

ALIENS, GOD and the BIBLE

After each creation day event, we read, “And there was evening, and there was morning...”, Wouldn’t that mean that God created everything in 24 hour periods?

At the end of each creation event (Genesis 1:5 = Day 1, 1:8 = Day 2, 1:13 = Day 3, 1:19 = Day 4, 1:23 = Day 5, 1:31 = Day 6), we read, *And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day, or second day, etc.* Some people believe this announces the idea of a 24-hour period for each creation event. The problem comes from translating ancient Hebrew into the English language and Western thought.

In the ancient Hebrew culture (even until modern times), the day began at sunset. So God is trying to convey something that the Hebrew culture and language would understand.

The word for evening, *ereb*, has deep roots. The Academy of the Hebrew Language historical dictionary devotes 75 pages to this word alone. **Ereb means to enter** and sometimes to mix. The sun would leave its tent and enter it again at dark; hence, *ereb* or evening. Another example, *erev shabbat* means Entering the Sabbath.

In this sense, *ereb* is God entering into something, which starts then completes an event. We cannot say time is involved with God or that a day has been accomplished. Instead, to complete what we would call the creation events of that day, God enters into the event and completes it, describing it for us as evening and morning. **Start and finish** would be a better way to understand what the writer of Genesis meant. God started it and finished it and called it a day.

We still do not know how long a creation day is. We know God started work, finished the work, and gave it a name – Day 1, Day 2, etc. Like putting a period on the sentence to tell the reader it has ended. God created plants. When the creation event was over – a start and a finish, an evening and a morning, the day concluded - Day 3, in this case.

Morning in Hebrew is *boker*, whose root means to cleave or to split. Think of it as the breaking through of sunlight. As a verb it means to examine or scrutinize, study, consider. So the phrase, evening and morning would mean entering, then study something closely, still with the idea of a start and finish, and a resultant day’s work follows.

But if we are talking about the earliest idea of the word in Genesis 1, then how would morning come from cleave or split? Think of it this way: Enter, separate out something or cling closely to something – the idea of a creation event, then call it a day’s work. If God is creating the universe out of himself (Colossians 1:17), then clinging closely to these things during the creation event would make sense. He is the creation event, not just the Creator.

Genesis 2:2, *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.* It is also argued that on the seventh day God rested from all his work, and that particular day has never ended. God is still enjoying the Sabbath rest that started on Day 7 of creation. There is no evening and morning, no start and finish, related to the seventh day. Hebrews 4:4, 9-11 tells us that believers are encouraged to also enter into this ongoing time of rest.