

# The Days of Creation

## Lesson 2

Introduction: The account of God’s creation of the earth as we now know it begins in Genesis 1:3. God’s creative work comprised six literal, 24-hour, days. Taking the Bible literally leaves no room for the day-age theory, the belief that each day of creation represents epochs of time. The day-age theory is an accommodation to theistic evolution, and is completely outside the purview of Biblical literalism. On each of the six days, God created specific things. It is as much an affront to the Biblical text to add to the Biblical text as it is to take away from it. Let’s take God at His Word!

- I. Introductory Considerations (From *Genesis* by Arnold Fruchtenbaum)
  - A. Patterns within the text (both Hebrew and English) indicate clear boundaries, separating the 6 days from anything that went before. Some seek to expand the boundaries to include things not mentioned as created on a specific day. For example, many theorize the “heaven and the earth” were created on the first day. The Bible simply *does not* state that. Others theorize that angels were either created on the first day or the third day. Again, the Bible does not say that. In fact, the Bible is clear that neither the heaven and the earth, nor angels, were created within the specific six-day timeframe.
  - B. Each of the six days follows a specific pattern:
    1. Introduction: “And God said...”
    2. Fiat (command): “Let there be...”
    3. Fulfillment: “...and there was...”
    4. Description: “...and God made...”
    5. Naming or Blessing: “...And God called” or “And God blessed”
    6. Evaluation: “...and God saw that it was good”
    7. Terminus (conclusion): “...and the evening and the morning were the first day”
  - C. Days Delineated: The days of creation solved the problem of “without form and void” in 1:2.
    1. Days of Division—solved the problem of “without form”
      - a. Day 1: God divided light from darkness
      - b. Day 2: God divided sky from sea
      - c. Day 3: God divided water from land and created plant life
    2. Days of Decoration—solved the problem of “void” (emptiness)
      - a. Day 4: God created lights in the firmament
      - b. Day 5: God created fowl and fish
      - c. Day 6: God created animals and man
  - D. Days Correlated
    1. The first day (light/darkness) correlates to the fourth day (lights in firmament)
    2. The second day (sky/sea) correlates to the fifth day (fowl/fish)
    3. The third day (land/plants) correlates to the sixth day (animals/man)

- E. "Day" Defined (Hebrew word *yom*)
1. Whenever the Hebrew word for day is used in Genesis 1, it is used with a number: day one, day two, etc. When used with a number, the Hebrew word day always and without exception means 24 hours.
  2. The phrase "even and morning" limits the word day to 24 hours.
  3. The Sabbath law given by Moses is based on the 6 days of creation with God resting on the seventh day (Saturday). This law would be meaningless if the days were anything but 24-hour days.
  4. The fourth day mentions "days, years, signs, seasons," indicating the "normal system of time [is] in operation" (Fruchtenbaum, p. 41). These terms become meaningless if "day" is not a normal, 24-hour day.