

that Christ was born in 4 B.C. and tried to work out the figures in such a way as to date the creation of Adam an even number of thousands of years before that, and thus suggested the date of 4004 B.C. In order to do so he had to make a number of guesses at points where the Scripture does not speak. There are gaps in the genealogies. We have no way of knowing how long man has been on the earth.

Another point on which the Bible does not give us information is as to the length of the creative periods. The word "day" which is used for each of these six periods in Genesis 1, is used again in Genesis 2:4 to express the whole period of creative activity.

People sometimes assume that "a literal day" is 24 hours. However, this is not the way the word is used today, nor is it the way it was used in the Bible. If one were to examine all the times that the word "day" is used in the course of a month it is questionable whether he would find that most people use it to indicate a 24-hour period as much as two percent of the time. If someone were to meet you at 11 p.m. on a winter evening and say, "Isn't this a nice day?" you would probably answer, "It isn't day at all, it is night." While the commonest use of the term is for a period of light between two periods of darkness, it is often used for longer periods, as in Genesis 2:4 and in the many references to "the Day of the Lord." We often hear people make such statements as, "Back in Lincoln's day they did not have automobiles" or "In Napoleon's day a certain attitude was taken." "Day" is often used for a period of activity, long or short.

God could easily have created the world in six periods of 24 seconds each, or of 24 hours each, or of 24 million years each, or of any other length of time that He might have chosen. The Bible nowhere tells us how long the creation days were. We are doing Christianity a disservice when we try to read into the Bible meanings that it does not hold.