Observations on Tenses in Psalms

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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 preceeding or succeeding PC$_{pretWC}$[1] (sometimes also SC$_{past}$) in the same verse make identification of verb as PC$_{pret\_sim}$ probable.

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Table C

PC$_{pret\_sim}$ and PC$_{pretWC}$ in the Same Verse Referring to the Past

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; **/EBHP/**; n.b. EBHP PC$_{pret}$ and PC$_{jus}$ were identical.)	English Translation(s)[2]	Masoretic Text[3]
A) At Least One Form of Preterite was Distinguished from the PC$_{imp}$ in **/EBHP/** by the Placement of Stress.			
7:16	SC$_{past}$ - past - כרה - ka'râ PC$_{pretWC}$ - past - ויחפרהו - wayyiḥpu̱'rihu(:). Identical form in PC$_{jus}$ and PC$_{imp}$. - ויפל - way'yippul (:wa̱yip'pul PC$_{imp}$:wa̱'yippul PC$_{jus}$) PC$_{pret\_sim}$ - past - יפעל - 'yipᶜal (:yip'ᶜal PC$_{imp}$)	He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.	בּוֹר כָּרָה וַיַּחְפְּרֵהוּ וַיִּפֹּל בְּשַׁחַת יִפְעָל
18:8	PC$_{pretWC}$ - past – - ותגעש - wat'tigᶜaš (:wa̱tig'ᶜaš PC$_{imp}$:wa̱'tigᶜaš PC$_{jus}$) - ותרעש - wat'tirᶜaš (:wa̱tir'ᶜaš PC$_{imp}$:wa̱'tirᶜaš PC$_{jus}$) - ויתגעשו - wayyitga'ᶜı̱šū. (:wa̱yitga'ᶜı̱šū PC$_{imp}$/PC$_{jus}$).	Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was	וַתִּגְעַשׁ וַתִּרְעַשׁ ׀ הָאָרֶץ וּמוֹסְדֵי הָרִים יִרְגָּזוּ וַיִּתְגָּעֲשׁוּ

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/[+]; n.b. EBHP PCpret and PCjus were identical.)	English Translation(s)[2]	Masoretic Text[3]
	PCpret_sim - past - יפעל - 'yip^cal (:yip'^cal PCimp) SCpast - past - חָרָה - ḥa'râ	angry.	כִּי־חָרָה לֹו
18:14	PCpretWC - past – וירעם - way'yar^cim (:wa̯ayar'^ci:m PCimp/PCjus) PCpret_sim - past – יתן - 'yittin (:yit'tin PCimp)	The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice.	יְהוָה ׀ וַיַּרְעֵם בַּשָּׁמַיִם וְעֶלְיֹון יִתֵּן קֹלֹו בָּרָד וְגַחֲלֵי־אֵשׁ
18:19	PCpret_sim - past - יקדמוני - ya̯qaddi'mū:nī. Identical form in PCjus and PCimp PCpretWC - past - ויהי - way'yihy (:wa̯ayih'yê PCimp).	They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was my support.	יְקַדְּמוּנִי בְיֹום־אֵידִי וַיְהִי־יְהוָה לְמִשְׁעָן לִי
18:36	PCpretWC - past – ותתן - wat'tittin (:wa̯tit'tin PCimp :wa'tittin PCjus). PCpret_sim - past (Identical form in PCjus and PCimp). תסעדני - tis^ca'dinī; תרבני tar'binī.	You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand has supported me; your help has made me great.	וַתִּתֶּן־לִי מָגֵן יִשְׁעֶךָ וִימִינְךָ תִסְעָדֵנִי וְעַנְוַתְךָ תַרְבֵּנִי
44:3	SCpast - past - הורשת - haw'rašta(:) PCpretWC - past (Stress not distinctive in these forms) - ותטעם - wattiṭṭa'^cim (:wa̯tiṭṭa'^cim PCimp/PCjus); - ותשלחם - wattašalli'him (:wa̯tašalli'him PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - תרע- 'tari^c (:ta'ri:^c PCimp).	you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free	אַתָּה ׀ יָדְךָ גֹויִם הֹורַשְׁתָּ וַתִּטָּעֵם תָּרַע לְאֻמִּים וַתְּשַׁלְּחֵם
44:10	SCpast - past - זנחת - za'naḥta(:) PCpretWC - past - ותכלימנו - wattakli:'minū (:wa̯takli:'minū PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - תצא - 'tiṣiʾ (:ti'ṣiʾ PCimp).	Yet you have rejected us and abased us, and have not gone out with our armies.	אַף־זָנַחְתָּ וַתַּכְלִימֵנוּ וְלֹא־תֵצֵא בְּצִבְאֹותֵינוּ
78:15	PCpret_sim - past - יבקע - ya̯b'baqi^c (:ya̯bba'qi^c PCimp). PCpretWC - past - וישק - way'yašq (:wa̯yaš'qê PCimp :wa'yašq PCjus).	He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.	יְבַקַּע צֻרִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיַּשְׁקְ כִּתְהֹמֹות רַבָּה

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/⁺; n.b. EBHP PCpret and PCjus were identical.)	English Translation(s)²	Masoretic Text³
78:26	PCpret_sim - past - יסע - 'yassiᶜ (:yas'si:ᶜ PCimp). PCpretWC - past - וינהג - wayya'nahig (:waẉana'hig PCimp :waẉa'nahig PCjus).	He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind	יַסַּע קָדִים בַּשָּׁמָיִם וַיְנַהֵג בְּעֻזּוֹ תֵימָן
78:29	PCpretWC - past (Stress not distinctive in these forms) - וישבעו - wayyiś'bạᶜū (:waẉiś'bạᶜū PCimp/PCjus); - ויאכלו - wayyô'ki̱lū (:waẉô'ki̱lū PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - יבא - 'yabiʾ (:ya'bi:ʾ PCimp).	And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.	וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׂבְּעוּ מְאֹד וְתַאֲוָתָם יָבִא לָהֶם
78:44	PCpretWC - past - ויהפכ - way'yihpuk (:waẉih'puk PCimp). PCpret_sim - past - ישתין - yišta'yūn. Identical form in PCimp.	He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.	וַיַּהֲפֹךְ לְדָם יְאֹרֵיהֶם וְנֹזְלֵיהֶם בַּל־יִשְׁתָּיוּן
78:45	PCpret_sim - past - ישלח - yạ'šalli̱ḥ (:yạšal'li̱ḥ PCimp). PCpretWC - past - ויאכלם - wayyô'ki̱lim (:waẉô'ki̱lim PCimp/PCjus); - ותשחתם - wattaš'hi̱:tim (:waṭaš'hi̱:tim PCimp/PCjus).	He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them.	יְשַׁלַּח בָּהֶם עָרֹב וַיֹּאכְלֵם וּצְפַרְדֵּעַ וַתַּשְׁחִיתֵם
80:9	PCpret_sim - past - תסיע - 'taśiᶜ (:ta'śiᶜ PCimp). - תגרש - tạ'garriš (:tạgar'riš PCimp). PCpretWC - past - ותטעה - wattiṭṭa'ᶜiha(:) (:waṭiṭṭa'ᶜiha(:) PCimp/PCjus).	You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.	גֶּפֶן מִמִּצְרַיִם תַּסִּיעַ תְּגָרֵשׁ גּוֹיִם וַתִּטָּעֶהָ
92:12	PCpretWC - past - ותבט - way'yihpuk (:waẉyih'puk PCimp :wạ'yihpuk PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - תשמענה - tiš'maᶜna(:). Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.	וַתַּבֵּט עֵינִי בְּשׁוּרָי בַּקָּמִים עָלַי מְרֵעִים תִּשְׁמַעְנָה אָזְנָי
107:29	PCpret_sim - past - יקם - 'yaqim (:ya'qi:m PCimp). PCpretWC - past - ויחשו - wayyih'šū (:waẉih'šū	he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.	יָקֵם סְעָרָה לִדְמָמָה וַיֶּחֱשׁוּ גַּלֵּיהֶם

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	PCimp/PCjus).		
114:3	SCpast - past - ראה - ra"**â**. PCpretWC - past - וינס - way'**ya**nus (:wạyạ**nu:s** PCimp :wạ'**ya**nus PCjus). PCpret_sim - past – יסב – 'yis**sub** (:yis'**sub** PCimp :wạ'**yis**sub PCjus).	The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back	הַיָּם רָאָה וַיָּנֹס הַיַּרְדֵּן יִסֹּב לְאָחוֹר

B) Neither form of Preterite Was Distinguished from the PCimp in */EBHP/* by the Placement of Stress

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference	English Translation(s)[2]	Masoretic Text[3]
18:20	PCpretWC - past - ויוציאני - wayyawṣi"**inī** (:wạyawṣi"**inī** PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - יחלצני - yaḥalli'**ṣinī** (:yip'**c**al PCimp/PCjus) SCstate - חפץ – ḥa'**piṣ** (:ḥa'**pi:ṣ** part.)	He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.	וַיּוֹצִיאֵנִי לַמֶּרְחָב יְחַלְּצֵנִי כִּי חָפֵץ בִּי
78:20	SCpast - past – הכה - hik'**kâ** PCpretWC - past - ויזובו - wayya'**zu:bū** (:wạyazu:**bū** PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - ישטפו - yiš'**tu**pū. Identical form in PCjus and PCimp. PCjus – jussive יוכל – 'y**ū̱**kal (:y**ū̱**'**kal** PCimp) יכין – 'ya**kin** (:ya'**ki:n** PCimp).	Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out and torrents overflowed, can he also give bread, or provide meat for his people?"	הֵן הִכָּה־צוּר ׀ וַיָּזוּבוּ מַיִם וּנְחָלִים יִשְׁטֹפוּ הֲגַם־לֶחֶם יוּכַל תֵּת אִם־יָכִין שְׁאֵר לְעַמּוֹ
78:36	PCpretWC - past - ויפתהו- wayyạpat'**tūnī** (:wạyạpat'**tūnī** PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - יכזבו – yạka'**zibū**. Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.	וַיְפַתּוּהוּ בְּפִיהֶם וּבִלְשׁוֹנָם יְכַזְּבוּ־לוֹ
78:58	PCpretWC - past - ויכעסהו - wayyạk**c**i:'**sū**hu(:) (:wạyạk**c**i:'**sū**hu(:) PCimp/PCjus).	For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they	וַיַּכְעִיסוּהוּ בְּבָמוֹתָם

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/*; n.b. EBHP PCpret and PCjus were identical.)	English Translation(s)[2]	Masoretic Text[3]
	PCpret_sim - past - יקנאהו - yaqni:"ūhu(:). Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	moved him to jealousy with their idols.	וּבִפְסִילֵיהֶם יַקְנִיאוּהוּ
78:64	SCpast - past - נפלו - na'palū PCpret_sim - past – תבכינה - tib'kayna(:).Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.	כֹּהֲנָיו בַּחֶרֶב נָפָלוּ וְאַלְמְנֹתָיו לֹא תִבְכֶּינָה
78:72	PCpretWC - past - וירעם - wayyir'ᶜim (:wayir'ᶜim PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - ינחם - yan'ḥim. Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	With upright heart he tended them, and guided them with skillful hand.	וַיִּרְעֵם כְּתֹם לְבָבוֹ וּבִתְבוּנוֹת כַּפָּיו יַנְחֵם
81:8	SCpast - past - קראת - qa'ra'ta(:). PCpretWC - past - ואחלצך - wa"aḥalli'ṣaka(:) (:waʾaḥalli'ṣaka(:) PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - Identical form in PCjus and PCimp. - אענך - yan'ḥim. - אבחנך - - yan'ḥim.	In distress you called, and I rescued you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah	בַּצָּרָה קָרָאתָ וָאֲחַלְּצֶךָ אֶעֶנְךָ בְּסֵתֶר רַעַם אֶבְחָנְךָ עַל־מֵי מְרִיבָה סֶלָה
106:43	PCpret_sim - past - Identical form in PCjus and PCimp. - יצילם - yan'ḥim. - ימרו - yan'ḥim. PCpretWC - past - וימכו - wayya'mukkū (:waya'mukkū PCimp/PCjus).	Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes, and were brought low through their iniquity.	פְּעָמִים רַבּוֹת יַצִּילֵם וְהֵמָּה יַמְרוּ בַעֲצָתָם וַיָּמֹכּוּ בַּעֲוֹנָם
107:28	PCpret_sim - past - Identical form in PCjus and PCimp. - ויצעקו - yan'ḥim. PCpretWC - past - יוציאם - wayya'mukkū (:waya'mukkū PCimp/PCjus).	Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress	וַיִּצְעֲקוּ אֶל־יְהוָה בַּצַּר לָהֶם וּמִמְּצוּקֹתֵיהֶם יוֹצִיאֵם
107:30	PCpret_sim - past - Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	Then they were glad because	וַיִּשְׂמְחוּ כִי־יִשְׁתֹּקוּ

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	PC and SC Verbs Indicating Time Reference (Reconstructed [JEH](#) Style Spelling; */[EBHP](#)/*; n.b. EBHP [PCpret](#) and [PCjus](#) were identical.)	English Translation(s)[2]	Masoretic Text[3]
	- וישמחו - yanˈḥim. - וינחם - yanˈḥim. PCpretWC - past - ישתקו - wayyaˈmukkū (:waẹyaˈmukkū PCimp/PCjus).	they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.	וַיַּנְחֵם אֶל־מְחוֹז חֶפְצָם
138: 3	SCpast - past - קראתי - qaˈraʾtī. PCpretWC - past - ותענני - wayyaˈmukkū (:waẹyaˈmukkū PCimp/PCjus). PCpret_sim - past - תרהבני - tarhiːˈbinī. Identical form in PCjus and PCimp.	On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.	בְּיוֹם קָרָאתִי וַתַּעֲנֵנִי תַּרְהִבֵנִי בְנַפְשִׁי עֹז

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[1] IN EBHP and LBHP THE JUSSIVE (PCjus), COHORTATIVE (PCcoh), IMPERFECT (PCimp) AND PRETERITE (PCpret_sim/PCpretWC) 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/ .