

24 Hours: Arguments for a Literal View of the Days of Creation

Genesis 1:5 ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Different views

- 1) Day-Age View (also called “Progressive Creationism”)- A “day” means a long period of time. (Gen 2:4; Job 20:28; Psalm 20:1; Prov. 11:4; 21:31; 24:10; 25:13; Ecc. 7:14).
- **2 Peter 3:8** ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- 2) Intermittent Day – the days in Genesis one are literal days, but they did not follow each other immediately; there were long periods of time between each day.
- 3) Revelatory Days – the “days” in the creation account have nothing to do with creation, but have to do with the order which God revealed to Moses regarding creation.
- 4) Literal 24 Hour Days – this is the view I hold to.

Reasons to believe in a literal 24 hour day

1. The terms _____ and _____ argue for a single 24 hour day.

Evening - עֶרֶב - **erev** - (sun)set, **evening** -- **1. a. evening**, orig. *sunset* **2.** (late poet.) = *night*.

Morning - בֹּקֶר - **boqer** - **morning** -- **1. morning** (of point of time, time at which, never during which, Eng. *morning* = forenoon): **2. morrow, next day; to-morrow morning;**

When does evening and morning happen? At the beginning and end of one day single day. The text does not say evenings and mornings. (Daniel 8:26)

Daniel 8:26 ²⁶ "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For *it refers* to many days *in the future*."

“Evening” and “morning” each occur more than 100 times in the Old Testament and every single time it refers to a literal evening or a literal morning.

“The first day commenced at the moment when God caused the light to break forth from the darkness; but this light did not become day a day, until the evening had come, and the darkness which set in with the evening had given place the next morning to the break of day...But if the days of creation are regulated by the recurring interchanges of light and darkness, they must be regarded not as periods of time of incalculable duration, of years and thousands of years, but as simple earthly days.” (*Commentary on the Old Testament*, Keil and Delitzsch, vol. 1, p.51).

2. The term _____ (or _____) is always used for a literal day.

אֶחָד - echad – One, First.

In every other Old Testament passage, the word “day” used with a numeral or ordinal always refers to a literal 24 hour day.

3. Unless the context tells us otherwise, the term “_____” would argue for a 24 hour day

Day - יום – **yom - day** -- 1. *day*, opp. night. 2. *Day* as division of time:

Occurrences of *yom* (day) and *echad* (one/first) together:

^{NKJ} **Genesis 1:5** God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the **first day**.

^{NKJ} **Genesis 27:45** "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in **one day**?"

^{NKJ} **Genesis 33:13** But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children *are* weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing *are* with me. And if the men should drive them hard **one day**, all the flock will die.

^{NKJ} **Numbers 11:19** 'You shall eat, not **one day**, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

^{NKJ} **1 Samuel 9:15** Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear **the day** before Saul came, saying,

^{NKJ} **1 Samuel 27:1** And David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish **someday** by the hand of Saul. *There is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

^{NKJ} **Ezra 10:17** By the **first day** of the first month they finished *questioning* all the men who had taken pagan wives.

^{NKJ} **Isaiah 9:14** Therefore the LORD will cut off head and tail from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in **one day**.

^{NKJ} **Jonah 3:4** And Jonah began to enter the city on the **first day's** walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

^{NKJ} **Zechariah 14:7** It shall be **one day** Which is known to the LORD -- Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *That* it will be light.

4. The _____ would have no meaning if these are not literal days.

Exodus 20:8-11 " Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. ¹¹ 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 hallowed it.

Exodus 31:15-17 ¹⁵ 'Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ 'Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷ 'It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

The concept of the Sabbath (or even the week) would make little sense if the days of creation were not literal 24 hour days. Just as God made the heavens and the earth in six literal days and rested on the seventh, God commanded Israel to work for six literal days and to rest on the seventh.

If we are to take God's word as truth, and if we are to trust what God has revealed to us, then we need to trust that God's account of the beginning is true the way he presented it to us. If we start to allegorize the first verses of Genesis, then where would we stop? Does any of the rest of scripture mean what it says to mean? There is sufficient evidence within the text of Genesis 1 and outside of it to believe that when God states that He created the world in six days, that He means six literal days. We need to believe that God's word is true from start to finish.