

Chapter 23 — Passage Exercise: Reading the Clause in Context

BBH Chapter 23

For each highlighted clause: (a) identify the clause type, (b) identify any fronted element and its rhetorical function, (c) state the verb and its conjugation (if any), (d) supply the English gloss.

Passage 1 — Genesis 1:1–4 (Creation Account)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|--------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| (1:1) | בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים ... | | | | |
| (1:2) | וְהָאֶרֶץ הָיְתָה תֹהוֹ וָבֹהוּ | | | | |
| 3 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים (1:3) | | | | |
| 4 | כִּיטוֹב (1:4) | | | | |

Passage 2 — Genesis 3:1–5 (The Serpent and Eve)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 5 (3:1) | וְהַנָּחַשׁ הָיָה עָרוֹם | | | | |
| 6 (3:1) | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אִשָּׁה | | | | |
| 7 | לֹא מוֹת תָּמָתוֹן (3:4) | | | | |

Passage 3 — Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (The Shema)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 8 | שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל (6:4) | | | | |
| (6:4) | יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד | | | | |
| (6:5) | וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ | | | | |

Passage 4 — Genesis 22:1–2 (The Binding of Isaac)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 11 | וַאֲבִרְהֶם זָקֵן | | | | |
| (22:2) | אֶתִּיצְחָק אֲשֶׁר אֶהְבֵּת | | | | |

Passage 5 — Judges 16:20 / Genesis 4:9 / Exodus 20:2 (Mixed)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 13 | וְהוּא לֹא יָדָע ... (16:20) | | | | |
| 14 | הַשֹּׁמֵר אֹתִי אֲנֹכִי (4:9) | | | | |
| 15 | אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ (20:2) | | | | |

Answer Key

Passage 1 — Genesis 1:1–4 (Creation Account)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| (1:1) | בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים ... | | | | |
| ✓ | בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא ... | Verbal — PP | ■■■/■■■■■■■■■ | ■■■■■■■ — Qal | In the beginning God created |
| (1:2) | וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תֹהוֹ וָבֹהַל | | | | |
| ✓ | וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה ... | Waw-disjunctive | ■■/■■■■■■■ (noun) | ■■■■■■■ — Qal | Now the earth was formless |
| 3 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים (1:3) | | | | |
| ✓ | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים | Verbal VSO | None | ■■■■■■■■■ — | And God said |
| 4 | כִּיטוֹב (1:4) | | | | |
| ✓ | כִּיטוֹב | Verbless (■■■■) | None | None | that it was good |

Passage 2 — Genesis 3:1–5 (The Serpent and Eve)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | וְהַנָּחָשׁ הָיָה עָרֹם (3:1) | | | | |
| ✓ | וְהַנָּחָשׁ הָיָה ... | Waw-disjunctive | ■■/■■■■■■■ (noun) | ■■■■■■■ — Qal | Now the serpent was more |
| ¶ 3:1 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אִשָּׁה | | | | |
| ✓ | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אִשָּׁה | Verbal VSO | None | ■■■■■■■■■ | And he said to the woman |
| 7 | לֹא מוֹת תָּמוּתוּן (3:4) | | | | |
| ✓ | לֹא מוֹת תָּמוּתוּן | Verbal — IA | ■■■■■ (Inf. Absolute) | ■■■■■■■■■ — | You will not surely die |

Passage 3 — Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (The Shema)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|-------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 | שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל (6:4) | | | | |
| ✓ | שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל | Verbal VSO | None | ■■■■■■■■ — Qal | Hear, O Israel |
| (6:4) | יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד | | | | |
| ✓ | יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ ... | Verbless (x2) | None | None | The LORD is our God; the |
| (6:5) | וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ | | | | |
| ✓ | וְאַהֲבַתְּ ... | Verbal — | None | ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ — | And you shall love the LORD |

Passage 4 — Genesis 22:1–2 (The Binding of Isaac)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 11 | וַאֲבִרְהָם זָקֵן | | | | |
| ✓ | וַאֲבִרְהָם זָקֵן | Waw-disjunctive | ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ | None (verbless) | Now Abraham was old |
| (22:2) | אֶתִּיצְחָק אֲשֶׁר אָהֲבֵת | | | | |
| ✓ | אֶתִּיצְחָק אֲשֶׁר ... | Verbal — Object | ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ | ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ — | Isaac, whom you love |

Passage 5 — Judges 16:20 / Genesis 4:9 / Exodus 20:2 (Mixed)

| # | Clause | Clause Type | Fronted Element (if any) | Verb & Conjugation | Gloss |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 13 | וְהוּא לֹא יָדָע ... (16:20) | | | | |
| ✓ | וְהוּא לֹא יָדָע ... | Waw-disjunctive | ■■■■■ (pronoun) | ■■■■■■■■ — Qal | but he did not know the LORD |
| 14 | הֲשֹׁמֵר אֲחִי אָנֹכִי (4:9) | | | | |
| ✓ | הֲשֹׁמֵר אֲחִי אָנֹכִי | Verbless | ■■■■■■■■ (pred. ptc.) | None (verbless) | Am I my brother's keeper? |
| 15 | אָנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ (20:2) | | | | |
| ✓ | אָנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ | Verbless (identity) | None | None | I am the LORD your God |