

## What Is the Meaning of "Day"?

The word "day" in the Bible is often used to represent an indefinite period of time. In fact the Hebrew word, *Yom*, translated day is occasionally translated "time." *But in EVERY CASE where the numerals first, second, third, etc. occur, the word day is obviously and clearly referring to a natural 24-hour day as we know it.*

The Scripture speaks of the day of vengeance, the day of adversity, the day of temptation, just as we do today, meaning a time or season. Yet when it speaks of the fourteenth day of the month (Lev. 23), the seven days of Unleavened Bread or the fifty days until Pentecost, *the word "day" can mean only a 24-hour period.*

Symbolically a day may represent a "year" (Ezek. 4:6), or a "thousand years" (II Peter 3:8), but symbolic interpretations may not be applied in all cases. The three days Ha'Mashyach was in the grave were not 3 years or 3000 years. Neither would any symbolic interpretation fit in the first chapters of Genesis where we have proven from nature that they must have been natural days of twenty-four hours.

Another Bible meaning of the word "day" as a 12-hour period is also in common usage today. When it speaks of the three days and three nights Jonah was in the great fish's belly or the three days and three nights Ha'Mashyach was in His grave, the word "day" refers to the daylight part of the 24-hour period. This "day" is by Ha'Mashyach's own definition 12 hours. "Are there not 12 hours in the day?" (John 11:9.)

The scripture used by many as an excuse to believe the days of creation were ages really suggests no such meaning. It is Gen. 2:4 which refers to the time of creation, "In the *day* that Yahuwah made the earth and the heavens, and every plant... and every herb." Lacking a numeral before it, it can refer to a longer period of time than 24 hours and it does! This "day" refers to the first six days of creation week.

It takes a great deal of imagination to use this as a proof that a day means an age or even 7000 years.

## The Obvious Meaning

Can the word day mean 24 hours in one part of a sentence and an age in another part? It would have to if one were to believe in "ages" of creation! Exodus 20:9-11: "*Six days* shalt thou labor and do all thy work: but the seventh *day* is the Sabbath of Yahuwah... for in six *days* Yahuwah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh *day*: wherefore Yahuwah blessed the *Sabbath day*, and hallowed it."

The word *day* occurs five times in this one sentence. Can you believe that in the third and fourth occurrences it means an age while in the other three it means a 24 hour day? *Had Yahuwah meant an age*, wouldn't He have used the Hebrew word *dor* to mean age as in Job 8:8, "Enquire, I pray of thee, of the former age"?

In each of these five occurrences in Exodus 20, Yahuwah is obviously speaking of the same unit of time, a 24-hour day. And as the word "day" means a twenty-four hour period here it *has to mean the same in Genesis!*

If Yahuwah had created light, day and night, and then waited 1000 years (or 7000 years) to form the heavens, He would have been resting *before* the seventh day arrived!

If He formed the heavens on a second day and then waited 1000 years to form the seas and the land, He would have been resting again before the seventh day arrived. Note the Scripture again: "For in *six days* Yahuwah made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." After six days of continual labor six days spent in bringing our earth to a state of order - Yahuwah rested. He *was* refreshed on the seventh day. If that seventh day were still continuing, the Scripture would read that He is now "*being refreshed.*"

As a final proof that the days of creation were literal days, reread Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19 with special attention on the words evening and *morning*, *night and day*, *darkness* and *light*. All have continued since creation. We are not confused as to what they are.

Note that the sun was appointed "to divide the light from the darkness" - to divide day from night. Does sundown divide anything but literal *days*?

No place in the Scripture does Yahuwah imply that He took anything but a natural week of ordinary days to bring life and order to the earth.

Evenings and mornings have continued, the week has continued, the Sabbath set apart for rest at creation has continued, all pointing back to that first creation week. The truth is plain and without Scriptural contradiction. There is no room to believe in the ages which evolutionists require, when you accept the Scriptures as they are, explained not in the fog of human imagination but in the light of the Word of Yahuwah and in accordance with nature, the handiwork of Yahuwah.