

Observations on Tenses in Psalms

by David Steinberg

David.Steinberg@houseofdavid.ca

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

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) <u>PC_{pret_sim}</u> Distinguished from the <u>PC_{imp}</u> in */EBHP/* by the of Stress			
18:7	<p><u>PC_{pret_sim}</u></p> <p>אָקְרָא - 'iqra' (: 'iq'ra' <u>PC_{imp}</u>)</p> <p>אָשׁוּעַ - 'ašawwi' (: 'ašaw'wi' <u>PC_{imp}</u>)</p> <p>יִשְׁמַע - 'yišma' (: yiš'ma' <u>PC_{imp}</u>)</p> <p>תָּבֹא - 'tabu' (: ta'bo:' <u>PC_{imp}</u>)</p>	<p>In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.</p> <p>From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.</p>	<p>בְּצַרְרִי אֶקְרָא יְהוָה וְאֶל־אֱלֹהֵי אֲשׁוּעַ יִשְׁמַע מִהִיכָלוֹ קוֹלִי וְשׁוֹעַתִּי לְפָנָיו תָּבֹא בְּאָזְנוֹ:</p>
18:12	<p>יַאֲשִׁיט - (PC_{pret_sim}) 'yašit</p>	<p>He made darkness his covering</p>	<p>יָשַׁת הַחֹשֶׁךְ סִתְרוֹ סְבִיבוֹתָיו סָכְתוֹ הָשְׁכַת מַיִם עָבִי שְׁחָקִים</p>

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; */EBHP/* where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ⁶
	(:ya'šit PC _{imp})	around him, his canopy thick clouds dark with water.	
18:17	ישלח - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'yišlah (:yiš'lah PC _{imp}) but note stress in יקחני ימשני not distinctive	He reached down from on high, he took me; he drew me out of mighty waters.	יְמַשְׁנֵי מַמִּיִּם רַבִּים יִשְׁלַח מִמְרוֹם יְקַחֵנִי
18:21	ישב - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'yašib (:ya'šib PC _{imp}) but note stress in יגמלני not distinctive	The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me.	יְגַמְלֵנִי יְהוָה כְּצַדִּיקִי כְּבָר יְדֵי יוֹשֵׁיב לִי
18:23	אסר - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'asir (:'a'si:r PC _{imp})	For all his ordinances were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me.	כִּי כָל־מִשְׁפָּטָיו לִנְגִדִי וְחֻקֹּתָיו לֹא־אָסִיר מִנִּי
18:38	ארדף - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'irdup (:'ir'dup PC _{imp}) אשב - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'ašub (:'a'šu:b PC _{imp}) but note stress in ואשגם not distinctive	I pursued my enemies and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed.	אָרְדַּף אוֹיְבֵי וְאִשְׁגַּם וְלֹא־אָשׁוּב עַד־כְּלוּתָם
18:40	תכרע - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'takri ^c (:tak'ri: ^c PC _{imp}) but note stress in ותאזרני not distinctive	For you girded me with strength for the battle; you made my assailants sink under me.	וּתְאָזְרֵנִי חֵיֶל לְמַלְחָמָה תְּכַרִּיעַ קַמִּי תַחְתֵּי
30:9	אקרא - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'iqra ³ (:'iq'ra ³ PC _{imp})	To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication	אֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה אֶקְרָא וְאֶל־אֲדֹנָי אֶתְחַנֵּן

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; * EBHP * where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ⁶
	אתחנן - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'it'hannan (:iṯḥan'nān PC _{imp})		
42:5	אעבר - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'i'bur (:i'bur PC _{imp}) note stress in אזכרה ואשפכה אדם not distinctive	These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.	אלה אזכרה ואשפכה עלי נפשי כי אעבר בסוף אדם עד־בית אלהים בקול־רנה ותודה המון חוגג
47:4	ידבר - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'yadbir (:yad'bi:r PC _{imp})	He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.	ידבר עמים תחתינו ולאמים תחת רגלינו
55:15	נמתק - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'namtiq (:nam'ti:q PC _{imp}) נהלך - (PC _{pret_sim}) nā'hallik (:nəhal'lik PC _{imp})	with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng.	אשר נחדו נמתיק סוד בבית אלהים נהלך ברגש
68:15	תשלג - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'tašlig (:taš'li:g PC _{imp})	When the Almighty scattered kings there, snow fell on Zalmon.	בפרש שדי מלכים כה תשלג בצלמון
73:17	אבא - (PC _{pret_sim} dP) 'abu' (:'a'bo:' PC _{imp}) but note stress in אבינה not distinctive	until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end.	עד־אבוא אל־מקדש־אל אבינה לאסרתם
73:21	יתחמץ - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'it'hammiš (:iṯḥam' miš PC _{imp}) אשתונן - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'iš'tōnan (:ištō'nān PC _{imp})	When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,	כי יתחמץ לבבי וכליותי אשתונן

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; <i>*/EBHP/*</i> where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ⁶
78:49	ישלח - (PC _{pret_sim}) yaš'allih (:yašal'lih PC _{imp})	He let loose on them his fierce anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.	ישלח־בם חרון אפו עברה וזעם וצרה משלחת מלאכי רעים
80:12	תשלח - (PC _{pret_sim}) taš'allih (:tašal'lih PC _{imp})	it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.	תשלח קצירָה עד־ים ואל־נהר יונקותיה
107:20	ישלח - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'yišlah (:yiš'lah PC _{imp}) וימלט - (PC _{pret_sim}) waya'mallit (:wayamal'lit PC _{imp}) but note stress in וירפאם not distinctive	he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.	ישלח דברו וירפאם וימלט משחיתותם
107:26	ישלחו - (PC _{pret_sim}) iš'tōnan (:iš'tō'nan PC _{imp}) but note stress in יעלו ירדו not distinctive	They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity	יעלו מים ירדו תהומות נפשם ברעה תתמוגג
107:27	תתבלע - (PC _{pret_sim}) tit'ballaḡ (:titbal'laḡ PC _{imp}) but note stress in יחוגו וינועו not distinctive	they reeled and staggered like drunkards, and were at their wits' end.	יחוגו וינועו כשכור וכל־חַכְמָתָם תתבלע
116:4	אקרא - (PC _{pret_sim}) 'iqra' (:iq'ra' PC _{imp})	Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"	ובָשָׁם־יְהוָה אֶקְרָא אָנָּה יְהוָה מִלְטָה נַפְשִׁי
<i>B) Preterite, PC_{jus} and PC_{imp}. Identical in */EBHP/</i>			
18:34	יעמידני (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	He made my feet like the feet of a deer, and set me secure on the	משונה רגלי כאילות ועל כַּמְתֵּי יַעֲמִידֵנִי

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; * EBHP * where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ⁶
		heights.	
18:39	אמחצם יכלו יפלו (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	I struck them down, so that they were not able to rise; they fell under my feet.	אֲמַחֲצֵם וְלֹא־יִגְבְּלוּ קוּם יִפְלוּ תַחַת רַגְלִי
18:43	ואשחקם אריקם (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	I beat them fine, like dust before the wind; I cast them out like the mire of the streets.	וְאֲשַׁחֲקֵם כְּעָפָר עַל־פְּנֵי־רוּחַ כְּטִיט חוּצוֹת אַרְיִקֵם
18:44	תפלטני תשימני יעבדוני (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	You delivered me from strife with the peoples; you made me head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me.	תִּפְלַטְנִי מִרִיבֵי עַם תְּשִׁימְנִי לְרֹאשׁ גּוֹיִם עַם לֹא־יָדְעָתִי יַעֲבְדוּנִי
18:45	ישמעו יכחשו (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me; foreigners came cringing to me.	לְשִׁמְעָם אִזָּן יִשְׁמְעוּ לִי בְּגֵי־נֹכַר יִכְחָשׁוּ־לִי
18:49	תרוממני תצילני (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	who delivered me from my enemies; indeed, you exalted me above my adversaries; you delivered me from the violent.	תְּרוֹמַמְנִי מֵאִישׁ מִפְּלִטֵי מְאִיבֵי אֵף מִן־קַמֵי קָמָס תְּצִילְנִי
44:14	תשימנו (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.	תְּשִׁימְנוּ חֲרָפָה לְשִׁכְנֵינוּ לַעַג וְקֶלֶס לְסָבִיבוֹתֵינוּ
44:15	תשימנו (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.	תְּשִׁימְנוּ מְשָׁל בְּגוֹיִם מְגוֹד־רֹאשׁ בַּל־אֲמִים
74:6	יהלמון - yihlū'mūn (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	And then, with hatchets and hammers, they smashed all its carved	[ועת כ] [ועתה ק] פתוּחִיהָ יַחַד בְּכַשִׁיל וְכִילְפַת יַהֲלִמוּן

Chapter & Verse of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed JEH Style Spelling; <i>*EBHP*</i> where stress phonemic)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> ²	<i>Masoretic Text</i> ³
		work.	
78:40	יַמְרוּהוּ - yam'rūhu(:) יַעֲצִיבוּהוּ - yamši:'būhu(:) (PC _{pret_sim} and PC _{imp})	How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!	כַּמָּה יַמְרוּהוּ בַמִּדְבָּר יַעֲצִיבוּהוּ בְּיַשְׁמֹן

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/> .