

The Ruler

Have you ever looked at something, and suddenly it's like seeing it for the first time? I picked up the ruler on my desk. As I lifted it from the table, the sunlight caught its surface. The white plastic surface seemed to rise and the black markings became deep cuts. Studying its surface, the scale starts with a black line and ends with a black line, between which there are a finite number of equidistant marks. The scale looks like a record of time, nights and days. Is this how God sees time, all at once?

Night - Day - Night - Day, how else could history be recorded accurately, if the nights and days did not remain a fixed period of time? On the moon a night, and a day, lasts fifteen earth days each. What is truly amazing, is that as the moon revolves around the spinning earth, the moon rotates at exactly the rate required, to maintain the same side of the moon, facing the earth at all times!

Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End." (Rev 1:8)

So time is like a ruler, it has a definite beginning and a definite end, the space between consisting of equidistant periods of night and day. This seems very basic, but I heard a well known preacher on TV this morning, say that there could have been millions of years in the beginning of Creation. Who can seriously entertain this idea? Don't they accept the rest of the account?

"God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day." (Gen 1:5)

Can we relate to this period of time? Err Yes! It's what we experience every day of our lives. The idea of those first seven days of the Creation week, being longer than our days and nights is ridiculous. So it seems some people believe that God can create everything, but He couldn't do it in six days, as we know them???

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. (Exo 20:11)

"Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed." (Exo 31:16-17)

There were two days, which were lengthened, beyond the normal 24h period.

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel. Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. (Jos 10:12-15)

So Joshua's day was extended by nearly a day, and Hezekiah's day by about 40 minutes.

And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the Lord the third day?" Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to do down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the Lord, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz. (2Ki 20:8-11)

Ezra asks the Lord about Creation, it's period, and it's people, in the Book of 2Esdras.

Then I said, "But, Lord God, your concern is with the people who will be alive at the end of the world. What will happen to those who live before that time? What about us? What about those who came before us, and those who will live after us?" He answered me, "The final judgment can be compared to a circle, and just as a circle has no beginning or end, so those who come early will not be too early, and those who come late will not be too late." I replied, "But couldn't you have created all human beings, those of the past, the present, and the future, so that they would all live at the same time? In that way, you could have had your final judgment sooner." He answered, "The creation cannot move faster than the Creator. And besides, the world wouldn't have been able to hold all the people if everyone had been created at the same time."

"Why, then," I asked, "did you tell me just now that one day you would bring back to life at the same time every creature that ever lived? If the world can hold them all then, it can hold them now." He answered, "That would be like asking a woman who has given birth to ten children why she didn't have them all at once, instead of one at a time." "That would be impossible," I answered. "She can't have them all at once." "In the same way," he continued, "I have made the world like a womb so that it produces human beings at regular intervals. The rule that neither a young child nor an old woman can give birth to a baby also applies to the world that I have created." Then I said, "Since you have brought up the subject, may I ask if the world you have been talking about is still young or is it approaching old age?" He replied, "You can learn the answer from any woman who has given birth to several children. Ask her why her younger children do not grow as tall as her older children. She will tell you that those born while she was young and healthy are much stronger than those born when she was getting old and becoming weak. You will notice that you are smaller than people of earlier generations; those who come later will be smaller still. This shows you that creation is already getting old and losing the strength of her youth."

"If you please, Lord," I asked, "will you show me the one through whom you will bring judgment on your creation?" He said to me, "I made this decision before I created the world: before the gates of the world were standing; before the winds were brought together to blow, or the lightning flashed, or the thunder rolled;

before the foundations of Paradise were laid, or the beautiful flowers appeared; before the powers that move the stars were established, or the armies of angels assembled; before the air was piled high, or the divisions of the heavens given their names; before I chose Mount Zion as my footstool; before the present age was planned, or the scheming of its sinners was rejected, or my seal was placed on those who obeyed the Law and laid up a treasure of faithfulness. Even then, I decided that since I, and I alone, had created the world, I, and I alone would bring it to an end." (2Esdras 5:41 - 6:6)

"The Lord possessed Me at the beginning of His way, before the works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and My delight was with the sons of men."
(Pro 8:22-31)

Didn't he who made me in my mother's belly make them? Didn't the same God form us in the womb? (Job 31:15)

The LORD made you, formed you in the womb, and will help you. This is what the LORD says: Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. (Isa 44:2)

The LORD reclaimed you. He formed you in the womb. This is what the LORD says: I, the LORD, made everything. I stretched out the heavens by myself. I spread out the earth all alone. (Isa 44:24)

"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isa 40:5)

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Mat 19:30)

"So the last will be first, and the first last . For many are called, but few chosen."
(Mat 20:16)

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."
(Mat 24:35-36)

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Mat 24:44)

"For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luk 1:37)

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