

lovely day?" I doubt very much if present-day people often use the word "day" to indicate a 24-hour period, except when they speak of train or airplane timetables, or when they calculate interest. In all other connections the word "day" is used in one of two senses, both of which are quite different from this.

The most common usage of "day" is to represent a period of light between two periods of darkness. This period varies greatly. In the northern part of continental United States it may be as long as 18 hours in mid-summer, and as short as 6 or 7 in midwinter. In northernmost Alaska it might be as long as 6 months.

The other sense in which the word is quite commonly used is the sense of a period of activity. Once I heard a mayor of New York speaking on the radio refer to "what Al Smith used to say in his day". I am sure that he did not refer to any 24-hour day. Similarly, I heard someone say that "they did not have automobiles in Lincoln's day". The New Testament states that Jesus said, "Abraham saw my day and was glad." Here certainly He was referring to the entire period of His earthly activity, not to any one period of light, and certainly not to any one 24-hour period.

The first usage of the word "day" in the Scripture is in Genesis 1:5 where it says, "God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night." This certainly does not refer to a 24-hour period. After the account of the six days, we read in Genesis 2:4, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heaven." In this instance the word "day" evidently includes the whole six days of the previous chapter. There are many other similar instances, as in the frequent references to "the day of the LORD." It seems quite clear that in Biblical usage the word "day" often means a period of activity, and rarely, if ever, means a period of precisely 24 hours.

After the account in Genesis 1 of the six days, Genesis 2 tells of a seventh day on which God rested. This certainly does not mean that God was tired and took 24 hours to relax Himself. Its meaning must be something quite different. To my mind there is no doubt that it means simply that God ceased from the creative work of the previous six periods of activity. It is not my impression that God has performed any creative work since the creation of man and woman. Consequently it would seem that the seventh day is still going on today and will probably continue until God