

the seven *yom*'s of Genesis 1-2. This proposal has two parts:

First, as to the time-period indicated by each *yom*, I propose the meaning, "the period during which God's creative command began to achieve fulfillment." Thus the seven *yom* s would fall into seven periods of time, the first six of which would be creative periods (i.e., periods during which some aspect of God's creative activity would be accomplished). Further, these creative-aspect periods would be marked by three distinct stages: the beginning stage, the stage of essential fulfillment, and the completion stage. The beginning stage of each creative-aspect period would be marked by God's creative command, "Let there be!" These commands are recorded in Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14-15, 1:20, 1:24, and 1:26. The stage of essential fulfillment, in which God's creative command began to achieve fulfillment, would be marked by the recognition, by God, that His handiwork was good. These appraisals of the value of God's handiwork toward the accomplishment of His eternal Plan and Purpose are recorded in Genesis 1:4, 1:10, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, 1:25 and 1:31. I propose that the first six *yom* 's 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 *yom* 's 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 *yom* 's 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 *yom*'s are separated from one another by indefinite, sometimes vast, periods of time.

We have thus far considered the first question related to the chronology of