Genesis 22:1-19 – part A
וַיִּשְׁכַּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבּוֹרֵר.
וַיִּקָּח אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים:
והֶלְךָ אָשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים.
וַיְבָקָע עֲצֵי עָלָה.
וַיְבִא שָם לְעֹלָה.
וַיִּקָּם וַיְלָךְ.
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וַיִּקָּם וַיְלָ�
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning; the second day.

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And God said, "Let the waters under the Heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

And God said, "Let the dry land be brought forth, and let it bring forth plants after their kind, and fruit-bearing trees after their kind, on the earth, and it was so.

And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all the work that He had made.

Genesis 2:1-2+NIV
וַיָּבוּ אֵל הַמַּקָּוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם אֵלֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם.
לֹא יְסַלָּה אֶבְרָהִים אֶת צְחִיק בְּנֵוֹ.
וַיַּעֲקָד אֵלָה אֲשֶׁר בְּנֵוֹ.
וַיִּשָּׁלַח אַבְרָהִם אֶת צְחִיק בְּנֵוֹ.
וַיְקָרָא אֱלֹה יָם אֵלָה.
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וַיַּעֲקָד אֱלֹה יָם אֵלָה.
וְלָא הָעַבְרָה אֶת צְחִיק בְּנֵוֹ.
וַיַּעֲקָד אֱלֹה יָם אֵלָה.
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וַיַּעֲקָד אֱלֹה יָם אֵלָה.
וַיְבָא אַבְרָהָּם שָמַּר הָכֹּל הַזֶּה | וַיְרַא אֵּלֶּה בוֹ על הָכֹּל הַזֶּה | וַיְרַא יְהוָּה אֵלֶּה בוֹ הַכָּל הַזֶּה | וַיְרַא יְהוָּה אֵלֶּה בוֹ הַכָּל הַזֶּה | וַיְרַא יְהוָּה אֵלֶּה בוֹ הַכָּל הַזֶּה.
What is a DISCOURSE?
DEFINITION:
A *discourse* is a group of expressions linked together
• from a *beginning*
• to an *ending*
so that they develop an *idea* in some *orderly fashion*.
The Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1-19

22:1-3

The heavens and earth saw all the mighty acts of the Lord.

22:4-8

Moreover, Abraham blessed his sons:

Genesis 22:9-13

Abraham and his people were those who were blessed by the Lord.

22:14-19

Then the Lord spoke to Abraham:

The heavens and earth saw all the mighty acts of the Lord.

Moreover, Abraham blessed his sons:
וַיְהִי אַחַר הַדְבָּרִים הָאֱלُוהִים נָשָה אֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶר רָאָה אֱלֹהִים ג' הַיֵּהוָה בַּמַּיִם הָאֱלֹהִים שָּם אֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶׁר בֵּיהוָהוָה. אֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶׁר נָשָה אֱלֹהִים בְּבֵיהוָהוָה. אֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶׁר נָשָה אֱלֹהִים בְּבֵיהוָהוָה. אֲבָרָהָם אֲשֶׁר נָשָה אֱלֹהִים בְּבֵיהוָהוָה.
This phrase marks or signals the beginning of a small, distinct discourse (the testing of Abraham) in the larger Historical Narrative discourse of Abraham’s life (Genesis 12-25).

Discourses are often arranged in a hierarchy in which one large discourse is made of several smaller, embedded discourses.
The testing of Abraham is finished in verse 12, but there is still the resolution to follow.
The Resolution

- An important part of many stories takes place immediately after the story’s climax, after the tension within a story is released.
- This is especially evident in the Gospel of John where events are often followed by commentary making more explicit the message (theology) of the narrative.
The Resolution

- An important part of many stories takes place immediately after the story’s climax, after the tension within a story is released.
- This is especially evident in the Gospel of John where events are often followed by commentary making more explicit the message (theology) of the narrative.
- In verses 16–18, the angel of YHWH speaks to Abraham, informing Abraham of the promises that belong to him as a result of passing the test.
- In verse 19, Abraham returns to his servants and his home. Verse 19 brings the resolution and hence, the story to a close.
The next verse (v 20) reads just like verse 1. Here we have, once again, a faithful marker of another episode in the story of Abraham’s life, confirming that verse 19 is indeed the end of the “Abraham is Tested” story.
Genesis 22:1-19 The Testing of Abraham

The mainline text is not provided in the image. However, the diagram titled "Tracing the Mainline" suggests that the mainline text is likely to follow the structure of the diagram, which is not visible in the image provided.
The wayiqtol forms the “skeleton” upon which the details of the story hang.
Genesis 22:1-19 The Testing of Abraham

Notice how many are יָאָמְר

Gen 22:9-13

Gen 22:1-3

Gen 22:14-19

Gen 22:4-8
This is evidence that much of the detail in Biblical Hebrew narrative is carried by dialogue.