6. ARGUMENT TRACING

Part 2: Observation – "How is the passage communicated?"
How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament
Jason S. DeRouchie, PhD
Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology
Bethlehem College & Seminary
Elder, Bethlehem Baptist Church
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Goal: Finish tracing the literary argument and create a message-driven outline that is tied to the passage's main point.

1. **Create and Argument Diagram**

    a. The process:

        • Distinguish propositions.

        • Identify their semantic relationship:

            o Coordinate: Those that stand side-by-side, whether operating independently in *series*, in *progression* pointing to a climax, as *alternative* possibilities of a given situation, or as *both true* or *both false*.

            o Subordinate: Always have a main clause or text unit and then another that restates, stands distinct from, or stands contrary to the main clause or text.

Fig. 6.1. Definitions for the Various Propositional Relationships
Coordinate
• ***Series (S):*** Each proposition makes its own independent contribution to a whole (English signal: "and, moreover, likewise, neither, nor"). • ***Progression (P):*** Like series, but each proposition is a further step toward a climax (English signal: "then, and, moreover, furthermore"). • ***Alternate (A):*** Each proposition expresses a different possibility arising from a situation (English signal: "or, but, while, on the other hand"). • ***Both-And (B&):*** Two propositions that are surprisingly both true or both false (English signal: "both ... and, neither ... nor").
Subordinate
Restatement
• ***Action-Manner (Ac/Mn):*** An action and a more precise statement indicating the way or manner in which the action is carried out (also call Way-End) (English signal: "in that, by" + participles). • ***Comparison (Cf):*** An action and a statement that clarifies that action by showing what it is like (English signal: "even as, as ... so, like, just as"). • ***Negative-Positive (–/+):*** Two statements, one of which is denied so that the other is enforced. This is also the relationship implicit in contrasting statements (English signal: "not ... but"). • ***Question-Answer (Q/A):*** The statement of a question and the answer to that question (English signal: "?").

• **Idea-Explanation (Id/Exp):** The relationship between a statement and another clarifying its meaning by expounding on a single word or the entire idea (English signal: "that is, in other words").   • **General-Specific (Gn/Sp):** A proposition stating a whole and a second stating one or more parts of that whole (English signal: "such as, for example").   • **Fact-Interpretation (Ft/In):** A statement and its interpretation (English signal: "that is, which is, meaning").
Distinct Statement
• **Ground (G):** A statement and the argument or reason for that statement (supporting proposition follows) (English signal: "for, because, since").   • **Inference (∴):** A statement and the argument or reason for that statement (supporting proposition precedes) (English signal: "therefore, accordingly, so").   • **Bilateral (BL):** A proposition that supports two other propositions, one preceding and one following (English signal: "for, because, therefore, so").   • **Action-Result (Ac/Res):** An action and a consequence or result which accompanies that action (also called Cause-Effect) (English signal: "so that, that, with the result that").   • **Action-Purpose (Ac/Pur):** An action and its intended result (also called End-Means) (English signal: "in order that, so that, that, lest").   • **Conditional (If/Th):** Like action-result except that the existence of the action is only potential and the result is contingent upon that action (English signal: "if ... then, provided that, except, unless").   • **Temporal (T):** A statement and the occasion when it is true or can occur (English signal: "when, whenever, after, before").   • **Locative (L):** A statement and the place where it is true or can occur (English signal: "where, wherever").   • **Anticipation-Fulfillment (Ant/F):** A promise with its accompanying fulfillment (English signal: "and so").
Contrary Statement
• **Concessive (Csv):** A main clause that stands despite a contrary statement (also called Adversative) (English signal: "although, though, yet, nevertheless, but, however").   • **Situation-Response (Sit/R):** A situation and a surprising or counter-intuitive response (English signal: "and").
All of these definitions are taken from https://BibleArc.com.

2. Examples

   a. Deut 7:1–4

   b. Hab 3:17–19

   c. Exod 19:4–6