Class notes for 4-7-2010

tagmeme: a constituent element (part) of a syntagmeme
syntagmeme: a discourse unit composed of tagmemes

Note: syntagmemes are made up of tagmemes. In turn, that syntagmeme is tagmeme of a higher level syntagmeme. i.e., a sentence is a syntagmeme made up of words that its tagmemes. In turn, a paragraph is a syntagmeme made up of sentences, the tagmemes of a paragraph.

$\Sigma=\{T_1 \ldots T_n\}$. A syntagmeme ($\Sigma$) is comprised of tagmemes (T. subscripted numbers mean elements 1 through some other number n.).
$T_f : \{\Sigma\}$. The function ($_f$) of a tagmeme (T) depends on what discourse type syntagmeme (Σ) it is an element.

Basically, to properly understand the function of the verb form being used or the word order employed by the author one has to know in what discourse type (genre) those items are found. Longacre makes the very important note, 'Any form in the text represents the author's choice, whether conscious or automatic', '. . . variation in a text is not random but motivated. In brief, where the author has a choice in regard to a lexical item or a grammatical construction, his particular choice is motivated by pragmatic concerns or discourse structure.' To put it succinctly, the biblical writers knew what they were doing and, what they did they did with purpose and on purpose.

Remember, the grammar is primary—check it first or verify it with the above.

Discourse Analysis/Text Linguistics:
      1. Discourse type—genre
      2. Constellation of verb forms. Each Hebrew discourse type has its favorite verb forms.
      3. Hierarchy of content. The verb forms and word orders can be ordered as to their relationships.
      4. Small elements are parts of larger elements. And those larger elements are in turn small parts of yet higher elements.

Other class notes:

Clauses. A clause is a grammatical unit that includes, at minimum, a predicate and an explicit or implied subject, and expresses a proposition. Clauses may be classified as an independant or main clause (one that stands alone) or an dependant or subordinate clause (one that is necessarily dependant on or subordinate to an independent clause). In Hebrew clauses are also defined as verbal clauses and nominal clauses. For this work, a verbal clause is a clause of which a noun (or pronoun included in the verbal form [*GKC* §140*b*]) and its predicate is a finite verb and that verb is the first element is a verb in the clause (including verbs with a prefixed ו). A nominal clauses is a clause whose first element is not a verb. A verbless clause is a clause that does not contain a finite verb form. This may also be called a pure nominal clause. For this last definition see *GKC* §140*f* and Longacre (2003).

Hints to Indentifying clauses (these help to verify your decision):
1. Changes in verb and subject.
2. Vayyiqtol or a waw.
3. Disjunctive accent.

Above all else, let the grammar of the text determine your theology. The grammar that the author presents reveals the theology of the text.