

# The Days of Creation

© Bob Williams - BibleLessons.com

## Introduction

NOTE: Much of the information contained in this section is to be directly attributed to various lessons found at [apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org). All such direct quotes begin with the designation [AP] and end with [End AP]. Intermittent comments within such quoted material are in brackets and end with – BW.

## Were the days of creation literal 24-hour days?

Genesis chapter 1 clearly states that the world and all therein was created in only 6 days. A further study of Biblical history and the ages of men will show that the creation occurred only a few thousand years ago.

There are many, however, who do not agree with such. Atheists have attempted to promote the idea that the universe itself is about 8-12 billions years old, that the earth is about 5 billion years old, that early life forms developed about 3-4 billion years ago, and that man arrived about 1-2 million years ago. The onslaught of such information has apparently been effective enough to convince even some who profess to be Bible-believing Christians. Thus we now have theistic evolutionists and progressive creationists who seek to promote that the account of creation in Genesis chapter 1 is not to be taken literally. Such people then appear to advocate that the Bible is to be interpreted, not according to what it clearly says, but according to the dating methods of scientific theory!

Donald England of Harding University, in his book, *A Scientist Examines Faith and Evidence*, says, "...it is not recommended that one should allow a general impression gained from the reading of Scripture to crystallize in his mind as absolute revealed truth. A reading of the first few chapters of Genesis leaves one with the very definite impression that life has existed on earth for, at the most, a few thousand years. That conclusion is in conflict with the conclusions of modern science that the earth is ancient" (1983, p. 155). Jack Wood Sears, while also a professor at Harding University, wrote: "Science, as I indicated earlier, has seemed to indicate that life has been here much longer than we have generally interpreted the Bible to indicate" (1969, p. 97).

In an effort to inject millions and billions of years into the account, it is contended by many that the days of creation were not literal, 24-hour days, but were rather very long periods of time. This is commonly known as the Day-Age Theory. (Some have even tried to argue that 2 Peter 3:8 gives some support to this theory, although this is not at all the intent of Peter. And, even if it was, all that would add would be 6-7000 years, not the millions and billions needed to fit the evolutionary model.) However, in contrast to this theory, it should be accepted that God did indeed create the world and all that is therein in 6 literal, 24-hour days because...

### 1. The Genesis account clearly says so.

Even a cursory reading of Genesis 1 indicates that God created everything in 6 days. Nothing in the text itself suggests anything to the contrary. It is suggested that, had the writer wanted to convey the thought of long periods of time, many other words could have been used more effectively. The Hebrew word *olam* means "age" or "long time." Or the adjective *rab*, meaning "long" could have been added to the text. But the writer chose (by inspiration of the Holy Spirit) to simply use the word *yom*, which, in this and similar contexts (not poetic or allegorical, etc.), is generally understood to refer to a normal, 24-hour day.

Perhaps to alleviate all doubt, the writer even defined what he meant by *yom* or day. Genesis 1:5 says, "And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day." The "first day" is thus clearly defined by the writer as a normal, 24-hour day consisting of both day and night. And, in fact, each day of creation is defined in the same manner.

It is also significant that *yom* is accompanied by a numeral throughout the account of the days of creation. In addressing this point, Arthur Williams says: "We have failed to find a single example of the use of the word 'day' in the entire Scripture where it means other than a period of twenty-four hours when modified by the use

of the numerical adjective” (1965, p. 10). Likewise, numerous contemporary Hebrew scholars have agreed that such a combination of *yom* with a numeral ought to be commonly understood as referring to a normal, 24-hour day. Furthermore, Genesis 1:14 says, “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years.’” The question then is, if the “days” are long ages of time, then what are the nights and what are the years?!

Some have suggested, of course, that literal, 24-hour days would not have been possible until at least the fourth day, because the Sun had not yet been created. Note, however, that the same “evening and morning” is employed before Genesis 1:14 (the creation of the Sun) as after it. Why should there be three long eras of time before the appearing of the Sun, and only 24-hour days after its creation? Numerous writers have responded to this objection. “Insofar as the view is concerned that these could not be ordinary days because the sun had not been created, we should like to point to the fact that we still measure time in terms of days even though the sun does not appear or is not visible. For instance, north of the Arctic Circle and south of the Antarctic Circle the sun does not appear for periods of time up to six months at the poles themselves. We would not think of measuring time in terms of the appearance or lack of appearance of the sun in these areas. No one would contend that at the North or South Pole a day is the equivalent of six months elsewhere” (Klotz, 1955, p. 85). “...If to this the objection is offered that the sun did not shine on the earth until the fourth day, it should be remembered that it is the function of the heavenly bodies to mark the days, not make them! It is night when no moon appears; and the day is the same whether the sun is seen or not” (Woods, 1976, p. 17 quoted in [apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org) with permission).

## *2. Other passages of Scripture support a literal 6 days of creation.*

In Exodus 20:8-11, God commanded Israel, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; ... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.” God spoke further regarding the Sabbath in Exodus 31:17: “It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.” The command to keep the Sabbath can be understood properly only when the days of the week are considered as normal, 24-hour days. Keeping the Sabbath, doing no work on that day, makes no sense if such is to be interpreted to mean a long period of time.

Two verses in the book of Psalms provide further commentary on the days of creation. “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:9). “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created” (Psalm 148:5). Both these statements give credence to literal, 24-hour days and instantaneous creation. They stand in direct contradiction to the theory that it took millions and billions of years to accomplish the various acts of creation.

## *3. Logical problems arise in the process of creation if the days are longer than normal.*

The most obvious problem would be in relation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and the creation of plant life. If, as some contend, each day consisted of millions or billions of years, how did the plants survive until the sun was created on the 4<sup>th</sup> day? They would obviously be able to survive without the sun for several hours, but not for several geological ages! Furthermore, another problem would arise regarding the reproduction of the plants. According to Genesis 1, other living things were not created until the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> days. We know that many plants survive only by pollination by bees, moths, and other such creatures. Again, surely such plants could have survived without pollination for a couple of days. But how could they survive and multiply if it were millions or billions of years before the insects came into existence?!

The fact remains, not only could God have created all that is in only 6 days, but according to His written word, that is exactly what He did.