

I don't think any of our people would say that? You'd say, Isn't this a lovely evening. Nobody would speak of this as a day. We speak of a "day" as a period of light between two periods of darkness. Or we speak of a day as a period of activity. I heard a man on the radio say, Al Smith used to say in his day. Which day was it he said it? It means the whole period of his activity. Jesus said, Abraham saw my day and was glad. What day did he mean? The whole period of His activity.

As a matter of fact in Gen. 1, you have six days described. Then in Gen. 2:4 it summarizes it and says these are the generations of the heavens and the earth . . . in the day the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. Here he uses the word day to cover the whole six days of Gen. 1.

The word day is ~~an~~ in English today a rather broad word. It's the same in Hebrew, and Greek. The idea that a day is the exact time the earth turned once on its axis is an idea astronomers use and practically nobody else. Actually we say there are 365 and 1/4 days in a year. But the earth turns on its axis 366 and 1/4 times in a year? Even when we use that we are not using day in a sense of the length of time it takes for the earth to turn on its axis. Day in the sense of a period of 24 hrs. is a concept used for making railroad and airplane timetables, and figuring interest. We don't use it; hardly ever that way.

So when it says day here, we have no right to assume what length it is. Couldn't God do this in 6 days? Of course he could. He could do it in 6 minutes. He could do it in 6 seconds. But what does Genesis say about it? Genesis says there are six stages and it doesn't say how long each stage runs.

Maybe they were different length. We don't know. Maybe they were 24 hours. I have no objection. God could have done it in 24 hrs. if he wanted. But I object violently when you say it had to be 24 hours, because that's not what the ch. says. It could be 24 min., 24 ~~seconds~~ seconds, 24 billions years. What Gen. tells us is that there are 6 stages.

If you want to believe they are 24 hrs. certainly God could do it in 24 hrs., but ~~it~~ does it say he did? When I look at v. 12-- God said, Let the earth be covered with grass and trees standing on the earth! That's not what he said. He said, Let the earth bring forth grass and herb yielding seed. Vers 12, And the earth brought forth grass. The same phraseology is used about the animals, and not about man. Used about the animals.

It sounds like a process that took place. And within that third day here were trees. 100 yr. old trees. God could make them grow up out of the ground in 10 min. if he chose to do it, but the Bible doesn't say He did. It certainly doesn't say, Let the earth be covered with trees; he said, Let the earth bring forth trees, producing after their kind. So the phraseology used there sounds to me more as if these days were long periods than as if they were short periods. But it doesn't prove it. God could make it anyway he chose. So we learn about the orderly process God used in bringing the earth into its present situation. And we learn that