׁתֵּי בָנָתָיו:

³¹וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל־הַצְּעִירָה אָבִינוּ זָקֵן

וְאִישׁ אֵין בְּאָרֶץ לְבֹא עָלֵינוּ כְּדָרֶךְ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ:

³²לָכֵה נִשְׁקָה אֶת־אָבִינוּ יֵין וְנִשְׁכְּבָה עִמּוֹ

וַנַּחֲיָהּ מֵאֲבִינוּ זָרַע:

And Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters. Then the first-born said to the younger, “**Our father – he is old**, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth. Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father.” (vv. 30-32)

24:56

וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׂתּוּ הוּא וְהָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־עִמּוֹ וַיִּלְיָנוּ⁵⁴
 וַיִּקְוֹמוּ בַבֶּקֶר וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׁלַחְנִי לְאֲדֹנָי:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אַחִידָהּ וְאִמָּהּ תֵּשֵׁב הַנַּעַר אִתָּנוּ יָמִים אֹז עֲשׂוֹר⁵⁵
 אַחַר תֵּלֶךְ:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־תֵּאַחֲזֶרְוּ אִחִי וַיְהִי הָהֵן הַצְּלִיחַ דְּרָכֵי⁵⁶
 שְׁלַחְוָנִי וְאֶלְכָה לְאֲדֹנָי:
 וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִקְרָא לְנַעֲרָה⁵⁷
 וְנִשְׁאַלָה אֶת־פִּיהָ:

Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.” But her brother and her mother said, “Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go.” And he said to them, “Do not delay me, **since the Lord – He has prospered** my way. Send me away so that I may go to my master.” And they said, “We will call the girl and consult her wishes.” (vv. 54-57)

31:5

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יַעֲקֹב שׁוּב אֶל־אֶרֶץ אֲבוֹתֶיךָ וְלִמְוֹלְדֹתֶיךָ³
 וְאֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ:
 וַיִּשְׁלַח יַעֲקֹב וַיִּקְרָא לְרַחֵל וּלְלֵאָה⁴
 הַשָּׂדֶה אֶל־צֹאנֵנוּ:
 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶן רָאִה אֲנִכִּי אֶת־פְּנֵי אָבִיכֶן כִּי־אֵינָנוּ אֵלַי כְּתַמּוֹל שְׁלֶשֶׁם⁵
 וְאֵלֵהֶן אָבִי הָיָה עִמָּדִי:

Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.” So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field. And he said to them, “I see your father’s face that it is not as it has been in the past, **but the God of my father – He has been** with me. (vv. 3-5)

31:7

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶן רֵאָה אֲנִכִּי אֶת־פְּנֵי אָבִיכֶן כִּי־אֵינְנִי אֵלַי כַּחֲמֹל שְׁלֹשׁ
וְאֱלֹהֵי אָבִי הִזָּה עִמָּדִי:

וְאַתְּנָה יִדְעָתָן⁶

כִּי בְּכָל־כַּחֲזִי עָבַדְתִּי אֶת־אָבִיכֶן:

וְאָבִיכֶן הִתָּלַ בִּי וְהִחְלַף אֶת־מְשַׁכְּרֹתַי עֲשֵׂרֶת מְנִים

וְלֹא־נִתְּנוּ אֱלֹהִים לְהָרַע עִמָּדִי:

And said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me. And you know that I have served your father with all my strength. **Your father – he has cheated** me and changed my wages ten times; God, however, would not let him do me harm." (vv. 5-7)

31:29

וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לִיעֶקֶב מָה עָשִׂיתָ וַתִּגְנֹב אֶת־לְבָבִי²⁶

וַתִּנְהַג אֶת־בְּנֹתַי כְּשִׁבְיֹת חָרָב:

לָמָּה נִחַבְּאַתָּ לְבָרַח וַתִּגְנֹב אֹתִי²⁷

וְלֹא־הִנְדַּתְּ לִי וְאַשְׁלַחְךָ בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשָׂרִים בְּחָף וּבְכַנּוּר:

וְלֹא נִטְשָׁתָנִי לְנֶשֶׁק לָבָנִי וּלְבִנְתַי²⁸

עַתָּה הִסְכַּלְתָּ עִשׂוֹ:

יֵשׁ־לְאֵל יָדַי לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמָּכֶם רָע וְאֱלֹהֵי אָבִיכֶם אָמַשׁ אָמַר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר²⁹

הֲשִׁמְרָ לָךְ מִדְּבַר עַם־יַעֲקֹב מִטּוֹב עַד־רָע:

Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword? Why did you flee secretly and deceive me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with joy and with songs, with timbrel and with lyre; and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now you have done foolishly. It is in my power to do you harm, **but the God of your father – He spoke** to me yesterday, saying, 'Be careful not to speak either good or bad to Jacob.'" (vv. 26-29)

31:38

וַיִּחַר לִיעֶקֶב וַיִּרַב בְּלָבָן וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן³⁶

מִה־פְּשְׁעֵי מָה חָטָאתִי כִּי דָלַקְתָּ אַחֲרָי:

³⁷ כִּי־מִשְׁשַׁת־אֶת־כָּל־כְּלֵי מַה־מְצָאתָ מִכָּל כְּלֵי־בֵיתְךָ שִׁים כֹּה נִגַּד אֶתִּי וְאֶתְךָ

וַיִּזְכְּחוּ בֵּין שְׁנֵינוּ:

³⁸ זֶה עֲשָׂרִים שָׁנָה אֲנֹכִי עִמָּךָ רְחֻלֶיךָ וְעֹזֶיךָ לֹא שָׁכְלוּ

וְאֵילֵי צֹאנְךָ לֹא אָכַלְתִּי:

³⁹ טֹרְפָה לֹא־הֵבֵאתִי אֵלֶיךָ אֲנֹכִי אַחַטָּנָה מִיָּדִי תִּבְקַשְׁנָה

נִגְבַּתִּי יוֹם וְנִגְבַּתִּי לַיְלָה:

Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob answered and said to Laban, “What is my transgression? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set *it* here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. These twenty years I have been with you; **your ewes and your female goats – they have not miscarried**, the rams of your flocks I have not eaten. That which was torn I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself. You required it of my hand whether stolen by day or stolen by night.” (vv. 36-39)

The verb (שָׁכְלוּ) with a “Vav of plurality” implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject (רְחֻלֶיךָ וְעֹזֶיךָ).

31:42

⁴¹ זֶה־לִּי עֲשָׂרִים שָׁנָה בְּבֵיתְךָ

עֲבַדְתִּיךָ אַרְבַּע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה בְּשֵׁתִי בְנֹתֶיךָ וְשֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים בְּצֹאנְךָ

וַתַּחַלֶּף אֶת־מִשְׁכַּרְתִּי עֲשָׂרַת מִנִּים:

⁴² לֹוִלִי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וּפְחָד וַיִּצְחַק הָיָה לִּי כִּי עָתָה

רִיקָם שַׁלַּחְתָּנִי אֶת־עֵנִי וְאֶת־יָגִיעַ כַּפֵּי רַאֲהוּ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּזְכַּח אִמְשׁ:

“These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times. If **the God of my father, God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac – He had not been** for me, surely now empty-handed you would have sent me away. My affliction and the toil of my hands God has seen, so He rendered judgment last night.” (vv. 41-42)

38:22

²¹ וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־אֲנָשֵׁי מְקֻמָּהּ לֵאמֹר אֵיךָ הִקְדַּשְׁתָּהּ הוּא בְּעֵינַיִם עַל־הַדָּרֶךְ

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָּזֶה קִדְשָׁהּ:

²² וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מִצְאָתִיהָ

וְגַם אֲנָשֵׁי הַמְּקוֹם אָמְרוּ לֹא-הָיְתָה בְּזֶה קְדֻשָּׁה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה תִּקַּח-לָהּ פֶּן נִהְיֶה לְבוֹז

הַנְּהַל שְׁלַחְתִּי הַגֵּרִי הַזֶּה וְאַתָּה לֹא מִצַּאתָהּ:

And he asked the men of her place, saying, “Where is the temple prostitute who was by the road at Enaim?” But they said, “There has been no temple prostitute here.” So he returned to Judah, and said, “I did not find her; **and even the men of the place – they said**, ‘There has been no temple prostitute here.’” Then Judah said, “Let her keep them, lest we become a laughingstock. After all, I sent this kid, but you – you did not find her.” (vv. 21-23)

The verb (אָמְרוּ) with a “Vav of plurality” implies a third person singular pronoun that repeats the subject (אֲנָשֵׁי הַמְּקוֹם). The particle גַּם strengthens the emphasis of the subject.¹⁶

39:8

וַיְהִי אַחֲרַי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַחֲשָׂא אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ אֶל-יֹסֵף

וַתֹּאמֶר שִׁכְבָּה עִמִּי:

וַיִּמָּאֵן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו הֵן אֲדֹנִי לֹא-יָדַע אֵתִי מִה-בַּבַּיִת

וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִשְׁלוּ נָתַן בְּיָדִי:

אֵינְנוּ גְדוֹל בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה מִמֶּנִּי⁹

וְלֹא-חָשַׁךְ מִמֶּנִּי מְאוּמָה כִּי אִם-אוֹתָךְ בְּאִשְׁרֵי אֶת-אִשְׁתֹּךְ

וְאִיךָ אֶעֱשֶׂה הַרְעָה הַגְּדוֹלָה הַזֹּאת וְחָטָאתִי לְאֱלֹהִים:

And it came about after these events that his master’s wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Behold, **my master – he does not concern** with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?” (vv. 7-9)

The particle הֵן strengthens the emphasis of the subject.¹⁷

¹⁶F. Brown, , S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, (Boston: Houghton, 1906). גַּם, “also, moreover, emphasizing sometimes the thought of an entire sentence, but more usually the word immediately following.”

42:10

וַיִּזְכֹּר יוֹסֵף אֶת הַחֲלֻמוֹת אֲשֶׁר חָלַם לָהֶם⁹
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מִרְגָּלִים אַתֶּם לְרֹאוֹת אֶת-עֲרֹנוֹת הָאָרֶץ בְּאַתְּם:
 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו לֹא אֲדֹנָי¹⁰
 וְעַבְדֶּיךָ בָּאוּ לְשִׁבְר-אֶכָּל:
 כִּלְנוּ בְּנֵי אִישׁ-אֶחָד נַחֲנוּ¹¹
 בְּנִים אֲנַחְנוּ לֹא-הִיוּ עַבְדֶּיךָ מִרְגָּלִים:

And Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land." And they said to him, "No, my lord, **but your servants – they have come** to buy food. We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies." (vv. 9-11)

43:23

וַיְהִי כִּי-בָאוּ אֶל-הַמְּלוֹן וַנִּפְתַּח ה' אֶת-אֲמֹתַחֲתֵינוּ²¹
 וַהֲנֵה כֶּסֶף-אִישׁ בְּפִי אֲמֹתַחֲתוֹ כִּסְפֵנוּ בְּמִשְׁקָלוֹ וַנִּשָּׁב אִתּוֹ בִּידְנוּ:
 וְכֶסֶף אַחַר הוֹרְדֵנוּ בִּידְנוּ לְשִׁבְר-אֶכָּל²²
 לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מִי-שָׁם כִּסְפֵנוּ בְּאֲמֹתַחֲתֵינוּ:
 וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם אֶל-תִּירְאוּ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְאֵלֵהֶי אָבִיכֶם נָתַן לָכֶם מִטָּמוֹן²³
 בְּאֲמֹתַחֲתֵיכֶם כִּסְפְכֶם בָּא אֵלַי וַיּוֹצֵא אֲלֵהֶם אֶת-שְׁמֵעוֹן:

"And it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand. We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks." And he said, "Be at ease, do not be afraid. **Your God and God of your father – He has given** you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. (vv. 21-23)

44:16

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יוֹסֵף מַה-הַמַּעֲשֶׂה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂיתֶם¹⁵

¹⁵F. Brown, , S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, הֵן, "lo ! behold, less widely used than הִנֵּה, and in prose mostly confined to calling attention to some fact upon which action is to be taken, or a conclusion based."

הָלוֹא יִדְעֶתֶם כִּי־נִחַשׁ יִנְחַשׁ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כָּמֹנִי:
 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה מִה־נֹּאמַר לְאֹדְנִי מִה־נִּדְבַר וּמִה־נִּצְטַדֵּק¹⁶
 הָאֱלֹהִים מִצָּא אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ הַנְּנוּ עֲבָדִים לְאֹדְנִי
 גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַם אֲשֶׁר־נִמְצָא הַנְּכִיַע בְּיָדוֹ:
 וַיֹּאמֶר חֲלִילָה לִּי מַעֲשׂוֹת זֹאת הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִמְצָא הַנְּכִיַע בְּיָדוֹ¹⁷
 הוּא יִהְיֶה־לִּי עֶבֶד וְאַתֶּם עָלוּ לְשָׁלוֹם אֶל־אֲבִיכֶם:

And Joseph said to them, “What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?” So Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? **God – He has found out** the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.” But he said, “Far be it from me to do this. The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father.” (vv. 15-17)

44:20 (x2)¹⁸

וַיִּנָּשׂ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֹדְנִי¹⁸
 יִדְבַר־נָא עֲבָדֶיךָ דָּבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֹדְנִי וְאֶל־יִחַר אַפֶּךָ בְּעַבְדֶּיךָ
 כִּי כְמוֹד כְּפָרְעָה:
 אֹדְנִי שָׁאֵל אֶת־עַבְדֵּיךָ לֵאמֹר¹⁹
 הֲיִשְׁלַכְּם אָב אוֹ־אָח:
 וַנֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֹדְנִי יִשְׁלַנּוּ אָב זָקֵן וַיִּלְד וַיִּקְנִים קָטָן²⁰
 וְאָחִיו מֵת וַיִּוָּתֵר הוּא לְבָדּוֹ לְאִמּוֹ וְאָבִיו אָהָבּוֹ:

Then Judah approached him, and said, “Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh. My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ “And we said to my lord, ‘We have an old father and a little child of *his* old age. **Now his brother – he is dead**, so he alone is left of his mother, **and his father – he loves him.**” (vv. 18-20)

46:31

וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲמוּתָה הַפַּעַם³⁰
 אַחֲרַי רְאוּתִי אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ כִּי עוֹדָה חַי:

¹⁸This clause is also classified in I.E. Contrast category.

31 וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-אֶחָיו וְאֶל-בֵּית אָבִיו אַעֲלֶה וְאֶגִּידָה לְפַרְעֹה
 וְאָמַרְהָ אֵלָיו וּבֵית-אָבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן בָּאוּ אֵלַי:
 32 וְהָאֲנָשִׁים רְעִי צֵאן כִּי-אֲנָשִׁי מִקְנֵה הָיִ
 וְצֹאנָם וּבְקָרָם וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם הֵבִיאוּ:

Then Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.” And Joseph said to his brothers and to his father’s household, “I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, ‘**My brothers and my father’s household, who were in the land of Canaan – they have come to me. And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.**’” (vv. 30-32)

47:1

וַיָּבֹא יוֹסֵף וַיִּגֵּד לְפַרְעֹה
 וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וְאֶחָי וְצֹאנָם וּבְקָרָם וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם בָּאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
 וְהֵנּוּם בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן:

Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and he said, “**My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have – they have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen.**”

47:5

3 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל-אֶחָיו מַה-מַּעֲשֵׂיכֶם
 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה רְעִי צֵאן עֲבָדֶיךָ גַּם-אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם-אֲבוֹתֵינוּ:
 4 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה לְנוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
 כִּי-אֵין מְרֻעָה לְצֹאן אֲשֶׁר לְעֲבָדֶיךָ כִּי-כָבֵד הָרַעַב בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
 וְעַתָּה יִשְׁבוּ-נָא עֲבָדֶיךָ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן:
 5 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל-יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר
 אָבִיךָ וְאֶחָיךָ בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ:
 6 אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְפָנֶיךָ הוּא בְּמִיטֵב הָאֶרֶץ הוֹשֵׁב אֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-אֶחָיךָ
 יִשְׁבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן וְאִם-יִדְעַת וְיִשְׁבֶּם אֲנִישֵׁי-חֵיל וְשִׁמְתֶם שָׂרֵי מִקְנֵה עַל-אֲשֶׁר-לִי:

Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” So they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.” And they said to Pharaoh, “We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,

“Your father and your brothers – they have come to you. The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.” (vv. 3-6)

48:2

וַיְהִי אַחֲרַי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר לְיוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָבִיךָ חָלָה
וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי בָנָיו עִמּוֹ אֶת־מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶת־אֶפְרַיִם:
וַיִּנְגַד לְיַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בְנֵךְ יוֹסֵף בָּא אֵלֶיךָ
וַיִּתְחַזֵּק יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הַמֶּטֶה:

Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is sick.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. When it was told to Jacob and he said, “Behold, **your son Joseph – he has come to you,**” Israel collected his strength and sat up in the bed. (vv. 1-2)

The particle הִנֵּה strengthens the emphasis of the subject.

48:3

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֵל שְׁדַי נִרְאָה אֵלַי בְּלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
וַיְבָרֵךְ אֹתִי:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הִנְנִי מִפְּרֹדָה וְהִרְבִּיתִּיךָ וַנְּחַתִּיךָ לְקַתֵּל עַמִּים
וַנְּחַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְזֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרַיךָ אֶתְּנֶת עוֹלָם:

Then Jacob said to Joseph, **“God Almighty – He appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and He said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.’”** (vv. 3-4)

49:26

בְּרִכַּת אָבִיךָ נִבְרָוּ עַל־בְּרִכַּת הַוְרֵי עַד־תְּאֻמֹת גְּבַעַת עוֹלָם
תְּהִיִּין לְרֹאשׁ יוֹסֵף וּלְקַדְקַד נֹזֵר אָחִיו:

“The blessings of your father – they have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors, to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.”

50:5

וַיַּעֲבְרוּ יָמָיו בְּכִיתוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר יוֹסֵף אֶל־בֵּית פְּרַעֲה לֵאמֹר
אִם־נָא מִצְעָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֵיכֶם דְּבַרְדוּנָא בְּאֻזְנֵי פְרַעֲה לֵאמֹר:

אָבִי הַשְּׁבִיעֵנִי לְאֹמֵר הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי מֵת⁵
 בְּקִבְרֵי אֲשֶׁר כָּרִיתִי לִי בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן שָׁמָּה תִקְבְּרֵנִי
 וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה-נָּא וְאֶקְבְּרָה אֶת-אָבִי וְאָשׁוּבָה:

And when the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, 'My father – he made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.'" Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" (vv. 4-5)

50:16

וַיִּרְאוּ אֶחָיו-יוֹסֵף כִּי-מֵת אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ יִשְׁטַמְנוּ יוֹסֵף¹⁵
 וְהָשִׁב יֹשִׁיב לָנוּ אֵת כָּל-הַרָּעָה אֲשֶׁר גָּמְלָנוּ אֹתוֹ:
 וַיִּצְווּ אֶל-יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר¹⁶
 אָבִיךָ צָוָה לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר:
 כֹּה-תֹאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אֲנָא שָׂא נָא פִּשְׁעֵ אַחִיךָ וַחַטָּאתָם כִּי-רָעָה גָּמְלוּךָ¹⁷
 וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לִפְשַׁע עֲבָדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ וַיְבַרַךְ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרָם אֵלָיו:

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" So they sent to Joseph, saying, "Your father – he charged before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (vv. 15-17)

**Noun Subject with Single
 Pronominal Resumption:
 Repetition of Pronoun Substitute
 (A.3)**

Occurrences: 6:17, 8:22, 9:2, 9:3, 13:16, 17:6, 17:16, 17:18, 18:18, 21:6, 22:5, 22:8, 23:6, 24:40, 25:23 (x3), 26:11, 28:3, 28:22, 31:53, 31:55, 34:10, 35:11 (x2), 41:16, 42:19, 43:14, 43:29, 44:33, 46:4^c, 47:19, 48:5, 48:16, 48:19 (x2), 49:19^a, and 50:24.

6:17

וַאֲנִי הִנְנִי מֵבִיא אֶת-הַמִּבּוּל מִיָּם עַל-הָאָרֶץ¹⁷
 לְשַׁחַת כָּל-בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ רוּחַ חַיִּים מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

כָּל אֲשֶׁר-בָּאָרֶץ יִגּוּעַ:

וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּךָ¹⁸

וּבֹאתָ אֵל-הַתְּבֹה אִתָּהּ וּבְנֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וְנָשֵׁי-בְנֶיךָ אִתְּךָ:

“And behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; **everything that is on the earth – it shall perish**. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.” (vv. 17-18)

The pronoun substitute in the verb (* in יִגּוּעַ) repeats the subject (אֲשֶׁר-בָּאָרֶץ)

(כָּל).

8:22

וַיִּרַח יְהוָה אֶת-רִיחַ הַנִּיחֹחַ²¹

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-לְבוֹ לֹא-אֶסַף לְקַלֵּל עוֹד אֶת-הָאָדָמָה בְּעִבּוֹר הָאָדָם

כִּי יֵצֵר לֵב הָאָדָם רַע מִנְעֻרָיו

וְלֹא-אֶסַף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת-כָּל-חַי כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי:

עַד כָּל-יְמֵי הָאָרֶץ²²

זֶרַע וְקִצִּיר וְקָר וְחֹם וְקִיץ וְחֹרֶף וַיּוֹם וְלַיְלָה לֹא יִשְׁבְּחוּ:

And the Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. Yet **all days of the earth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night – they shall not cease.**” (vv. 21-22)

The pronoun substitute in the verb (* in יִשְׁבְּחוּ) with a “Vav of plurality”

repeats the subject.

9:2

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בָּנָיו¹

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ:

וּמִזֶּרְעֵכֶם וּחְתֹכֶם יְהִיָּה עַל כָּל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וְעַל כָּל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם

בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר תִּרְמַשׁ הָאָדָמָה וּבְכָל-דָּגֵי הַיָּם בְּיַדְכֶם נִתְּנוּ:

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. **And the fear of you and the terror of you – it shall be on every**

beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.” (vv. 1-2)

9:3

כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא־חַי לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָהּ
כִּי־רַק עֵשֶׂב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל:
אֲדָבָשָׁר בְּנַפְשׁוֹ דָּמוֹ לֹא תֹאכְלוּ:

“Every creeping thing that is alive – it shall be food for you; as the green plant, I give all to you. Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, its blood.” (vv. 3-4)

13:16

וַיֹּהִיָּה אָמַר אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְּרִד־לוֹט מֵעֲמוֹ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה
מִן־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה שָׂם צַפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּמָּה:
כִּי אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֵה לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה
וְלִזְרַעַךָ עַד־עוֹלָם:
וְשָׁמַתִּי אֶת־זְרַעַךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר אִם־יִוְכַל אִישׁ לִמְנוֹת אֶת־עֲפַר הָאָרֶץ גַּם־זְרַעַךָ יִמְנָה:
קוּם הִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאַרְכָּהּ וּלְרֵחְבָּהּ
כִּי לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה:

And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. And I will make your seeds as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, **then your seed – it can also be numbered**. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.” (vv. 14-17)

The particle ׀ strengthens the emphasis of the subject.

17:6

אֲנִי הִנֵּה בְרִיתִי אִתְּךָ
וְהָיִיתָ לְאֵב הַמּוֹן גּוֹיִם:
וְלֹא־יִקְרָא עוֹד אֶת־שְׁמֶךָ אַבְרָם
וְהָיָה שְׁמֶךָ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אֲב־הַמּוֹן גּוֹיִם נָתַתִּיךָ:
וְהִפְרַתִּי אִתְּךָ בְּמָאֵד מְאֹד וְנָתַתִּיךָ לְגוֹיִם

ומלכים ממך יצאו:

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, **and kings – they shall come forth from you.**” (vv. 4-6)

17:16

15 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׂרֵי אֲשֶׁתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ שְׂרֵי

כִּי שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ:

16 וַיְבָרַכְתִּי אֹתָהּ וְגַם נָתַתִּי מִמֶּנָּה לְךָ בֵּן

וַיְבָרַכְתִּיהָ וְהִיְתָה לְגוֹיִם מְלִכֵי עַמִּים מִמֶּנָּה יִהְיוּ:

Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother of nations; kings of peoples – they shall come from her.*” (vv. 15-16)

17:18

17 וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָהָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיִּצְחַק

וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלִבּוֹ הֲלָבֵן מֵאֵה־שָׁנָה יוֹלֵד וְאִם־שָׂרָה הִבְתַּחֲשָׁעִים שָׁנָה תֵּלֵד:

18 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים

לֹא יִשְׁמַעֲאֵל יַחִיָּה לְפָנֶיךָ:

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? Or Sarah – will a ninety years old woman bear?” And Abraham said to God, “Oh that **Ishmael – he might live before You!**” (vv. 17-18)

18:18

17 וַיְהִי־הָאָמֵר

הַמִּכְסָּה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה:

18 וְאַבְרָהָם הָיָה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְעַצוֹם

וַיְבָרְכוּ בּוֹ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ:

19 כִּי יָדַעְתִּיו לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יִצְוָה אֶת־בְּנָיו וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו

וּשְׁמֵרוּ דְרָךְ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט

לִמְעַן הִבִּיא יְהוָה עַל־אַבְרָהָם אֶת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר עִלָּיו:

And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, **since Abraham – he will surely become** a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” (vv. 17-19)

21:6

וַיֹּאבְרָהֶם בְּרִמְאֵת שָׁנָה⁵
 בְּהוֹלֵךְ לוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ:
 וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צָחֵק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים⁶
 כָּל־הַשְּׂמֵעַ יִצְחָק־לִי:

Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; **everyone who hears – he will laugh** with me.” (vv. 5-6)

22:5

בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיֵּשֶׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם מֵרֶחֶק:⁴
 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמֹר
 וְאֲנִי וְהַנֶּעֱר וְנִלְכָה עַד־כֹּה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְנָשׁוּבָה אֵלֵיכֶם:
 וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצֵי הָעֹלָה וַיֵּשֶׂם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ⁶
 אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֶת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, **and I and the lad – we will go** yonder; and we will worship and return to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. (vv. 4-6)

The pronoun substitute in the verb (נ in נִלְכָה) repeats the subject (אֲנִי וְהַנֶּעֱר).

22:8

וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי בְנִי⁷
 וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וְאִיִּה הִשָּׂה לְעֹלָה:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהִים יִרְאֶה־לוֹ הִשָּׂה לְעֹלָה בְנִי⁸
 וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “**God – He will provide** for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. (vv. 7-8)

23:6

⁵וַיַּעֲנֵנוּ בְנֵי־חֵת אֶת־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר לֹא:
⁶שָׁמַעְנוּ אֲדֹנָי נְשִׂיא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה בְּתוֹכֵנוּ בְּמִבְחָר קְבָרֵינוּ קָבַר אֶת־מֵתְךָ
 אִישׁ מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת־קְבָרָו לֹא־יִכְלֶה מִמֶּךָ מִקְבַּר מֵתְךָ:
⁷וַיָּקָם אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְעַסְדֵּה־אֶרֶץ לְבְנֵי־חֵת:

And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, “Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; **A man from us – he will not refuse** you his grave for burying your dead.” So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. (vv. 5-7)

24:40

⁴⁰וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי לְפָנָיו יִשְׁלַח מְלָאָכּוֹ אִתְּךָ
 וְהִצְלִיחַ דְּרָכְךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתִּי וּמִבֵּית אָבִי:
⁴¹אִזְ תִּנְקַה מֵאֲלֹתַי כִּי תָבוֹא אֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי
 וְאִם־לֹא יִתְּנוּ לָךְ וְהָיִיתָ נָקִי מֵאֲלֹתַי:

“And he said to me, **The Lord, before whom I have walked – He will send** His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives, and from my father’s house; then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.” (vv. 40-41)

25:23 (x3)

²¹וַיַּעֲתֵר יִצְחָק לַיהוָה לְנִכְח אִשְׁתּוֹ כִּי עָקְרָה הִוא
 וַיַּעֲתֵר לוֹ יְהוָה וַתֵּהֵר רֵבֶקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ:
²²וַיִּתְרַצְצוּ הַבָּנִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־כֵּן לָמָּה זֶה אֲנֹכִי
 וַתִּלְדָּ לְדָרֶשׁ אֶת־יְהוָה:
²³וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לָהּ שְׁנֵי גוֹיִם בְּבֶטְנְךָ ¹וּשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים מִמֵּעֶיךָ יִפְרְדוּ
²וְלֵאמֹר מִלְאָם יֵאָמֵן ³וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צַעִיר:

And Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled

together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why then am I?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; ¹⁾and two peoples – they shall be separated from your body; ²⁾and one people – it shall be stronger than the other; ³⁾and the older – he shall serve the younger.” (vv. 21-23)

26:11

וַיִּקְרָא אַבִּימֶלֶךְ לַיְצָחָק וַיֹּאמֶר אֵךְ הֲנָה אִשְׁתְּךָ הֲוֵא וַאֲיֵךְ אָמַרְתָּ אַחֲתִי הֲוֵא
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְצָחָק כִּי אָמַרְתִּי פֶן־אָמוּת עָלַיָּה:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבִּימֶלֶךְ מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ
כְּמַעֲט שָׁכַב אַחַד הָעָם אֶת־אִשְׁתְּךָ וְהִבֵּאתָ עָלֵינוּ אֲשָׁם:
וַיִּצְוּ אַבִּימֶלֶךְ אֶת־כָּל־הָעָם לֵאמֹר
הַנִּינֵעַ בְּאִישׁ הַזֶּה וּבְאִשְׁתּוֹ מוֹת יוּמָת:

Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, certainly she is your wife! How then did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” And Isaac said to him, ‘Because I said, ‘Lest I die on account of her.’” And Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” So Abimelech charged all the people, saying, “**He who touches this man or his wife – he surely will be put to death.**” (vv. 9-11)

28:3

וַיִּקְרָא יִצְחָק אֶל־יַעֲקֹב וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ
וַיִּצְוֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן:
קוּם לֵךְ פָּדְנָה אֲרָם בֵּיתָהּ בְּתוֹאֵל אָבִי אִמְךָ
וְקַח־לָךְ מִשָּׁם אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת לָבָן אַחִי אִמְךָ:
וְאֵל שְׂדֵי יַבְרֵךְ אֶתְךָ וַיִּפְרֶךְ וַיִּרְבֶּךְ
וְהָיִיתָ לְקַתֵּל עַמִּים:

So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. **And God Almighty – may He bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.**” (vv. 1-3)

28:22

וַיַּרְרַךְ יַעֲקֹב נִדְרָה לֵאמֹר אִם־יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּדִי
וְשָׁמַרְנִי בַדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ וְנִתְּרָלִי לַחֵם לֶאֱכֹל וּבְגָד לְלַבֵּשׁ:

וּשְׁבַתִּי בְשָׁלוֹם אֶל־בֵּית אָבִי²¹

וְהָיָה יְהוָה לִי לֵאלֹהִים:

וְהָאֶבֶן הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר־שָׂמַתִּי מִצְבָּה יְהוָה בֵּית אֱלֹהִים²²

וְכָל אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּן־לִי עֹשֶׂר אֶעֱשֶׂרְנוּ לָךְ:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. **“And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar – it will be God’s house; and of all that You give me, I will surely give a tenth to You.”** (vv. 20-22)

31:53

וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב⁵¹

הֲנֵה הִנֵּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמִּצְבָּה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ:

עַד הִנֵּל הַזֶּה וְעַד הַמִּצְבָּה אִם־אָנִי לֹא־אֶעְבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הִנֵּל הַזֶּה⁵²

וְאִם־אַתָּה לֹא־תֵעָבֵר אֵלַי אֶת־הִנֵּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת־הַמִּצְבָּה הַזֹּאת לְרַעָה:

אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וְאֱלֹהֵי נָחוֹר יִשְׁפֹּטוּ בֵּינֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ⁵³

וַיִּשָּׁבַע יַעֲקֹב בַּפֶּה־דֵאָבִי וַיִּצְחַק:

And Laban said to Jacob, “Behold this heap and behold the pillar which I have set between you and me. This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass by this heap to you for harm, and you will not pass by this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. **The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father – He (They) will judge** between us.” So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. (vv. 51-53)

34:10

וַיְדַבֵּר חָמוֹר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר⁸

שָׁכַם בְּנֵי חֲשִׁקָה נִפְשׁוּ בְּבַתְּכֶם תָּנוּ נָא אֶתָּה לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:

וְהִתְחַתְּנוּ אִתָּנוּ⁹

בְּנִתֵיכֶם תִּתְּנוּ־לָנוּ וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ תִקְחוּ לָכֶם:

וְאִתָּנוּ תִשְׁבּוּ¹⁰

וְהָאָרֶץ תְּהִיָּה לְפָנֵיכֶם שְׁבוּ וּסְחָרוּ וְהָאָחֳזוּ בָהּ:

But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. And intermarry with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. Thus you shall live with us,

and the land – it shall be before you; live and trade in it, and acquire property in it.” (vv. 8-10)

35:11 (x2)

וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-יַעֲקֹב עוֹד בְּבֹאֵוּ מִפַּדְּנֵן אַרְם
וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ:
וַיֹּאמֶר-לוֹ אֱלֹהִים שְׁמֹךָ יַעֲקֹב לֹא-יִקְרָא שְׁמֹךָ עוֹד
יַעֲקֹב כִּי אִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל יִהְיֶה שְׁמֹךָ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֱלֹהִים אֲנִי אֵל שְׂרֵי פְרָה וּרְבֵה גוֹי וּקְהַל גּוֹיִם יִהְיֶה מִמֶּךָ
וּמְלָכִים מִחֲלָצֶיךָ יֵצְאוּ:

Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name.” Thus He called him Israel. God also said to him, “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; **a nation and a company of nations – it shall come** from you, **and kings – they shall come forth** from your loins.” (vv. 9-11)

41:16

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל-יֹסֵף חֲלוֹם חֲלָמָתִי וּפְתָר אֵין אֵתוֹ
וְאֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי עָלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר תִּשְׁמַע חֲלוֹם לִפְתֹּר אֹתוֹ:
וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף אֶת-פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בִּלְעָדֵי
אֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶה אֶת-שְׁלוֹם פַּרְעֹה:
וַיִּדְבֹּר פַּרְעֹה אֶל-יֹסֵף
בְּחֲלָמָי הִנְנִי עֹמֵד עַל-שֵׁפֶת הַיָּאָר:

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” Then Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; **God – He will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.**” So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, “In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile.” (vv. 15-17)

42:19

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יוֹסֵף בְּיָוֶם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי זֹאת עָשׂוּ וַחֲזִי
אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים אֲנִי יֵרָא:
אִם-כִּנּוּיִם אַתֶּם אֲחֵיכֶם אֶחָד יֵאָסֵר בְּבַיִת מִשְׁמָרְכֶם
וְאַתֶּם לְכוּ הִבִּיאוּ שֶׁבֶר רַעֲבוֹן בְּתִיכֶם:

וְאֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן תְּבִיאוּ אֵלַי וַיֵּאמְרוּ דְבַרְיֶכֶם וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ
וַיַּעַשׂוּ־כֵן:

Now Joseph said to them on the third day, “Do this and live, for I fear God: If you are honest men, **one of your brothers – let him be confined** in your prison; but *the rest of you*, go, carry grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die.” And they did so. (vv. 18-20)

43:14

וְאֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם קָחוּ¹³
וְקוּמוּ שׁוּבוּ אֶל־הָאִישׁ:
וְאֵל שְׂדֵי יִתֵּן לָכֶם רַחֲמִים לִפְנֵי הָאִישׁ וְשַׁלַּח לָכֶם אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם אַחֵר
וְאֶת־בְּנֵימִין וְאֲנִי כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁכַלְתִּי שָׁכַלְתִּי:

“Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man; **and God Almighty – He may grant** you compassion in the eyes of the man, that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And I, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.” (vv. 13-14)

43:29

וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־בְּנֵימִין אָחִיו בֶּן־אִמּוֹ
וַיֹּאמֶר הֲזֶה אֲחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם אֵלַי
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְחַנֵּן בְּנִי:

29As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, he said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?” And he said, “**God – may He be gracious** to you, my son.”

44:33

וְעַתָּה יִשְׁבֶּנָּא עַבְדְּךָ תַּחַת הַנְּעַר עֶבֶד לְאֲדֹנָי³³
וְהַנְּעַר יַעַל עִם־אָחִיו:
כִּי־אֵיךְ אֶעֱלֶה אֶל־אָבִי וְהַנְּעַר אֵינְנו אִתִּי³⁴
כִּן אֶרְאֶה בָרַע אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אֶת־אָבִי:

“And now, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, **but the lad – let him go up** with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest I see the evil that would overtake my father?” (vv. 33-34)

46:4^{c19}

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִרְאֵת הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב יַעֲקֹב

וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי הָאֵל אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ

אֶל־תִּירָא מִרְדָּה מִצְרַיִמָּה כִּי־לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל אֲשִׁימָךְ שָׁם:

אָנֹכִי אֲרַד עִמָּךְ מִצְרַיִמָּה וְאָנֹכִי אֶעֱלֶךָ גַּם־עֲלֶיּהָ

וַיֹּסֶף יָשִׁית יָדוֹ עַל־עֵינֶיךָ:

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I – I will go down with you to Egypt, and I – I will also surely bring you up again; **and Joseph – he will set his hand upon your eyes.**” (vv. 2-4)

47:19

וַתֵּתֶם הַשָּׁנָה הַהוּא וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא־נִכְחַד מֵאֲדָנִי כִּי אִם־תֵּם הַכֶּסֶף וּמִקְנֵה הַבְּהֵמָה אֶל־אֲדָנִי

לֹא נִשְׂאֵר לַפָּנִי אֲדָנִי בְלֹתִי אִם־גּוֹיְתָנוּ וְאֲדַמְתָּנוּ:

לָמָּה נָמוּת לְעֵינֶיךָ גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם אֲדַמְתָּנוּ קְנֵה־אֶתְנוּ וְאֶת־אֲדַמְתָּנוּ בְּלֶחֶם

וְנִחֵיהָ אֲנַחְנוּ וְאֲדַמְתָּנוּ עֲבָדִים לַפְּרֹעָה וְתוֹזָרַע וְנִחֵיהָ וְלֹא נָמוּת

וְהָאֲדָמָה לֹא תִשָּׁם:

וַיִּקֶן יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אֲדָמַת מִצְרַיִם לַפְּרֹעָה כִּי־מָכְרוּ מִצְרַיִם אִישׁ שָׂדֵהוּ

כִּי־חִזַּק עֲלֵהֶם הָרָעַב וַתְּהִי הָאָרֶץ לַפְּרֹעָה:

And when that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, “We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent, and the cattle are my lord’s. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands. Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, that we may live and not die, and that **the land – may it not be desolate.**” So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. Thus the land became Pharaoh’s. (vv. 18-20)

¹⁹This clause is also classified in I.E. Contrast category.

48:5

³ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-יוֹסֵף אֵל שְׁרֵי נִרְאָה-אֵלַי בְּלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתִי:

⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הֲנִנִי מִפָּרֶךְ וְהִרְבִּיתִךְ וְנִתְתִּיךְ לְקַתֵּל עַמִּים
וְנִתַּחֲמִי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְזֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרַיךְ אַחֲזַת עוֹלָם:
⁵ וְעַתָּה שְׁנֵי-בָנֶיךָ הַנוֹלָדִים לְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד-בָּאִי אֵלַיךְ מִצְרַיִמָּה לִי-הֵם
אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרֵאוּבֵן וְשִׁמְעוֹן יִהְיוּ-לִי:

Then Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and He said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.’ “And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; **Ephraim and Manasseh – they shall be mine**, as Reuben and Simeon are.” (vv. 3-5)

48:16

¹⁵ וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת-יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְהַלַּכְוּ אֲבֹתַי לְפָנָיו
אֲבָרְכֶם וַיְצַחֵק הָאֱלֹהִים הָרַעָה אֹתִי מֵעוֹדֵי עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:
¹⁶ הַמְלֵאךְ הַנָּאֵל אֹתִי מִכָּל-רֶעַ יְבָרֶךְ אֶת-הַנְּעָרִים
וַיִּקְרָא בָהֶם שְׁמֵי וְשֵׁם אֲבֹתֵי אֲבָרְכֶם וַיְצַחֵק
וַיִּדְבַּר לָרֶב בְּקִרְבֵּי הָאָרֶץ:

And he blessed Joseph, and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, **The angel who has redeemed me from all evil – may he bless the lads**; and may my name live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” (vv. 15-16)

48:19 (x2)

¹⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-אָבִיו לֹא-יָכֵן אָבִי
כִּי-זֶה הַבְּכֹר שִׁים יְמִינֶךָ עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ:
¹⁹ וַיִּמָּאֵן אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר יָדַעְתִּי בְּנֵי יָדַעְתִּי גַם-הוּא יִהְיֶה-לָּעַם וְגַם-הוּא יִגְדֵּל
וְאוֹלָם אַחֲרָיו הַקָּטָן יִגְדֵּל מִמֶּנּוּ וְזָרְעוֹ יִהְיֶה מְלֵא-הַגּוֹיִם:

And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this one is the first-born. Place your right hand on his head.” But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I

know; he – he also shall become a people and he – he also shall become great. However, **his younger brother – he shall become greater than he, and his seed – it shall become a multitude of nations.**” (vv. 18-19)

49:19^a

גַּד גְּדוּד יְגוּדוּ
וְהוּא יְגַד עֲקֵב:

“As for Gad, **raiders – they shall raid him**; but he – he shall raid *at their heels*.”

50:24

וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף בְּמִצְרַיִם הוּא וּבֵית אָבִיו²²
וַיְחִי יוֹסֵף מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים:
וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף לְאֶפְרַיִם בְּנֵי שְׁלֹשִׁים²³
גַּם בְּנֵי מַכִּיר בֶּן־מְנַשֶּׁה יְלָדוֹ עַל־בְּרֵכֵי יוֹסֵף:
וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו אֲנֹכִי מֵת וְאֱלֹהִים פִּקְדוּ יַפְקֹד אֶתְכֶם²⁴
וְהֵעֵלָה אֶתְכֶם מִן־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֶל־הָאָרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב:

Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father’s household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. And Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim’s sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph’s knees. And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, **but God – He will surely take care of you**, and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.” (vv. 22-24)

**Pronoun Subject with Single
Pronominal Resumption:
Repetition of Explicit Pronoun
(B.1)**

Occurrences: 14:23, 16:5, 18:13, 20:6, 21:26 (x2), 24:31, 26:27, 30:29, 31:6, 32:13, 38:23, 41:15, 44:27, 45:8, 45:19, 48:22, and 50:20^a.

14:23

וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם אֶל־אֲבָרָם²¹
תְּדַלִּי הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְהִרְכַּשׁ קַח־לָךְ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרָם אֶל־מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם²²

הָרִימְתִי יָדַי אֶל־יְהוָה אֵל עֲלִיּוֹן קִנְיָה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:
 אִם־מַחוּט וְעַד שְׂרוּף־נֹעַל וְאִם־אֶקַּח מִכָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ²³
 וְלֹא תֹאמַר אֲנִי הֵעֲשִׂרְתִּי אֶת־אֲבִרָם:

And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.” And Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘**I – I have made Abram rich.**’” (vv. 21-23)

The pronominal element of the verb (הֵעֲשִׂרְתִּי in תִּי) repeats the subject (אֲנִי) for emphasis.

16:5

וַיָּבֹא אֶל־הָגָר וַתְּהַר⁴
 וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרְתָהּ וַתִּקַּל גְּבוּרָתָהּ בְּעֵינֶיהָ:
 וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אֲבִרָם חֲמָסִי עָלֶיךָ⁵
 אֲנֹכִי נָתַתִּי שִׁפְחָתִי בְּחִיקְךָ וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרְתָהּ וַאֲקַל בְּעֵינֶיהָ
 יִשְׁפֹט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ:

And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done me be upon you. **I – I gave** my maid into your arms; but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me.” (vv. 4-5)

18:13

וְאֲבָרְהָם וְשָׂרָה זְקֵנִים בָּאִים בְּיָמִים¹¹
 חָדַל לִהְיוֹת לְשָׂרָה אֲרַח כְּנָשִׁים:
 וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה בְּקִרְבָּהּ לֵאמֹר¹²
 אַחֲרַי בָּלַתִּי הֲיִתְהַלְּלִי עַדְנָה וְאֲדַנִּי זָקוּן:
 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אֲבָרְהָם¹³
 לָמָּה זֶה צִחְקָה שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר הֲאֵף אֲמַנָּם אֵלֶךְ וְאֲנִי זָקֵנָתִי:

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child? **And I – I am old.**’” (vv. 11-13)

20:6

4 וְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי הַגּוֹי גַּם־צַדִּיק תִּהְרַג:
 5 הֲלֹא הוּא אָמַר־לִי אַחְתִּי הוּא וְהִיא־גַם־הוּא אָמְרָה אַחִי הוּא
 בְּתַם־לִבְבִי וּבִנְקִיּוֹן כַּפִּי עָשִׂיתִי זֹאת:
 6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים בְּחָלֶם גַּם אָנֹכִי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי בְתַם־לִבְבְךָ עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת
 וְאַחֲשֹׁךְ גַּם־אָנֹכִי אוֹתָךְ מִחַטּוֹתַי עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נִתְחַדָּךְ לִנְגַע אֵלֶיהָ:

Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? He – did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she – even she – she said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.” Then God said to him in the dream, “**Indeed I – I know** that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.” (vv. 4-6)

The particle ׀ strengthens the emphasis of the subject.

21:26 (x2)

25 וְהוֹכַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ
 עַל־אֲדוּת בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עַבְדֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ:
 26 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה
 וְגַם־אֲתָהּ לֹא־הִנֵּרַתָּ לִי וְגַם אָנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלַתִּי הַיּוֹם:
 27 וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ
 וַיִּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית:

But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized. And Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this matter; **even you – you did not tell me, and even I – I did not hear** of it until today.” And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them to Abimelech; and the two of them made a covenant. (vv. 25-27)

Again, ׀ strengthens the emphasis of the subjects.

24:31

30 וַיְהִי כִּרְאֹת אֶת־הַנְּזִים וְאֶת־הַצְּמֹדִים עַל־יְדֵי אַחְתּוֹ
 וּכְשָׁמְעוּ אֶת־דְּבָרֵי רַבְקָה אַחְתּוֹ לֵאמֹר כֹּה־דָבַר אֵלַי הָאִישׁ
 וַיָּבֵא אֶל־הָאִישׁ וְהִנֵּה עֹמֵד עַל־הַגְּמָלִים עַל־הָעֵינָן:

וַיֹּאמֶר בּוֹא בְרוּךְ יְהוָה³¹

לָמָּה תַעֲמֹד בַּחוּץ וְאַנְכִי פִנְיָתִי הַפִּיִת וּמְקוֹם לְגַמְלִים:

And it came about that when he saw the ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. And he said, "Come in, blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside? **Since I – I have prepared** the house, and a place for the camels." (vv. 30-31)

26:27

וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ הֵלךְ אֵלָיו מִגֶּרָר²⁶

וְאַחֲזַת מְרַעְהוּ וּפִיכֹל שֶׁר־צָבָאוּ:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יִצְחָק מֵדוּעַ בָּאתֶם אֵלַי²⁷

וְאַתֶּם שְׂנֵאתֶם אֹתִי וַתִּשְׁלַחוּנִי מֵאֲתֶכֶם:

Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath, and Phicol the commander of his army. And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, **since you – you hate** me, and have sent me away from you?" (vv. 26-27)

The pronominal element of the verb (תם) in שְׂנֵאתֶם repeats the subject (אתם).

30:29

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לָכֵן אִם־נָא מִצָּאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ²⁷

נִחֲשָׁתִי וַיְבָרַכְנִי יְהוָה בְּגִלְגָּלָד:

וַיֹּאמֶר²⁸

נִקְבָּה שְׂכָרְךָ עָלַי וְאַתָּנָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֵת אֲשֶׁר עֲבַדְתִּיךָ²⁹

וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה מִקְנֶךָ אֹתִי:

But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you; I have divined that the Lord has blessed me on your account." And he continued, "Name me your wages, and I will give it." And he said to him, "**You – you know** how I have served you and how your cattle have fared with me." (vv. 27-29)

31:6

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶן רְאֵה אָנֹכִי אֶת־פְּנֵי אָבִיכֶן כִּי־אֵינְנִי אֵלַי כְּתַמּוֹל שְׁלֶשֶׁם⁵

וְאֵלֵהִי אָבִי הֲיָה עִמָּדִי:

וְאַתָּנָה יָדַעְתָּן⁶

כִּי בְּכָל־כַּחַי עֲבַדְתִּי אֶת־אֲבִיכֶן:

And he said to them, “I see your father’s attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me. **And you – you know** that I have served your father with all my strength.” (vv. 5-6)

The pronominal element of the verb (יִדְעֶתֶן in הֵן) repeats the subject (אֲתָנָה).

32:13

¹⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי אַבְרָהָם וְאֱלֹהֵי אָבִי יִצְחָק
 יְהוָה הָאֵמֵר אֵלַי שׁוּב לְאַרְצְךָ וּלְמוֹלַדְתְּךָ וְאִיטִיבָה עִמָּךְ:
¹¹ קִטְנֹתִי מִכָּל הַחֲסָדִים וּמִכָּל־הָאֱמֻת אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ
 כִּי בַמִּקְלֵי עֲבַדְתִּי אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן הַזֶּה וְעַתָּה הִנֵּיתִי לְשָׁנֵי מַחֲנוֹת:
¹² הַצִּילֵנִי נָא מִיַּד אָחִי מִיַּד עֵשָׂו
 כִּי־יֵרָא אָנֹכִי אֹתוֹ פֹּרְיָבוֹא וְהִכְנִי אִם עַל־בָּנָיִם:
¹³ וְאַתָּה אֲמַרְתָּ הֵיטֵב אִיטִיב עִמָּךְ
 וְשִׁמְתִי אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כְּחֹל הַיָּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִסְפָּר מֵרֶב:

And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord, who didst say to me, ‘Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,’ I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You has shown to Your servant; for with my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me, the mothers with the children. **And You – You said**, ‘I will surely prosper you, and make your seeds as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted for multitude.’” (vv. 10-13)

38:23

²¹ וַיִּשְׂאֵל אֶת־אֲנָשֵׁי מְקוֹמָהּ לֵאמֹר אֵיךָ הַקְּדֻשָּׁה הוּא בְּעֵינָיִם עַל־הַדָּרֶךְ
 וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָּזֶה קְדֻשָּׁה:
²² וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מְצָאתִיהָ
 וְגַם אֲנָשֵׁי הַמְּקוֹם אָמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָּזֶה קְדֻשָּׁה:
²³ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה תִּקַּח־לָהּ פֶּן נִהְיֶה לְבוֹז
 הִנֵּה שְׁלַחְתִּי הַגֵּדִי הַזֶּה וְאַתָּה לֹא מְצָאתָהּ:

And he asked the men of her place, saying, “Where is the temple prostitute who was by the road at Enaim?” But they said, “There has been no temple prostitute here.” So he returned to Judah, and said, “I did not find her; and even the men of the place

– they said, ‘There has been no temple prostitute here.’” Then Judah said, “Let her keep them, lest we become a laughingstock. Behold, I sent this kid, **but you – you did not find her.**” (vv. 21-23)

41:15

וַיִּשְׁלַח פַּרְעֹה וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְרִיצֵהוּ מִן־הַבּוֹר¹⁴
וַיַּגְלַח וַיַּחְלֶף שְׂמֹלֹתָיו וַיָּבֵא אֶל־פַּרְעֹה:
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם חֲלָמְתִי וּפְתַר אֵין אִתּוֹ¹⁵
וַאֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי עָלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר תִּשְׁמַע חֲלוֹם לַפֶּתֶר אִתּוֹ:

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; **and I – I have heard** about you, saying, you can hear a dream to interpret it.” (vv. 14-15)

44:27

וַיֹּאמֶר עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי אֶלְיָנוּ
אַתֶּם יֹדְעֵתֶם כִּי שְׁנַיִם יָלְדָה־לִּי אִשְׁתִּי:

“And your servant my father said to us, ‘**You – you know** that my wife bore me two sons.’”

45:8

וַיִּשְׁלַחֵנִי אֱלֹהִים לְפָנֵיכֶם לְשׁוּם לָכֶם שְׂאֵרִית בְּאֶרֶץ
וְלִהְיוֹת לָכֶם לְפֹלִיטָה גְדֹלָה:
וְעַתָּה לֹא־אַתֶּם שְׁלַחְתֶּם אִתִּי הֲנֵה כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים⁸
וַיְשִׁימֵנִי לְאָב לַפַּרְעֹה וְלְאֲדוֹן לְכָל־בֵּיתוֹ וּמִשַּׁל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם:
מִהָרֹּץ וְעַלֹּו אֶל־אָבִי וַאֲמַרְתֶּם אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמַר בְּנֵךְ יוֹסֵף
שָׁמַעֵנִי אֱלֹהִים לְאֲדוֹן לְכָל־מִצְרָיִם רְדָה אֵלַי אֶל־תַּעֲמֹד:

“And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, **you – you did not send** me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.”’ (vv. 7-9)

45:19

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אָמַר אֶל־אָחִיךָ זֹאת עֲשֹׂו

טַעֲנוּ אֶת־בְּעִירְכֶם וּלְכוּ־בְאוּ אֶרְצָה כְּנַעַן:

¹⁸ וּקְחוּ אֶת־אֲבִיכֶם וְאֶת־בְּתִיכֶם וּבְאוּ אֵלַי

וְאֶתְנֶנָּה לָכֶם אֶת־טוֹב אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וְאֶכְלוּ אֶת־חֶלֶב הָאָרֶץ:

¹⁹ וְאֵתָה צְוִיתָהּ זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְחוּ־לָכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עֲגָלוֹת

לְטַפְּכֶם וּלְנִשְׁיֵיכֶם וּנְשֵׂאתֶם אֶת־אֲבִיכֶם וּבְאתֶם:

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you shall eat the fat of the land.’ **Now you – you are ordered**, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father and come.’” (vv. 17-19)

The pronominal element of the verb (צְוִיתָהּ in תָּה) repeats the subject (אָתָה).

48:22

²¹ וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי מֵת

וְהִיָּה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּכֶם וְהִשִּׁיב אֶתְכֶם אֶל־אֶרֶץ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם:

²² וְאָנֹכִי נָתַתִּי לָךְ שָׂכָם אַחַד עַל־אַחֶיךָ

אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתִּי מִיַּד הָאֱמֹרִי בְּחַרְבִּי וּבְקִשְׁתִּי:

Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers. **And I – I give** you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.” (vv. 21-22)

50:20^a

¹⁸ וַיֵּלְכוּ גַם־אֲחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנּוּ לָךְ לַעֲבָדִים:

¹⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יוֹסֵף אֶל־תִּירָאוּ

כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:

²⁰ וְאַתֶּם חֲשַׁבְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה

אֱלֹהִים חֲשַׁבָה לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֵׂה כִּי־וַיִּהְיֶה לְהַחֲיִית עַם־רַב:

Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? **And you – you meant** evil against me, *but* God – He meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (vv. 18-20)

**Pronoun Subject with Single
Pronominal Resumption:
Repetition of Implicit Pronoun
(B.2)**

Occurrences: 20:5^a and 38:28.

20:5^a

וַיֵּסַע מִשָּׁם אֲבִרְהֵם אֶרֶצָה הַנֶּגֶב וַיָּשֶׁב בֵּין-קָדֵשׁ וּבֵין שׁוּר
וַיֵּגֶר בְּגֵרָר:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֶל-שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אַחֲתִי הִיא
וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲבִימֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ גֵּרָר וַיִּקַּח אֶת-שָׂרָה:

וַיָּבֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בַּחֲלוֹם הַלַּיְלָה
וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲנֵךְ מֵת עַל-הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר-לָקַחְתָּ וְהִיא בְּעַלְתָּ בְּעַל:
וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי הַנְּוִי גַם-צָדִיק תִּהְרַג:

הֲלֹא הִיא הָיְתָה אֵמֶר-לִי אַחֲתִי הִיא וְהִיא-גַם-הִיא אָמְרָה אֲחִי הִיא
בְּתַסְלִיבָהּ וּבְנִקְוֹן כְּפִי עֲשִׂיתִי זֹאת:

Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." Now Abimelech – he had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even *though* blameless? **He – did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'?** And she – even she – she said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." (vv. 1-5)

38:28

וַיְהִי בַעֲת לִדְתָהּ²⁷

וַהֲנָה תְּאוּמִים בְּבִטְנָהּ:

וַיְהִי בְּלִדְתָהּ וַיִּתְּרֶנָּה²⁸

וַתִּקַּח הַמִּיּוֹלֶדֶת וַתִּקְשֶׁר עַל-יָדוֹ שָׁנִי לֵאמֹר זֶה יֵצֵא רִאשׁוֹנָה:

And it came about at the time she was giving birth, that behold, there were twins in her womb. And while she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and then the midwife took and tied a scarlet *thread* on his hand, saying, "**This one – he came out first.**" (vv. 27-28)

**Pronoun Subject with Single
Pronominal Resumption:
Repetition of Pronoun Substitute
(B.3)**

Occurrences: 3:15^a, 4:7, 5:29, 16:12, 19:19, 21:24, 24:45, 31:32, 31:39, 31:52
(x2), 38:17, 41:40, 42:37, 43:9, 44:5, 44:9, 46:4 (x2), 47:30, 48:19 (x2), 49:19^b, 49:20,
and 50:21.

3:15^a

¹⁴וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת
אָרֹר אֶתְּךָ מִכָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִכָּל־חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה
עַל־גִּחְוֹנֶךָ תֵּלֵךְ וְעָפָר תֹּאכַל כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ:
¹⁵וְאִיבָה אִשִּׁית בֵּינְךָ וּבֵין הָאִשָּׁה וּבֵין זְרַעֲךָ וּבֵין זְרַעֲהָ
הוּא יִשׁוּפֶךָ רֹאשׁ וְאַתָּה תִּשׁוּפְנֶנּוּ עֵקֶב:

And the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; **he – he shall bruise you** on the head, and you – you shall bruise him on the heel.” (vv. 14-15)

4:7

⁶וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־קַיִן
לָמָּה חָרָה לָךְ וְלָמָּה נָפְלוּ פָנֶיךָ:
⁷הֲלוֹא אִם־תֵּיטִיב שְׂאֵת וְאִם לֹא תֵיטִיב לִפְתַּח חַטָּאת רֹבֵץ
וְאֵלֶיךָ תִּשׁוּקָתוֹ וְאַתָּה תִּמְשָׁל־בּוֹ:

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, **but you – you must master it.**” (vv. 6-7)

5:29

²⁸וַיַּחֲרִלְמֶךָ שְׁתִּים וּשְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּמָאתַיִם שָׁנָה
וַיֻּלְד בֶּן:
²⁹וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ נֹחַ לֵאמֹר
זֶה יִנְחַמְנוּ מִמַּעֲשֵׂנוּ וּמֵעֲצָבוֹן יְדֵינוּ מִן־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אָרְרָהּ יְהוָה:

And Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. And he called his name Noah, saying, “**This one – he shall give us rest** from our work and from the toil of our hands from the ground which the Lord has cursed it.” (vv. 28-29)

16:12

11 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִלֵּאךְ יְהוָה הִנֵּךְ הָרָה וַיֵּלֶדְךָ בֵּן
וַקְרֵאתָ שְׁמוֹ יִשְׁמָעֵאל כִּי־שָׁמַע יְהוָה אֶל־עֲנִיךָ:
12 וְהוּא יְהִי פָרָא אָדָם יָדוּ בְּכָל יוֹד כָּל בּוֹ
וְעַל־פָּנָי כָּל־אָחָיו יִשְׁכֹּן:

The angel of the Lord said to her further, “Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son; and you shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has given heed to your affliction. **And he – he will be** a wild donkey of a man, His hand *will be* against everyone, and everyone’s hand *will be* against him; and he will live to the east of all his brothers.” (vv. 11-12)

19:19

18 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹט אֲלֵהֶם
אֶל־נָא אֲדֹנָי:
19 הִנֵּה־נָא מָצָא עַבְדְּךָ חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ
וַתִּגְדַּל חַסְדְּךָ אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי לְהַחְיֹת אֶת־נַפְשִׁי
וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא אוֹכֵל לְהַמְלִיט הָהָרָה פֶּן־תִּדְבַקְנִי הָרָעָה וּמָתִי:
20 הִנֵּה־נָא הָעִיר הַזֹּאת קְרִיבָה לְנוֹס שָׁמָּה וְהִיא מִצְעָר
אִמְלִטָהּ נָא שָׁמָּה הֲלֹא מִצְעָר הוּא וַחֲתִי נַפְשִׁי:

But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lords! Now behold, your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have set with me to save my life; **but I – I am not able to** escape to the mountains, lest the disaster overtake me and I die; now behold, this town is near to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.” (vv. 18-20)

21:24

22 וַיְהִי בַעַת הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צָבָאוּ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר
אֲלֵהֶם עִמָּךְ בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה:
23 וְעַתָּה הִשָּׁבְעָה לִּי בֵּאלֹהִים הַנֵּה אִם־תִּשְׁקַד לִּי וּלְנִינִי וּלְנִכְדָּי
כַּחֲסֹד אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּדִי וְעַם־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נִרְתָּה בָּהּ:

24 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשָׁבַע:

Now it came about at that time, that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, “God is with you in all that you do; now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me, or with my offspring, or with my posterity; but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me, and to the land in which you have sojourned.” And Abraham said, “**I – I swear.**” (vv. 22-24)

24:45

43 הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל-עֵין הַמַּיִם

וְהִיָּה הָעֹלָמָה הַיְצִאת לְשֹׂאֵב וְאִמְרָתִי אֵלֶיהָ הַשְּׁקִינִי נָא מֵעַט-מַיִם מִכַּדָּךְ:

44 וְאִמְרָה אֵלַי גַּם-אַתָּה שְׂתֵּה וְגַם לְגַמְלִיךָ אֲשָׁאֵב

הִנּוּ הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר-הֵכִיחַ יְהוָה לְבֶן-אֲדָנָי:

45 אֲנִי טֹרֵם אֶכְלָה לְדַבֵּר אֶל-לִבִּי וְהִנֵּה רַבָּקָה יֹצֵאת וְכַדָּה עַל-שִׁכְמָהּ

וַתֵּרֶד הָעֵינָה וַתִּשָּׂאֵב וְאִמַּר אֵלֶיהָ הַשְּׁקִינִי נָא:

“Behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your jar’; and she will say to me, ‘You drink, and I will draw for your camels also’; let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’ **I – before I had finished** speaking in my heart, and behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew; and I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’” (vv. 43-45)

31:32

31 וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן

כִּי יָרֵאתִי כִּי אִמְרָתִי פֶרֶת-תִּגְזֹל אֶת-בְּנוֹתַיךָ מֵעַמִּי:

32 עִם אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא אֶת-אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא יִחְיֶה׃

נִגַּד אַחֲזִינוּ הַכֶּרֶלֶךְ מָה עֲמָדִי וְקַח-לָךְ

וְלֹא-יָרֵדַע יַעֲקֹב כִּי רָחֵל נִגְבָּתָם:

Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I said, ‘Lest you would take your daughters from me by force.’ **The one with whom you find your gods – he shall not live**; in the presence of our kinsmen point out what is yours among my belongings and take *it* for yourself.” For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. (vv. 31-32)

31:39

36 וַיִּחַר לַיַּעֲקֹב וַיִּרֶב בְּלָבָן וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן

מִה־פִּשְׁעִי מָה חָטָאתִי כִּי דָלַקְתָּ אַחֲרָי:
 כִּי־מִשְׁשַׁתָּ אֶת־כָּל־כְּלֵי מִה־מִצְאָתְךָ מִכָּל כְּלֵי־בֵיתְךָ³⁷
 שִׁים כֹּה נִגַּד אַחִי וְאַחִיךָ וַיּוֹכִיחוּ בֵּין שְׁנֵינוּ:
 זֶה עֲשָׂרִים שָׁנָה אֲנֹכִי עִמָּךְ רִחֲלִיךָ וְעִזֶיךָ לֹא שָׁכְלוּ³⁸
 וְאֵילִי צִאנֶיךָ לֹא אָכַלְתִּי:
 טָרַפְהָ לֹא־הִבֵּאתִי אֵלֶיךָ אֲנֹכִי אֲחַטָּנָה מִיָּדִי תִבְקַשְׁנָה³⁹
 וְנִגַּבְתִּי יוֹם וְנִגַּבְתִּי לַיְלָה:

Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob answered and said to Laban, “What is my transgression? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set *it* here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats – they have not miscarried, the rams of your flocks I have not eaten. That which was torn I did not bring to you; **I – I bore the loss of it.** You required it of my hand whether stolen by day or stolen by night.” (vv. 36-39)

31:52 (x2)²⁰

וַיֹּאמֶר לְבָן לְיַעֲקֹב⁵¹
 הִנֵּה הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמִּצְבָּה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ:
 עַד הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְעַד הַמִּצְבָּה⁵²
 אִם־אֲנִי לֹא־אָעֵבֶר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הַגִּל הַזֶּה
 וְאִם־אֵתָּה לֹא־תַעֲבֹר אֵלַי אֶת־הַגִּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת־הַמִּצְבָּה הַזֹּאת לְרָעָה:
 אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וְאֱלֹהֵי נָחוֹר יִשְׁפְּטוּ בֵּינֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אַבְיָהֶם⁵³
 וַיִּשָּׁבַע יַעֲקֹב בְּפֶחַד אָבִיו יִצְחָק:

And Laban said to Jacob, “Behold this heap and behold the pillar which I have set between you and me. This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, **that I – I will not pass by** this heap to you, **and you – you will not pass by** this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father – He (They) judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. (vv. 51-53)

²⁰This clause is also classified in I.E. Contrast category.

38:17

וַיֵּט אֵלֶיהָ אֶל-הַדֶּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲבֵה-נָא אִבּוֹא אֵלֶיךָ כִּי לֹא יָדַע¹⁶
 כִּי כָלְתוּ הוּא וַתֹּאמֶר מַה-תִּתֶּן-לִי כִּי תָבוֹא אֵלַי:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי אֲשַׁלַּח גְּדֵי-עֲזִים מִן-הַצֹּאן¹⁷
 וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-תִּתֶּן עֲרֹבוֹן עַד שְׁלַחְךָ:

So he turned aside to her by the road, and said, “Here now, let me come in to you”; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” And he said, “**I – I will send out** you a kid from the flock.” And she said, “Will you give a pledge until you send?” (vv. 16-17)

41:40

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל-יוֹסֵף אַחֲרֵי הוֹדִיעַ אֱלֹהִים אוֹתְךָ אֶת-כָּל-זֹאת³⁹
 אִין-נָבוֹן וְחָכָם כְּמוֹךָ:
 אַתָּה תִּהְיֶה עַל-בֵּיתִי וְעַל-פִּיךָ יִשָּׁק כָּל-עַמִּי⁴⁰
 רַק הַכִּסֵּא אֲנִי מִמֶּךָ:

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. **You – you shall be** over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you.” (vv. 39-40)

42:37

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם אֵתִי שִׁכַּלְתֶּם³⁶
 יוֹסֵף אֵינָנוּ וְשִׁמְעוֹן אֵינָנוּ וְאֶת-בְּנֵימִן תִּקְחוּ עָלַי הֲיִו כָּלְנָה:
 וַיֹּאמֶר רְאוּבֵן אֶל-אָבִיו לֵאמֹר אֶת-שְׁנֵי בָנַי תָּמוּת אִם-לֹא אָבִיאָנוּ אֵלֶיךָ³⁷
 תָּנֵה אֹתוֹ עַל-יָדַי וְאֲנִי אֲשִׁיבָנוּ אֵלֶיךָ:

And their father Jacob said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me.” Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, “You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him *back* to you; put him in my care, **and I – I will return him** to you.” (vv. 36-37)

43:9

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹדָה אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו שְׁלַח הַנַּעַר אֵתִי וְנִקְוָמָה וְנִלְכָה⁸
 וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת גַּם-אֲנַחְנוּ גַם-אַתָּה גַם-טַפָּנוּ:

אֲנֹכִי אֶעֱרְבֶנּוּ מִיַּד תִּבְקָשְׁנִי⁹

אם-לא הביאתיו אליך והצגתיו לפניך וחסאתי לך כל-הימים:

And Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones. **I – I will be surety for him**; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him *back* to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.” (vv. 8-9)

44:5

הַבָּקָר אֹר³

והאנשים שלחו המה וחמריהם:

הם יצאו את-העיר לא הרחיקו⁴

ויוסף אמר לאשר על-ביתו קום רדף אחרי האנשים

והשנתם ואמרת אלהם למה שלמתם רעה תחת טובה:

הלוא זה אשר ישתה אדני בו והוא נחש ינחש בו⁵

הרעתם אשר עשיתם:

As soon as it was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. They had *just* gone out of the city, *and* were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, “Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good? “Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, **and he – he indeed uses** for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.’” (vv. 3-5)

44:9

הֵן כֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר מָצְאוּ בְּפִי אִמְתַּחֲתֵינוּ הִשִּׁיבֵנוּ אֵלֶיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן⁸

ואיך נגנב מבית אדניך כסף או זהב:

אשר ימצא אתו מעבדיך ומת⁹

וגם-אנחנו נהיה לאדני לעבדים:

“Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks we have brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, **and even we – we will be my lord's slaves.**” (vv. 8-9)

The pronoun substitute in the verb (נ in נהיה) repeats the subject (אנחנו). The particle הֵן strengthens the emphasis of the subject.

46:4 (x2)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִרְאֵת הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב יַעֲקֹב
וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי הָאֵל אֱלֹהֵי אֲבִיךָ
אֶל־תִּירָא מִרְדָּה מִצְרַיִמָּה כִּי־לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל אֲשִׁימָךְ שָׁם:
אָנֹכִי אֵרָד עִמָּךְ מִצְרַיִמָּה וְאָנֹכִי אֶעֱלֶךָ גַּם־עֲלֶה
וַיּוֹסֶף יָשִׁית יָדוֹ עַל־עֵינָיֶךָ:

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. **I – I will go down** with you to Egypt, **and I – I will also surely bring you** up again; and Joseph – he will set his hand upon your eyes.” (vv. 2-4)

47:30

וַיִּקְרָבוּ יְמֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לָמוֹת וַיִּקְרָא לְבָנָו לְיוֹסֵף
וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־נָא מְצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ שִׂים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יְרֵכִי
וַעֲשֵׂיתָ עִמָּדִי חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת אֶל־נָא תִקְבְּרֵנִי בְּמִצְרַיִם:
וְשָׁכַבְתִּי עִם־אֲבֹתַי וְנִשְׂאֲתֵנִי מִמִּצְרַיִם וְקִבְרַתִּנִי בְּקִבְרָתָם
וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי אֶעֱשֶׂה כְּדַבְּרֶךָ:

When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury me in Egypt, but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” And he said, “**I – I will do** as you have said.” (vv. 29-30)

48:19 (x2)

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָבִיו לֹא־כֵן אָבִי
כִּי־זֶה הַבְּכֹר שִׂים יְמִינְךָ עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ:
וַיִּמָּאֵן אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר יָדְעֵתִי בְּנִי יָדְעֵתִי גַם־הוּא יִהְיֶה־לָּעַם וְגַם־הוּא יִגְדֹּל
וְאוֹלָם אֲחִיו הַקָּטָן יִגְדֹּל מִמֶּנּוּ וְזָרְעוֹ יִהְיֶה מְלֹא־הַגּוֹיִם:

And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this one is the first-born. Place your right hand on his head.” But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know; **he – he also shall become a people and he – he also shall become great.**

However, his younger brother – he shall become greater than he, and his seeds – they shall become a multitude of nations.” (vv. 18-19)

49:19^{b21}

גַּד גִּדְוֹד יִגְדְּפוּ
וְהוּא יִגְד עֲקֵב:

“As for Gad, raiders – they shall raid him; **but he – he shall raid** at their heels.”

49:20

מֵאֲשֶׁר שְׂמֹנֶה לַחֲמוֹ
וְהוּא יִתֵּן מִעֲרֵנֵי-מֶלֶךְ:

“As for Asher, his food shall be rich; **and he – he shall yield** royal dainties.”

50:21

וַיִּלְכוּ גַם-אֲחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לִפְנֵי¹⁸
וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנּוּ לָךְ לַעֲבָדִים:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יוֹסֵף אֶל-תִּירָאוּ¹⁹
כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:
וְאַתֶּם חֲשַׁבְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה²⁰
אֱלֹהִים חֲשַׁבָה לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה כִּי־וַיִּהְיֶה לְהַחְיִית עַם-רַב:
וַיַּעַתָּה אֶל-תִּירָאוּ אֲנִי אֶכְלָל אֶתְכֶם וְאֶת-טַפְכֶּם²¹
וַיִּנַּחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עַל-לִבָּם:

Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? And you – you meant evil against me, *but* God – He meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; **I – I will provide** for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (vv. 18-21)

²¹This clause is also classified in I.E. Contrast category.

**Noun Subject with Double
Pronominal Resumptions:
Emphasis with Double Resumptive
Subjects (C.1)**

Occurrence: 17:17.

17:17

15 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׂרַי אִשְׁתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ שְׂרַי
כִּי שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ:

16 וּבֵרַכְתִּי אֹתָהּ וְגַם נָתַתִּי מִמֶּנָּה לְךָ בֵּן

וּבֵרַכְתִּיהָ וְהָיְתָה לְגוֹיִם מְלֻכֵי עַמִּים מִמֶּנָּה יִהְיוּ:

17 וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָהָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיִּצְחַק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלִבִּי

הֲלֹבֵן מֵאֵה־שָׁנָה יוֹלֵד וְאִם־שָׂרָה הִבְתַּתְשָׁעִים שָׁנָה תֵּלֵד:

Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall be* her name. And I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother of* nations; kings of peoples – they shall come from her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? **Or Sarah – will a ninety years old woman bear?**” (vv. 15-17)

The noun subject (בַּת־הַשָּׁעִים שָׂרָה) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (ת in תֵּלֵד) repeat the subject (שָׂרָה) for strong emphasis.

**Noun Subject with Double
Pronominal Resumptions:
Emphasis with Double Resumptive
Pronouns (C.2)**

Occurrences: 3:12, 14:24, 15:4, 24:7, and 44:17.

3:12

11 וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הַנִּיד לְךָ כִּי עִירָם אֵתָהּ

הַמִּן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לְבַלְתִּי אֶכְל־מִמֶּנּוּ אֶכְלָתָ:

12 וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם

הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הִוא נִתְּנָה־לִּי מִן־הָעֵץ וְאֶכְלָ:

And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” And the man said, “**The woman whom You gave to be with me – she – she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.**” (vv. 11-12)

The independent pronoun (הוא) and the explicit pronoun to the end of the verb (נתנה in ה) repeat the subject (האשה) for strong emphasis.

14:24

21 וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ-סֹדֶם אֶל-אַבְרָם
תְּוֹלֵי הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְהַרְכַּשׁ קָח־לָךְ:
22 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל-מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם
הֲרִימְתִי יָדִי אֶל-יְהוָה אֵל עֲלִיּוֹן קָנָה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:
23 אִם-מְחוּטָּ וְעַד שְׂרוּף-נֶעַל וְאִם-אֶקַּח מִכָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לָךְ
וְלֹא תֹאמַר אֲנִי הִעֲשֵׂרְתִי אֶת-אַבְרָם:
24 בְּלִעְדֵי רֶק אֲשֶׁר אָכְלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וְחֶלֶק הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר הִלְכוּ אִתִּי
עֲנֹר אֲשַׁכַּל וּמִמָּרָא הֵם יִקְחוּ חֶלְקָם:

And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.” And Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I – I have made Abram rich.’ I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, **Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre – they – let them take their portion.**” (vv. 21-24)

The independent pronoun (הם) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (in יקחו) with a “Vav of plurality” repeat the subject (ענר ואשכל וממרא) for strong emphasis.

15:4

3 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נִתְחַה זָרַע
וְהִנֵּה בְרִבְתִּי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי:
4 וְהִנֵּה דְבַר-יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִירָשְׁךָ זֶה
כִּי-אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ הוּא יִירָשְׁךָ:

And Abram said, “Since You has given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one will not

be your heir; but **one who shall come forth from your belly – he – he shall be your heir.**” (vv. 3-4)

The independent pronoun (הוא) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (ׁ in וַיִּרְשֶׁךָ) repeat the subject (אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ) for strong emphasis.

24:7

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם
הִשָּׁמֵר לְךָ פֶּן-תָּשִׁיב אֶת-בְּנִישְׁמָה:
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי וּמֵאֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתִּי⁷
וְאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-לִי וְאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע-לִי לֵאמֹר לְזָרְעֶךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת
הוּא יִשְׁלַח מִלְּאָכּוֹ לְפָנֶיךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִשָּׁם:
וְאִם-לֹא תֵאבְדָה הָאִשָּׁה לְלָכֶת אַחֲרָיִךָ וְנִקִּיתָ מִשְׁבַּעְתִּי זֹאת⁸
רַק אֶת-בְּנִי לֹא תִשָּׁב שָׁמָּה:

Then Abraham said to him, “Beware lest you take my son back there! **The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give this land’ – He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there.**” (vv. 6-8)

The independent pronoun (הוא) and the pronoun substitute in the verb (ׁ in וַיִּשְׁלַח) repeat the subject (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי וּמֵאֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתִּי) for strong emphasis.

44:17

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יוֹסֵף מִה־הַמַּעֲשָׂה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם
הֲלוֹא יָדַעְתֶּם כִּי-נִחַשׁ יִנְחַשׁ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כָּמֹנִי:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה מִה־נֹּאמַר לְאֲדֹנָי מִה־נִּדְבַר וּמִה־נִּצְטַדֵּק¹⁶
הָאֱלֹהִים מִצָּא אֶת-עֹן עַבְדֶּיךָ הַנְּנוּ עַבְדִּים לְאֲדֹנָי
גַם-אֲנַחְנוּ גַם אֲשֶׁר-נִמְצָא הַגִּבִּיעַ בְּיָדוֹ:
וַיֹּאמֶר חֲלִילָה לִי מִעֲשׂוֹת זֹאת¹⁷

הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִמְצָא הַנְּבִיעַ בְּיָדוֹ הוּא יְהִי־לִי עֶבֶד
וְאַתֶּם עָלוּ לְשָׁלוֹם אֶל־אֲבִיכֶם:

And Joseph said to them, “What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?” So Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God – He has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.” But he said, “Far be it from me to do this. **The man in whose possession the cup has been found – he shall be** my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father.” (vv. 15-17)

Pronoun Subject with Double Pronominal Resumptions (D)

Occurrence: 20:5^b.

20:5^b

הֲלֹא הוּא אָמַר־לִי אֲחֹתִי הִוא וְהִיא־גַם־הִוא אֲמָרָה אֲתִי הוּא
בְּתַם־לִבִּי וּבִנְקִיּוֹן כַּפֵּי עֲשִׂיתִי זֹאת:

“He – did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? **And she – even she – she said**, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

The pronoun subject (the second הוּא of the subject-before-finite-verb clause) and the explicit pronoun to the end of the verb (הוּא in אֲמָרָה) repeat the subject (the first הוּא of the subject-before-finite-verb clause) for strong emphasis.

Contrast (E)

Occurrences: 1:20, 1:22, 3:15^b, 3:16, 15:15, 21:26^b, 28:16, 31:52, 33:14, 35:10, 35:11^b, 44:10, 44:20, 46:4^c, 47:24, 49:19, and 50:20^b.

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in a contrasting structure within non-narrative statements express strong emphasis or more or less equal amount of description and emphasis, viewing actions as simultaneous.

1:20

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִשְׂרָעֵל הַפְּמִים שָׂרִץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה

וְעוֹף יְעוֹפֵף עַל־הָאָרֶץ עַל־פְּנֵי רְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם:

Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, **and birds – let them fly** above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”

1:22

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר

פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת־הַמַּיִם בַּיָּמִים וְהָעוֹף יִרְבַּ בָּאָרֶץ:

And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply; and fill the waters in the seas, **and birds – let them multiply** on the earth.”

3:15^b

וְאִיבָה אֲשִׁית בֵּינְךָ וּבֵין הָאִשָּׁה וּבֵין זְרַעֲךָ וּבֵין זְרַעָהּ

הוּא יִשׁוּפֶךָ רֹאשׁ וְאַתָּה תִּשׁוּפֶנּוּ עִקְבֵּי:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he – he shall bruise you on the head, **and you – you shall bruise him** on the heel.”

This subject-before-finite-verb clause expresses strong emphasis.

3:16

אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה אָמַר הַרְבֵּה אַרְבֵּה עֲצֻבוֹנְךָ וְהִרְנֶךָ בְּעֲצֹב תֵּלְדֵי בָנִים

וְאֶל־אִישׁךָ תִּשְׁוָקֶתְךָ וְהוּא יִמְשָׁל־בְּךָ:

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, **but he – he shall rule** over you.”

15:15

¹³ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תָּדַע כִּי־גֵר יִהְיֶה זְרַעֲךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם

וְעִבְדוּם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:

¹⁴ וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אֲנִכִּי

וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְּרַכְשׁ גָּדוֹל:

¹⁵ וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אַבְתְּיָךְ בְּשָׁלוֹם

תִּקְבֹּר בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה:

And He said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred

years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. **“But you – you shall go** to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.” (vv. 13-15)

21:26^b

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה
וְגַם־אֲחָה לֹא־הִנֵּדַתָּ לִי וְגַם אֲנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלִתי הַיּוֹם:

And Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this matter; even you – you didn’t tell me, **and even I – I didn’t hear** of it until today.”

28:16

וַיִּקְצַץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנֵתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בְּמָקוֹם הַזֶּה
וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי:

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, **but I – I did not know.**”

31:52 (x2)²²

וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לַיַּעֲקֹב⁵¹
הֲנֵה הִגַּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמַּצְבָּה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ:
עַד הִגַּל הַזֶּה וְעַד הַמַּצְבָּה⁵²
אִם־אֲנִי לֹא־אָעִבֶר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הִגַּל הַזֶּה
וְאִם־אֲתָה לֹא־תַעֲבֹר אֵלַי אֶת־הִגַּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת־הַמַּצְבָּה הַזֹּאת לְרָעָה:
אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹרָהֶם וְאֱלֹהֵי נָחוֹר יִשְׁפְּטוּ בֵּינֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֵיהֶם⁵³
וַיִּשָׁבַע יַעֲקֹב בַּפֶּחַד אָבִיו יִצְחָק:

And Laban said to Jacob, “Behold this heap and behold the pillar which I have set between you and me. This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I – I will not pass by this heap to you, **and you – you will not pass by** this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father – He (They) judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. (vv. 51-53)

33:14

יַעֲבֹר־נָא אֲדֹנָי לִפְנֵי עַבְדִּי

²²This clause is also classified in B.3. Pronoun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption: Repetition of Pronoun Substitute category.

וְאָנִי אֶתְנַהֵלָה לְאִטִּי לְרֹגֵל הַמִּלְאכָה אֲשֶׁר־לִפְנֵי וּלְרֹגֵל הַיְלָדִים
 עַד אֲשֶׁר־אָבָא אֶל־אֲדֹנָי שְׁעִירָה:

“Please let my lord pass on before his servant; **and I – I will proceed** at my leisure, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir.”

35:10

וַיֹּאמֶר־לוֹ אֱלֹהִים שְׁמֹךְ יַעֲקֹב לֹא־יִקְרָא שְׁמֹךְ עוֹד יַעֲקֹב
 כִּי אִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל יִהְיֶה שְׁמֹךְ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, **but Israel – it shall be your name.**” Thus He called him Israel.

44:10

וַיֹּאמֶר נִם־עֲתָה כְּדַבְרֵיכֶם כִּן־הוּא
 אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא אִתּוֹ יִהְיֶה־לִּי עֹבֵד וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ נְקִיִּם:

So he said, “Now let it also be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, **but you – you shall be innocent.**”

44:20²³

¹⁸ וַיִּנָּשׂ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנָי
 יַדְבַּר־נָא עִבְדֶּךָ דָּבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנָי וְאֶל־יָחַד אִפְּךָ בְּעִבְדֶּךָ
 כִּי כִמּוֹד כְּפָרְעָה:
¹⁹ אֲדֹנָי שָׁאֵל אֶת־עִבְדֵּי לֵאמֹר
 הֲיִשְׁלַכְּם אָב אוֹ־אָח:
²⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֲדֹנָי יִשְׁלֹנוּ אָב זָקֵן וַיִּלְד וְזָקִים קָטָן
 וְאָחִיו מֵת וַיִּוָּחַר הוּא לְבָרֵךְ לְאִמּוֹ וְאָבִיו אָהָב:

Then Judah approached him, and said, “Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh. My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ “And we said to my lord, ‘We have an old father and a little child of *his* old age. **Now his**

²³This clause is also classified in I.A.2. Noun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption: Repetition of Implicit Pronoun category.

brother – he is dead, so he alone is left of his mother, **and his father – he loves him.**” (vv. 18-20)

46:4^{c24}

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִרְאֵת הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב יַעֲקֹב
וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:
וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי הָאֵל אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ אֶל־תִּירָא מִרְדָּה
מִצְרַיִמָּה כִּי־לִנְוִי גְדוֹל אֲשִׁימְךָ שָׁם:
אָנֹכִי אֲרַד עִמָּךְ מִצְרַיִמָּה וְאָנֹכִי אֵעֲלֶךָ גַּם־עֲלֶה
וַיִּזְכֹּךְ יָשִׁית יָדוֹ עַל־עֵינֶיךָ:

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I – I will go down with you to Egypt, and I – I will also surely bring you up again; **and Joseph – he will set his hand upon your eyes.**” (vv. 2-4)

47:24

וְהָיָה בַּחֲבוּאֹת וּנְחֹתֶם חֲמִישִׁית לַפְּרֹעָה וְאַרְבַּע הַיָּדָת יִהְיֶה לָכֶם
לְזֶרַע הַשָּׂדֶה וּלְאֹכְלֵכֶם וּלְאִשֶׁר בְּבֵתֵיכֶם וּלְאֹכְלֵ לְטַפְּכֶם:

“And at the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, **and four-fifths – it shall be** your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones.”

49:19^{b25}

גַּד גְּדוּד יִגְדְּנֵו
וְהוּא יִגַּד עָקֵב:

“As for Gad, raiders – they shall raid him; **but he – he shall raid** at their heels.”

50:20^b

וַיִּלְכוּ גַם־אֲחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו¹⁸

²⁴This clause is also classified in I.A.3. Noun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption: Repetition of Pronoun Substitute category.

²⁵This clause is also classified in I.B.3. Pronoun Subject with Single Pronominal Resumption: Repetition of Pronoun Substitute category.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַנְּנוּ לָךְ לְעֲבָדִים:

¹⁹וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יוֹסֵף אֶל־תִּירְאוּ

כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:

²⁰וְאַתֶּם חִשַּׁבְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה

אֱלֹהִים חֲשַׁבָה לְטוֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה פְּיֹם הַזֶּה לְהַחֲיִית עַם־רַב:

Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? And you – you meant evil against me, *but God – He meant it* for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (vv. 18-20)

Primarily Descriptive (II)

Starting a New Story (A)

Occurrences: 24:35, 41:10, and 44:19.

24:35

³⁴וַיֹּאמֶר

עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם אָנֹכִי:

³⁵וַיְהִי־הָאֵל בְּרַךְ אֶת־אֲדֹנָי מְאֹד וַיִּגְדַּל

וַיִּתְּן־לּוֹ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב וְעֲבָדִים וְשִׁפְחֹת וְגַמְלִים וְחֲמֹרִים:

³⁶וַחֲלָד שָׂרָה אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָי בֵּן לְאֲדֹנָי אַחֲרַי זִקְנָתָהּ

וַיִּתְּן־לּוֹ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ:

So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. **Now the Lord – He has blessed** greatly my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master in her old age; and he has given him all that he has. (vv. 34-36)

41:10

⁹וַיְדַבֵּר שֵׁר הַמִּשְׁקִים אֶת־פְּרַעֲה לֵאמֹר

אֶת־חַטָּאִי אָנִי מִזְכִּיר הַיּוֹם:

¹⁰פְּרַעֲה קָצַף עַל־עֲבָדָיו

וַיִּתֵּן אֹתִי בְּמִשְׁמֶר בֵּית שֵׁר הַטְּבָחִים אֹתִי וְאֵת שֵׁר הָאֲפִים:

Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “I would make mention today of my *own* offenses. **Pharaoh – he became furious** with his servants, and then he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, me and the chief baker.” (vv. 9-10)

44:19

וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו יְהוֹדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בֶּן אֲדֹנָי יְדַבֵּר־נָא עִבְדְּךָ דָּבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנָי¹⁸
וְאַל־יִחַר אַפֶּךָ בְּעַבְדְּךָ כִּי כַמוֹד כְּפָרְעָה:
אֲדֹנָי שְׂאֵל אֶת־עַבְדִּי לֵאמֹר¹⁹
הֲיֵשׁ־לְכֶם אָב אוֹ־אָח:

Then Judah approached him, and said, “Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh. **My lord – he asked** his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’” (vv. 18-19)

Transitioning a Story (B)

Occurrences: 49:13 and 49:16.

49:13

חֲכָלִילֵי עֵינָיִם מִיַּיִן¹²
וְלִבָּן־שָׁנִים מִחֶלֶב: פ
וְבוֹלֵן לְחֹף יָמַיִם יִשְׁכֵּן¹³
וְהוּא לְחֹף אֲנִיּוֹת וַיִּרְכָּתוּ עַל־צִידוֹ:

“His eyes are dull from wine, And his teeth white from milk. **Zebulun – he shall dwell at the seashore**; and he *shall be* a haven for ships, and his flank *shall be* toward Sidon.” (vv. 12-13)

49:16

וַיֵּרָא מְנַחֵה כִּי טוֹב וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ כִּי נַעֲמָה¹⁵
וַיִּט שִׁכְמוֹ לְסֹבֵל וַיְהִי לְמַס־עֲבָד: ס
הֵן יָדִין עַמּוֹ¹⁶
כְּאַחַד שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

“When he saw that a resting place was good And that the land was pleasant, He bowed his shoulder to bear *burdens*, And became a slave at forced labor. **Dan – he shall judge** his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.” (vv. 15-16)

General Descriptive Statement (C)

Occurrence: 49:22.

49:22

בֶּן פֶּרֶת יוֹסֵף בֶּן פֶּרֶת עַל־עֵין
בְּנֹת צִעֲרָה עַל־שׁוּר:

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; **branches – they run** over a wall.”

Conclusion

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements function almost the opposite to those in narrative statements. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements mostly express an emphatic notion, and occasionally, they express description as in the narrative statements. Even though the emphatic notion predominates in subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements, emphasis never completely overrides description, but at least some description remains.

Emphasis

Subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements mostly express emphatic notion with a single or double repetition by a pronoun. A single repetition of a pronoun attaches to the verb as an explicit pronoun, as an implicit pronoun, or as a pronoun substitute. A double repetition adds a noun or pronoun, written independently of the verb, to the pronoun attached to the verb. With a single repetition of a pronoun, subject-before-finite-verb clauses express strong emphasis in non-narrative statements. With a double repetition, subject-before-finite-verb clauses obviously express a stronger level of emphasis.

Similar to their use in narrative statements, subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements may express emphasis by contrast. This emphasis may be stronger than the descriptive notion. Sometimes, subject-before-finite-verb clauses

express a more or less equal amount of description and emphasis, with the action viewed *a-temporally* or simultaneously by the speaker.

Description

Even though the emphatic notion cannot be completely eliminated, some subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements express mostly descriptive notions. This usage is limited to a few cases, as when a speaker narrates a story by starting, transitioning, ending, or giving general descriptive statements of the subject.

CHAPTER 5

ISSUES RELATED TO SUBJECT-BEFORE-FINITE- VERB CLAUSES

The Issue of Redefining Verbal and Nominal Clauses (I)

Modern and traditional grammarians differ in their understanding of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Traditional grammarians regard subject-before-finite-verb clauses as nominal clauses; modern grammarians, on the other hand, see them as verbal clauses. This difference, of course, stems from the difference in defining verbal and nominal clauses between traditional and modern grammarians. These differences of definition may seem slight and insignificant to readers of modern grammars of Biblical Hebrew. Indeed, most modern grammars discuss verbal and nominal clauses as defined from the time of Kautzsch, but the discussions seem formal and perfunctory.¹ Yet, traditional grammarians view verbal and nominal clauses, as traditionally defined, as an essential distinction to understand Hebrew syntax.

¹For example, Joüon defined verbal and nominal clauses: “Depending on whether the predicate is a noun or a verb, a clause is said to be *nominal* or *verbal*” in the section §153. He continued to discuss nominal clauses in §154: “The category nominal clause includes every clause the predicate of which is a noun or the equivalent of a noun, i.e. for instance, a participle, a preposition with a noun or a pronoun; or, put negatively, every clause the predicate of which is not a verb (but with the exception of הָיָה in the sense of *to be*) is a nominal clause.” Joüon says little about verbal clauses other than listing examples. Waltke and O’Connor, and Merwe, Naudé, and Kroeze use the term verbal and nominal clauses, but they do not elaborate on their meaning or significance. Paul Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*, trans. and rev. T. Muraoka (Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991), §§153-55; Bruce K. Waltke and M. O’Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990), 4.3c; Christo H. J. van der Merwe, Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999).

But does this difference of definition and of opinion really matter? On the one hand, the difference may not seem much. Most modern grammarians and many interpreters still understand Biblical Hebrew very well. They have simply adapted to the new definitions of verbal and nominal clauses with adjustments made for problems of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Some of these adjustments include, for instance, seeing subject-before-finite-verb clauses as background for the narrative and verb-before-subject clauses as foreground for the narrative.

But on the other hand, the difference of opinion is vitally important. In fact, Kautzsch, a prime mover for redefining verbal and nominal clauses, understood this very well, stating:

The above distinction between different kinds of sentences – especially between noun- and verbal-clauses – is indispensable to the more delicate appreciation of Hebrew syntax (and that of the Semitic languages generally), since it is by no means merely external or formal, but involves fundamental differences of meaning. Noun-clauses with a substantive as predicate, represent something *fixed, a state* or in short, *a being* so and so; verbal-clauses on the other hand, something *moveable and in progress, an event or action*. The latter description is indeed true in a certain sense also of noun-clauses with a participial predicate, except that in their case the event or action (as distinguished from that expressed by the verbal-clause) is of a fixed and abiding character.²

If Kautzsch is correct – and traditional grammarians most certainly agree that he is correct here – that a proper understanding of verbal and nominal clauses is essential “to the more delicate appreciation of Hebrew syntax,” since it “involves fundamental differences of meaning,” then this difference in definition between traditional and modern grammarians is essential to avoid confusion and error in understanding Hebrew. Of course, Kautzsch’s statement raises a host of questions. If something this fundamental in the analysis of the language ought to be changed, why was there not extensive debate over this change? Why did he and others wish to change this definition in the first place?

²Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, trans. A. E. Cowley (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982), §140e.

For such a fundamental change, one would expect extensive debate and discussion on these questions. But amazingly, there is little information to go on here.

Apparently, Kautzsch and modern grammarians changed the traditional definition of nominal and verbal clauses based on the verbal nature of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. This is quite understandable because subject-before-finite-verb clauses contain a verb. He, therefore, understood subject-before-finite-verb clauses as a verbal clause that was “*movable and in progress an event or action,*” instead of nominal clause (or verbless clause as he redefines a nominal clause) that represents “*something fixed, a state or in short, a being so and so.*” Indeed, subject-before-finite-verb clauses clearly have a verb that is “movable” and “in progress.” Surely, traditional grammarians saw this as well. Moreover, he understood subject-before-finite-verb clauses as continuing narrative like a verbal clause, “Nevertheless, the subject does sometimes precede even in the verbal-clause proper, in the continuation of the narrative . . . especially so if there is emphasis upon it.”³ Again, a traditional grammarian would surely not dispute Kautzsch’s evidence. He would certainly agree with Kautzsch’s analysis of these verses. The changing of the definition of verbal and nominal clauses, therefore, seems like an open and shut case, but certain problems persist.

For one, Kautzsch himself did not seem completely satisfied with redefining verbal and nominal clauses. He recognized that most subject-before-finite-verb clauses are clearly more nominal than verbal:

In the great majority of instances, however, the position of the subject at the beginning of a verbal-clause is to be explained from the fact that the clause is not intended to introduce a new fact carrying on the narrative, but rather to describe a *state*. Verbal-clauses of this kind approximate closely in character to noun-clauses, and not infrequently (*viz.* when the verbal form might just as well be read as a participle) it is doubtful whether the writer did not in fact intend a noun-clause.⁴

³Kautzsch demonstrates this truth by appealing to several verses: Gen 7:19; 1 Sam 18:1; 2 Sam 19:12. For examples with emphasis, Kautzsch cites Gen 2:5 and 3:13.

⁴Gesenius, *Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar*, 28th ed., ed. E. Kautzsch, §142a.

This admission is serious. If the Hebrew authors intended “the great majority of instances (of subject-before-finite-verb clauses)” to be understood as nominal clauses, as Kautzsch states, again one wonders why a fundamental change in definition is necessary for a minority of instances. Kautzsch further concedes:

Though this definition of the different kinds of sentence (that is, verbal and nominal clauses), which we formerly accepted (in §144a of the 22nd to the 24th German editions of this Grammar), is rejected above, a-d, we must, nevertheless, mention here the point in which this more complicated view of the Arab grammarians may be regarded as at least relatively correct, namely, in classifying verbal-clauses according as the subject precedes or follows the verb, a distinction which is often of great importance in Hebrew also.⁵

This is another serious admission. If the Arab grammarians are “relatively correct, namely, in classifying verbal-clauses according as the subject precedes or follows the verb” and that this distinction is “often of great importance in Hebrew also,” again one must seriously question the wisdom of attempting the change of this importance.

Another problem, perhaps, is why do traditional grammarians not see the error of their way if Kautzsch’s redefinition is correct. Traditional grammarians, as mentioned earlier, do acknowledge some of Kautzsch’s points. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses do have a verbal dynamic. Indeed, in subject-before-finite-verb clauses, the entire sentence is a nominal clause, but the predicate is a genuine verbal clause according to traditional grammarians. In other words, the subject-before-finite-verb clauses have “two faces” because they partake of both verbal and nominal aspects. As such, subject-before-finite-verb clauses are grammatically flexible. They can continue narrative, but usually with emphasis, as Kautzsch recognized, and without the notion of succession of the Vav-consecutive. Kautzsch, to be sure, understood this “two faces” or dual aspect of subject-before-finite-verb clauses, one face by classifying them as verbal clauses and the other face by conceding that “a great majority” of subject-before-finite-verb clauses are

⁵Ibid., §140f.

actually nominal clauses. Moreover, one should remember that this issue of subject-before-finite-verb clauses is real to Arabic speakers. This is not an idle speculation, an academic theory. They have spoken, written, and thought with subject-before-finite-verb clauses for millennia. They *feel* subject-before-finite-verb clauses. It is a part of their ethnic and national identity as French is to the French and German is to the Germans. That they would misunderstand something this fundamental for century after century after century is beyond reason and probability. Furthermore, Kautzsch admits that the Arabic grammarians are “relatively correct” in their view of subject-before-finite-verb clauses and that this is “a distinction which is often of great importance in Hebrew also.” The truth is that traditional grammarians will never change to Kautzsch’s view until they lose their ethnic and national soul.

Kautzsch’s redefinition leads to other problems as well. First, it leads to confusion. By labeling subject-before-finite-verb clauses as verbal clauses, Kautzsch brings confusion to a “great majority” of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. While some scholars will adjust to this confusion, students will grope to understand the significance of subject-before-finite-verb clauses in relation to verbal and nominal clauses. Second, Kautzsch’s redefinition leads to further complications in defining clauses. By defining subject-before-finite-verb clauses as verbal clauses, he must add a third category of clauses – compound clauses, such as *הָאֵל תָּמִים דְּרָכּוֹ* “*God – his way is perfect*” (Gen 34:8). These clauses contain a *casus pendens* element. But again, traditional grammarians view the *casus pendens* as the subject of the nominal sentence, a much simpler view than Kautzsch’s three categories of verbal, nominal, and compound, accepted by some modern grammarians. All subject-before-finite-verb clauses are “compound” with its clause predicate according to traditional grammarians. The complications of a third category are unnecessary and even more confusing. Third, Kautzsch’s redefinition has devalued the importance of understanding verbal and nominal

clauses. This understanding Kautzsch himself recognized “is indispensable to the more delicate appreciation of Hebrew syntax (and that of the Semitic languages generally), since it is by no means merely external or formal, but involves fundamental differences of meaning.”⁶ Finally, Kautzsch’s redefinition has led to misunderstanding of the nominal nature of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Although Kautzsch acknowledge the nominal nature of subject-before-finite-verb clauses, other grammarians rarely mention this important fact. One of the “two faces” of subject-before-finite-verb clauses, the nominal aspect, is virtually lost in modern grammatical works on Hebrew.

Another problem of the modern understanding of verbal and nominal clauses is seen in the popular notion that clauses following verb-subject word order relate the foreground actions of narrative and that clauses following subject-verb word order relate background action of narrative.⁷ This viewpoint, of course, shows the nominal nature of subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Yet, this viewpoint, however, is not completely accurate. In fact, clauses that follow verb-subject word order may supply background to the narrative as 1 Samuel 1:3 shows:

וַיְהִי אִישׁ אֶחָד מִן־הַרְמָתִים צוֹפִים מִהַר אֲפְרָיִם
 וַשְּׁמוֹ אֶלְקָנָה בְּוִירְחָם בְּרֵאֵלִיהוּא בֶן־תָּחוּ בֶן־צוּף אֲפְרָתִי:
 וְלוֹ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים שֵׁם אַחַת חַנָּה וְשֵׁם הַשְּׁנַיִת פָּנְנָה
 וַיְהִי לַפָּנְנָה יְלָדִים וְלַחַנָּה אֵין יְלָדִים:
 וְעַל־הָאִישׁ הַהוּא מְעִירוֹ מִיָּמִים יְמִימָה לְהַשְׁתַּחֲוֹת וְלִזְבַּח לַיהוָה צְבָאוֹת בְּשֶׁלֶחַ
 וְשֵׁם שְׁנֵי בְנֵי־עֲלֵי חֲפְנֵי וּפְנִחָס פְּהִנִים לַיהוָה:

⁶Ibid., §140e.

⁷Alviero Niccacci, *The Syntax of the Verb in Classical Hebrew Prose* (Jerusalem: Franciscan Printing Press, 1986); Robert E. Longacre, *Joseph: A Story of Divine Providence: A Text Theoretical and Textlinguistic Analysis of Genesis 37 and 39-48* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1989), 64-82.

Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. **Now this man would go up** from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were priests to the Lord there. (vv. 1-3)

Here, the verb-subject word order clause that begins verse three clearly gives background to the narrative. And, of course, clauses that follow subject-verb word order can supply foreground to the narrative, as Genesis 4:1 shows:

וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ
וַתְהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יְהוָה:

Now the man – he had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the Lord.*”

Here, the foreground of the narrative begins with a subject-before-finite-verb clause.

This popular analysis, therefore, is only partially accurate. The issue of foreground and background is based on context rather than word order. To traditional grammarians, in verbal clauses, the verb is in the “foreground,” and subject is in the “background.” In nominal clauses, by contrast, the subject is in the “foreground,” and the verb or predicate is in the “background.” Concerning verbal clauses, Ewald states:

That the predicate, according to the simplest mode of arrangement, precedes the subject, because, in most cases, it contains the new and more important element which the speaker wishes to bring forward. . . . But there is all the greater reason for the *verb*, as the predicate, being placed first, because, like all the persons of the verb, the third really already includes a subject within itself.⁸

Further, concerning nominal clauses, he states:

By putting the *subject* first, and the predicate afterwards, the action, its development, and its progress do not come into the foreground, as in ordinary narrative discourse; but the *person* is placed first, by himself, in order to be immediately thereafter more fully described and depicted as he is; and the whole proposition, in a manner quite the opposite of the usual narrative style, presents us with a harmonious and placid picture of something continuous, permanent – just as the speaker conceives it. This inverse arrangement of words for the purpose mentioned, is, accordingly, of the

⁸Heinrich Ewald, *Syntax of the Hebrew Language of the Old Testament*, trans. James Kennedy (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2004), 306b.

highest importance and significance throughout the whole language: it is substantially carried out in the Arabic also, and is thus one of the most important peculiarities of the Semitic.⁹

An improper understanding of verbal and nominal clauses, therefore, often leads to other inaccurate notions about Hebrew narrative, as the popular foreground and background idea demonstrates.

Although most modern scholars have accepted the new definition of verbal and nominal clauses, the traditional definition should be revived. The traditional definition is more simple, clear, and accurate. If one distinguishes between narrative and non-narrative when reading Hebrew prose, the interpretation of subject-before-finite-verb clauses becomes even more simple and clear. Few modern grammars highlight the importance of verbal and nominal clauses. By restoring the proper definition to verbal and nominal clauses, the importance of the distinction and of the meaning of verbal and nominal clauses will be rediscovered.

The Issue of Normal (or Basic) Word Order (II)

Related to the redefining of verbal and nominal clauses is the issue of word order. To traditional grammarians a verbal clause, with its verb-subject word order, is normal¹⁰ and primary for all Biblical Hebrew. Of course, for nominal clauses the normal word order is subject-verb, but this word order is secondary. A narrative could be related completely with verbal clauses, but a narrative cannot be related completely with nominal clauses. Of course, the modern definition of verbal and nominal clauses impacts the issue of word order, since subject-before-finite-verb clauses are now, as redefined, regarded as verbal clauses. This would increase the number of verbal clauses in the Old Testament

⁹Ibid., 306c.

¹⁰“Normal” means the usual order of words when a statement is made without emphasis or other considerations. Normal word order is the order of calm, dispassionate speech.

substantially, with nominal clauses now consisting of only verbless clauses. But this redefinition generates another issue: what is the normal word order for the verbal clause as redefined, verb-subject or subject-verb? Certainly, traditional grammarians insist on verb-subject since subject-verb is a nominal clause in their understanding. If, however, the proper word order for verbal clauses or for Hebrew in general is subject-verb, then the traditional understanding of verbal and nominal clauses in particular and of Hebrew narrative in general would be fatally flawed.

The recent work of Robert D. Holmstedt, now of the University of Toronto, in his 2002 dissertation at the University of Wisconsin, “The Relative Clause in Biblical Hebrew: A Linguistic Analysis,” challenges the normal, or in his term “basic,” word order of verb-subject. Holmstedt asserts that the “basic word order” in Biblical Hebrew is subject-verb in “pragmatically neutral, main, indicative” clauses.¹¹ By “basic word order” Holmstedt refers to what is termed “normal word order above.” By “pragmatically neutral,” which he does not define, he perhaps means non-emphatic, dispassionate, or calm state of mind. His claim is based on his linguistic analysis of the book of Genesis. His linguistic method, like others linguistic approaches, ignores or rejects the importance of the verbal and nominal clause as defined by traditional grammarians. If Holmstedt’s view is correct that the basic word order in pragmatically neutral, main, indicative clauses is subject-verb, then the traditional view, founded on the distinction between verbal and nominal clauses and the primary of verb-subject word order, must be rejected.

¹¹Reading modern linguistic works on Hebrew with their opaque and convoluted style is challenging. Rarely, does one find clear and understandable definitions to their terms. The same, to be sure, could be said of their sentences. Holmstedt’s work fits this genre well; therefore, the word “apparently” will be necessarily overused.

Holmstedt asserts that Biblical Hebrew is a subject-verb language based on the comparison of 151 subject-verb “pragmatically neutral” clauses with a few verb-subject “pragmatically neutral” clauses in the book of Genesis. To establish his claim that subject-verb is the basic word order for pragmatically neutral, main, indicative clauses, Holmstedt collects all examples of pragmatically neutral, main, indicative clauses in the book of Genesis. This is largely a process of elimination. Holmstedt eliminates four categories of clauses:

- 1) Clauses with modal nuance, including modal *yiqtol* and modal *qatal* clauses¹²
- 2) Clauses with a negative function word, because of its frequent connection to modality¹³
- 3) Clauses preceded by a function word, or a fronted prepositional phrase, which exhibit a “triggered inversion,” including *wayyiqtol* clauses¹⁴
- 4) Clauses with a nuance of “pragmatically non-neutral”¹⁵

Response to Holmstedt’s Views

There are many problems with Holmstedt’s conclusions. Only the most important issues will be addressed.

First, Holmstedt’s entire methodology and conclusions must be seriously questioned since they are based on only 151 clauses out of thousands of clauses (or finite verbs) in the book of Genesis.¹⁶ Holmstedt’s conclusion is based on a very small

¹²Robert D. Holmstedt, “The Relative Clause in Biblical Hebrew: A Linguistic Analysis” (Ph.D. diss., University of Wisconsin, 2002), 134-39.

¹³Ibid., 141.

¹⁴Ibid., 133, 148, and 151-55.

¹⁵Ibid., 139.

¹⁶Holmstedt himself claims that there are 5500 clauses (finite verbs) in the book of Genesis. Out of these 151 clauses, 51 are direct speech and 100 are statements of the narrator. Most statements of direct discourse are subject first for emphasis, as is common in direct speech; most statements of the narrator are subject first for description

percentage of clauses. Obviously, the book of Genesis is almost totally narrative.¹⁷

Narrative, in almost any language including Hebrew and English, abounds in “basic word order” and in “pragmatically neutral, main, indicative clauses.” To determine basic word order in any language based such a small percentage of clauses out of thousands stretches the imagination. To claim that the basic word order in Hebrew is subject-verb based upon such a small percentage of clauses is utterly fantastic.

To arrive at 151 clauses and his conclusion, Holmstedt must banish the Vav-Consecutive from his data.¹⁸ This Holmstedt accomplishes by “triggered inversion,” the idea that certain grammatical elements, such as fronted phrasal constituents, subordinating conjunctions, interrogatives, or modals, trigger an inversion of the basic word order so that the verb precedes the subject. In the case of the Vav-Consecutive with the imperfect form, the doubling of the tense indicator (Dagesh Forte in the ך of וַיִּקְטֹל) triggers the inversion to verb-subject instead of the subject-verb, the basic word order.¹⁹

“Triggered inversion” is the essential component in Holmstedt’s methodology – with it, his theory lives or dies. Apparently, Holmstedt noticed that a perfect or imperfect verb followed by the subject rarely begins a narrative statement. Usually,

of the subject. Holmstedt does not give the exact numbers for verbs with overt subjects since he excludes Vav-Consecutive forms.

¹⁷By the term narrative here is meant historical account including direct speech.

¹⁸Holmstedt states, “[Setting aside the Vav-consecutive] does appear to be wise. If non-verb-subject word order is impossible with the *wayyiqtol*, then it is methodologically precarious to use it when determining basic word order.” Holmstedt’s statement shows a complete lack of understanding for the Semitic viewpoint. All Arab grammarians would say that non-verb-subject word order is impossible for *every* verbal clause, not just *wayyiqtol*. Holmstedt also states that there are 2,113 *wayyiqtol* clauses in Genesis. Holmstedt, “The Relative Clause in Biblical Hebrew: A Linguistic Analysis,” 133 n.7.

¹⁹Holmstedt excludes the Vav-consecutive with the perfect form probably because he considers them modal.

when the verb comes before the subject, some grammatical element precedes the verb-subject. When subjects come before the verb, however, there is often no preceding grammatical element. Hence, preceding grammatical elements trigger the inversion of the word order.

Several problems exist for Holmstedt's triggered inversion. First, although Holmstedt's idea has a logic, he cannot prove, in any way, that his theory of triggered inversion is correct for Hebrew or Semitic, nor can he account for exceptions to his view. There are examples, he admits, where the verb comes before the subject, but he does not explain why the supposed basic word order of subject-verb was abandoned. Second, that basic word order would be inverted at least ninety percent of the time is impossible. The inverted word order would become the basic word order on such a ratio. Hebrew narrative is not in denial concerning its own word order. Third, and most importantly, Holmstedt's view fundamentally misunderstands Hebrew narrative. Hebrew narrative *is* the Vav-consecutive. It controls, dominates, and carries Hebrew narrative. A cursory reading of Hebrew narrative demonstrates this. In fact, books may begin with a Vav-consecutive because Vav-consecutive is Hebrew narrative. When for some reason – such as the need for a negative, an initial prepositional phrase, a clause of emphasis or description, and so forth – the Vav-consecutive must be abandoned, then if description or emphasis is needed, a subject-before-finite-verb clause will occur. Otherwise, a (verbal) clause will occur with the verb occurring before the subject, as is usual. Of course, Hebrew does not normally have a simple perfect or imperfect begin a statement of narrative because this is usually the role of the Vav-consecutive, but again, Hebrew can and does begin a narrative statement with a simple perfect or imperfect to avoid the successive notion of the Vav-consecutive, among other things. Surely, instead of arbitrarily eliminating the Vav-consecutive based on an imaginary trigger that is

constantly inverting basic word order time after time, the more sensible and accurate approach is to view the Vav-consecutive as representing a normal and basic word order.²⁰

Arguments for Verb-Subject as the Normal (or Basic) Word Order in Biblical Hebrew

Since verb-subject word order is essential to the traditional understanding of Biblical Hebrew, arguments will be given to support verb-subject as the normal, primary word order in Biblical Hebrew. Moreover, these arguments will further refute Holmstedt's assertion that the basic word order is subject-verb. Of course, verb-subject word order is normal only for verbal clauses, not for nominal clauses, which include subject-before-finite-verb clauses.²¹

First, the morphology of the verb indicates verb-subject word order. As referred already in chapter four,²² the morphology of the perfect shows a verb-subject word order. The verb comes first *followed by* the subject pronoun. The perfect 2ms תָּבִיחַ suffixes the pronoun subject (תָּ) to the verb (בִּיחַ). Imperfects, on the other hand, according to Arab grammarians, place a tense indicator/pronoun substitute²³ at the

²⁰Another problem for Holmstedt includes determining what is “pragmatically neutral.” Who or what decides this. From his linguistic perspective, pragmatic neutrality can only be a guess or hunch. Only an indigenous Semitic grammarian can truly help us here.

²¹The modern redefinition of the verbal clause fails to understand the significance of this normal word order and the clarity that it brings. Verb-subject word order is verbal clause; subject-verb is nominal clause. This is simple, clear, and accurate. To see subject-verb as a verbal clause misses the importance of the initial noun. Moreover, to see a subject-before-finite-verb clause as a verbal clause and then to see a great majority of these clauses as nominal in meaning blurs clarity and obscures understanding.

²²See pp. 72-73.

²³The initial element of an imperfect indicates tense primarily and implies a pronoun secondarily, if there is not suffix. Carl P. Caspari, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, ed. and trans. William Wright (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951), §94d.

beginning, followed by the verb, and then sometimes followed by a subject pronoun. The imperfect 2, 3fp תִּקְטֹלְנָה prefixes the tense indicator (ת) and suffixes the subject pronoun (נָה) to the verb (קִטַּל).

Second, the Masoretic accents confirm that verb-subject is normal word order. In verbal clauses, the Masoretes most often²⁴ conjoin the verb to the subject with conjunctive accents, allowing no pause between the verb and subject. Arabic works similarly often conjoin the verb and subject in verbal clauses. In subject-before-finite-verb clauses, however, the Masoretes most often disjoin the subject from the verb, creating a pause between the subject and verb. Again, Arabic does the same. In a typical verbal clause, both Hebrew and Arabic do not allow pauses between the verb and subject. In the typical subject-before-finite-verb clauses, however, both Hebrew and Arabic place a pause between the subject and verb. This pause or lack of pause often indicates the difference between verbal and subject-before-finite-verb clauses. Since Arabic is clearly a verb-subject language, and it conjoins the verb and subject for verbal clauses and disjoins the subject and verb for subject-before-finite-verb clauses, just like Hebrew, Hebrew is also a verb-subject language. Moreover, other secondary word orders, such as object-verb-subject, show a disjunction between the object and the verb-subject,²⁵ just like the secondary word order of subject-verb. The following examples demonstrate:

²⁴There are a variety of reasons for the exceptions. See William Wickes, *A Treatise on the Accentuation of the Twenty-One So-Called Prose Books of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1887), 45-48.

²⁵Gen 21:6

וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צְחֹק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים
כָּל־הַשְּׂמֹעַ יִצְחָק־לִי:

And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."

Furthermore, if the word order is object-subject-verb, both the object and the subject will be disjoined from the verb.

2 Kgs 5:13

וַיִּגְשׂוּ עַבְדָּיו וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ אָבִי דְבַר גָּדוֹל
הִנְבִּיא דְבַר אֱלֹהִים הִלּוּא תַעֲשֶׂה וְאִי כִי־אָמַר אֱלֹהִים רַחֵם וְיִתְהַר:

Gen 46:5

וַיָּקָם יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעֵר שָׁבַע וַיִּשְׂאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־יַעֲקֹב אָבִיהֶם
וְאֶת־טַפָּם וְאֶת־נְשֵׂיהֶם בְּעֶגְלוֹת אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח פַּרְעֹה לִשְׂאת אֹתוֹ:

Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

The verbal clauses conjoin verb to the subject. Similarly, Arabic works the same way:

كَتَبَ الْمَلِكُ (*kataba-lmaliku*) “the king wrote.”²⁶ Here, the two words must be pronounced as one word without a pause.

Gen 44:16

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה מִה־נֹּאמַר לְאֲדֹנָי מִה־נִּדְבַר וּמִה־נִּצְטַדֵּק
הָאֱלֹהִים מִצָּא אֶת־עֵוֹן עַבְדֶּיךָ הַנָּנוּ עַבְדִּים לְאֲדֹנָי
גַם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַם אֲשֶׁר־נִמְצָא הַגִּבִּיעַ בְּיָדוֹ:

So Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God – He has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.”

Subject being before the verb, the subject is disjoined from the verb by Rebia, creating a pause after the subject. Similarly in كَتَبَ الْمَلِكُ (*al-maliku kataba*) “the king – he wrote,” Arabic like Hebrew puts a pause. These two words must be pronounced as two words with a pause in between.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, the sheer volume of the verb-subject word order indicates that verb-subject is the normal, primary word order. Any

Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, “My father, had the prophet told you great thing, would you not have done? How much more, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”

²⁶In certain cases, Arabic even adds a vowel to the verb to connect the verb to the following subject. In كَتَبَتِ الْمَلِكَةُ (*katabati-lmalikatu*) “the queen wrote,” the verb should be without final vowel (كَتَبَتِ), but to conjoin the verb to the subject, a connecting vowel (“ [i]” under the last letter) is added.

unprejudiced reader of Hebrew, who puts aside a preconceived notion about what changes normal word order, and who simply looks at the language *as is* without any theoretical or artificial filter, will certainly observe that Hebrew is a verb-subject language.²⁷

Holmstedt's contention that subject-verb is the basic word order for Hebrew is an important challenge to the traditional view of clauses, including subject-before-finite-verb clauses. His arguments, however, remain theoretical and artificial, without sound basis or evidence. The evidence for verb-subject word order is firm and clear. The traditional view need not be abandoned.

Conclusion

When the traditional view concerning verbal and nominal clauses is compared to the modern redefined view of verbal and nominal clauses and to modern linguistic views that reject the traditional understanding such as Holmstedt's, the traditional view looks better than ever. The traditional view has a beauty born of clarity and simplicity. Verb-subject word order is a verbal clause; subject-verb is a nominal clause. This is simple, clear, and accurate, both for form and for meaning.

To redefine clauses with a subject-verb word order as verbal clauses or to ignore the importance of the traditional distinction between verbal and nominal clauses obscures a vital grasp of the language understood for centuries. Kautzsch's redefining subject-before-finite-verb clauses as verbal clauses, and then declaring "the great majority" of them are actually intended by the Hebrew author to be nominal clauses hopelessly perplexes and complicates matters. The challenge of Holmstedt to viewing

²⁷Holmstedt, no doubt, would respond that "surface statistics of word-order can be deceptive" (quoted from M. Rosenbaum, *Word-Order Variation in Isaiah 40-55* [Assen: Van Gorcum, 1997], 222-23) and that only pragmatically neutral sentences should determine basic word order. Holmstedt, "The Relative Clause in Biblical Hebrew: A Linguistic Analysis," 127 n.2.

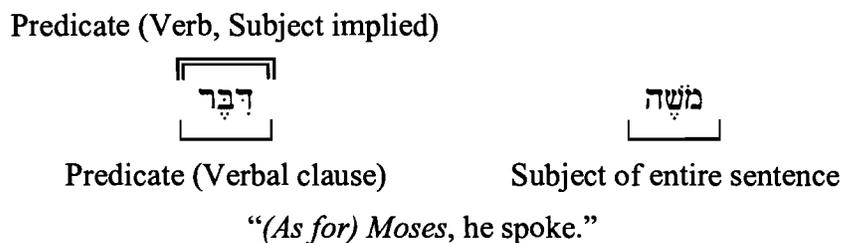
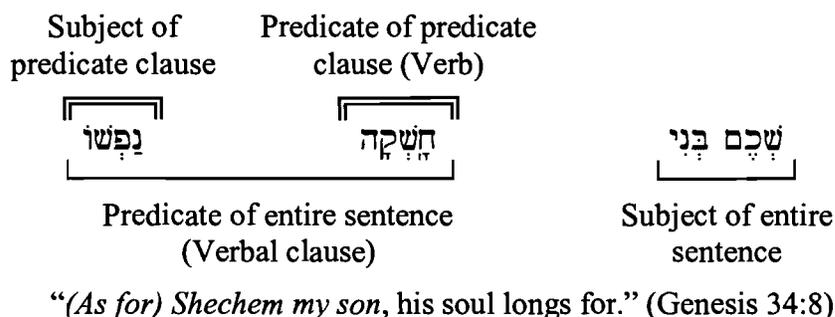
verb-subject as the normal, primary word order for Biblical Hebrew, ignores the essential distinction between verbal and nominal clauses and thereby he fundamentally misunderstands subject-before-finite-verb clauses. His contention, if proven, would refute the traditional understanding. But his contention has failed. The traditional view remains impressive and attractive.

CHAPTER 6
CONCLUSION

This dissertation has applied the understanding of traditional grammarians (chapter two) to subject-before-verb-clauses and has, in the process, tried to demonstrate that the traditional understanding of subject-before-verb-clauses remains the soundest method for reading Hebrew. The results are relatively clear and simple:

Chapter 1: The research of this dissertation, following the understanding of traditional grammarians concerning subject-before-finite-verb clauses, furnishes the following thesis: all subject-before-finite-verb clauses render the subject prominent by both emphasis and description.

Chapter 2: Traditional grammarians consider subject-before-finite-verb clauses as nominal clauses. They analyze the initial subject as the subject of the entire sentence and the following verb (the predicate) as a verbal clause:



Chapter 3: In narrative statements, the subject is usually more described than emphasized (rarely, more emphasized than described), though both description and emphasis are always present. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses may begin, transition/resume, or end a narrative, or they may give general descriptive statements. Emphasis appears stronger than description in contrastive constructions, emphasis and description are more or less equal in contrastive constructions, emphasis appears stronger than description with addition of certain particles and/or independent pronouns, after certain introductory formulas, with multiple subjects with modification, and when they continue a narrative.

Chapter 4: In non-narrative statements, the subject is usually emphasized (very rarely, more described than emphasized), though again both description and emphasis are always present. Description is stronger when the speaker narrates a story.

Chapter 5: Modern attempts to redefine subject-before-finite-verb clauses, as Kautzsch, have confused the distinction between verbal and nominal clauses, which in turn, have perplexed many concerning the proper meaning of verbal and nominal clauses. Moreover, the traditional approach of subject-before-finite-verb clauses assumed a verb-subject for normal word order in Biblical Hebrew. Although Holmstedt has attempted to prove subject-verb as the “basic” word order in Biblical Hebrew, his argument has failed. Hebrew (and Arabic) is a verb-subject language. The traditional approach, therefore, represents the simplest, clearest, most accurate method for analyzing subject-before-finite-verb clauses.

The traditional approach represents the genuine Semitic approach to Hebrew clause structure. Arabs have spoken and written with subject-before-finite-verb clauses for millennia. Since classical Arabic narrative is so very close to Biblical Hebrew narrative, especially in clause structure, the experience and knowledge of the Arab grammarians concerning subject-before-finite-verb clauses furnish the foundation for true understanding. This traditional understanding of the subject-before-finite-verb clauses

also represents the wisdom of the ages, which still resonates in the soul of the modern Arab every time he speaks, writes, or thinks. Such wisdom has provided a satisfying analysis for reading subject-before-finite-verb clauses and for reading Biblical Hebrew narrative throughout the ages. And it still satisfies.

Finally, the interplay between verbal clauses and nominal clauses, including subject-before-finite-verb clauses, may be compared to the interplay between a play-by-play commentator and a color commentator in sports, especially in narrative statements.¹ The verbal clause supplies a play-by-play of narrative actions and events of the subject: (he) barks out signals . . . drops back . . . runs from sideline to sideline . . . avoids a tackle . . . throws the ball . . . celebrates the touchdown. The nominal clause, especially the subject-before-finite-verb clauses with its verb, furnishes color for the actions of the verbal clauses by describing the subject: the quarterback – he was feeling ill today, the quarterback – he could not see out of his left eye, the quarterback – he did not see his other receivers. Verbal clauses alone could relate Hebrew narrative just as a football game could simply be related by play-by-play comments. Of course, this would be, over time, a very flat narrative or a very flat relating of a football game. But verbal clauses, like a play-by-play of football, need color to spice them up, the juicy details that generate interest and understanding. Nominal clauses alone, on the other hand, could not relate a narrative just as a color commentary alone cannot relate a football game. We would know a lot about the subjects or players, but we would not know what they were doing in the narrative or in the game. For a good football game both play-by-play and color commentating must be present and understood; for good Hebrew narrative both verbal and nominal clauses must be present and understood.

¹For other analogies of verbal and nominal clauses, see pp. 24-26.

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ABSTRACT

AN ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT-BEFORE-FINITE-VERB CLAUSES IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS BASED ON TRADITIONAL GRAMMARIANS

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This dissertation examines the function of subject-before-finite-verb clauses in the book of Genesis based on traditional understanding. Chapter 1 presents an introduction, thesis, and methodology of the project. The research of this dissertation, following the understanding of traditional grammarians concerning subject-before-finite-verb clauses, furnishes the following thesis: all subject-before-finite-verb clauses render the subject prominent by both emphasis and description.

Chapter 2 presents traditional grammarians' view concerning verbal and nominal clauses, including subject-before-finite-verb clauses in particular. They analyze the initial subject as the subject of the entire sentence and the following verb (the predicate) as a verbal clause.

Chapter 3 explains that in narrative statements, the subject is usually more described than emphasized (rarely, more emphasized than described), though both description and emphasis are always present. Subject-before-finite-verb clauses may begin, transition/resume, or end a narrative, or they may give general descriptive statements. Emphasis appears stronger than description in some contrastive constructions, emphasis and description are more or less equal in other contrastive constructions, emphasis appears stronger than description with addition of certain particles and/or

independent pronouns, after certain introductory formulas, with multiple subjects with modification, and when they continue a narrative.

Chapter 4 offers the examination of subject-before-finite-verb clauses in non-narrative statements. The discussion in this chapter follows the same structure as Chapter Three. In non-narrative statements, the subject is usually emphasized (very rarely, more described than emphasized), though again both description and emphasis are always present. Description is stronger when the speaker narrates.

Chapter 5 discusses modern attempts to redefine subject-before-finite-verb clauses, as Kautzsch, have confused the distinction between verbal and nominal clauses, which in turn, have perplexed many concerning the proper meaning of verbal and nominal clauses. Moreover, the traditional approach of subject-before-finite-verb clauses assumed a verb-subject for normal word order in Biblical Hebrew. Although Holmstedt has attempted to prove subject-verb as the “basic” word order in Biblical Hebrew, his argument has failed. Hebrew (and Arabic) is a verb-subject language. The traditional approach, therefore, represents the simplest, clearest, most accurate method for analyzing subject-before-finite-verb clauses.

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