

This article is based on a sermon preached at Lausanne Free Church in January 2018.

Genesis 1 tells us that God created everything in 6 days. 6 days! Our surprise should not be over how short a time it took God to create everything but over how long he took. God, being all powerful, could have taken 6 hours, 6 minutes, or 6 seconds. But he chose to draw out the creation of the world over 6 days.

What does **day** mean in Genesis 1? God's word could not be clearer. The word **day** is defined not just once but 6 times.

- Verse 4: **So the evening and the morning were the first day.**
- Verse 8: **So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

And so on! Each day had an evening and a morning. Each day in other words was 24 hours long.

There is no doubt that God intends the humble reader of Genesis 1 to believe that 6 days means 6 days. Even a child understands that.

But just in case there is any doubt God graciously has given us another confirmation of what day means. He does so in the middle of some of the most significant words in the whole Bible - the 10 commandments.

Look at the fourth commandment in Exodus 20: 8-11 **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 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. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.**

We should work 6 literal days and rest for one literal day because God made the world in 6 literal days and rested on the 7th literal day. If you think that day in Genesis 1 could mean millions of years then you are going to have to work a long time before you get your next day off!

Now of course this goes against all the long age teaching of modern science. They say that they have this evidence and that evidence that the universe is billions of years old. They say that man only evolved a few million years ago. I would say three things in reply.

First and most importantly that is not what God's word says.

God's word says that man has been on the earth since the beginning. Their quarrel is with the Son of God who said in Mark 10:6 **But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'**

Second, there are grave problems with the dating methods used to come up with the age of rocks. For more information click on this link:

<https://answersingenesis.org/geology/radiometric-dating/radiometric-dating-back-to-basics>

There is also much evidence that the world is young that are overlooked and ignored. For more information click on this link: <https://answersingenesis.org/evidence-for-creation/six-evidences-of-young-earth/>

Third, remember God created a world with the appearance of age. We read that in a day the earth brought forth trees, in a day he made the stars shine in the sky (even though they are thousands of light years away). God made the waters abound with fish and made birds fly in the sky, and animals move on the earth, all within a day.

Now imagine that you could travel back in time to the end of the 6th day. You arrive when everything has just been created. You look at a bird and ask how old is that? You may conclude – at least a year. You look at Adam and Eve – two fully grown human beings and ask - how old are they? At least 20 or 30. Yet actually Adam and Eve were not even a day old.

The point is this. When God made the world, he made it with an age built in. Everything looked older than it was.

The same happened when the creator of the universe, the word of God, dwelt on earth. On one occasion Jesus created wine out of water. We are told that it was the best wine, that is like wine that had been allowed to mature over many years. Yet the wine was only seconds old!

So God's word is clear. God made everything in 6 literal days and then rested on the 7th.

One of the extraordinary evidence of the truth of this is the universal 7-day weekly cycle observed all over our world. This has been observed for thousands of years in most civilisations.

The other important measures of time are based on astronomical and terrestrial constants.

- The day is the duration of one rotation of the earth on its axis.
- The year is the duration of one orbit of the earth about the sun.
- The month is the approximate interval between new moons.

But the week has no astronomical basis whatever. Yet the whole of our society orders its life in a seven-day cycle. The common pattern is one of six normal working days, then a day of rest.

How could such a system ever have originated? Historians are mystified. The answer is obvious. It was established by God Himself, at the beginning! Unwittingly the whole world today acknowledges the creation account by keeping the 7 day week. So when you get up tomorrow and look at your weekly calendar think – this reminds me that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th.