

Observations on Tenses in Archaizing Poetry

by David Steinberg

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Note that in most instances, in the following examples the general context of meaning makes identification of verb as [PC_{pret_sim}](#) probable.

Table F

[PC_{pret_sim}](#)¹ without [PC_{pretWC}](#) or [SC](#) in the Same Verse Referring to the Past

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	Comments and Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/* where stress phonemic)	English Translation(s) ²	Masoretic Text ³
A) PC_{pret_sim} and Jussive Distinguished from the PC_{imp} in */EBHP/* by the of Stress			
Ex 15:6	PC_{pret_sim} (past) תרעץ - 'tir ^c aš (:tir ^c aš PC_{imp})	Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power-- your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy	יְמִינֶךָ יְהוָה נִאֲדָרִי בַכַּף יְמִינֶךָ יְהוָה תִּרְעַץ אוֹיֵב
Ex 15:7	PC_{pret_sim} (past) תהרס - 'tih ^r us (:tih ^r us PC_{imp}) תשלח - ta ^š al ^l iḥ (:ta ^š al ^l iḥ PC_{imp}) יאכלמו - yôk ⁱ 'limō - Stress not distinctive in this form.	In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.	וּבְרַב גְּאוֹנֶךָ תִּהְרַס קִמְיָךָ תִּשְׁלַח חֲרֹנֶךָ יֵאָכְלֵמוּ כַקֶּשׂ
Dt 32:8	PC_{pret_sim} (past) יצב - 'yaš ^š ib (:yaš ^š i:b PC_{imp})	"When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man,	בְּהִנָּחֵל עֲלֵיוֹן גּוֹיִם בְּהַפְרִידוֹ בְּנֵי אָדָם יֵצֵב גְּבֻלַת עַמִּים לְמִסְפַּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	Comments and Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; * <u>EBHP</u> * where stress phonemic)	English Translation(s) ^g	Masoretic Text ^g
		He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel.	
Dt 32:11	<p>PC_{imp} (present) יַעֲר - ya'ci:r (:ya'ci:r PC_{imp}) PC_{jus}/PC_{pret_sim} יֶרַחַפּ - yarah'hip (:ya'rahhip PC_{jus}/ PC_{pret_sim}) PC_{pret_sim} יִפְרֹשׁ - 'yipruś (:yip'ruś PC_{imp}) יִשְׂאֵהוּ - Stress not distinctive in this form.</p>	<p>1.4 "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. 2. As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young; as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions,</p>	<p>בְּנִשֵּׁר יַעֲר קָנָו עַל־גּוֹזְלָיו יֶרַחַף יִפְרֹשׁ בְּנִפְיוֹ יִקְחֵהוּ יִשְׂאֵהוּ עַל־אֲבָרְתּוֹ</p>
Dt 32:14	<p>PC_{pret_sim} (past) - תִּשֵּׂת - 'tišt (:tiš'tê PC_{pret_sim}) PC_{imp})</p>	<p>curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs and rams; Bashan bulls and goats, together with the choicest wheat-- you drank fine wine from the blood of grapes</p>	<p>חֶמְצָאָת בָּקָר וְחֶלֶב צֹאן עִם־חֶלֶב כְּרִים וְאֵילִים בְּגִיבֹשָׁן וְעֵתוּדִים עִם־חֶלֶב כַּלִּיזֹת חֶטָּה וְדָם־עֵגֶב⁵ תִּשְׂתֶּה־חֶמֶר:</p>
Ju 5:8	<p>PC_{pret_sim} (past) יִבְחַר - 'yibhar (:yib'har PC_{imp}) יִרְאֵה - yir'ra'ê (:yirra'ê PC_{imp})</p>	<p>He (Israel) chose new gods chosen; Then war was in the gates. Not a shield or a spear was seen Among forty thousand in Israel. (<i>My translation</i>)</p>	<p>יִבְחַר אֱלֹהִים חֲדָשִׁים אֲז לָחֵם שְׁעָרִים מָגֵן אִם־יִרְאֵה וְרֶמַח בְּאֲרָבַעַיִם אֶלְף בִּישָׁרְאֵל</p>

B) PC_{pret_sim} not Distinguished from the PC_{imp} in *EBHP* by the Placement of Stress

Nu 23:7b, c	<p>PC_{pret_sim} (past) - יִנְחֹנִי</p>	<p>"From Aram Balak has brought me, Moab's king from the mountains of the East, `Come curse Jacob for me,</p>	<p>מִן־אַרָם יִנְחֹנִי בִלְק מִלְד־מוֹאָב מִהַר־רִי־קָדֵם לָכָה אֶרְה־לִי יַעֲקֹב וּלְכָה זַעֲמָה יִשְׂרָאֵל</p>
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Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/* where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)¹</i>	<i>Masoretic Text²</i>
		And come, denounce Israel!'	
Dt 32:10	PC _{pret_sim} (past) - יסבבנהו, ימצאהו - יצרנהו, יבננהו	"He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.	ימצאהו בארץ מדבר ובתהו ילל ישמון יסבבנהו יבוננהו יצרנהו כאישון עינו
Dt 32:12	PC _{pret_sim} or PC _{imp_pdur} ⁶ (past) - ינחנו	the LORD alone guided him; no foreign god was with him.	יהוה בדרך ינחנו ואין עמו אל גבר
Dt 32:38	PC _{pret_sim} or PC _{imp_pdur} ישתו, יאכלו PC _{jus} יקמו - Stress not distinctive in this form. יהי - yihy (:yih'yê PC _{imp})	who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their libations? Let them rise up and help you, let them be your protection!	אשר חלב זבחימו יאכלו ישתו יין נסיכם יקומו ויעזרכם יהי עליכם סתרה
Ju 5:30	PC _{pret_sim} (past) or or PC _{imp_prfut} (present) ⁷ which were identical in these cases. ימצאו יחלקו	'Have they not found/Are they not finding and divided/dividing the spoil?-- A girl or two for every man; spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera, spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?'	הלא ימצאו יחלקו שלל רחם רקמתים: לראש גבר שלל צבעים לסיסרא שלל צבעים רקמה צבע רקמתים לצוארי שלל

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 See Rainey 1985 P. 16.

⁵ I assume this pointing, תִּשְׁתֶּה (PC_{imp}), is an error and should be read תִּשְׁתֶּם (PC_{pret_sim}).

⁶ See Rainey 1985 P. 16.

⁷ See Rainey 1985.