The English Bible and the Days of Creation:

When Tradition Conflicts with Text
Hebrew Text

• 1:5 יומין אֶחָד (adjective numeral masculine singular) - one day
• 1:8 יומין שֵׁנִי (adjective masculine numeral ordinal) - a second day
• 1:13 יומין שְׁלִישִׁי (adjective masculine numeral ordinal) - a third day
• 1:19 יומין רביעי (adjective masculine numeral ordinal) - a fourth day
• 1:23 יומין חמישי (adjective masculine numeral ordinal) - a fifth day
• 1:31 יומין שֵׁשִׁי (definite article - adjective masculine numeral ordinal) - the sixth day
• 2:2 יומין שֶבֶריע (definite article – adjective masculine singular numeral ordinal) – the seventh day
The Definite Article

The Hebrew definite article is "ה" (ha).
The Days of My Life

- One day I was born.
- A second day I started preaching.
- A third day I started being married to Mary Anne Whitten.
- A fourth day I started being a father to Rebecca and then to Mary Ellen.
- A fifth day I started living in Minnesota.
- The sixth day I started working at Union.
- The seventh day I die.
Hebrew Verbs

• No temporal tenses – past, present, or future
• Based on action
• Imperfect tense – incomplete or ongoing action
• Perfect tense – completed action in past, present, or future
• Waw consecutive – sequential action
• Perfect of relation – simultaneous or subsequent action
Hebrew View of God and Time

Figure 1.1
The Greek Text – LXX

- 1:5 ἡμέρα μία (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day one
- 1:8 ἡμέρα δευτέρα (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day second
- 1:13 ἡμέρα τρίτη (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day third
- 1:19 ἡμέρα τετάρτη (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day fourth
- 1:23 ἡμέρα πέμπτη (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day fifth
- 1:31 ἡμέρα ἕκτη (feminine nominative singular adjective) - day sixth
- 2:2 τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ ἑβδόμῃ (definite article - feminine dative singular adjective) – the day the seventh
- τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ ἑβδόμῃ (definite article - feminine dative singular adjective) - the day the seventh
The Latin Text - Vulgate

- 1:5 dies unus (adjective nominative masculine singular cardinal) - day one
- 1:8 dies secundus (adjective nominative masculine singular ordinal) - day second
- 1:13 dies tertius (adjective nominative masculine singular ordinal) - day third
- 1:19 dies quartus (adjective nominative masculine singular ordinal) - day fourth
- 1:23 dies quintus (adjective nominative masculine singular ordinal) - day fifth
- 1:31 dies sextus (adjective nominative masculine singular ordinal) - day sixth
- 2:2 die septimo (adjective dative masculine singular ordinal) - day seventh
The English Text – Wycliffe’s Bible

• 1:5 o daie
• 1:8 the seconde dai
• 1:13 the thridde dai
• 1:19 the fourthe dai
• 1:23 the fyueth dai
• 1:31 the sixte dai
• 2:2 the seuenthe dai