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## A Learning and Worship Center

**Lesson 5b:** What is the time period God took to create? This has been the question that has arisen within the last 150 years: How long is a Biblical Day? Is it Eons of time or 24 hours? Challenged by what scientific theory proposed with evolutionary thought and embarrassed with the thought that perhaps the Scriptures had it wrong about creation, Theologians adopted the stance that a day as recorded in Genesis could be interpreted as an unlimited amount of time and not a 24 hour day. Seminaries began to teach that it doesn't matter how God created or how much time he took to do it. They began to respond to current scientific and geological interpretations, count them as factual and declare their faith in God would not be shaken if they would adopt these new theories. So, Theologians themselves came up with what is referred to as the Day Age Theory. They placed proposed geological ages between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 and thus reinterpreted 5000 years of belief that God created in 6 twenty-four hour days.

There of course was a price to pay for falling victim to this notion, to say nothing of the fact that science itself no longer believes in Evolution as a possibility, because it left the door wide open to doubt all of scripture and begin down the slippery slope of critical analysis asking the question "did God really say this?" **First**, the Geological Ages theory does not match the order of events recorded in Genesis. **Secondly**, the Day is an age construct accepts death before Sin, which is a direct contradiction to scripture. See Romans 5:12 where it is recorded that death entered the world through one man's sin. It also records that because one man sinned and caused death for all men that through one man (Christ) would die and save all men. If death is a natural creation of God, then there is no penalty for disobedience (i.e. death) and consequently no need for repentance and forgiveness and most assuredly no need for a Savior. Two basic tenants of Christianity would fall victim to this acceptance of Evolution. One, that the Bible is inerrant and two that we need a Savior. If we are to accept evolution, we must accept that it would take death upon death upon death in order to get to man. It is no wonder that many people think of God the Creator as a sadistic ogre, allowing death and suffering to develop his Creation and inflict this pain and suffering upon His crowning achievement called man.

Has the church made mistakes in allowing science and secular thought to sway the interpretation of the Scriptures before? Let's take the case of the Church accepting that the earth was flat and in retaliation, persecuted those who declared otherwise. Think of the embarrassment that was caused by this error, when the truth became known. A natural reading of Isaiah 40:12,22 would have kept the church fathers from falling victim to a falsely held secular belief. You see the Scriptures were not in error, man's interpretation and assertions were in error. We will find the same to be true when we analyze the evolutionary theory and Theological response of "a day is an age".

Let's analyze Chapter 1 of Genesis. First, the Hebrew word for "day" in Genesis 1:5 is "Yom". Without exception, this word is use for either a day (24hr sense) or the daylight portion of the 24 hour day distinct from night. The inspired writing of Genesis here carefully defines the word "day" to mean that the light is "day" and the darkness is "night". We see here as well that the writer assumes a round earth the shielding from the light would cause darkness only with a global form and not on a flat surface. The form of the use of day and night also are carefully mentioned at every creation point indicating that there is morning and then evening day 1, day 2, etc. The form used puts distinct boundaries on the time. The writers of Exodus 31:17 and 20:11 also relate the days of creation to the 7 actual days of the week and the commands of God to live in that context. The following questions beg to be asked. First, suppose the writer of Genesis wished to teach 6 literal days? What words would he use? No doubt the simplest and most natural form would be as recorded in Genesis 1:3-5. The second question then is asked, if the writer wished to convey an idea of geological ages, could he be more effective in conveying that thought more clearly with other words? Any thinking person would conclude, "of course". Therefore the only way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to interpret it at all, but accept the fact that it meant exactly what it said. Remember, this first chapter of Scripture is conveying exactly what we could ever learn any other way, and that which science continues to search for and not find an answer to; namely the History of Creation.

So, during the first day, verse 3 of Genesis 1 records "God said let there be light". This is the first recorded words from God and enters into the creation of Elements and Space and Time the energizing force of Light. We see here a tri-unity of God's creation, reflecting His own natures: the Father being the source of all things (v1), the Spirit put into motion all things (v2) and finally the Word energized and revealed all things (v3). The remainder of Scripture focuses on the revealed Light (see II Corinthians 4:6; John 1:1-14; John 8:12 and I John 1:5-7). This insert of the energy of light reflects

the creation of the entire electromagnetic spectrum of ultraviolet, shortwave radiation, infrared and long wave phenomena. This completed the energizing of the physical cosmos: Electromagnetic, gravitational and nuclear forces. Again the tri-unity of God is revealed as from the Father emanates the elements of space, mass and time; from the Spirit emanates the gravitational forces bringing form and motion; from the Son (Word) emanating the electromagnetic forces that activate bringing the Light out of the darkness.

Having separated the day (Yom) and the night, God has now completed the 1<sup>st</sup> day of creation, that is evening and morning the first day. Since this same formula is used at the conclusion of each of the 6 days, the duration of each is obviously the same. Notice that God is teaching even before there are people things that will reflect His creation; that is God did his work in the day (Light time) and did no work in the night. We still have this cycle in our seven day week. It might be noted here that the book of Revelation has 7 cycles of future History recorded.

The earth is now clearly rotating on its axis and there was a source of light but clearly is not from the sun or moon or stars that have not yet been created. Clearly the length of each day could only have been that of a normal Solar Day. We now are ready to tackle the next 5 days of creation and prepared to believe what is naturally written there. The atmosphere and hydrosphere are uniquely in place for man to inhabit. The whole universe would be available for exploration, but first he must be given the earth. Psalm 115:16

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