

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



**SUMMARY:** Scriptural proof for the length of creation days is a matter of optional interpretation. There is no scientific evidence for 24-hour creation days, some for longer than 24-hour days, and none actually credible for the billion-year periods claimed. The issue should be that God created the heavens and the Earth, not how long it took.

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

1. God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and the creation period discussed in Genesis 1 and 2 was completed approximately 6000 years ago.
2. Some people strongly believe that the "days of Creation" mentioned in Genesis 1 were all 24-hour days, as we presently know them. Others believe that one or more of the days could have been of a different length (presumably longer).
3. The language of the Bible is not sufficient to insist that as a matter of faith a Christian must believe that all of the days of creation were exactly 24 hours or were not exactly 24 hours.
4. At the present time, conflicting "scientific" evidence indicates a relatively young universe in some cases and a relatively old universe in other cases. It is difficult for a person to differentiate between the two.
5. The length of creation days is not the issue, the issue is whether God created the heavens and the earth.
6. The people happiest when you take a hard position that the days of creation days were 24 hours are the atheists who are trying to convert our children.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Genesis 1 & 2 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth and everything on earth in six days. When the Apostles read this, I suspect that the thought of how long the days were never entered their discussions. If it did come up, and Jesus wasn't around to answer, you probably couldn't get a heated debate going. They probably couldn't imagine someone caring how long God took to do it, as long as they believed that He did it.

Today, with evolutionists requiring long periods of time for their astounding theories, much supposedly scientific information is disseminated declaring as fact the age of everything. Many religious people recognizing the requirement for time to justify evolution have made a firm stand on 24-hour creation days. If we can promote belief in 24-hour creation days, we immediately defeat evolution in the mind of the hearer.

Some of our brethren believe that there is no reason to question the 24-hour day opinion unless you are trying to justify evolution. The possibility of honestly differing opinions on

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



what the limited information in Genesis 1 & 2 is discounted and is considered to be compromising the truth. The discussion is changed from a literal / figurative discussion to a debate on the belief in God or atheism.

Defeating the theory of atheistic evolution is a worthy goal. However, if the method labels, as a heretic, a person who simply believes the days of Genesis 1 may have been figurative in length, we might need to question the method. This lesson is an attempt to look at information surrounding the issue.

### **ALTERNATIVE LENGTHS AVAILABLE FOR CREATION DAYS:**

1. Every day was 24 hours.
2. Every day was a length of time different than 24 hours (Usually longer, but not necessarily).
3. A combination of 24 hour days and days of other lengths.
4. Genesis 1:1-2 was prior to day 1.
5. Every day was 4 hours (Genesis 2:4)
6. We don't care what they were. It is not the issue.

### **SCRIPTURAL PROOFS OF THE LENGTHS OF THE DAYS:**

1. **SCRIPTURAL PROOFS THAT THE DAYS WERE ALL 24 HOURS:**

The word day is used in Genesis 1 and should be taken as 24 hours unless there is indication to the contrary.

In each of the other 600+ times the word day (yom) is used with a number (i.e. third day), the context clearly indicates that it is referring to an earthly 24 hour day. Possible response 1: There is no other occasion in the Bible with multiple figurative time periods for comparison. You could equally validly say that every case in the Bible using multiple figurative time periods uses the word day for the time period. Possible response 2: There is not another historical instance in which the word "day" is used with a number for 1656 years (Genesis 7:4). Possible response 3: The statement is not true as Genesis 7:4, Jonah 1:17, and Matthew 12:40 use the word day is with a number to refer to only the part of the 24 hour period which is not night.)

The third day in Genesis has plants growing without the benefit of the Sun, so it must have been a short period. Possible response 1: If God can create it, He can make it live without the Sun. Possible response 2: There was "light" from the first day, we are not given enough information to know what it was or how it functioned).

The term day is repeated in Exodus 20:11 and Exodus 31:17 and was most likely considered by the tribes to be typical 24 hour days.

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



### 2. SCRIPTURAL PROOFS THAT SOME DAYS COULD HAVE BEEN OTHER THAN 24 HOURS

The word day is used in Genesis 1 to indicate each of the creation periods and is used in Genesis 2:4 ASV to refer to the entire creation period, at least one of these must have been figurative and other than 24 hours (Hebrew word "yom" used in both cases).

Genesis is written with other figurative language, i.e. Genesis 1:4 says that God separated the light from the darkness. Darkness is the absence of light, so you cannot have darkness and light in the same place to be separated unless you are talking figuratively. Gen. 1:5 God called the light day. Each of the Genesis days were comprised of an evening and a morning only, no afternoons.

Other figurative language is used in writing the Bible, Exodus 10:11 says "the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart." Those offended at the implication that the time periods of Genesis 1 may be figurative readily accept this figurative language.

In Genesis 1:12 on the third day the earth brought forth plants to the point of yielding seeds and fruit, a process not typically associated with 24 hours, God could have done it if He chose to.

Day 1 included the massive job of creating the heavens and the earth. Day 4 included the equally massive job of creating the Sun, The Moon, and the stars. These creations were done without the benefit of the Earth's rotation relative to the Sun to establish a 24 hour period. Some creationist would have us to say to ourselves the God decided that He was going to make the Earth day 24 hours, and so I will constrain myself to work within that 24-hour time frame before it actually exists. I do not want to be untactful, but that is not a reasonable thing to say. Why would God have done that?

Genesis was written in cuneiform (picture writing)(i) or a Proto-Phoenician script(ii) while Hebrew was a developing language and before the written Hebrew language existed as such. No dictionaries existed to "translate" Genesis to ancient written Hebrew. No other documents were written within 450 years of Genesis are available to assist in translation of our present translation work. Given this and the task of communicating the majestic creation description to the wandering nomadic tribes of the Israelites, a figurative use of a word "day" to focus on creation periods other than 24 hours would have been a reasonable thing to do under these conditions. It is difficult to insist that the time periods had to be 24 hours and God could not have used the word figuratively.

In Genesis 1:1 to 2:4 the word day is used with a time period 8 times which may be literal or figurative, is used 5 times is a clearly figuratively sense and is used once in a literal only sense (1:14). Clearly the option for figurative is indicated.

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



### **SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE LENGTH OF DAYS**

As God created the universe and wrote the Bible, scientific evidence should be in complete agreement with the Bible. That may be a little hard to believe with “scientists” today misconstruing scientific proofs, drawing erroneous conclusions from available fact and in some cases just plain lying.

If your preconceived conclusion is that atheistic evolution is valid, your test results and interpretation of the results have a tendency to support that conclusion. There are numerous cases of scientists even faking test results to reinforce their preconceived conclusions. The problem for the Christian is to try to find legitimate scientific truths from among the bull which authors such as Carl Sagan proliferate.

We start with the initial assumption that God did not create anything in the universe to “fool us”, i.e. He didn’t place bones of nonexistent dinosaurs in the ground. He does not prevent us from making fools of ourselves by how we interpret what we see.

We ultimately don’t care how long the days of creation were. We care that God created the Heavens and the Earth.

#### **A.) SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT ALL DAYS WERE 24 HOURS**

To the best of our knowledge, there is nothing which you would call scientific evidence proving the creations days were 24 hours rather than 23 hours or 25 hours or a thousand years. This does not mean that it is not true, just that you cannot scientifically prove it. We shall defer to the idea of demonstrating that the earth is relatively young.

#### **B.) SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR A YOUNG EARTH (6-15,000 YEARS)**

All human remains are in the top 5% of the sedimentary layers or the Holocene layer. If the first 5 days were only 120 hours long, humans would be in all layers.

The distance to stars can be literally measured by parallax (geometric) measurements to 10,000 light years against a background of even more distant stars.

Ice cores in the Antarctic show 420,000 ice layers. Even if you presume 10 layers per year you get 42,000 years.

For more information on these, see the IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION book, “What is our answer to evolutionist’s claims” section.

Shrinkage of the Sun: The Sun is shrinking at the rate of 0.1% per century, corresponding to the rate of 5 feet per hour. 100,000 years ago the Sun would have been twice its present size (and much hotter). 20,000,000 years ago the Sun would have been large enough that the earth’s orbit would have been inside the Sun. The process of creation of species by evolution is supposed to have been completed

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



20,000,000 (iii) years ago. (Note: This means that the Sun would completely burn up in another 100,000 years. (The 1973 World Book speculates that there is enough energy left in the sun to burn another 5 billion years.)

Decay of the earth's magnetic field: Decay of the earth's magnetic field (iii)(iv) indicates a maximum span back to a time when magnetic field was unmanageably large is 10,000 years. A half-life of 1400 years means that the magnetic field would have been 32 times stronger 7000 years ago than it is now. 28,000 year ago it would have been more than one million times stronger than it is now. (Reversing magnetic fields may complicate this)

Hydrogen in the universe: Hydrogen is constantly converted to helium in the universe and cannot be reproduced in significant quantities. The extend of the remaining hydrogen indicates a relatively young earth (iii).

Atmospheric Helium: Disintegration of uranium and thorium in the earth's crust produces helium, which escapes o the atmosphere. The present  $3.5 \times 10^{15}$  grams of helium and the rate of helium formation rate of  $3 \times 10^{11}$  grams per year indicate an age of approximately 10,000 to 15,000 years (ii)(iv).

Cosmic dust: Cosmic dust is landing on the earth at the rate of 14 million tons per year. If the earth were 4.5 billion year old, the layer of cosmic dust should be 50-200 feet thick. It is not, and the high nickel content of the cosmic dust would it to be detected in the oceans if it were there (iii)(iv). In the 1950s before we landed anything on the Moon, this same layer of dust was predicted, and it would have no environmental conditions to change it as it might on the earth. Early Moon rover concepts had huge soft tires.

Population statistics: The current rate of population growth I used to demonstrate that if man had been here for 1,000,000 years, the population would be 500 times the present population (iii). To me this data is not convincing, as one severe plague could completely restart the population process.

The Institute for Creation Research (ICR)(v) has written Impact Article #1 which lists the predicted age of the earth based on Uniformitarianism and measuring 76 different influxes, effluxes, teaching, decays, accumulations, and formation. Samples are:

Influx of aluminum into the oceans – 100 years

Formation of river deltas – 5000 years

Influx of gold into the oceans – 560,000 years

Deacceleration of the earth rotation by tidal friction – 500,000,000 years.

The oldest living things known are the Bristlecone Pines in California which are only about 4000 years old (vi)(vii).

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



Glacial deposits in Northern Europe with annual bands of light and dark clay demonstrate an age of approximately 8700 years. (vi)

### C.) SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR AN OLD EARTH (4.5 BILLION)

Dating of rocks is a potential proof, however:

The decay of uranium to lead, radioactive potassium to argon, and of rubidium to strontium each indicate approximately 4.5 billion years from a pure state to the present state, based upon pure formation and uniformitarianism (viii). The processes uses assumptions made are highly suspect. I should be noted that evolutionists have accepted the oldest dating theory they could find to provide sufficient time for evolutionary theories to work. If this were to be the way which you would determine the age of the earth, it seems more logical to select the youngest indication rather than the oldest as impure formations tend to give the effect of an older than actual life.

It is impossible to predict what state the materials were created in, i.e. rocks may be created in a state which a scientist today would take a billion years to decay to, on the assumption of pure formation. This would not apply to plants and animals other than the original set God created, which should have left no fossils (as the Bible does not record and immediate catastrophe).

Scientists know the actual ages of materials of 2-3000 years and are trying to extrapolate back to a date 1,000,000 times the known date range. Other scientific endeavors do not tolerate such extrapolation.

Radiometric dating has shown certain rocks from volcanoes in Russia to be 5 billion years old, whereas they were known to be less than 200 years old (iv) and Hawaiian lava flows less than 200 years old to be 3 billion years old.

Carbon-14 is absorbed from the atmosphere as carbon dioxide by plants and animals and then starts to decay to nitrogen-14 when the organism dies. The half-life of 5730 years so becomes very weak after a few years. In the early days of lush vegetation which resulted in our present coal deposits, less carbon-14 was available for each individual plant which would make present day assumptions of the initial Carbon-14 content of plants invalid. The low resultant Carbon-14 content would tend to indicate a longer life than was actually the case. Carbon-14 dating of some living mollusks determined that the shells showed Carbon-14 ages of up to 2300 years (iv) and some new wood to be 10,000 years old. (ix)

The light we are seeing coming from the Milky Way Galaxy is coming from stars that are said to be 80,000 light years away, therefore is 80,000 years old. (The Milky Way is said to be 100,000 light years across and we are 30,000 light years from the center). We are seeing stars said to be several billion light years away based upon the calculations of what is called the Cosmic Distance Ladder, which is 7 different types of

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



measures based upon numerous presumptions and compounding errors as it gets further out. Where the distances stated are presumed to be as far as possible, however, it is unlikely that they are very close to us.

Which day did God use? Our day is 24 hours, but the 24 hours is slowing down all the time. Jupiter's day is 9 hours and 55 minutes of our day. Pluto's day is about 6 earth days. Every planet's day is different. It seems interesting to think that God created the immense Galaxy and universe according to the time frame of a future small planet. It was the planet He was going to send his Son to, so it is an important planet.

Accumulation of sediments can be used as an index of time. In 1854 a statue of Ramases II from 1200 BC was found buried under 9 feet of river mud. This worked out to be 3.5" per century. The Grand Canyon has approximately 1 mile of sedimentary rock exposed, which would relate to approximately 2 million years at the flooding rate of the Ramases II statue. This would be a minimum as the weight of the column would tend to compress the lower layers (vi).

### **POSSIBLE RESPONSES**

- 1: A uniformitarian rate of sediments of 3.5" per century is not credible. Numerous instances of massive sedimentation have been demonstrated to happen in a short period (i.e. The Mount St. Helen's volcano). A case has been found of three different sedimentation layers assigned million so years to have formed, only to find later that a single tree trunk passed through all three layers (x). This could happen easily in a massive flooding such as in Noah's day where three sedimentation layers could have been washed in before the tree trunk could have decayed.
- 2: Sedimentation rates of 3.5" per century do not preserve any fossils except a few hard shells. For almost any fossil to be preserved, it must have been buried quickly in a thick enough sedimentation layer to protect it from other living things and the atmosphere. This would tend to demonstrate catastrophic sedimentation conditions such as major floods and volcanos.

### **RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS IN SCIENCE**

At the present time we can only report supposed scientific "facts" and the conflicts in the scientific "facts" which are given by different individuals. We do not presume that we can assure you of which of the facts are actually true and which are not true. There are sincere believers on both sides of this issue. As time passes we are sure that we will learn more about which of the facts are true.

It is our observation that both sides play a little loosely with stating "facts", misquoting "facts", and extrapolation "facts". We do not question the sincerity of anyone on this subject. However, they seem to be over-zealous to emphasize what might support

# ***IF GOD?***

## **THE LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS**

---



their conclusions and tend to ignore or discount anything that might differ with their conclusions. They are, in other words, human.

Many scientists advocate the oldest date they can find, as implied by any of the testing methods, and this is judged by creationist to be biased to find time for the possibility of evolution. Creationists look for short lengths of time, which is judged by evolutionists to find their bias towards a recent creation by God. Given all the methods of dating presume that the original substances or situations were formed in a pure state, it appears that it is most logical to believe the shortest date that is demonstrated.

### References:

- I The Interpreter's Bible-Volume 1, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1952, p. 47
- II Pictorial Bible Dictionary, Merrill C. Tenny et.al., The Southwestern Company, 1966, p. 904
- III The Young Earth, Bert Thompson, Ph.D., Apologetics Press
- IV Willington's Guide to the Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, 1982, p. 15-16
- V ICR Impact Series-No. 17: The Young Earth, Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., Institute for Creative Research, 2716 Madison Avenue, San Diego, California 92116.
- VI Origins, Robert Shapiro, Bantam Books, 1987, p. 80-81
- VII World Book – Volume B, 1973, p. 502
- VIII UNIFORMITARIANISM (Def.): A geologic doctrine that existing processes acting in the same manner as at present are sufficient to account for all geological changes. (Webster)
- IX Creation or Evolution?-Part 3: The Fossil Record, Winkie Pratney, Last Days Ministry, Lindale, Texas.
- X The Author has read a reference on this and has not relocated it. The source will be listed when found.