

in Exodus 20:8-10 we have an instance of this usage. There we read: "Remember the *YOM* of rest, to keep it holy. Six *YAMIM* (יָמִים) -- plural of *YOM*) shall you labor and do all your work. But the seventh *YOM* is the rest of the Lord your God."

- (3) A relatively determinate period (i.e., a period with fairly well-determined boundaries) during which some event or series of events takes place. This period could be short or long.

In Genesis 41:1 we read: "And it came to pass at the end of two full *YAMIM* (plural of *YOM*), that Pharaoh dreamed." This is translated "years" in the Authorized Version, and I believe that the translation is correct. If so, then we take note of the fact that this Scripture is speaking of the two full years during which Joseph was in prison, and yet it uses the plural of the word *YOM*.

in Exodus 13:10 Moses commanded the children of Israel, "Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in its season from *YAMIM* to *YAMIM*." This is translated "from year to year."

And in Proverbs 25:13 we read the words, "As the cold of snow in the *YOM* of harvest, so is faithful messenger to them that send him." Here *YOM* means the time of harvest, the season of harvest.

- (4) A fourth possibility of meaning is that of a relatively indeterminate period (i.e., a period without well-defined boundaries) during which some event or series of events takes place. This could be a brief indeterminate period or a lengthy indeterminate period.

in Genesis 35:3 Jacob said to his household, "Let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the *YOM* of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went." in this usage *YOM* simply means time.

in Genesis 40:3 we read of what Pharaoh did to his chief butler and his chief baker: "And he put them in prison." in verse 4 we are told "and they continued a *YOM* in prison." Here *YOM* simply means a period of time, a season of time of indefinite length.

In Proverbs 31:25 we read of the virtuous woman that "Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in *YOM* to come." Here all is indefinite, without boundaries in time. *YOM* simply means time.

But now we are faced with the question: Which of these four possibilities of meaning was intended in Genesis 1-2? In which sense shall we understand the seven Creation *YOMs*? Are they periods of light, 24-hour periods, relatively determinate periods, or relatively indeterminate periods of time?

There are at least five important considerations which bear upon the question of how we are to understand the time value of the seven Creation *YOMs*: