

## Not Even Biblical Writers are Infallible (except in Scripture)

*"The prophets...searched and inquired carefully what person or time the Spirit of Christ was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories." (1 Peter 1:10-11—boldface mine)*

Young-earth creationists frequently cite as one of their grounds for interpreting the creation days of Genesis as 24-hour, that down through time “most” Jewish scholars adhered to that view. It can indeed be acknowledged that until recent times there was no hard-scientific data by which the age of the universe could be measured. Hence there was no *scientific* reason why the view that the creation days as 24-hour-each, should be doubted. Nevertheless there are details in the Hebrew *text* of Gen. 1:1-2:4 which **do call into question** the notion that its creation periods represent ordinary solar days.<sup>1</sup> These grammatical specifics should have gotten the attention of the Hebrew community,<sup>2</sup> and for that reason are an indicator that suppressing such apparently incongruent features **is never** legitimate.<sup>3</sup> Irrespective of their obvious limitations to take in “our” cosmology, Scripture itself revealed that Yahweh is **not bound** to our time, and so is not limited by *our* sense of duration (Ps. 90:4, Isaiah 48:12). Yet a far more troubling manner of interpreting with respect to this essay concerns the Jewish treatment of Scripture in a *moral* sense by shutting out from consideration the great lengths God’s love took to rescue sinners. To this day they have refused to face the pivotal text of Isaiah 53, and thereby have failed to receive, let alone call others to, their Messiah as the One who suffered and died for our sins. For these reasons alone, they cannot qualify as an authoritative standard that we are obligated to obey.

Viewed in the general sense, the Holy Bible states that the revelation of God is limited to both the Holy Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21) AND, for Christians in particular, ultimately to the Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ. For He was and is the goal to which the entirety of the Bible points (John 5:39, Hebrews 1:2, 1 Pet. 1:10-11). Revelation is therefore not grounded in the innate character of its *human* writers (who merely served as vehicles through whom the Holy Spirit chose to speak—Heb. 1:1). Neither does Scripture suggest that its penmen as humans were *innately* infallible, firstly for the reason that they were finite and consequently didn’t have the capacity to see reality from a perspective that is equal to God who knows all things (1 Peter 1:10f.). Secondly, they each had their own sinful thoughts and deeds to acknowledge and confess (Exodus 3:5, Psalm 51:3, Isaiah 6:5, Luke 5:8, Matthew 16:23, Romans 7:8). Now I am not saying that it isn’t possible for people to develop toward maturity through a disciplined study of God’s Word (Ps. 1; 1 Cor. 2:12-3:2; 2 Cor. 4:16; 1 Peter 2:1-3, Heb. 12:7-17). Yet at bottom it is not humans (flawed as we are by our sin and our finitude) but only the text of the Scriptures they penned, which stands as the sole legitimate authority, which is what Martin Luther stated before the Diet of Worms.<sup>4</sup> Consequently then, the foundation for interpreting Genesis 1:1-2:4 must rest not on the opinion of any person, but on what the text alone indicates.

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<sup>1</sup> I italicized the term “science” because the I argue that the body of data which instead *did* challenge the 24-hourday interpretation comes from an analysis of the Hebrew grammar of the *text* of Genesis 1:1-2:4. See my paper,

“15 Clues in the Text of Genesis 1 Indicating that Creation is Ancient.”

<sup>2</sup> The Jewish community excelled at debating extensively over every “minute” matter in Scripture.

<sup>3</sup> I make the case for why God, who exists outside of our experience of time, might choose to employ a multi-billion expansion of the universe to demonstrate the beauty of His awesome power. See my paper, “The Biblical Demand to Take Another Look: Ten Compelling Exegetical Reasons the Creation Days of Genesis are Non-24-Hour,” p. 7. <sup>4</sup> “Luther at the Imperial Diet of Worms.” <https://www.luther.de/en/worms.html>

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