

Observations on Tenses in Archaizing Poetry

by David Steinberg

David.Steinberg@houseofdavid.ca

Home page <http://www.houseofdavid.ca/>

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See [Tenses or Aspects in Biblical Hebrew](#)

Note that in most instances, in the following examples, the general context of meaning, together with the preceding or succeeding [PC_{pretWC}](#)¹ (sometimes also [SC_{past}](#)) in the same verse make identification of verb as [PC_{pret_sim}](#) probable.

Table C

PC_{pret_sim} and PC_{pretWC} in the Same Verse Referring to the Past

Chapter/ Verse	<i>PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; * /EBHP/ *; n.b. EBHP PC_{pret} and PC_{jus} were identical.)	<i>English Translation(s)²</i>	<i>Masoretic Text³</i>
Nu 23:7	PC_{pretWC} - past וישא - way'yîśśa' (:wayîś'śa' PC_{imp} :wayîśśa' PC_{jus}) PC_{pret_sim} - past (ינחני). Identical form in PC_{jus} and PC_{imp} .	Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying: "Balak has brought me from Aram, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: 'Come, curse Jacob for me; Come, denounce Israel!'	וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר מִן־אַרְם יִנְחֵנִי בְּלֶקֶת מִלְּדָד־מוֹאָב מִהַרְרֵי־קְדָם לְכָה אֶרְהֶ־לִּי יַעֲקֹב וּלְכָה זַעֲמָה יִשְׂרָאֵל
Dt 32:13	PC_{pretWC} - past וַיֹּאכֵל - way'yôkîl (:wayô'kîl PC_{imp} :wa'yô'kîl PC_{jus}) וַיִּנְקֵהוּ - wayyayni:'qihu(:) (:wayayni:'qihu(:) PC_{imp} / PC_{jus}).	"He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And he ate the produce of the field; And He made him suck honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock,	יִרְפְּבֵהוּ עַל־ [בְּמוֹתֵי כ] [בְּמִתֵּי ק] אֶרֶץ וַיֹּאכֵל תְּנוּבַת שְׂדֵי וַיִּנְקֵהוּ דְבַשׁ מִסֵּלַע וַשְּׁמֶן מִחֲלֵמִישׁ צוּר:
Dt 32:18	Table A , Table D , Table E SC_{past} - past (יִלְדֵכ) - PC_{pret_sim} - past תשי 'tišy (:ti'šê PC_{imp}) PC_{pretWC} - past (וַתִּשְׁכַּח) - wat'tiškah (:wa'tiš'kah PC_{imp} :wa'tiš'kah PC_{jus})	You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.	צוּר יִלְדֵךָ ⁴ תִּשִּׁי וַתִּשְׁכַּח אֵל מְחַלְלֵךָ

¹ IN EBHP and LBHP THE JUSSIVE ([PC_{jus}](#)), COHORTATIVE ([PC_{coh}](#)), IMPERFECT ([PC_{imp}](#))
AND PRETERITE ([PC_{pret_sim}](#)/[PC_{pretWC}](#)) are, in some forms, distinguished by the placement of

syllabic stress when not carrying object suffixes. See -

- http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#indic_jus AND

- http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix_Conjugation

² For convenience, I have used NASB or NRSV as the basis of my translation modifying the wording and layout as appropriate.

³ From The Westminster Leningrad Codex - <http://www.tanach.us/>.

⁴ 2ms PC_{pret_nonWC} **שׁוּב** i s dialectal variant or archaic form or Aramized form of normal **שׁוּב**