Isolated Weqatal

Rocine lesson 37
RULE:

• An isolated weqatal *that stands in for a wayyiqtol* within a wayyiqtol string marks a *climactic* or *pivotal* event in a narrative.

• The isolated weqatal is a *surrogate mainline* in Historical Narrative.
The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

(1 Kings 20:21)

Chart of weqatal functions.

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<td>Mainline</td>
<td><em>He shall attack</em></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Offline</td>
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Rocine 37 Isolated Weqatal
The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

לִשְׁחָא מֶֶ֫לֶךְ יְשָרָאֵּל וַיֵּצֵּא וְאֶת־הַסּוּס וְאֶת־הָרֶָ֫כֶב וְהִכָה בַאֲרָם מַכָּה גְדוֹלָה׃

Pivotal Event
(One would expect a wayyiqtol here.)

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The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

וַיֵּצֵּא מֶֶ֫לֶּקְ הַיִּשְרָאֵּל וְאֶת־הַסּוּס וְאֶת־הָ֫רֶכֶּב וְהִכָה בַאֲרָם מַכָה גְדוֹלָה׃

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Pivotal Event
(One would expect a wayyiqtol here.)

Chart of weqatal functions.

If you don’t know your genres, all you have to go on is a vague sense of ‘context’. That’s the value of discourse analysis.

Look at all the things a weqatal can do.
Historical Narrative Discourse Profile

1a. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

1b. Pivotal/climactic event on the mainline: Isolated Weqatal

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Embedded Direct Speech

4. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

5. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

6. Backgrounded activities: Participle

7. Embedded Procedural Discourse

8. Transition marker: Mainline form of היה

9. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

10. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb
Other examples of Isolated Weqatal
וַתֵּרֶא דְלִילָה כִּי הִגִּיד לָהּ אֶת־כָּל־לִבּוֹ וַתִּשְׁלַח וַתִּקְרָא לְסַרְנֵי פְלִשְׁתִּים לֵאמֹר
עֲלֵוּ הַפַּעַם כִּי הִגִּיד לָה לִי אֶת־כָּל־לִבּוֹ וְעָלִּוּ אֵלֶּה סַרְנֵי פְלִשְׁתִּים וַיַּעֲלִּוּ הַכִּסֶּף בְּיָדָם

What is this?

Genre: HN
[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

Genre: HN
[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

Genre: Hort.
[Mainline] Imperative
[Offline] Qatal in dep. clause

Genre: HN
[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

[Offline] Qatal in dep. Clause:
Rel. past background

Wayyiqtol

Rocine p. 321-22
The point is for this reading that the lords of the Philistines had not earlier come up to bind Samson. But Delilah had control of Samson for sure this time, so she was calling in the “big guns.” The Hebrew writer marks the lords’ coming up as a pivotal event in Samson’s life, and so it is.
We-Qatal marking climactic or pivotal event (see Rocine 37, p. 212ff).

“What is it that makes Saul’s giving his קובע a helmet, a climactic or pivotal event? Ought not Saul be Israel’s champion and thereby solidify his position as king? Instead, it is like he is crowning David. Saul’s giving of his helmet may well foreshadow the giving of his crown.” (Rocine p 349)
Genesis 37:3-4

"We-Qatal marking climactic or pivotal event (see Rocine 37, p. 212ff).

Notice for their scene-setting value, the two [sic] X-qataals, the isolated weqatal marking a pivotal event, and elaboration of the emerging "וְלֶא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוֹ לְשָלֹם" with the irrealis clause וְלֶא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוֹ לְשָלֹם.

The pivotal event is the giving of the coat of "many colours".

Rocine p. 380"