

Observations on Tenses in Archaizing Poetry

by David Steinberg

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Table E

PC_{pretWC}¹ and SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past

Chapter/ Verse	Comments and Time <i>Reference</i> (Reconstructed <u>JEH</u> Style Spelling; <i>*EBHP*</i> shown for PC)	English Translation(s) ²	Masoretic Text ³
N.b. In <i>EBHP/PC_{pretWC}</i> was distinguished from the <i>PC_{imp}</i> in <i>*EBHP*</i> by the germination of the prefix consonant and, additionally, in forms not suffixed, by placement of stress .			
Gen 49:15	<u>PC_{pretWC}</u> – past - וירא - way'yir' (:wayi'rê <u>PC_{imp}</u> :way'yir' <u>PC_{jus}</u>) - ויט - way'yitt' (:wayit'tê <u>PC_{imp}</u> :way'yitt' <u>PC_{jus}</u>) - ויהי - way'yihy (:wayih'yê <u>PC_{imp}</u> :way'yihy <u>PC_{jus}</u>) <u>SC_{state}</u> – past (געמא)	he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to the burden, and became a slave at forced labor	וִירָא מְנַחָה כִּי טוֹב וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ כִּי נְעֻמָּה וַיִּט שִׁכְמוֹ לְסַבֵּל וַיְהִי לְמַס־עֶבֶד
Gen 49:23	<u>PC_{pretWC}</u> – past. - וימררהו - wayyamarri'ru:hu(:) (:wayyamarri'ru:hu(:) <u>PC_{imp}</u> / <u>PC_{jus}</u>) - וישטמהו - wayyisṭu'mu:hu(:) (:wayisṭu'mu:hu(:) <u>PC_{imp}</u> / <u>PC_{jus}</u>). <u>SC_{state}</u> – past (ורבו)	The archers fiercely attacked him; they shot at him and pressed him hard.	וַיִּמְרְרוּהוּ וְרִבּוּ וַיִּשְׁטְמֵהוּ בְּעֲלֵי חַצְצִים

Chapter/ Verse	<p><i>Comments and Time Reference</i></p> <p>(Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; *EBHP/* shown for PC)</p>	<p><i>English Translation(s)²</i></p>	<p><i>Masoretic Text³</i></p>
<p>Dt 32:15</p>	<p>PC_{pretWC} - past - ויבעט - way'yib^cat (:wayib^cat PC_{imp} :wə'yib^cat PC_{jus}) - וישמן - way'yišman (:wayiš'man PC_{imp} :wə'yišman PC_{jus}) - ויטש - way'yit^uš (:wayyit^uš PC_{imp} :wə'yit^uš PC_{jus}) - וינבל - wayya'nabbil (:wayanab'bil PC_{imp} :wəya'nabbil PC_{jus}) SC_{state} – past (שמנת) SC_{past} - past (עשהו כשת עבת)</p>	<p>But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked. You are grown fat, thick, and sleek. Then he forsook God who made him, and scorned the Rock of his salvation.</p>	<p>וַיִּשְׂמַן יִשְׂרוּן וַיִּבְעֵט שְׂמֵנָה עֲבִיתָ כְּשִׁיתָ וַיִּטֵּשׂ אֱלֹהֵי עֲשָׂהוּ וַיִּנְבֵּל צוּר יִשְׁעָתוֹ</p>
<p>Dt 32:18</p>	<p>Table A, Table C, Table D _ SC_{past} - past (ילדכ) PC_{pret_sim} - past תשי 'tišy (:ti'šê PC_{imp}) PC_{pretWC} - past (ותשכח) - wat'tiškaḥ (:wətiš'kaḥ PC_{imp} :wə'tiškaḥ PC_{jus})</p>	<p>You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.</p>	<p>צוּר יְלִדְךָ תִּשִׁי וְתִשְׁכַּח אֵל מְחַלְלֶךָ</p>
<p>Dt 32:22</p>	<p>Table A, Table B _ Either - 1) SC_{past} - past (קדחה) PC_{pretWC} - past ותיקד - wat'tiqad (:wat'qad PC_{imp} :wə'tiqad PC_{jus}) ותאכל wat'tôkil (:wəto'kil PC_{imp} :wə'tôkil PC_{jus}) ותלהט watta'lahhiṭ (:watalah'hiṭ PC_{imp} :wəta'lahhiṭ PC_{jus}) OR, 2) SC_{state} - present (קדחה) PC_{pretWC} - present mirroring the</p>	<p>For a fire was/is kindled by my anger, and burned/burns to the depths of Sheol; it has consumed/consumes the earth and its increase, and set/sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.</p>	<p>כִּי־אֵשׁ קָדְחָהּ בְּאַפִּי וְתִיקַד עַד־שְׂאוֹל תִּחְתֵּית וְתֹאכַל אֶרֶץ וַיִּבְלֶה וְתִלְהֵט מוֹסְדֵי הָרִים</p>

Chapter/ Verse	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; * EBHP * shown for PC)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ³
	meaning of the accompanying SC _{state} (ותלהט ותאכל ותיקד)		
Dt 33:21	PC _{pretWC} - past וירא - way'yir' (:wayir'ê PC _{imp} :wa'yir' PC _{jus}) יתא - way'yêta' (:wayê'ta' PC _{imp} :wa'yêta' PC _{jus}) SC _{past} - past (עשה)	Then he provided the first part for himself. For there the ruler's portion was reserved and he came with the leaders of the people. He executed the justice of the LORD and His ordinances with Israel.	וִירָא רְאִשִׁית לּוֹ כִּי־שָׁם חִלְקַת מְחֻקָּק סָפוֹן וַיִּתֵּא רְאִשֵׁי עָם צְדָקַת יְהוָה עָשָׂה וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל
Ju 5:28	Table H SC _{past} - past (נשקפה) PC _{pretWC} - past ותיבב watta'yabbib (:waṭayab'bib PC _{imp} :waṭa'yabbib PC _{jus}) SC _{state} - present (אחרו)	Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice: 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?'	בְּעַד הַחֲלוֹן נִשְׁקָפָה וַתִּיבֵב אִם סִסְרָא בְּעַד הָאֲשָׁנָב מַדּוּעַ בִּשְׁשׁ רֶכְבּוֹ לָבוֹא מַדּוּעַ אַחֲרוֹ פְּעָמָי מְרַבּוֹתָיו

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](#).

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