

- (1) The light-darkness separation, and the calling of light "Day" and of darkness "Night";
- (2) The evening-morning pattern ("and it was evening, and it was morning") which is associated with *YOMs* 1-6;
- (3) The appointment of the sun to rule over the "Day" and of the moon and stars to rule over the "Night";
- (4) The time-period occupied by each *YOM*. This could be:
  - (a) the period during which God spoke His creative command
  - (b) the period during which God's creative activity was exercised
  - (c) the period during which God's creative command began to achieve fulfillment
  - (d) the period during which God spoke His creative command, and saw it completely fulfilled.
- (5) The question of the time consumed in the fulfillment of God's creative commands. How shall we interpret the biblical record? Were the creative commands of God fulfilled in a moment, or in a twelve-hour period, or in a twenty-four-hour period, or in a relatively short period of time, or during a moderately long period of time, or throughout a vast period of time? Could some of these commands have been fulfilled in an instantaneous event, and others by a long process? Notice: there is no question here of whether God could have created all things instantaneously, if He had so chosen. The question here is simply, How did He create all things?

With these five considerations in mind, and attempting to keep the biblical data in view, I should like to propose a chronological-aspect meaning of the seven *YOMs* of Genesis 1-2. This proposal has two parts:

First, as to the time-period indicated by each *YOM*, I propose the meaning, "the period during which God's creative command began to achieve fulfillment." Thus the seven *YOMs* would fall into seven periods of time, the first six of which would be creative-aspect periods (i.e., periods during which some aspect of God's creative activity would be accomplished). Further, these creative-aspect periods would be marked by three distinct stages: the beginning stage, the stage of essential fulfillment, and the completion stage. The beginning stage of each creative-aspect period would be marked by God's creative command, "Let there be!" These commands are recorded in Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14-15, 1:20, 1:24, and 1:26. The stage of essential fulfillment, in which God's creative command began to achieve fulfillment, would be marked by the recognition, by God, that His handiwork was good. These appraisals of the value of God's handiwork toward the accomplishment of His eternal Plan and Purpose are recorded in