A Literal Seven Day Creation Week



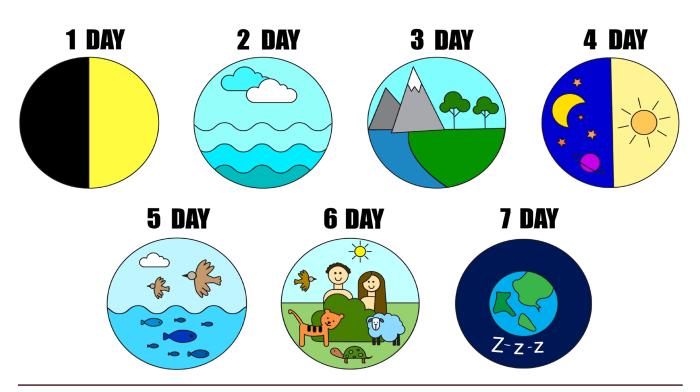
CREATION

"God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory of God."

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #6

A Literal Seven Day Creation Week

7 DAYS OF CREATION



A llow me to begin the message with a question: Where did the belief come from that each creation day equals 1000 years?

The belief that each day of Creation in Genesis represents 1,000 years comes from an interpretation of symbolic time in the Bible, not from the Genesis text itself. This idea is mostly based on two verses used figuratively, not literally.

THE FIRST CONSIDERATION.

"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." 2 Peter 3:8 NKJV

This verse teaches about God's timelessness and patience, not chronology. However, some interpreters have taken it to imply a "day = 1,000 years" formula. This poetic language, emphasizing God's eternal perspective and is not intended as a code to interpret Genesis.

WHERE DID THE "DAY = 1000 YEARS" TEACHING ORIGINATE?

Jewish and early Christian traditions (especially mystical or allegorical interpretations) began exploring deeper meanings in Genesis.

Some early Church Fathers (like *Irenaeus of Lyons*, in the 2nd century) in his published work, *Against Heresies 5.28.3 (Adversus Haereses)*, particularly in Book 5.



"For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded. And for this reason the Scripture says: 'Thus the heaven and the earth were finished, and all their adornment. And God brought to a conclusion upon the sixth day the works that He had made; and God rested upon the seventh day from all His works.' This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the sixth thousand year." — Against Heresies 5.28.3

Irenaeus also speculated that the six days of creation might correspond to 6,000 years of human history, followed by a 1,000-year "Sabbath" rest (Revelation 20: millennial kingdom), where Christ and His saints reign on earth.

Revelation 20:2 (NKJV) "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."

Although the Bible does not support a thousand-year earthly reign of Christ, this view became known as the "Millennial Week" theory— in which "Human history lasts 6,000 years, then comes the 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ." Irenaeus sites Revelation as his support. Revelation 20:4 (NKJV) "And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

The problem confronting Irenaeus is, the Genesis account of creation is not symbolic, but literal. Six times in Genesis the phrase "evening and morning" followed by the numerical sequence of the days, "first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth" verifies its literal not symbolic application. More importantly, the Hebrew word for "day" (Yom) can mean a literal day or symbolic period, but in the Old Testament when "evening and morning" is connected to a number, in the same passage, it is always a literal day.

In Summary, 2 Peter 3:8, a thousand years "is as" a day, not, is a day.

THE SECOND CONSIDERATION

"For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night." Psalm 90:4 NKJV

The Psalmist is suggesting, when we say, "That was a thousand years ago", God says, "That was yesterday." **Psalm 90:4** a thousand years "are like" yesterday, not is yesterday.

The message of both texts is, what it may take us 1000 years to do, God can do in a day. We can't do in 1000 years what God can do in a day.

Neither **2 Peter 3:8**, nor **Psalm 90:4** is intended to apply 1000 years to a day. Both are simply revealing that God is not restrained by time.

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV) "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place..."

Evolution does not prescribe to the belief of a 1000-year day. It teaches the world evolved over billions of years. Evolution also does not support 1000-year creation days.

God is not Evolutionary — **God is Revolutionary**. God can accomplish what we can't even imagine.

Isaiah 55:9 (NKJV) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV) "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

One of the reasons for thinking Creation is not possible in 6 literal days is, the failure to realize who God is: "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

HERE ARE THE THREE SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT ON CREATION

1. Old Earth Creationism:

- Accepts the scientific age of the Earth.
- Believes the "days" in Genesis represent epochs or long time periods.
- Rejects macro-evolution but may accept small adaptations.
- God created life forms at different points in time.

2. Theistic Evolution:

- Accepts mainstream science fully (big bang, evolution, evolutionary genetics)
- Sees God as the author of the laws that guided evolution.
- Genesis is viewed theologically, not scientifically.
- Seeks harmony between faith and science.

3. Young Earth Creationism:

- Interprets Genesis literally.
- Believes Earth was created in 6 days around 4000 BC.
- Rejects evolution and much of mainstream science.
- Supports a global flood and a young fossil record.

Christians are **Young Earth Creationists** because the Bible teaches it and also supports a chronological and credible pattern of time that has not changed.

DECODING THE 6000 YEAR THEORY BIBLICALLY

To decode the deception that Creation took 6,000 years, we must distinguish between two very different concepts:

- 1. The **length of Creation week** (how long it took God to create the world)
- 2. The **time elapsed since Creation** (i.e., how old the earth is)

Instead of believing "Creation took 6,000 years" it is more relevant to accept that the earth has existed for about 6,000 years. Biblically the Creation process took six literal days, not six thousand years.

HERE ARE TEN REASONS WHY CREATION COULD NOT TAKE 6000 YEARS

1. The biblical cadence of "**Evening and Morning**" — Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 Genesis 1:5 (NKJV) "God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day."

In Hebrew each Creation Day is describes as a literal 24-hour cycle.

2. The Biblical Numerical Sequence:

Genesis 1:5–31 – "**First day... second day... third day**..." When Hebrew uses numbers with the word "day" (yom), it always refers to literal days. There is no biblical precedent for it meaning long ages or millennia.

3. Jesus Confirmed the Genesis Account: Mark 10:6 (NKJV) "But from the beginning of the creation, God "made them male and female."

Jesus places the creation of humans "from the beginning," not billions or even thousands of years after a long creative process.

4. Death Came After Sin, Not Before:

If creation took 6,000 years, as an evolutionary processes or long ages, then death would have existed before sin—which contradicts the gospel.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin..." This point is important—it introduces **reason #5**.

5. The Creation Was "Very Good":

To suggest that each day of creation was a thousand years suggests that death is the result of creation not the product of sin.

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV) "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

If creation took thousands of years, as evolutionary models suggest, it would be filled with suffering, disease, death, and extinction.

If that were true, God would not call each creation day "good" and the completion, of creation "very good."

Furthermore, Adam would have lived for almost 1000 years before he sinned. The Bible contradicts any such suggestion: **Genesis 5:5 (NKJV)** "So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died."

6. The Bible Teaches a 6,000-Year History, not 6,000-Year Creation:

Luke 3:23-38, Genesis 5, Genesis 11

The genealogies from Adam to Christ give a timeline of about 4,000 years from Creation to Jesus, and about 2,000 years since.

The post creation genealogy teaches that mankind was created in a day: Genesis 5:1-2 (NKJV) "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. (2) He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created."

The 6,000-years refers to the age of the earth, not the length of Creation. Creation week was 6 literal days, not 6,000 years. **Genesis 5 and 11** give the age of each person in literal years. None lived 1000 years.

7. God's Word Is Immediate and Powerful:

There is no biblical suggestion of a long, drawn-out process. Creation is depicted as instantaneous and powerful. (Genesis 1:3; 6; 14)

Genesis 1:3 (NKJV) "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

- God spoke, and creation happened instantly.
- There is no delay, no evolutionary process, no symbolic period included.
- The Word of God is creative, commanding, and effective—immediately.

Psalm 33:6, 9 (NKJV) "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. (9) For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

8. Biological Impossibility Plants Created Before the Sun Refutes Long Ages: **Genesis 1:11–19:** Plants were created on day 3; sun, moon, and stars on day 4.

If each "day" were 1,000 years or more, plants would have existed thousands of years without sunlight, which is biologically impossible.

9. God rested the Seventh Day (seventh *yom*)

Genesis 2:2-3 (NKJV) "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

If each day were 1,000 years or more, then God "**rested**" for 1,000 years. There is no biblical or linguistic support. It undermines the weekly Sabbath rhythm.

10. The Fourth Commandment:

Exodus 20:11 (NKJV) "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."

The weekly Sabbath is based on God's own 6-day Creation. If creation took 6,000 years, then humans would have to work for 6,000 years and rest 1,000. If Creation was 6000 years the 4th Commandment would make no sense.

The post-creation statement of the Sabbath confirms it is the *seventh* day. Exodus 16:26 (NKJV) "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

DAY 1- God Created Light and Time: Day and Night were created the first day, since the sun was not created until the fourth day, it is clear that God defined day and night, not the sun and stars.

DAY 2 - God Created Sky and Atmosphere: (Genesis 1:6-8)

DAY 3 - God Created Land, Sea & Plants: (Genesis 1:9-13)

DAY 4 - Sun, Moon & Stars (Genesis 1:14-19)

God established these celestial bodies for timekeeping. The **Sun** (governs the day), the **Moon** (governs the night) **Stars** (for signs, seasons, days, and years) The first 3 days did not dependent on the sun but were defined by God.

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV) "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years."

Day 5 – Sea Creatures & Birds (Genesis 1:20–23)

Day 6 - Land Animals & Humanity (Genesis 1:24-31)

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV) "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Day 7 – God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it as a cyclical reminder of His Creative Power, authority, and right to be worshiped.

Exodus 20:8 (NKJV) "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Revelation Chapter 14 verse 7, calls us back to worship the creator, thus reminding us of a literal six day creation process followed by the blessing of the seventh day. The importance of creation is contained in the proclamation of this end-times reminder.

Revelation 14:7 (NKJV) "saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

If we believe the world was created in six-literal days, then there is a blessing awaiting us by honoring the Lord of Creation. **Exodus 20:10 "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God."**

Exodus 20:11 (NKJV) "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."

The continuity of the weekly cycle supports the chronological and biblical evidence that through creation, God established a cadence of time that continues. There is no evidence that creation transitioned from a 6000 year process to a 7-day week.

The evenings and mornings of creation week continue as evidence of a cycle that never changed. The seven-day week is a cycle of time the world acknowledges which supports the validity of the Bible. God's Word is the only written record where the weekly cycle is introduced, thus God's Word can be trusted.

This is why Seventh-day Adventist join with other Christians in support of the Genesis Record. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 (NKJV).

The greater question about creation is not, whether the world was created in 6-literal days or 6000 years" it is, "Who is your God?"

I invite you not only to embrace the biblical record of creation but to honor the seventh day that God blessed as a weekly reminder that He also desires to make you holy.

