

“And The Evening And The Morning”

Because of controversy concerning the literalness of the creation account in Genesis 1-2, this article, while not discussing all the aspects of this debate, will consider a few relevant points.

The most natural understanding of “*evening and morning*” is that of solar days. Had the Lord intended to say each “*day*” of creation was an extended period of time, would He not have used the same language He did in places where intended that? Nowhere in scripture do we find the expression “*evening and morning*” in regard to a day that is an extended period of time.

Consider the angelic statement to Daniel. His vision of a “*little horn*” (Antiochus Epiphanes) foretold of an impending oppression. In that vision, an angel told Daniel how long the sanctuary would be trodden down (Daniel 8:11). “*And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed*” (Daniel 8:14, ASV). The King James and New King James translate the Hebrew for “*evening and morning*” by the term “*day*.” Even so, the translators of the KJV and the NKJV surely understood “*evening and morning*” to mean a solar day.

It is impossible to make the “*evenings and mornings*” of Daniel 8:14 into extended periods of time. The consistent use of morning and evening as a solar day, and the historical account of Antiochus’ evil activities prove the 2,300 days to be solar days. The same is true of that use of morning and evening in Genesis 1. This was God’s precise way of telling his people exactly how long they would suffer -- 2,300 days. The historical fact is that around 6 years later, that oppression ended. Even with the nature of the vision, there is no indication Daniel was to understand this as other than 2,300 literal days.

John C. Whitcomb correctly wrote on this verse, “Based upon the very strong precedent of Genesis 1, where each of the creation days bears a similar formula (‘there was evening and there was morning’), we must understand the 2,300 evenings and mornings to mean 2,300 literal days.”

Adapted From Dudley Ross Spears