

The Dual Chronology of the Seven Day Creation Account

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The Seven Day Creation Account of the bible has a dual chronology. A second timeline is overlaid upon the actual underlying timeline. That underlying timeline is the one that is in full agreement with the comprehensive combination of all the other creation accounts of the entire bible.

Contrary to traditional interpretation, the six days of creation is not the actual timeline, nor schedule of creation events that is taught in all of the many creation accounts of the bible. It is not even the actual chronology taught in that creation account in which it is found. The creation chronology that is consistently taught in all the creation accounts of the bible, including the account arranged into six days, is actually in accord with the obvious evidence from the record of nature. The six day timeline was superimposed for another purpose.

There are many creation accounts found in the bible, yet only one single account contains that six, twenty-four-hour-day schedule. None of the other accounts of creation found in the bible make any mention of that six day schedule. In fact, all the creation accounts of the bible have consistent chronology that can be interleaved into a comprehensive total account of the bible teachings on the schedule of creation with no conflict as to the chronology—except for the six day schedule found in this one account. Furthermore, that comprehensive bible chronology of creation is verified by the more recent discoveries by modern science.

But almost no one has even heard of all these other creation accounts of the bible. Most theologians do not recognize them because they do not talk of the pre-conceived idea of what a biblical creation account should look like.

No one seems remotely interested in what the bible really teaches concerning creation.

A simple search of the internet reveals, other than my web pages, only the lone voice of Hugh Ross proclaims the abundance of creation accounts found in the bible.

Most of the web pages that are found in that internet search speak of only two of the creation accounts found in the bible, *The Seven Day Creation Account*, and *The Garden of Eden Creation Account*. Most of the web sites that even mention these two accounts, are quick to point out those two creation accounts, according to their judgment, are in conflict with each other and the basis for what academia has dubbed, *The Judeo-Christian Creation Myth*. This they do to bolster their argument for the unreliability of the bible.

Ross lists twenty-five creation accounts of at least chapter length, and many more references to creation. Yet, even Ross appeared to be looking for support for his theory on his interpretation of the six day chronology rather than looking for what the bible really teaches.

Actually, there are at least thirty-four distinctly different major accounts of creation found in the bible. At least fifteen of them contain distinct chronology clues. Those fifteen accounts

found scattered throughout the bible have now been brought together and combined into a comprehensive total account of the bible teachings on the chronology of creation.

There are two ways of combining the many creation accounts of the bible.

One way, the traditional way, is to lay them end-to-end. That results in what academia has dubbed “The Judeo-Christian Creation Myth..”

The other way is to interleave them according to chronology clues within each account. This treats each separate account as a stand alone account of the timeline. Each account starts somewhere in time and either goes forward or backward in time from that point to another point in time. Many of the creation accounts have a dual pass through the timeline, sometimes starting in the middle and first working backward to the beginning then restarting in the middle and going forward into the future.

In an intensive study between 2003 and 2006, this author discovered the interleaving process method results in, not a myth, but a reflection of reality as verified by the discoveries of modern science.

The Dual Chronology:

The verification of the validity of the interleaving method is the realization that *The Seven Day Creation Account* actually has two chronology timelines. In the process of interleaving all the accounts, it was discovered that *The Seven Day Creation Account* has an underlying chronology that is in perfect accord with all the other creation accounts of the bible. In the process, it became obvious that the underlying chronology has two parallel passes through the timeline of the creation events.

The second timeline, the one that is superimposed on the first, the one that is in conflict with the teaching of the rest of the bible, is for the purpose of illustrating the fourth of the Ten Commandments. If you will remember, the giving of The Ten Commandments to Moses, the one who wrote down this creation account, was an event that happened at almost the same time and same place as the writing of the Book of Genesis.

But that first, underlying timeline has been unrecognized for thousands of years. Blinded by that second, superimposed timeline in this one account, theologians have tried to interpret the entire bible to conform to a traditional interpretation of this one account. As a result all the other accounts of creation found in the bible have been ignored.

The obvious result:

When one interprets the *whole bible* in the light of the literal six days of the *Seven-Day Creation Account*, one arrives at a very different looking bible than when one interprets the *Seven-Day Creation Account* in the light of the rest of the *Holy Bible*.

What then, is the actual chronology of creation as consistently taught by all the creation accounts of the bible?

It is not what most people think.

Historically and traditionally, Christianity has taught that the universe, the earth, and all life on earth was created in a time period of one-hundred-forty-four hours. That is six twenty-four-hour days, about six thousand years ago.

However, recently, (a few decades, even a couple of hundred years is recent compared to the age of the bible,) a debate has been raging because modern science has discovered physical evidence that the planet earth is much older than 6000 years, and the entire universe is many times the age of the planet earth.

The debate has been confounded (or compounded) by the fact that, until recently, no appreciable effort has been expended to investigate the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible concerning all the other accounts of the origins found in the bible. It seems like theologians have been blinded to even the existence of these many accounts of the origins by that traditional interpretation. For centuries, no one even dreamed that the universe is as old as the bible really teaches it is in all the creation accounts of the bible combined. So, those accounts have been routinely ignored or dismissed by theologians.

Until recently, until the publication of "*Eyewitness to the Origins*," the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible concerning the origins was a black hole in the realm of religion.

But now, a choice must be made. Either the traditional interpretation must override the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible or, the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible must override that traditional interpretation.

They are not compatible.

So, the dilemma remains.

But there is hope. That hope is in the realization that there is a dual chronology. An original, but long unrecognized, chronology underlies that more obvious secondary chronology. The obvious, but secondary chronology is the universally recognized six days of creation. It is now obvious that there is an underlying chronology that is in accord with the rest of the bible and the six day timeline is superimposed on the original sequence of events of that account.

Yes, that original chronology is obvious once it is mentioned. People are asking, "Why did I not see that before?" Maybe God had a purpose in blinding us until now. The biblical concept of blinding for a season is not without precedent.

But still, the proponents of the young earth schedule are adamant, and the arguments are many that this special, six day timeline should override both the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible and override the evidence discovered by modern science that verifies the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible.

There is the argument that the days of this special account are in fact literal in appearance.

There is the argument that the creation account found in the first chapter of Genesis does not contain any of the literary features common to ancient Hebrew poetry, therefore it must have been originally intended to be a literal indication of the actual schedule of creation events.

The list goes on, but suffice it to say, they are all toward the saving of face of the traditional interpretation that is not in accord with the reality of both the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible or the discoveries of factual evidence by modern science. These argument are used to bolster the debate position that the earth including the whole universe was created in one-hundred-forty-four hours, six twenty-four hour days, about six thousand years ago. It seems to be motivated by fear that to lose the debate would make the proponent's God look bad.

The importance of this debate is artificially elevated by several false assumptions. For example, it is a common assumption that if it can be proven that the earth is much older than that traditional interpretation of the bible, then evolution is true. Worse yet, it is assumed that an old earth would prove the bible is wrong. On the other hand, if science could be applied to prove the earth is only about six thousand years old, there would not have been any where enough time for evolution to produce life from inanimate matter. Further, if science would prove the earth to be too young for life to have originated by evolution, the bible would have been proven to be a credible authority on the subject, and scientists would have no choice but to accept Christianity in masse.

However, none of these assumptions are true. Modern science is coming to the realization that even the vast amount of time they have allotted for evolution to have produced life on the planet earth is inadequate. Scientists have realized that life, when first detected, according to their own history of this planet, was something like seventy percent as complicated in its DNA composition as the DNA of human beings. So, even according to the old earth schedule, there is still not enough time. Do they then turn to Christianity in masse,? No, scientists simply search for a replacement theory for evolution. The old theory of evolution requires the origin of life on earth. But, since there is not enough time, they propose a theory that will include the evolution of life elsewhere in the universe and then transplant it here on the planet earth.

Still, the questions remain.

Is the original intended teaching of the bible in accord with the 144 hour schedule of the traditional interpretation? Or has the original intended teaching of the bible been obscured by that erroneous traditional interpretation?

Institutions have been founded and careers have been built on the many premises concerning this question. Yet no satisfactory resolution of the question has been achieved. Theories have been proposed in the name of science, yet stretching the limits of the imagination. Contortions have been proposed to arrive at a compromise, yet no compromise is satisfactory.

Some years ago, the superimposition of the six day schedule upon something underlying was recognized and "*The Framework Hypothesis*" was proposed. That hypothesis recognized the fact that the six day framework was forced upon, or superimposed upon that account, forcing something that was underlying into that framework.. However, at that time, the underlying something was not recognized to be the clear teaching of the comprehensive combination of all the other creation accounts of the entire bible.

This discovery of the comprehensive teaching of the entire bible and its verification by the independent discoveries of modern science, was a multi-step process involving application of the scientific method as described in, "*Eyewitness to the Origins*," on pages 30-34.

Following the scientific method, first one hypothesis was tested, failed and modified, another tested, and then a third tested until it did not fail.

The first hypothesis was the "Chaotic Mass Earth" interpretation of Genesis 1:2, "*And the earth was without form and void.*" According to that hypothesis, the phrase referred to an early stage of development of the planet earth where it was just a chaotic mass of swirling gasses. Several modern translation of the bible actually promote that hypothesis by slightly

changing the meaning from “not formed” to such phrases as “formless mass.” That idea failed when the placement in the biblical timeline indicated a later stage of development.

The second hypothesis was the idea that it referred to the life forms that were absent on the planet earth after one of the many mass extinctions of the past, in preparation for the creation of life forms that was described in the next few verses of the bible. According to that interpretation, the phrase would be, And the earth was without [life]form, and void [of life.] This seemed to fit the usage of the original Hebrew phrase translated “without form and void” as it was also used to describe the desert wasteland elsewhere in the bible.

However, it was not until it was realized that phrase is part of another, more ancient account of creation, edited for inclusion as an introduction to the *Seven Day Creation Account*, that the original meaning became clear. When looking at the parts of the original account that Moses did not include in the edited version, it became clear that the *earth* as we had been assuming meant the planet, did not mean the planet at all. It meant the dry land making up the continents as Moses explicitly stated in verse 10, “And God called the dry land, “*earth*.” Suddenly it all made sense. This was a description of the planet earth when there were no continents, when the planet earth was covered by ocean, having been the result of the early atmosphere first developing then capturing water from outer space to fill the oceans before the continents emerged. That is as described in the *Chronological Order of Creation Account* (possibly written by King David some five hundred years later) stating the mountains were covered by water. *The earth [dry land] was without form [not formed] and void [did not exist.]* This is a description of the planet covered with ocean and without land.

In the bible, it turns out, this event of the emergence of the continents is a central theme in several of the creation accounts. It is mentioned in the majority of the creation accounts of the bible as a significant dividing line between early events and later events of the origin sequence. In multiple creation accounts of the bible, it is where the chronology of the timeline hinges from going backward to the big bang then starting over at that point, and going forward to humankind or on into the future. In like manner, this condition of the planet being without dry land is a fitting introduction to the following accounts of creation.

In modern science, it turns out, this water covered condition of the planet earth and the event of the emergence of the continents is recognized by scientists as the beginning of the geologic column. The beginning of the geologic column is the great dividing line of science where evidence of the origins is mostly from observation of the cosmos before this time and from the geologic column after this time.

The geologic column is made up of layers of rocks piled up on top of each other throughout the ages. The earliest layers of rock in the geologic column are predominately pillow basalt. Pillow basalt is blobs of hot molten rock from volcanic eruption that falls into water, not on land, and is characterized by the pillow shape of the blobs formed by rapid cooling in water forming a pillow case holding the shape of the hot blobs as they accumulate on the ocean floor with the appearance of a stack of pillows. Thus, modern science has concluded that at one time, before the accumulation of the geologic column, the planet earth was completely covered with ocean, then an event occurred where the continents emerged to be above sea level never again to be covered by the oceans, just as previously described in the bible.

Conclusion:

The Seven Day Creation Account of the bible has a dual chronology. One was originally present in the account before Moses edited it for inclusion in the bible, the second was superimposed over the first for the purpose of illustrating the fourth of the Ten Commandments. That original chronology, still present under the second, is in full agreement with the comprehensive combination of all creation accounts of the entire bible, and as verified by the recent discoveries of modern science. The second, literal, yet fictitious timeline is included for the purpose of illustration of an unrelated point, similar to the parables of Christ. That fictitious timeline has become the basis of traditional misinterpretation of all of the other creation accounts of the bible, and the basis of what academia has dubbed, “*The Judeo-Christian Creation Myth.*”

A Creation Account to Illustrate the Sabbath Commandment:

The following *Seven Day Creation Account* is arranged in outline form to emphasize the underlying chronology over the overlying chronology. Explanations and commentaries on the differences from familiar translations can be found in *Eyewitness to the Origins*¹

Alternate Introduction/Context (Written contemporaneously, recorded in Exodus 20:4-7):

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:

For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (KJV)

The Days of the Sabbath Illustrated in the Creation (Genesis 1:3-2:3)

Theme: The Provision of Energy for Physical Life to Exist.

The First Three Days: The Botany (Photosynthesis) Side of the Food Chain.

Light (Source of Energy for Food Chain)

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that [it was] good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Atmosphere and Ocean (Air and Water Essential to Food Chain)

And God said, "let there be an atmosphere between the waters, and let it separate (set apart) water [onto the surface of the earth] from water [in outer space.] And God made this atmosphere and gathered (set apart) the waters [of the oceans] from the water above the atmosphere [in outer space.] And it really occurred. And God called the atmosphere sky.

¹ Frederick, 2008, *Eyewitness to the Origins*, Third Edition, p. 215, 218, 363, 359, www.EyewitnessToTheOrigins.com

And the evening and the morning were the second day.

Dry Land—Emergence of the Continents (Essential for Dry Land Life Forms)

And God said, Let the waters under the sky be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so. And God called the dry [land] continents; and the gathering together of the waters called he oceans:

and God saw that [it was] good.

Photosynthesis to Convert Solar Energy into Hydrocarbon (Stored Energy—Food)

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

The Second Three Days: The Zoology Side of the Food Chain

Chronology starts over here. Seeds and fruit, above, were made after the waters brought forth abundant life and before the first birds of the age of the great monsters.

The Circadian Cycle

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Reign of The Magnificent Megafauna

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl [that] may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales (sea monsters), and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Note: At this point, where Moses inserts a change of day, other bible accounts insert a mass extinction that eliminates the more ancient ecology dominated by reptiles in preparation for the more recent ecology dominated by mammals.

The Reign of Mammals

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.

Genetic Engineering Humankind

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Commissioning of Man

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Commissioning of the Food Chain

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

The Seventh Day, Present Era of Stable Ecology

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Summary and Conclusions (Abbreviated Version 2, Exodus 31:15-17):

Six days may work be done; but in the seventh [is] the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth [any] work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, [for] a perpetual covenant. It [is] a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:

For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Moses, c. 1445 BC, Creation Account: *Seven-Day Creation Account, The Bible*: Exodus 20:4-7, Genesis 1:3-2:3, Exodus 31:15-17

Notice: The completion of the seventh day is not recorded. We are presently living in this era of relative stability where species are going extinct at a greater rate than they are being created (or evolving as an evolutionist would say.)