

Genesis 1:4, 1:10, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, 1:25 and 1:31. I propose that the first six YOMs coincide with six stages of essential fulfillment in six distinct creative-aspect periods The completion stages of the creative-aspect periods are not generally marked, in Scripture, by a special notation. The reason for this may become apparent in facts which we have yet to consider.

To summarize my proposal, then, I propose that the first six YOMs fall within six creative-aspect periods of indefinite length, and that they coincide, not with the beginning stage or the completion stage, but with the stage of essential fulfillment in each creative-aspect period.

Second, as to the duration of each YOM, I propose that the light-darkness separation factor, the day-night oscillation factor, and the evening-morning pattern factor all combine to point to a literal day; i.e., a period during which the earth makes one full rotation upon its axis.

Combining the two parts of this proposal concerning the YOMs of Genesis 1-2, we thus far define a YOM as a literal day which marks the stage of essential fulfillment in each of six creative-aspect periods of indefinite length. In this scheme, these Creation YOMs are separated from one another by indefinite, sometimes vast periods of time.

4. The chronological relationship of the Creative events of Genesis 1-2 to the geological and paleontological records

The conceptual structure which I have proposed is that of a series of creative-aspect periods, some of which partially overlap in time, and all of which are marked by a beginning stage, a stage of essential fulfillment, and a completion stage. In all of these creative-aspect periods (except the first), the stage of essential fulfillment falls upon a particular literal day, which is numbered. In the total configuration, the seven Days of Genesis 1-2 are arranged in numerical order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

The arrangement of the fourteen creative events enumerated earlier is as follows. The Ex Nihilo Creation of primal matter, the Mediate Creation of the structured universe, and the Mediate Creation of our Milky Way Galaxy all fall into a Pre-Day I creative-aspect period. The Mediate Creation of our solar system falls into a second creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day 1. The Mediate Creation of the atmosphere falls within a third creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day II. The Mediate Creation of dry land and the immediate Creation of land plants fall into a fourth creative-aspect period, which reaches its stage of essential fulfillment in Day III, and continues through Day VI. The Mediate Creation of the appearance, from the earth, of sun, moon, and stars falls into the fifth creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day IV. The immediate Creation of aquatic animals and of birds falls into the sixth creative-aspect period, which attains its stage of essential fulfillment in Day V, and continues through Day VI.