

attitude of the great Reformers themselves. Thus it came to be widely held that the days in Genesis 1 must necessarily be days of 24 hours, and that the entire creation of the universe was completed within a period of six 24-hour days.

No Christian who believes in an almighty God can possibly doubt that God could create the entire universe in six days if He chose. For that matter, God ~~might~~<sup>could</sup> create the universe in six minutes, or in six seconds, if He chose. The question is not, what could God do, but what did God do? If the Bible clearly teaches that God created the world in six 24-hour days, let us stand upon it with confidence, knowing that when all the facts are in, they will be found to agree with God's infallible Word. Let us go slow, however, about insisting that the Bible teaches a certain view, until we are absolutely sure that it does so.

It is not the purpose of the Bible to explain the mysteries of the physical universe. It is not a textbook of geology or chemistry, for it says comparatively little about these fields. It is not even a complete textbook on the history of Israel, for that also was not its purpose. Many vital facts in all these fields are left untouched. Wherever it deals with these fields, its statements are true and dependable, but it leaves many of their aspects entirely alone.

It is very important to note what the Bible does not say. If I made the statement that I came to Dallas from Philadelphia, ~~by train~~ this statement would not tell whether I came by train or by plane, since the word "came" could apply to either method of transportation.

Nor would it tell whether I came straight through, or stopped a while ~~at~~ route, since the word "came" could apply equally well in either case. We should avoid drawing from the Bible conclusions regarding matters on which it is silent.

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