

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Joshua's Long Eclipse?



And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day. (Joshua 10:13)

One passage of the Bible that a lot of people stumble over is found in Joshua 10. The Israelites were engaged in a battle with Adonizedek, King of Jerusalem. In order to gain success, Joshua prayed to the Lord, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon." As a result of this prayer, the sun stayed in the sky for a whole day. In other words, sunset to sunset lasted 48 hours instead of the normal 24.

Those who want to criticize the Bible maintain that this could not possibly have happened, posing problems such as people and objects flying off the Earth by inertia.

These problems are not really valid. The Earth would not have had to stop rotating. Perhaps it could have slowed to half its rotation speed, with a decent deceleration of a few minutes – though that is only speculation. Several years ago, a science news article suggested that the account might refer to an eclipse rather than a change of movement. Scientists at Cambridge University pointed to an Annular Eclipse of the Sun on October 30, 1207 BC. However, this does not explain the length of the day. Moreover, Archbishop Ussher, careful researcher that he was, dated the event at 1451 BC, nearly 250 years earlier. While Ussher did allow for a margin of error, he is unlikely to have been so far off.

Whatever the truth is, the Bible records the sun standing still as a real event. We can accept that truth even if we do not yet know how it happened.

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