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period of activity, and rarely, if ever, means a period of precisely twenty-four hours.

After the ~~references to~~ ^{account of} the six days ¹, in Genesis 1, Genesis 2 ³ ~~speaks~~ ^{tells} of a seventh day, on which God rested. This certainly does not mean that God was tired and took twenty-four hours to relax Himself. Its meaning must be something quite different. To my mind there is no doubt that it means simply that God ceased from the creative work of the previous six periods of activity. It is not my impression that God has ~~done~~ performed any creative work since the creation of man and woman. Consequently it would seem that the seventh day is still going on today ~~and will probably continue until God creates the new heaven and the new earth.~~ ^{and will continue until} probably continue until God creates the new heaven and the new earth. It is here used as an ^{instance} ~~example~~ of the succession of

six periods of activity followed by one of cessation, as an example for us, since God made us with a constitution that needs to follow a similar progression. ^{as} ~~Since~~ the seventh day ^{of Genesis} is almost certainly a long period, this might suggest that the same is true regarding the first six as well. However, it would only be a suggestion, not a proof. God could have created the world in six periods of activity of five minutes each or of six hours each or of twenty-four hours each, or of three billion years each. We are not told how long the periods were. The Bible leaves us free to guess if we desire, but we should be charitable toward others who make a different guess.