

Year 2 Class 4 Session A Notes

The Day-Age Theory Continued

Day-Age Theory = each creation day was actually a long period of time. The normal meaning of the Hebrew word “yom” is an actual day. Genesis 1 looks like it is recording straightforward history:

“It is apparent that the most straightforward understanding of the Genesis record, without regard to all the hermeneutical considerations suggested by science, is that God created heaven and earth in six solar days, that man was created in the sixth day, that death and chaos entered the world after the Fall of Adam and Eve, that all of the fossils were the result of the catastrophic universal deluge which spared only Noah’s family and the animals therewith.” Dr. P.T. Pun (Professor of Biology at Wheaton College), Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation, Cited by John Morris, The Young Earth, 9th ed., 2000

“From a superficial reading of Genesis 1, the impression received is that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author ...this seems to run counter to modern scientific research, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago.” Gleason Archer, “A Survey of the Old Testament”, 1964, 15th printing, 1980, p. 181

“In Genesis 1, yom [day] comes with ‘evening’ and ‘morning’, and is modified by a number. So it is obvious that the Hebrew text is describing a 24-hour day...” Hebrew Scholar Dr. Tim Wang, Creation Magazine, vol.27 No. 4, Sept-Nov., 2005

“Probably, so far as I know, there us no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1-11 intended to convey to their readers that creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24-hours we now experience... Or, to put it negatively, the apologetic arguments which suppose the “days” of creation to be long eras of time, the figures of years not to be chronological, and the flood to be a merely local Mesopotamian flood, are not taken seriously by any such professors, as far as I know.” Hebrew scholar James Barr, Letter to David Watson, 1984, cited in John D. Morris, “The Young Earth”, Master Books, 1994, p. 31

“...it is our obligation to interpret the creation account as literal history just like we do the other historical narrative in the Bible.” Theologian Dr. Robert McCabe, Creation Magazine, vol. 32, no. 2, 2010, p. 18

“I have not met any Hebrew professors who had the slightest doubt about this unless they were already committed to some alternative by other considerations that do not arise from a straightforward reading of the Hebrew text as it stands.” Hugh Williamson, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford University

I spoke with Pastor David Hocking in October, 2011. (Hocking has an earned PhD in biblical languages). He believes the days of creation are meant to be understood literally.

I spoke with Pastor Menno Kalisher September, 2009. He is a biblical scholar whose first language is Hebrew. He was adamant that the Hebrew text cannot be harmonized with the “day-age” or “gap” theories.

Other words that could be used to indicate long periods of time:

“To every thing there is a **season**,²¹⁶⁵ and a **time**⁶²⁵⁶ to every purpose under the heaven:”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

<p>זמן zeman “season”</p> <p>BDB Definition:</p> <p>1) a set time, appointed time, time</p> <p>Part of Speech: noun masculine</p> <p>A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: from H2163</p> <p>Same Word by TWOT Number: 557a</p>	<p>תֵּעָרָה ’eth “Time”</p> <p>Definition:</p> <p>1) time</p> <p>1a) time (of an event)</p> <p>1b) time (usual)</p> <p>1c) experiences, fortunes</p> <p>1d) occurrence, occasion</p> <p>Part of Speech: noun feminine</p> <p>A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: from H5703</p> <p>Same Word by TWOT Number: 1650b</p>
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“And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.” Joshua 24:7

“Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.” 2 Chronicles 15:3

H7227, rab
By contraction from H7231; abundant (in quantity, size, age, number, rank, quality)

H3117, yôm
From an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term), (often used adverbially)

Stretching the creation days is done to make the Bible agree with the secular view of earth history. The secular view is based upon the geologic column, which supposedly documents the emergence and development of life on earth. This view says that reptiles evolved first; birds came later. The Bible says that the where made on day 5, reptiles on day 6.

The secular view also says that land animals evolved before whales. Again the order is wrong. The Bible says that God made the whales on day 5; the land animals on day 6.

A Day Like a Thousand Years?

Psalms 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 say that to God a thousand years is like a day and a day is like a thousand years. Some think that this gives license to stretch the creation days into long periods. Reasons for rejecting this idea:

- Earth would still be “young” – only 12,000 years old
- The order of creation is still incompatible with the geologic column
- If the fossils are taken to be older than man’s emergence then the death-before-sin problem remains
- Psalms 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 are not talking about the creation at all but about how great God is (time does not limit God the way it limits us).

Claim: “The Bible isn’t a science textbook (so we can take Genesis figuratively).”

Answer: A text doesn’t need to be a science textbook in order to tell us the truth about the past. Children’s books have been written that describe the evolution story in simplistic terms. If God wanted to tell us that He used the evolution process to create and/or describe millions of years in simple terms He certainly could have done it. In fact He says that He created in 6 days about 6,000 years ago.

Challenge: How can the creation days (1-3) be literal when the sun wasn’t created until day 4?

Answer: God created light (Or) on day 1; He created the light holder (May-Or) on day 4. The sun is our light source today. It was not so for the first 3 creation days.

“The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.” Psalm 74:16

Are Genesis chapters 1 and 2 separate creation accounts?

No they are not. Genesis 1 describes the creation of the world in summary fashion. Genesis 2 back up and fills in the details not contained in chapter 1.

Furthermore, Genesis 2 does not contain a description of the creation of sun, moons, and stars. There is no other ancient creation account that omits these things. Genesis 2 appears to be a supplement to chapter 1.

The Lord Jesus saw both chapters as the same account:

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning *made them male and female, and said, **for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” Matthew 19:4-5
Genesis 1:27 Genesis 2:24

* Genesis 1:27 **Genesis 2:24

The biblical style of giving a summary report and going back in filling in details is used in newspapers today. This style is clearly seen Genesis chapters 10-11. In chapter 10 we are told that the descendents of Noah’s sons spread out all over the earth according to their tongues, families, and nations. Chapter 11 goes back in fills in the details; it explains how the language groups came into existence.