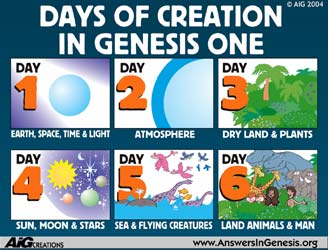
Wednesday – Lesson 1 – In Six Days, or Six Billion Years?

**Exodus 20:11**— “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.”

The Bible states very clearly that everything in the Universe, whether in the heavens or on the Earth, was created in six days. Evolutionists encounter their first major conflict with the Bible right here. Evolution claims that everything in the Universe came into being by a gradual process that took billions of years, while the Bible says that it took only six days. Obviously, you need to sort out and understand what you choose to believe.

It is very unpopular in the field of science to believe that God created the world in six literal, 24-hour days. According to most scientists, the Universe took billions of years to form and it would be absurd to believe that it was created in just six days “by the word of the Lord” (Psalm 33:6). With the world accepting evolution theory as fact, many people have tried to find ways to fit evolution and its billions-of-years’ time frame into the Creation of the Bible. Many want to continue to say they believe in God and the Bible, but they also want to say that they believe in certain parts of evolution as well. Can both the Bible and evolution be true?

**THE DAY AGE THEORY**

Some have argued that the “days” discussed in Genesis were not literal 24-hour periods, but instead were eons or ages of time. People that believe in a “Day-Age” theory argue the Hebrew word for day (yom) can refer to a time period of more than 24 hours since the length of a day is not specified in Genesis 1. So they believe they have freedom to interpret the word day (yom) to mean eons or ages of time.

• It is true that “day” (yom) can have several different meanings. It can refer to that which is opposite of night (Genesis 1:5). It can refer to a period of time in the future (e.g., “day of judgment”). Or, as in Genesis 2:4, it has reference to the total days of Creation. But, it most often means a literal twenty-four hour day.

• According to scholars of ancient Hebrew, whenever a number value is used before the Hebrew word yom, it always carries the meaning of a 24-hour day. Yom occurs over 100 times in the Old Testament in this manner, and ***always*** means a 24-hour day.

• The key to defining this word, as well as all words, is to look at it within its context. We know the days of Genesis 1 are literal 24-hour days because the Hebrew word yom (translated “day”) is both used and defined in Genesis 1:5. The words “evening” and “morning” are used together in the Old Testament with the word yom over 100 times. Each time it refers to a 24-hour day in non-prophetic literature. It is difficult to see how someone can logically conclude that in Genesis 1:5 yom refers to millions of years?

• If the days of Genesis 1:14 were millions of years, then what were the “years” of this verse? And, if a day is an age, then what is a “night” (Genesis 1:5,14)?

• Whenever yom occurs in the plural (yamim) in non-prophetic passages, it always refers to a literal 24-hour day. “Days” (yamim) is found over 700 times in the Old Testament, and it always refers to literal days. Thus, there can be no doubt that the days of Exodus 20:11 mean literal 24-hour days and not vast amounts of time.

• Moses had other ways of saying that the periods were long eons of time. He could have used the Hebrew word dôr, which means a long period of time, but he did not. Instead, he used the word day, modified it with “evening and morning,” put numerals before it, and made it plural (as in Exodus 20:11 and 31:17). Moses used words that left no doubt that the days were 24-hour periods.

**Psalm 33:9**— “For He spoke, and it was *done;* He commanded, and it stood fast.”

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Some Day-Age people say the Sun was not created until day 4, so the first three days could not have been 24-hour days. But remember, the heavenly bodies mark the days, not make the days. A day is determined by the rotation of the Earth on its axis. During the winter in northern Alaska, the Sun doesn’t shine for days at a time; they don’t count days by the sight of the Sun, but by the rotation of the Earth.

But what about 2 Peter 3:8—“with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day”? Isn’t this New Testament passage teaching that to God, a day is a very long time? Always look at the context of passages. In 2 Peter 3:1, you will notice that Peter was not talking about the week of Creation, but was speaking of the “last days” when Christ will return. Some people said that Christ was taking too long to come back. Peter wanted people to understand that God is not bound by time. God can do more in a day than humans can do in a thousand years, or God may wait a thousand years to do what humans think He should do in a day.

God could have created the Universe in any way He so desired, in whatever order He wanted, and in whatever time frame He chose. He could have created the world and everything in it in six years, six hours, six minutes, six seconds, or in one millisecond—He is, after all, God Almighty (Genesis 17:1). But the question is not what God could have done; it is what He said He did. And He said that He created everything in six literal days.

• In Mark 10:6, Jesus said, “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.” Jesus said that Adam and Eve had been on the Earth “from the beginning of the creation.” The choice is this: either Jesus Christ lied and evolution is correct, or Jesus told the truth and evolution is wrong.

• In Romans 1:20, Paul said, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.” Humans have been understanding the invisible attributes of God “since the creation of the world.”

• Many theories have been concocted to allow people to believe in evolution and yet still try to maintain a belief in the Bible as God’s Word. It soon becomes clear that either the Bible is true or evolution is true, but they cannot both be true since they teach contradictory things.

**1 Peter 1:25**— “But the word of the Lord endures forever.”

**QUESTIONS**

1. The Bible and evolution cannot both be true. Why? Some people say that both can be true. How do they fit the two together?

2. Why do you think that many people have tried to fit evolution into the Bible? If God is all-powerful, why would He need to use evolution to create the Universe?