

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

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Genesis 1: Literal Days or Long Ages?

by Greg Gwin

The 'Day/Age' Theory argues that each of the days in Genesis 1 were actually long ages of time. This, of course, is an attempt to harmonize Biblical teaching of a young earth with the false claims of some scientists who claim our earth and universe are billions of years old. Here are some simple affirmative arguments to prove that the days of creation in Genesis 1 were literal 24 hour days rather than long ages of time:

1) God defined His own terms in Genesis 1:5. "And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." A period of light followed by a period of darkness constituted a day. Unless someone wants to argue that it stayed light for long periods and then stayed dark for long periods (which, of course, poses huge difficulties), we will have to stand upon this clear statement and conclude that the days really were literal 24 hour days. Furthermore, Genesis 1:14-18 mentions the sun and moon and stars, and says they were made to be "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." If we are to believe that the days were actually long ages of time, then what were the seasons and years?

2). Romans 1:20 says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (NIV). This verse claims that someone has been here to see and understand God's power ever since the creation of the world. This poses no problem to those of us who believe that man was created within the same actual week that everything else was created. But, those who want to believe that each day represents a long "age" have a problem. If man was created eons after the other elements of

creation were formed, then this makes no sense. This line of reasoning is confirmed by Jesus' own statement in Mark 10:6. "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female." The day/age theory places man at the end of millions or billions of years of geologic time. In light of these verses, it cannot be true.

3). If the days were actually long "ages", then we have the wrong chronological order of events. For instance, plants were created on day three, but insects were not created until day five or six. But many plants depend on insects for cross-pollination, etc. How did plants survive for long "ages" without their needed counterparts in the insect world? Other similar problems of chronological order exist that strongly argue against the day/age theory.

We know that this day/age theory is commonly held by many who teach the false doctrine of theistic evolution. It is not true, and is actually an unnecessary attempt to compromise the truths taught in the Bible with the unproven claims of some scientists. They teach that we live in an ancient universe, while in actuality we live in a relatively young universe that was created in six literal days by our omnipotent God.

Football Christianity(?)

taken from Kilgore News Herald

EDITOR'S NOTE: I guess the moral to this lighter piece is not to mix sports with religion! Some take their religion too lightly and their sports too seriously. Let's be sure to remember which is first.

Matthew 6:33 ~ *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil”

Ecclesiastes 5:1.

Quarterback Sneak: Church members who quietly exit a quarter of the way through the service or during the last quarter of the sermon.

Draft Choice: Selection of a seat at the back near the door.

Draw Play: What too many children (and a few adults) do with their Sunday bulletins.

Halftime: The time between Sunday School and the preaching service.

Bench Warmer: Those who participate in the services only by their attendance on Sunday mornings.

Fumble: Dropping a song book, singing the wrong stanza of the hymn, general inattention during the service.

Backfield in Motion: Making two or three trips out of the auditorium during the sermon.

Stay in the Pocket: What happens to a lot of money that should go to the work of the Lord.

Two-Minute Warning: When the preacher begins to extend the invitation, giving everyone time to shuffle song books and gather their belongings for a quick exit.

Blitz: The stampede for the back door after the last prayer.

Halfback Option: When 50% of the congregation does not return for the Sunday evening or Wednesday night services.

Several things stand out as I reread this list of problems which every church seems to have. First, that a newspaper would print anything of a spiritual nature. The Kansas City Star would never do such a thing in this day and age. Second, that this was published by a newspaper as a “comment” on churches that are not even churches of Christ. Third, that many of the “weaknesses” of the local church are so obviously pointed out in a humorous way. But I wonder if they are that humorous to the Lord? Fourth, 26 years after the fact, the problems still exist, and probably have for the last 2500 years! Fifth, Church attendees (including some brethren) view the assembly as a “sporting event” or a “spectator sport” — judging each aspect of the service, being personally uncommitted to the betterment of the assembly, and complaining the most about it all.

Consider the opposite of “football Christianity.” Everyone stays and enthusiastically supports every bit

of every service. Fighting over a front seat, like we do at a real football game. Drawing notes from the Bible class or the sermon. Attending every service of the church and asking the elders what more we can do. Deep, devoted attention to every act of worship. Only exiting the auditorium during the assembly in extreme necessities. Giving generously and cheerfully. Staying around after worship to visit FIRST the visitors, and then the members. Taking the time to talk to each one, encourage each one and pray for each one. Eventually heading for home with enthusiastic remarks about returning as soon as possible to the next assembly.

This article was first published in the Roanridge Reader on October 1, 1995.

How Will You Answer the Question?

Dee Bowman

“What is your life?” asks James, the Lord’s brother. He then gives his own answer, as one inspired of God to do so: *“It is even as a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away”* (**James 4:14**).

Life is time. Time is life. Nobody knows just how much of it he has.

“What is my life?” That is the question. And it’s a question every man must answer for himself, for that life belongs to each person and to that person alone.

Every person plots his own course, plans and predicts his own route to pursue.

Here are some scripture-based suggestions to help each one of us to make good choices when we’re about to answer the question, “what is your life?”

Life is the little. It’s a little health so that, you can participate. It’s a little peace so you can sleep well. It’s a little happiness so you can enjoy what you do and enjoy those with whom you do it. It’s a little joy to offset the burdens you have to bear. It’s a little sorrow to keep you from being too happy with this life and keep you looking forward to a better one. Little stuff is better than big stuff most of the time. Read **Ecclesiastes 9:7-12**.

Life is the less. It’s not more money. You can only buy so much. It’s not more things. You can only play with one thing at a time. You can only watch one show at a time, listen to one song, read one page. Life— it’s not more repute, not who and how many know you. So what if somebody does or does not know you? How much difference will that make in the finality of things?

Popularity is fickle, fame is fleeting. Read **Proverbs 10:16-17**.

Life is the unimportant. Few people will make much of a dent in history. And there are only so many “big” events anyhow. It’s the little, everyday things that really make up life. A new baby. A new bride, a new neighbor, a new Christian. A birthday card you didn’t expect. An unexpected gift from that special someone that just said, “Happy Tuesday, I love you.” A new putter. A new dress. And what about a new grand baby? These things are not much reported on the news and may not be very important to anybody else, but these seemingly unimportant things are the stuff of which life is made—they’re life’s treasures. Read **Psalm 92:1-5**.

Life is for living. One day at a time. Life is worth living—but only if you live right. There’s really not much value to life when you have to spend all your time trying to top last week’s party, or shopping just to buy something bigger or more expensive than what you got the last time. Life is worth living, if you practice kindness, if you recommend the better and call for the good, if you take time to care. Life takes on meaning when you’re trying to help someone get better or get something fixed that’s been broken. Life is valuable when you run the risk of getting involved, when you don’t mind hurting a little yourself to keep someone else from hurting. Read **Psalm 23**.

Life is for getting better. Growth is a vital part of who and what we are—and not just the physical variety, but much more so—the spiritual variety. What a pleasure to find some new kernel of truth. And what an even greater joy when you apply that truth and voila—it works. And what a pleasure to teach some little one and watch as he makes applications of that teaching and becomes better. To know you helped someone get better, be wiser, be more spiritual—now that’s life. Read **2 Peter 3:17-18**.

One thing is certain: it matters greatly how we answer the question. Just what is your life?

*~via Southside Sunday; Pasadena, Texas;
Taken from Market Street Messenger*

Living and dying by faith -- Hebrews 11.

Hebrews chapter eleven lists Old Testament characters who did impossible things because they believed God. When God spoke, they trusted Him completely. By that faith they were able to do whatever He commanded. By that faith, they endured, patiently and persistently. With confident, trust many endured even violent death.

"These all died in faith, not having received the

promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

We see two manifestations of their faith. First, they followed God's instructions, even when they did not make sense. They did what God said to do because they trusted God's wisdom and love. Second, they followed God's instructions even though the reward for doing so was not immediate. Actually, the reward for faithfulness did not come until after death! They did not embrace the reward but anticipated the reward in the life beyond.

How can a person possess such great faith? First, by knowing God who lives beyond and outside of this world. Second, by realizing this world is not, truly, our home. God's people don't belong in this world. They are pilgrims and strangers here, looking forward to going home. Where is home? *"For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland ... they desire a better, that is a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:14, 16).*

I have a choice about life and death. 1) I can live my own way in this world of injustice, loneliness, guilt and pain and come to the end of life without hope and with nothing to come. 2) I can trust and follow the instructions of God in this life enduring whatever comes, knowing that whenever and however I end my time here, I am going home.

The faith described in Hebrews eleven is not wishful thinking. It is a conviction that endures every hardship and answers my greatest questions. It is a conclusion that rests on what we know to be true by the evidence of history, prophecy and the incomparable word of God.

Don Bunting

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563,
Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ***

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things people believe are in the Bible, but are not!

Did you know the Rapture is not taught in the Bible? Bible study teaches us what is and what is not in the Bible. Please call us for a time to study.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

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Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,
Denese Goring, Pat Gaines,
Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy
Richardson, Jordan Moody,
Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken
Green, Matt Bassford, Dan
Edmonds and Tim Young.

Bible Classes:

Sunday Morning - Hebrews -
Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2
Peter and Jude - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: Jesus;
God's Grace, Our Savior



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10