

## "Years of Days," "Months of Days," "Weeks of Days"

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[Note: Jewish writers normally counted time inclusively. This system has the effect of making Jewish cardinal numbers similar to modern ordinal numbers. Thus, "three years" means "within the third year." Passages such as Isa 16:14; 21:16 (below) break this pattern by stating that a servant bound by contract would not be able to work for part of a year and count that as the whole year. He was under obligation to work the entire period of twelve full months.]

<sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 16:14** But now the LORD says: "Within three years, as a servant bound by contract would count them, Moab's splendor and all her many people will be despised, and her survivors will be very few and feeble."

<sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 21:16** This is what the Lord says to me: "Within one year, as a servant bound by contract would count it, all the pomp of Kedar will come to an end."

There are five passages which refer to "year(s) of days," i.e., years that are made up of the full number of days; one which refers to a "a month of days" (2 Kgs 15:13), and one which refers to "weeks of days" (Dan 10:2). These passages are quoted below.]

### *Full year*

וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ שְׁנַתִּים יָמִים וּפְרָעָה חָלַם וְהִנֵּה  
עֹמֵד עַל־הַיָּאֵר: <sup>WTT</sup> **Genesis 41:1**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Genesis 41:1** When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile,

<sup>NRS</sup> **Genesis 41:1** After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,

<sup>TNK</sup> **Genesis 41:1** After two years' time, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,

וְהָיְתָה גְּאֻלָּתוֹ עַד־תֵּם שְׁנַת מִמְכָּרוֹ יָמִים תְּהִיָּה גְּאֻלָּתוֹ:  
וְאִישׁ כִּי־יִמְכַר בֵּית־מוֹשָׁב עִיר חוֹמָה <sup>WTT</sup> **Leviticus 25:29**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Leviticus 25:29** "If a man sells a house in a walled city, he retains the right of redemption a full year after its sale. During that time he may redeem it.

<sup>NRS</sup> **Leviticus 25:29** If anyone sells a dwelling house in a walled city, it may be redeemed until a year has elapsed since its sale; the right of redemption shall be one year.

<sup>TNK</sup> **Leviticus 25:29** If a man sells a dwelling house in a walled city, it may be redeemed until a year has elapsed since its sale; the redemption period shall be a year.

בְּבַעַל חֲצוֹר אֲשֶׁר עִם־אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּקְרָא אַבְשָׁלוֹם לְכָל־בְּנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>WTT</sup> **2 Samuel 13:23**

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Samuel 13:23** Two years [lit., years of days = two full years] later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there.

<sup>NRS</sup> **2 Samuel 13:23** After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

<sup>TNK</sup> **2 Samuel 13:23** Two years later, when Absalom was having his flocks sheared at Baal-hazor near Ephraim, Absalom invited all the king's sons.

וַיֵּשֶׁב אֲבִשָׁלוֹם בִּירוּשָׁלַם שְׁנַתִּים יָמִים  
וּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ לֹא רָאָה:  
<sup>WTT</sup> **2 Samuel 14:28**

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Samuel 14:28** Absalom lived two years [lit., two years of days = two full years] in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.

<sup>NRS</sup> **2 Samuel 14:28** So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence.

<sup>TNK</sup> **2 Samuel 14:28** Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years without appearing before the king.

וַיֹּאמֶר חֲנַנְיָהּ לְעֵינַי כָּל-הָעָם לֵאמֹר כֹּה  
אָמַר יְהוָה כִּכָּה אֶשְׁבֵּר אֶת-עַל נְבֻכַדְנֶאֱצַר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל  
בְּעוֹד שְׁנַתִּים יָמִים מֵעַל צֹאֵר כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם וַיֵּלֶךְ יִרְמְיָהּ  
הַנְּבִיא לְדַרְכָּו: פ  
<sup>WTT</sup> **Jeremiah 28:11**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Jeremiah 28:11** and he said before all the people, "This is what the LORD says: 'In the same way will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years [lit., two years of days = two full years].'" At this, the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

<sup>NRS</sup> **Jeremiah 28:11** And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: This is how I will break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." At this, the prophet Jeremiah went his way.

<sup>TNK</sup> **Jeremiah 28:11** and Hananiah said in the presence of all the people, "Thus said the LORD: So will I break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from off the necks of all the nations, in two years." And the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

*Full month*

שָׁלוֹם בֶּן-יָבִישׁ מֶלֶךְ בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלֹשִׁים וְתֵשַׁע  
שָׁנָה לְעֻזִּיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וַיִּמְלֹךְ יָרַח-יָמִים בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן:  
<sup>WTT</sup> **2 Kings 15:13**

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Kings 15:13** Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned in Samaria one month [lit., one month of days].

<sup>NRS</sup> **2 Kings 15:13** Shallum son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah of Judah; he reigned one month in Samaria.

<sup>TNK</sup> **2 Kings 15:13** Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah of Judah, and he reigned in Samaria one month.

Full week

WTT Daniel 10:2  
אֲנִי דָּנִיֵּאל הֵינְתִי מִתְאַבֵּל  
בְּיָמַי הָהֵם שְׁלֹשָׁה שָׁבָעִים יָמִים:

NIV Daniel 10:2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

NRS Daniel 10:2 At that time I, Daniel, had been mourning for three weeks.

TNK Daniel 10:2 At that time, I, Daniel, kept three full weeks of mourning.