

precise meaning of the particular usage. There are, of course, many cases in Scripture where words are used in a figurative sense. Figures of speech are like salt, they not only give spice to a dish, they make ^{much} it better in many ways. Figures of speech do not necessarily detract from clarity. Often they add to clarity. When we say that a man was a lion in a fight we do not mean that he chewed up the enemy or that he clawed them to pieces with his fingernails. We mean that he showed courage and tenacity of purpose. We are pointing to great qualities in his fighting and it is just as clear and much more beautiful than if we were to name these qualities in literal language. There is no danger of misunderstanding what the phrase means. The Bible is as a whole literal. Otherwise, there would be no solid ground on which to interpret it. It contains, however, many figures. Are these words, evening and morning, figures or are they literal.

The answer to this particular question is very easily found. The sun, moon and stars are not made measures of time until the fourth day. Therefore, evening and morning can hardly be literal statements nor is there evidence that the day would ^{indicate} a literal 24-hour period prior to the fourth day. In addition to that, evening and morning, as literally used, indicate a certain condition of light. Just exactly when is ^{it} evening and when is it morning? If you are in Dallas it is very clear when it is evening and when it is morning, but when it is evening in Dallas it may be morning in Shanghai and vice versa. Speaking of the world as a whole you cannot say that evening comes and then morning comes. It is always evening somewhere and it is always morning somewhere. These terms as used literally must refer to a particular part upon this globe. This would be quite appropriate if God were at a particular point on this globe. However, God is everywhere. We have no right to restrict God - to say to God that it is evening and then