

1. Indications that the “Days” (yom)
of Genesis 1 Were Non-Literal

1.

PROVERBS 25:13

Like the cold of snow in the time (yom) of harvest
are faithful messengers to those who send them;
they refresh the spirit of their masters.

2.

GENESIS 1:14

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the
sky to separate the day from the night; and let them
be for signs and for seasons and for days and
years,

3.

2. Some Biblical Depictions of Creation Cannot be Literal

4.

1 SAMUEL 2:8

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on
them he has set the world.

5.

JOB 37:18

Can you, like God, spread out the skies, hard as a molten mirror?

6.

GENESIS 1:7

So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above.

7.

GENESIS 7:11

...the windows of the heavens were opened.

8.

**3. The Function of Creation Stories in
the Ancient Near East**

9.

GENESIS 1:2

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

10.

Problem

Formless Void

Darkness

The Deep

Formless Earth

Solution: Stage 1

Formless Place (Days 1-3)

Day 1: light/separate darkness

Day 2: heavens/separate waters

Day 3: earth/vegetation

Day 7: Sabbath Rest

Solution: Stage 2

Filling Void (Days 4-6)

Day 4: lights

Day 5: birds/fish

Day 6: animal/humans

11.

GENESIS 1:1, 3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

12.

GENESIS 1:27

...God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.'

13.

GENESIS 1:29-30

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

14.

HEBREWS 4:4, 9-11

For in one place [Scripture] speaks about the seventh day as follows, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works... So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest...

15. [Group]

PSALMS 104:3, 5

The Lord stretches out the heavens like a tent and
lays the beams of his upper chambers on their
waters....

He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be
moved.

16. [Group]

JOB 38:22

Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or
have you seen the storehouses of the hail...?

17. [Group]