

The word Hebrew word translated 'day' is frequently used in the Old Testament to mean a 24 hour day. However this is far from being its only usage. It is also used to indicate periods much shorter or much longer than 24 hours.

The shorter use is illustrated in Gen. 1.5: "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night." This usage would hardly apply to the days of creation.

The longer use is also found at the beginning of Genesis. Gen. 2.4 speaks of "the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens", thus combining the creative work of all six days into one period which is here called a day. In many other Bible passages, the word day is used of a period considerably longer than twenty-four hours, as, for instance,