

Father, "Thy word is true" and whatever this book says is absolutely true and dependable and we can stand upon it. But it is our duty to find out exactly what it does say. We shouldn't stand out on thin air somewhere. We shouldn't take a word out of context. We shouldn't just grab a sentence and then spend a lot of time defending that sentence by itself without seeing how it is related to other sentences. It is often said that the Bible contradicts itself. This is certainly true if you take separate sentences. But so does almost any book that ever was written. Grab a sentence here, grab a sentence there - compare them how they contradict each other. But take the sentence in context, examine what's around it and see what it means and find out the meaning and if it is a human book it may be right, it may be wrong - it depends on the knowledge of the author. If it's a divine book we know it's right because what God says is true. Now we notice in the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 1, verse 13 that Paul says, "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) and anybody who would read that today would say, "Well, if he was let, why didn't he do it? If they let him go, why didn't he go?" And of course we tell them this word "let" here 300 years ago meant the exact opposite of what it means today - to say "I let you go" means you can go. When Paul said, "but was let hitherto" he meant "I couldn't go". To hinder, to prevent - it's exactly changed its meaning. And so if we want to know what the Bible means we have to take a word and see what does that word mean as it's used in its context. And a word in one language may mean something different from the word in another language. A word is never a point, it's an area. Areas are different in any two languages - they don't exactly correspond. So the first question here - the extent of a day in Genesis 1 - immediately somebody says, "Well, of course it'd be 24 hours wouldn't it? A day is always 24 hours isn't it?" And our answer to that is to look at Genesis 1 and ask ourselves the question does the word "day" always mean 24 hours in Genesis 1? And we look at verses 17 and 18. 16 says, "And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night". The great light is the sun to rule the day, the lesser light is the moon to rule the night. How long is the day - is this 24 hours? Everybody knows it isn't so here is the word "day" used in Genesis 1 where it very definitely does not mean 24 hours. It means there