

ALIENS, GOD and the BIBLE

Did God create the earth in six sequential 24-hour days? Is universe and earth less than 10,000 years old?

There are three different uses of the word day (yom in Hebrew) in the first two chapters of Genesis. But some people say that yom only means 24-hours.

Yom (pronounced Yome) is one of those words that means many things. It can mean age, which would be nice for Genesis 1. Dividing up the evening and mornings into ages would help our understanding: Age 1, Age 2, Age 3, etc. But even if we stick to day, how long the day is remains elusive. Just in Genesis 1, there are three meanings:

a. Genesis 1:5, *God called the light "day" and the darkness he called "night."* In this case, the word day is referring to **a 12-hour period of time**. Day time as opposed to night time.

b. Genesis 1:14, *And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky...to serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years."* In this case, the word day is referring to **a 24-hour period of time**, based on the rotation of the earth and its orbit around the sun.

c. Genesis 2:4 is a summary statement: *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created in that day, when God made the earth and heavens.* In this passage, day means **a long period of time**. Day here is used like when we say, *In the days of George Washington...*

Some argue that when the Hebrew word for day, yom is modified by a number, it can only mean a 24-hour period, but the Hebrew language does not support this idea at all.

In Psalm 90:4, Moses wrote, *"For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by or like a watch in the night."* Moses is not saying a thousand years equals a day for God, but that God is outside of time overall, unaffected, not influenced.

A day is whatever God wants it to be, and insisting on a 24-hour period is poor scholarship. Likewise, we cannot limit how long it took God to create everything. As I mention in the book, God is able to create things, and then move laterally through time to the beginning of the next creation period, no matter how much time passes between them.

The goal is not to align the bible with science. But it is gratifying to find that the bible often confirms what scientists are discovering. In this light, the Gospel becomes more accessible to those studying God's fingerprints on creation, because they now know their studies do not contradict God's Word. And God's Word might even guide them into understanding God in ways they did not expect. In other words, they discover that *God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that they are without excuse* (Romans 1:20).