The Creation Days Of Genesis: Does It Matter What We Believe?

Permission is granted to make and distribute verbatim copies of this tract for non-commercial purposes. Copyright © 2020

For more free tracts, articles, and Bible studies go to: www.westwoodcoc.com

Paul Smithson

It is clearly evident from our Lord, from His inspired writers, and from the style of the text itself, that the Genesis account is in no way allegorical, analogical, or mythological. The complete text of Genesis 1-11 is straightforward, literal history which denies any "old earth" theory. And our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior rest upon our acceptance of it as such. Thus, it most certainly does matter what we believe concerning the creation days of Genesis.

The Scripture states, "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day..."(Ex 20:11). Either this is true or it is not. Was Moses just referring back to an "analogy," or is he referring back to the literal time frame in which God created all things? It would seem that just as which God created all things? It would seem that just as Lod worked six days and rested on one, so were the lsraelites to work for six literal days and rest on one. The let selites to work for six literal days and rest on one. The low was to understand Gen. 1:5 just like he understood Ex. 20:11. Both passages use the same kind of language. And no Jew read Ex. 20:11 to be saying that you are to work for six indefinite periods of time and then rest for one indefinite period of time. Neither would the language of Genesis 1 be understood to mean six indefinite periods of time.

Some today are declaring that it doesn't matter if we believe the creation days of Genesis are literal 24 hour days or not. Some have gone as far as to say, "Moses used the 6 days as an analogy of the Jewish week of work but not for the purpose of giving us the duration of God's Creation."

However, nothing in the context of the Genesis account of creation hints at the idea that what is stated is to be taken as an analogy? There is nothing in the biblical record that suggest that Gen. 1-11 should be viewed any differently than the rest of the Bible. The whole book of Genesis, is strictly historical and we find that these first 11 chapters lead directly into the rest of the book. If these first 11 chapters are not historical. then neither is the rest of the book of Genesis. Then our entire Biblical foundation has been removed which will result in the rejection of the rest of the Scriptures, including the words of Christ. All the Scriptures either stand or fall together. Thus, it truly does matter what we believe concerning these matters. It effects our salvation, for if one holds to any kind theory that makes the duration of God's creation longer than a six day period, you must deny Jesus and His words, for Jesus regarded Genesis as true, literal history.

Jesus declared, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (Jn. 5:46-47). Did not Moses write Genesis? Jesus also stated, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law.." (Mt. 5:19) --and that includes the words of Genesis. If the book of Genesis is not dependable, then Jesus is not a dependable guide unto all truth and thus we are left without a Savior.

As in all areas having to do with our faith, if we accept what Christ has to say we will not err. And Jesus, more than once in His ministry, referred back to the literal, historical events recorded in Genesis chapters 1-11. For example, "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and the two shall become one flesh" (Lk. 10:6).

Jesus refers to Adam and Eve and the events recorded about them and their creation as real, literal history and places their creation at the beginning. However, if Genesis 1 & 2 is only an analogy and the "days" of Genesis 1 are not literally 24 hour days, implying that there were actually eons of time involved in the days of creation, then Adam and Eve, being created on the "6th day," were actually not created at the beginning as Jesus said, but at a much later time.

Jesus called the devil, the father of lies and "a murderer from the beginning" (Jn. 8:44). Jesus wants us to know that these are actual events, not just an analogy. To reject Genesis as literal and historical is to reject the teaching of Jesus.

To reject Genesis as literal and historical is to reject the inspired New Testament writers. In fact, every New Testament writer made allusion to or quoted from the book of Genesis. These inspired writers accepted Genesis as literal and historical. Every writer referred back to Genesis and accepted it as true and real; with the exception of only three of their books: Philemon and 2 & 3 John. The rest quote from or make allusions to the book of Genesis and over half of those come from the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis.