

A LITERAL "SIX DAY" CREATION (Not Evolution)

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The View of Historic Christianity: "It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good" (W.C.F. 4:1).

The Opposing Views: The world evolved into being beginning suddenly (a big bang) or through a natural process without God (evolution); or the world evolved over a vast period of time with God superintending to the process and causing the matter to exist needed for the process (theistic evolution); or that God created the world but not by a series of instantaneous commands, rather through protracted providential governance in his creative work. This view interprets the days of Genesis 1 to be vast eras of time artistically arranged to reveal God's use of natural process.

Reasons for a Literal 24-hour day 6-day Creation:

1. **The Primary Use of the Word "Day."** The Hebrew word *yom* in Genesis 1:5,8,13,16,18,19,23,31 occurs 1704 times in the Old Testament, the overwhelming majority of which have to do with a normal day (though it may be limited to the hours of light, as per common understanding). Unless contextual forces in Genesis 1 compel otherwise, the "day" should be treated as a normal day.
2. **The Primary Context Qualifies the Day.** Each of the six days in Genesis 1 is qualified with the phrase "evening and morning", defining a normal day (v.5,8,13,19,23,31). The words "evening" and "morning" occur together in 37 other biblical passages. Each instance refers to a normal day (e.g., Exod.18:13; 27:21).
3. **The Numerical Adjective Qualifies the Day.** There are 119 times in Moses' writings where the Hebrew word *yom* stands in conjunction with a numerical adjective (first, second, third, etc). There are 357 other biblical references where numerical adjectives occur describing days. None of these passages mean anything other than a literal 24-hour day (examples: Lev. 12:3; Ex.12:15; 24:16). Genesis 1 consistently applies the numerical adjective.
4. **The Normal Day/Night Pattern Is Expressly Designated.** Of the days of creation, days four, five, and six occur after the creation of the sun, which was expressly designated to "rule" the day/night pattern (Gen.1:14-16). The identical word *yom* and phraseology (both "evening and morning" and numerical adjectives) associated with days four through six are employed of days one through three which compels us to consider all of these days as "normal length" earth days.
5. **Letting Scripture Interpret Scripture.** In the Fourth Commandment man's work is expressly defined in length by the days of creation: "for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth" (Exod.20:11; 31:15-17). Whatever is understood as the normal length day at the time of the giving of the Fourth Commandment should be the same as that found in the Genesis 1 creation week since no differing explanation is provided.
6. **The Plural Expression of Days Is Consistently Used in Scripture.** When God's creation is described in Exodus 20:11 as involving "six days" the Hebrew plural for "days" is used *yammin*. This plural use of "days" is found 608 times in the Old Testament and always depicts normal days. Vast eras or ages are never expressed as *yammin*. The Hebrew word Moses could have employed for this, had he been instructed to do so by the Holy Spirit, is *olam*.

Why a Literal "Six day" Creation Matters

1. ***It reveals an awesome transcendent yet imminent view of God's nature.*** An evolutionary view of the earth's beginning or a protracted view of creation would reveal God's imminence in nature but not his glorious transcendence. Such a view leads inevitably to Pantheism. Our God does not have to limit himself to working within natural time spans of growth and reproduction. His ways are higher than ours (Isa.55:9).
2. ***It reveals a comforting view of God's control.*** We believe God did not create using pre-existing visible matter (**Heb.11:3**). In other words, God doesn't just bring into a visible existence earthly matter that later will have to act upon itself and create what we now see. If God acted in such a fashion, it would leave the present and future state of the earth and man in uncertainty with an attitude of dire pessimism. Thankfully, God reveals his ability to do all he desires instantaneously. He speaks and his word is accomplished just as he wanted in the space of a day. Our God can do whatever he wants in an instant.
3. ***It reveals an orderly view of God actions.*** He acts sequentially, one 24-hour day after another. It is no wonder that he demands to be worshipped in an orderly manner (1Cor.14:40). There are those today that think worship is more "spiritual" if it has no time brackets and just evolves as feelings are aroused progressively toward God. What may feel good to some may not be consistent with the orderly nature of God.
4. ***It reveals a consistent interpretation of God's Word.*** Exodus 20 and Genesis 1 do not contradict one another. They both speak of the same "days" the same way. We do not need "wild imaginations" to understand God's word. What we need is consistent study.
5. ***It reveals the superiority of Scripture over science.*** The discoveries of man are always obscured by his sinful understanding and can never be more reliable than the Word of God. *"let God be found true, though every man be found a liar"* (Rom.3:4).
6. ***It reveals a high view of man and his identity.*** It was not a beast that was *"the image of God"* and evolved into something less degrading. It was not even a baby that was produced that needed to grow up. God created an adult man (male & female) with dignity, maturity, and purity, to wear his image without shame. God created us to enjoy eternal fellowship with him. We are more than a beast or a process to God.
7. ***It maintains the authority of Scripture.*** Those who want to read into scripture what they think makes sense, ignore the authority of God to speak on his own. Those who seek to remove the miracle of the literal six-day creation, in the final analysis seek to remove the focus and attention designed for the One who worked this miracle. The right understanding of Genesis chapter one introduces us to the awesome creator God. The doctrine of God is always primary and the doctrine of creation, secondary.
8. ***It testifies to no death and suffering prior to man and sin.*** The fossil record seems riddled with death and suffering prior to man and sin yet scripture speaks of our restoration to a time and place of no death and suffering as though such did not exist prior to man's sin.
9. ***It acknowledges God creating everything with the appearance of age.*** God creating everything in the space of 6 literal 24-hour days it is just like Christ creating the best of fermented wine instantly without process (**John 2:6-11**).
10. ***Because there is no obvious encouragement in Genesis One to lead us to imagine anything but a 6 literal 24-hour day.*** What in Genesis One makes us doubt that the days spoken of are 6 literal 24-hour days? It seems that doubts only arise because of influences from man outside of Genesis One.