

**PC<sub>pret\_sim</sub> in Prophetic Poetry**

by David Steinberg

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The following table is the result of a rapid scan of some prophetic texts. It seems that prophetic BH poetry, in its use of the [preterite](#) lies between BH prose and psalmic poetry (see [See Observations on Some Aspects of the Use of Tenses in Psalms](#)).

[http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_abb\\_dia.htm](http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc_heb_abb_dia.htm) - PC<sub>pretWC</sub>

Use of the [PC<sub>pret\\_sim</sub>](#)<sup>1</sup> in the prophetic literature is rare and generally occurs only where the past meaning is clear from context.

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	Comments and Time Reference (Reconstructed <a href="#">JEH</a> Style Spelling; * <a href="#">/EBHP/</a> <sup>2</sup> ; n.b. EBHP <a href="#">PC<sub>pret</sub></a> and <a href="#">PC<sub>plu</sub></a> were identical.)	English Translation(s) <sup>3</sup>	Masoretic Text <sup>4</sup>
<b>A) Preterite and Jussive Distinguished from <a href="#">PC<sub>imp</sub></a> in *<a href="#">/EBHP/</a> by the Placement of Stress</b>			
Is 41:2	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> יתן - 'yittin (:yit'tin PC <sub>imp</sub> ) ירד - 'yard (?) (:ya'ro:d (?) PC <sub>imp</sub> ) Nb. (1) time established as past by preceding יִעֲרֵר (2) stress in יקראהו yiqra'ihu not distinctive	Who has roused a victor from the east, summoned him to his service? He delivered up nations before him and subdued kings making them like dust with his sword... . ( <i>my translation</i> )	מִי הָעִיר מִמִּזְרַח צֶדֶק יִקְרָאֵהוּ לְרַגְלוֹ יִתֵּן לְפָנָיו גּוֹיִם וּמַלְכִים יֵרֵד יִתֵּן כְּעָפָר חָרְבוּ כְּקֶשׁ גֶּדֶף קִשְׁתּוֹ
Is 42:6	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> ואחזק - wa'ahziq (:wa'ah'zi:q PC <sub>imp</sub> ) Nb. (1) time established as past by	I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,	אֲנִי יְהוָה קָרָאתִיךָ בְּצֶדֶק וְאֶחְזַק בְּיָדְךָ וְאַצְרֶךָ וְאַתְּנֶךָ לְבְרִית עַם לְאוֹר גּוֹיִם

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	<p>preceding וַאֲצַרְךָ; (2) stress in וַאֲצַרְךָ - wā'ißṣu'raka(:) and וַאֲתִינָא - wā'itti'naka(:) not distinctive; (3) possibly the 3 verbs should be repointed as <a href="#">PC<sub>pretWC</sub></a> wa''ahziq; wa''ißṣu'raka(:); wa''itti'naka(:).</p>		
<p><b>Is 43:9</b></p>	<p><a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> יגד - 'yaggj d (:yag'gj:d <a href="#">PC<sub>imp</sub></a>) Nb. (1) time established as past by preceding וַיִּקְבְּצוּ; (2) stress in וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ - yašmi:'cūnū not distinctive.</p>	<p>All the nations have gathered together so that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them has declared this Foretold to us things that have happened? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, "It is true."</p>	<p>כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם נִקְבְּצוּ יַחְדָּו וַיֹּאסְפוּ לְאֲמִים מִי בָהֶם יִגִּיד זֹאת וְרֵאשֹׁנוֹת יִשְׁמִיעֵנוּ יִתְּנוּ עֵדֵיהֶם וַיִּצְדְּקוּ וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֱמֶת</p>
<p><b>Is 57:17</b></p>	<p><a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> וַאֲקִצֶּן - wā''iqṣup (:wā''iq'ṣup <a href="#">PC<sub>imp</sub></a>) Nb. (1) time established as past by other verbs in verse; (2) stress in וַאֲכַהוּ - wā'ak'kihu(:) not distinctive; (3) possibly the 2 verbs should be repointed as <a href="#">PC<sub>pretWC</sub></a> wa''iqṣup; wa''ak'kihu(:).</p>	<p>Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry; I struck them, I hid and was angry; but they kept turning back to their own ways.</p>	<p>בְּעוֹן בְּעָעוּ קָצַפְתִּי וַאֲכַהוּ הִסְתַּר וַאֲקִצֶּן וַיִּלְךְ שׁוֹבֵב בְּדַרְךָ לְבוֹ</p>
<p><b>Is 63:5</b></p>	<p><a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> וַאֲבִיט - wā''abbiṭ (:wā'ab'bi:ṭ <a href="#">PC<sub>imp</sub></a>)</p>	<p>I looked, but there was no helper; I stared, but there was no one to sustain me; so my own arm brought</p>	<p>וַאֲבִיט וְאֵין עֹזֵר וַאֲשִׁתּוֹמֵם וְאֵין סוֹמֵךְ וַתּוֹשַׁע לִי זְרַעִי</p>

Chapt./Vs. of Hebrew Text	<i>Comments and Time Reference</i> (Reconstructed <a href="#">JEH</a> Style Spelling; <i>*/EBHP/*</i> <sup>2</sup> ; n.b. EBHP <a href="#">PC<sub>pret</sub></a> and <a href="#">PC<sub>jus</sub></a> were identical.)	<i>English Translation(s)</i> <sup>3</sup>	<i>Masoretic Text</i> <sup>4</sup>
	<p>ואשתמם - wə'is'tōmim (:wə'istō'mim PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>Nb. (1) time established as past by other verbs in verse; (2) possibly the verbs should be repointed as PC<sub>pretWC</sub> wa''abbiṭ; wa''is'tōmim</p>	<p>me victory, and my wrath sustained me.</p>	<p>וְחַמְתִּי הִיא סִמְכָתָנִי</p>
<p>Is 63:6</p>	<p>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></p> <p>ואבס - wə''abus (:wə'a'bu:s PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>ואורד - wə''awrid (:wə'aw'ri:d PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>Nb. (1) time established as past by context; (2) possibly ואשכרם - wə'āšak 'kirim should be repointed as PC<sub>pretWC</sub> wa''āšak'kirim</p>	<p>I trampled down peoples in my anger, I crushed them in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."</p>	<p>וְאָבוּס עַמִּים בְּאַפִּי וְאֲשַׁכְּרֵם בְּחַמְתִּי וְאוֹרִיד לְאָרֶץ נִצְחָם</p>
<p>Is 66:7</p>	<p>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></p> <p>תחיל - taḥil (:ta'hi:l PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>Nb. time established as past by preceding בְּטָרָם</p>	<p>Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son.</p>	<p>בְּטָרָם תַּחִיל יְלֹדָה בְּטָרָם יָבוֹא חֶבֶל לָהּ וְהַמְלִיטָה זָכָר</p>
<p>Hosea 13:11</p>	<p>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></p> <p>אתן - 'ittin (:it'tin PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>ואקה - wə''iqqah (:wə'iq'qah PC<sub>imp</sub>)</p> <p>Nb. (1) time established as past by context; (2) possible ואקה should be repointed as PC<sub>pretWC</sub> wa''iqqah</p>	<p>I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.</p>	<p>אֶתְּוֹלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ בְּאַפִּי וְאֶקַּח בְּעִבְרָתִי</p>
<p><i>B) Preterite, PC<sub>jus</sub> and PC<sub>imp</sub> Identical in */EBHP/</i></p>			

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<b>Is 40:13</b>	<b>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></b> יודיענו - yawdi:'annu(:). Identical form in PC <sub>jus</sub> and PC <sub>imp</sub> . Nb. time established as past by preceding תִּכֶּן	Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counselor has instructed him?	מִי־תִכֶּן אֶת־רוּחַ יְהוָה וְאִישׁ עֲצָתוֹ יוֹדִיעֵנוּ
<b>Is 40:14</b>	<b>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></b> יודיענו - yawdi:'annu(:) nb. time established as past by preceding וַיְבִינֵהוּ וַיְלַמְדֵהוּ	Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?	אֶת־מִי נֹעֵץ וַיְבִינֵהוּ וַיְלַמְדֵהוּ בְּאֵרַח מִשְׁפָּט וַיְלַמְדֵהוּ דַעַת וְדַרְךְ תְּבוּנוֹת יוֹדִיעֵנוּ
<b>Is 40:19</b>	<b>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></b> ירקענו - yaraqiq:'annu(:) nb. time established as past by preceding נָסַךְ	The idol?-- A workman has cast it, and a goldsmith overlaid it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. ( <i>my translation</i> )	הַפֶּסֶל נָסַךְ חָרַשׁ וְצָרַף בְּזָהָב יִרְקַעֵנוּ וְרִתְקוֹת כֶּסֶף צוֹרַף
<b>Is 40:21</b>	<b>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></b> תשמעו - tiš'ma'ū nb. past time established as past by context	Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?	הֲלוֹא תִדְעוּ הֲלוֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ הֲלוֹא הִגַּד מֵרֵאשִׁית לְכֶם הֲלוֹא הִבִּינְתֶם מוֹסְדוֹת הָאָרֶץ
<b>Is 43:28</b>	<b>PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></b> ואתנה - wa'it'tina(:)  Nb. (1) time established as past by preceding וְאַחֲלִיל; (2) possibly the verb should be repointed as PC <sub>pretWC</sub> wa'it'tina(:).	Therefore I profaned the princes of the sanctuary, I delivered Jacob to utter destruction, and Israel to reviling.	וְאַחֲלִיל שָׂרֵי קֹדֶשׁ וְאַתְנֶנָּה לְחֵרֶם יַעֲקֹב וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לְגִדּוּפִים

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Is 51:2	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> תחוללכם - <a href="#">taḥōlila'kim</a> וארבהו - 'ar'biḥu(:) nb. time established as past by other verbs in verse.	Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.	הַבִּיטוּ אֶל־אֲבֹתְכֶם וְאֶל־שָׂרָה תְּחַוְּלֵכֶם כִּי־אֶחָד קָרָאתִיו וְאֲבִרְכָהוּ וְאַרְבֵּהוּ
Is 61:10	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> יעטני - <a href="#">yaḡa'tanī</a> nb. time established as past by preceding הלבבישני	I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.	שׁוֹשׁ אֲשִׁישׁ בַּיהוָה תִּגַּל נַפְשִׁי בַּאלֹהִי כִּי הִלְבִּישָׁנִי בְּגָדֵי־יְשׁוּעָה מְעִיל צְדָקָה יַעֲטֵנִי כְּחַתָּן יִכְהֶן פָּאֵר וְכַפְלֵה תַעֲדֶה כְּלִיָּהּ
Is 63:3	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> ואדרכם - <a href="#">wa'id'rukim</a> וארמסם - <a href="#">wa'ir'muṣim</a> יז - <a href="#">wa'yizz</a> nb. (1) time established as past by preceding דַּרְכָּתִי; (2) Possibly the verbs should be repointed as <a href="#">PC<sub>pretWC</sub></a> - <a href="#">wa''id'rukim</a> ; <a href="#">wa''ir'muṣim</a> ; <a href="#">way'yizz</a> .	"I have trodden the wine press alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their juice spattered on my garments, and stained all my robes.	פָּוְרָה דַּרְכָּתִי לְבַדִּי וּמַעֲמִים אִין־אִישׁ אֶתִּי וְאֲדַרְכֶם בְּאַפִּי וְאַרְמָסֶם בְּחַמְתִּי וְגַזְזֵם עַל־בְּגָדַי וְכָל־מְלִבוּשֵׁי אֲגָאֲלָתִי
Jer 2:15	<a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a> ישאגו - <a href="#">yi'saḡū</a> Nb. time established as past by following verbs.	The lions have roared against him, they have roared loudly. They have made his land a waste; his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant.	עָלְיוּ וַיִּשְׁאָגוּ כְּפָרִים נִתְּנוּ קוֹלָם וַיִּשְׁיִיתוּ אֶרְצוֹ לְשִׁמָּה עָרָיו [נִצְתָה כ] [נִצְתָה ק] מְבִלֵי יֹשֵׁב

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Ob 1:7	<p><a href="#">PC<sub>pret_sim</sub></a>                      ישימו - ya'si:mū</p> <p>Nb. (1) time established as (probably) past by preceding SC verbs; (2) possibly ישימו should be understood as <a href="#">PC<sub>imp_prfut</sub></a> ("will set an ambush").</p>	<p>All your allies have deceived you, they have driven you to the border; your confederates have prevailed against you; those who ate your bread have set a trap for you-- there is no understanding of it.</p>	<p>עַד־הַגְּבוּל שֶׁלְחֹדֶךָ כָּל־אֲנָשֵׁי בְרִיתְךָ הִשְׁיִיאוּךָ                      יָכְלוּ לְךָ אֲנָשֵׁי שֶׁלְמֶךָ לְחַמֵּךָ יְשִׁימוּ מְזֹרֶר                      מִתְחַמֵּיךָ אֵין תְּבוּנָה בּוֹ</p>

<sup>1</sup> IN EBHP and LBHP THE JUSSIVE ([PC<sub>jus</sub>](#)), COHORTATIVE ([PC<sub>coh</sub>](#)), IMPERFECT ([PC<sub>imp</sub>](#)) AND PRETERITE ([PC<sub>pret\\_sim</sub>](#)/[PC<sub>pretWC</sub>](#)) 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](http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#indic_jus) AND  
[http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history\\_of\\_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix\\_Conjugation](http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix_Conjugation)

<sup>2</sup> See *Phones and Phonemes* - [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_6.htm#phone\\_phonym](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#phone_phonym).

<sup>3</sup> For convenience, I have used NASB or NRSV as the basis of my translation modifying the wording and layout as appropriate.

<sup>4</sup> From The Westminster Leningrad Codex - <http://www.tanach.us/>.