Hebrew Syntactic Frames for Selected English Glosses Associated With Time Periods

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In what follows I worked from English back to Hebrew taking the *English Standard Version* as a source of representative connections between glosses and syntactic frames. My purpose was to determine – from text – the various ways in which a given meaning was represented syntactically in the Hebrew. This method is not the only one available, but it is what I used. Let X in the various syntactic frames represent a time expression, such as "two days," "a year," or whatever.

"After"

l^e-X
$^{\textbf{ʾ}}aḥ^a rê$ X
min-X
miqqēṣ X
$miqq^e ṣat$ X
$miqq^e ṣe$ X $^{\textbf{ʾ}}aḥ^a rê$ Y
$^c ad\ min$-X

"For"

-

"In"

l^e-X
l^e-X $^c ôd$ Y
$b^{ec}ôd$ X
-

"Within"

l^e-X
b^e-X
$b^{ec}ôd$ X
$^c ad$ X
-

See following page for summary table:

Page 1

Table 1
Summary of Syntactic Frames

Frame	"After"	"For"	"In"	"Within"
Multiple Glosses				
l^e-X	x		x	x
-		x	x	x
b^{ec}ôd X			x	x
Only "After"				
ʾaḥ^{a}rê X	x			
min-X	x			
miqqēṣ X	x			
miqq^{e}ṣat X	x			
miqq^{e}ṣê X ʾaḥ^{a}rê Y	x			
^{c}ad min-X	x			
Only "Within"				
b^e-X				x
^{c}ad X				x

The frame *l^e-X* is not used all that frequently to express time relationships, but for whatever reason it is the most flexible of the syntactic frames represented in the table. It can mean "after," "for," "in," "within," and can also be used to mean "every." Below I give examples.

Table 2
Examples of *lᵉ-X*

Gen 7:4	For <u>in seven days</u> I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground."	כִּי֩ לְיָמִ֨ים ע֜וֹד שִׁבְעָ֗ה אָֽנֹכִי֙ מַמְטִ֣יר עַל־הָאָ֔רֶץ אַרְבָּעִ֥ים י֖וֹם וְאַרְבָּעִ֣ים לָ֑יְלָה וּמָחִ֗יתִי אֶֽת־כָּל־הַיְק֤וּם אֲשֶׁ֣ר עָשִׂ֔יתִי מֵעַ֖ל פְּנֵ֥י הָאֲדָמָֽה׃
Gen 7:10	10 And <u>after seven days</u> the waters of the flood came upon the earth.	10 וַֽיְהִ֖י לְשִׁבְעַ֣ת הַיָּמִ֑ים וּמֵ֣י הַמַּבּ֔וּל הָי֖וּ עַל־הָאָֽרֶץ׃
1 Sam 13:11	11 Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come <u>within the days appointed</u>, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash,	וַיֹּ֤אמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל֙ מֶ֣ה עָשִׂ֔יתָ וַיֹּ֣אמֶר שָׁא֗וּל 11 כִּֽי־רָאִ֜יתִי כִֽי־נָפַ֥ץ הָעָ֣ם מֵֽעָלַ֗י וְאַתָּ֤ה לֹֽא־בָ֙אתָ֙ לְמוֹעֵ֣ד הַיָּמִ֔ים וּפְלִשְׁתִּ֖ים נֶאֱסָפִ֥ים מִכְמָֽשׂ׃
Ezra 10:8	8 and that if anyone did not come <u>within three days</u>, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.	8 וְכֹל֩ אֲשֶׁ֨ר לֹֽא־יָב֜וֹא לִשְׁלֹ֣שֶׁת הַיָּמִ֗ים כַּעֲצַ֤ת הַשָּׂרִים֙ וְהַזְּקֵנִ֔ים יָחֳרַ֖ם כָּל־רְכוּשׁ֑וֹ וְה֥וּא יִבָּדֵ֖ל מִקְּהַ֥ל הַגּוֹלָֽה׃
Ezra 10:9	9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem <u>within the three days</u>. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain.	9 וַיִּקָּבְצ֣וּ כָל־אַנְשֵֽׁי־יְהוּדָ֣ה וּבִנְיָמִ֣ן ׀ יְרוּשָׁלִַ֡ם לִשְׁלֹ֣שֶׁת הַיָּמִים֩ ה֨וּא חֹ֤דֶשׁ הַתְּשִׁיעִי֙ בְּעֶשְׂרִ֣ים בַּחֹ֔דֶשׁ וַיֵּשְׁב֣וּ כָל־הָעָ֗ם בִּרְחוֹב֙ בֵּ֣ית הָֽאֱלֹהִ֔ים מַרְעִידִ֥ים עַל־הַדָּבָ֖ר וּמֵהַגְּשָׁמִֽים׃ פ