

literal Greek translation of שַׁבָּתוֹת, but as a translation of שַׁבָּתוֹן, it is a Hebraism, or loan word.

If one inspects Leviticus 23:32 in the [chart below](#), it will become evident that only the Hebraism makes sense in the context. The word σαββατα⁶ really isn't always the plural it appears to be in normal Greek. It is just a loan word based on the Aramaic שַׁבָּתָא whose Greek form conveniently happened to plural. This is because Yom Kippur is simply one day. Likewise, by inspecting Leviticus 23:15 in the LXX in the [chart below](#), it will be clear that σαββατων is not always plural either, but that it just represents the Hebrew שַׁבָּתוֹן as a loan word, which means "Sabbatism". On the other hand it is clear that in contexts where the word day is omitted that σαββατων takes on the genuine plural sense in Greek. For this see in the chart, [Leviticus 23:38](#), [Neh. 10:33](#), [Judith 8:6](#), and [Ezek. 22:26](#). And in at least two cases, day is pluralized with it: [Judith 10:2](#) and [Ant. 14.226](#). Scholars must be careful never to claim that σαββατα or σαββατων have a singular meaning in standard Greek. This claim can only be justified by saying that a singular sense, where required by the context is on the basis of an Aramaic or Hebrew loan word, i.e. Semiticism. The careless claim that a Greek plural form like σαββατων has interchangeable plural and singular sense cannot be justified on pure Greek grounds. When it is a Semiticism, then -τα and -των endings represent no plural, but are a transliteration of the Aramaic שַׁבָּתָא and Hebrew שַׁבָּתוֹן respectively. The Greek does not betray its own grammatical rules. The article continues after the chart.

| Text | Greek Translation | Original |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Exodus 20:8 | την ημεραν των σαββατων (השבתון) | השבת את־יום |
| Greek sense | the day of-the sabbaths | day-of-the-sabbath |
| as a Semiticism | the day of the sabbatism (השבתון) | The Hebrew שַׁבָּתוֹן is pronounced the same way as the Greek σαββατων. |
| Exodus 35:3 | τη ημερα των σαββατων (השבתון) | השבת ביום |
| Greek sense | on-the day of-the sabbaths | on-day-of-the-sabbath |
| as a Semiticism | on-the day of-the sabbatism (השבתון) | |
| Leviticus 16:31 | σαββατα (שבתא) σαββατων (שבתון) | שבתון שבת |
| Greek sense | sabbaths of-sabbaths | sabbath-of sabbatism |
| as a Semiticism | sabbath-of sabbatism שבתא, שבתון | The Greek σαββατα is derived from Aramaic שַׁבָּתָא. |
| Leviticus 23:15 | απο της επαυριου των σαββατων | השבת ממחרת |
| Greek sense | from the morrow of-the sabbaths | in-time-after the-sabbath |
| as a Semiticism | from the morrow of-the sabbatism (השבתון) | |
| Leviticus 23:32 | σαββατιετε τα σαββατα υμων (שבתא) | שבתכם תשבתו |
| Greek sense | you shall sabbath the sabbaths of-you | you-all sabbath your-sabbath |
| as a Semiticism | you shall sabbath your sabbath (שבתא) | The Greek σαββατα is derived from Aramaic שַׁבָּתָא. |
| Leviticus 23:38 | πλην των σαββατων (השבתות) | יהוה שבתות מלבד |
| Greek sense | besides the sabbaths | besides sabbath-s-of YHWH |
| Semiticism? | No Semiticism; literal: besides | The Greek σαββατων is |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| | the sabbaths (השבתות) | really plural and is grammatical equivalent to השבתות. |
| Leviticus 24:8 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3. |
| Numbers 15:32 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3. |
| Numbers 15:33 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | Not in MT text, cf. Ex. 35:3 |
| Numbers 28:9 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Numbers 28:10 | ολοκαυτωμα σαββατων εν τοις σαββατοις | בשבתו שבת עלת |
| Greek sense | burnt-offering of-Sabbaths on the Sabbaths | burnt offering-of Sabbath on-sabbath-of-it |
| Semiticism? | Evidently Not, because σαββατοις is not a Semiticism. | A functional equivalent that is not a Semiticism. |
| Deut. 5:12 | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Deut. 5:15 | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Neh. 10:33 | των σαββατων vs. 34 in LXX | השבתות vs. 34 in MT |
| Greek sense | the Sabbaths | the-Sabbath-s |
| Semiticism? | No, clearly not. | Exact literal. |
| Judith 8:6 | προσαββατων και σαββατων | שבתות |
| Greek sense | before Sabbaths and Sabbaths | Sabbath-s |
| Semiticism? | No, the plural is literal, cf. νοσημεριων, εορτων, χαρμοσυνων | Exact literal. |
| Judith 10:2 | εν ταις ημεραις των σαββατων | השבתות |
| Greek sense | on the days of-the Sabbaths | the-Sabbath-s |
| Semiticism? | No, the plural is literal, modified by ημεραις. | |
| 1Macc 2:32 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| 1Macc 2:34 | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| 1Macc 2:41 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| 1Macc 9:34 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| 2Macc 15:3 | την σαββατων ημεραν | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Greek sense | the Sabbaths day | |
| as a Semiticism | the Sabbatism day (השבתות) | Notice the word day is put last. |
| Jeremiah 17:21 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Jer. 17:22a | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Jer. 17:22b | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Jer. 17:24a | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Jer. 17:24b | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Jer. 17:27a | την ημεραν των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 20:8 |
| Jer. 17:27b | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Ezek. 22:26 | και απο των σαββατων μου | ומשבתותי |
| Greek sense | and from the sabbaths of me | and from sabbaths of Me |
| Semiticism? | No. totally literal translation. | |
| Ezekiel 46:1 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Ezekiel 46:4 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Ezekiel 46:12 | τη ημερα των σαββατων | cf. Exodus 35:3 |
| Ant. 7.305 | σαββατων ημεραν | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |
| Ant. 12. 274 | σαββατων ημερα | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |
| Ant. 12.259 | σαββατων ημεραν | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |
| Ant. 14.226 | εν ταις ημεραις των σαββατων | cf. Judith 10:2 |
| Ant. 13.12 | την των σαββατων ημεραν | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |
| Ant. 18.354 | σαββατων ημεραν | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |
| Ant. 14.263 | των σαββατων ημεραν | cf. 2Macc 15:3 |