Isolated Weqatal

Rocine lesson 37

RULE:

- An isolated weqatal *that stands in for a wayyiqtol* within a wayyiqtol string marks a <u>climactic</u> or <u>pivotal</u> event in a narrative.
- The isolated weqatal is a *surrogate mainline* in Historical Narrative.

The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

וַיֵּצֵא מֶ֣לֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּ֣ךְ אֶת־הַסּוּס וְאֶת־הָרָ֑כֶב וְהִכָּ֧ה בַאֲרָ֖ם מַכָּ֥ה גְדוֹלָֽה׃

(1 Kings 20:21)

Chart of weqatal functions.

Genre	Mainline/Offline	Translation
Predictive Narrative, Instructional Discourse, Hortatory (Mitigated) Discourse	Mainline	*He shall attack*
Hortatory Discourse	Offline	*That he might attack*
Procedural Discourse	Mainline	*He would attack*

The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

וַיֵּצֵא֙ מֶ֣לֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵ֔ל וַיַּ֖ךְ אֶת־הַסּ֣וּס וְאֶת־הָרָ֑כֶב וְהִכָּ֧ה בַאֲרָ֖ם מַכָּ֥ה גְדוֹלָֽה׃

(1 Kings 20:21)

Chart of weqatal functions.

Genre	Mainline/Offline	Translation
Predictive Narrative, Instructional Discourse, Hortatory (Mitigated) Discourse	Mainline	*He shall attack*
Hortatory Discourse	Offline	*That he might attack*
Procedural Discourse	Mainline	*He would attack*
Historical Narrative	Mainline (surrogate)	*He attacked*

The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

וַיֵּצֵא מֶ֫לֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּ֫ךְ אֶת־הַסּוּס וְאֶת־הָרָ֫כֶב וְהִכָּה בַּאֲרָם מַכָּה גְדוֹלָה׃

Pivotal Event

(One would expect a wayyiqtol here.)

(1 Kings 20:21)

Chart of weqatal functions.

Genre	Mainline/Offline	Translation
Predictive Narrative, Instructional Discourse, Hortatory (Mitigated) Discourse	Mainline	*He shall attack*
Hortatory Discourse	Offline	*That he might attack*
Procedural Discourse	Mainline	*He would attack*
Historical Narrative	Mainline (surrogate)	*He attacked*

The isolated weqatal in a wayyiqtol string

וַיֵּצֵא מֶ֫לֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּ֫ךְ אֶת־הַסּוּס וְאֶת־הָרָ֫כֶב וְהִכָּה בַּאֲרָם מַכָּה גְדוֹלָה׃

Pivotal Event

(One would expect a wayyiqtol here.)

(1 Kings 20:21)

Chart of weqatal functions.

Genre	Mainline/Offline	Translation
Predictive Narrative, Instructional Discourse, Hortatory (Mitigated) Discourse	Mainline	*He shall attack*
Hortatory Discourse	Offline	*That he might attack*
Procedural Discourse	Mainline	*He would attack*
Historical Narrative	Mainline (surrogate)	*He attacked*

Look at all the things a weqatal can do.

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.
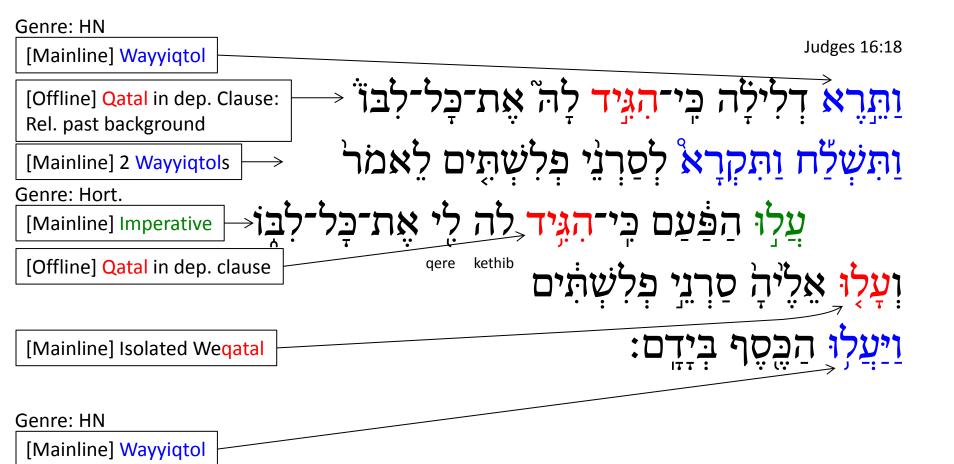
Historical Narrative Discourse Profile

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

Genre: HN

| [Mainline] Wayyiqtol |

Judges 16:18

וַתֵּ֣רֶא דְּלִילָ֗ה כִּֽי־הִגִּ֣יד לָהּ֮ אֶת־כָּל־לִבּוֹ֒

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

[Mainline] 2 Wayyiqtols

וַתִּשְׁלַ֡ח וַתִּקְרָא֩ לְסַרְנֵ֨י פְלִשְׁתִּ֜ים לֵאמֹ֗ר

Genre: Hort.

[Mainline] Imperative

עֲל֣וּ הַפַּ֔עַם כִּֽי־הִגִּ֥יד לה לִ֖י אֶת־כָּל־לִבּ֑וֹ

qere   kethib

[Offline] Qatal in dep. clause

וְעָל֤וּ אֵלֶ֙יהָ֙ סַרְנֵ֣י פְלִשְׁתִּ֔ים

What is this?

וַיַּעֲל֥וּ הַכֶּ֖סֶף בְּיָדָֽם׃

Genre: HN

[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

Rocine p. 321-22

Genre: HN

[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

וַתֵּ֣רֶא דְּלִילָ֗ה כִּֽי־הִגִּ֣יד לָהּ֮ אֶת־כָּל־לִבּוֹ֒

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

[Mainline] 2 Wayyiqtols

וַתִּשְׁלַ֡ח וַתִּקְרָא֩ לְסַרְנֵ֨י פְלִשְׁתִּ֜ים לֵאמֹ֗ר

Genre: Hort.

[Mainline] Imperative

עֲל֣וּ הַפַּ֔עַם כִּֽי־הִגִּ֥יד לה לִ֖י אֶת־כָּל־לִבּ֑וֹ

qere   kethib

[Offline] Qatal in dep. clause

וְעָל֤וּ אֵלֶ֨יהָ֙ סַרְנֵ֣י פְלִשְׁתִּ֔ים

[Mainline] Isolated Weqatal

וַיַּעֲל֛וּ הַכֶּ֖סֶף בְּיָדָֽם׃

Genre: HN

[Mainline] Wayyiqtol

RULE: **An isolated weqatal *that stands in for a wayyiqtol within a wayyiqtol string marks a climactic or pivotal event in a narrative.*** **(Rocine p. 322)**

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 קוֹבַע *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)

וַיַּלְבֵּ֨שׁ שָׁא֤וּל אֶת־דָּוִד֙ מַדָּ֔יו
וְנָתַ֛ן ק֥וֹבַע נְחֹ֖שֶׁת עַל־רֹאשׁ֑וֹ
וַיַּלְבֵּ֥שׁ אֹת֖וֹ שִׁרְיֽוֹן׃

וַיַּחְגֹּ֨ר דָּוִ֜ד אֶת־חַרְבּ֣וֹ מֵעַ֣ל לְמַדָּ֗יו
וַיֹּ֣אֶל לָלֶכֶת֮ כִּ֣י לֹֽא־נִסָּה֒
וַיֹּ֨אמֶר דָּוִ֜ד אֶל־שָׁא֗וּל
לֹ֥א אוּכַ֛ל לָלֶ֥כֶת בָּאֵ֖לֶּה כִּ֣י לֹ֣א נִסִּ֑יתִי
וַיְסִרֵ֥ם דָּוִ֖ד מֵעָלָֽיו׃

וְיִשְׂרָאֵ֗ל אָהַ֤ב אֶת־יוֹסֵף֙ מִכָּל־בָּנָ֔יו כִּֽי־בֶן־זְקֻנִ֥ים ה֖וּא ל֑וֹ

| X-Qatal |

וְעָ֥שָׂה ל֖וֹ כְּתֹ֥נֶת פַּסִּֽים׃

| Isolated weqatal |

וַיִּרְא֣וּ אֶחָ֗יו כִּֽי־אֹת֞וֹ אָהַ֤ב אֲבִיהֶם֙ מִכָּל־אֶחָ֔יו

| Wayyiqtol + qatal in dep. clause |

וַֽיִּשְׂנְא֖וּ אֹת֑וֹ

| Wayyiqtol |

וְלֹ֥א יָכְל֖וּ דַּבְּר֥וֹ לְשָׁלֹֽם׃

| Irrealis clause with a qatal |

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

"Notice for their scene-setting value, the two [*sic*] X-qatals, the isolated weqatal marking a pivotal event, and elaboration of the emerging וַֽיִּשְׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ with the irrealis clause וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַּבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלֹם" (Rocine p 380)

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