

the period that is light between two periods of darkness. All right that one use we can tell with no question what it means - it's a varying amount of time. The day up in Alaska perhaps now is about an hour long. The day up in Alaska about 6 months from now may be about 23 hours long - it varies but it's never 24 hours. Well there are other uses of day here where it doesn't tell us how long they are. Says that there was one day, there was a second day, there was a third day - it doesn't say how long they were. Is there any use in this story of creation of which we can say definitely, ~~XXXXX~~ any other use that we can be sure whether it's 24 hour~~x~~ day or not? Well look at chapter 2, verse 4 - it summarizes the whole of chapter 1. And there in chapter 2, verse 4 we read, "These are the generations of the heavens and ~~XXXXX~~ of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens." What does that say? That says that all the six days of Genesis 1 are in this verse called one day - the day that the Lord made the earth and the heavens. Was that a 24 hour day? Certainly not. If the other six were 24 hour days then this one would be 144 hour day wouldn't it? So whatever this is, it is not a 24 hour day. Well now we've looked at two uses of the word "day" in this section which includes Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 and we have found one of them is less than 24 hours, one of them is more than 24 hours. What about the other six uses - the six days? Are they 24 hours or not? How long are they? Well, I think from what we've seen so far we can say that the word "day" here in the Bible is a period of time. It's a period of time. You read in the New Testament that "a day is with the Lord as a thousand years" and a thousand years is one day. A day is a period of time. The commonest use of a day is the period of time when it's light between two dark periods. Another use of day is a long, long period like Jesus said, "Abraham saw my day and was glad". Which day did He mean? Was it a 24 hour day? No. It was the whole of Jesus' life. It may be a short period, it may be a long period. The second most common usage of it in our common speech, and in the Bible, is a 24 hour period. But what about the creative days? Well, the sun isn't made to divide time till the fourth day so we certainly have no reason in the world to say that the first, second, and third were 24 hours long because there's no division into time by the sun until the fourth day. So the first three - maybe they're little periods, maybe they're big periods. Couldn't God create the world in six days of 24 hours if He chose? Certainly - He could create it in six minutes of 24 hours if He chose. He could create it in 6 seconds of 24 hours if He chose.