

The Sundown to Sundown Day

This study will show the accuracy of the sundown to sundown belief of a day in scripture. I have written this study to aid others who may have been exposed to the idea that a “day” is only the “sunlight” portion of a 24 hour period. The primary reason this issue is important is because of Sabbath. I believe the devil is leading SDA’s away from God through things such as “Lunar Sabbaths” and “daylight only Sabbaths”. These beliefs are far more deceptive than Sunday Sabbaths, at least for SDA’s. I have read materials from a few feast keeping, Lunar Sabbath websites that promote the “daylight only” Sabbath so I’m familiar with most of the arguments that someone may present to support this idea. This study will be primarily from scripture as those who promote this doctrine are not believers in the inspiration of Ellen White. Now I realize they will often give a lip service confession that they believe in her but they always use her writings as if they were standing in a buffet line picking and choosing what they want. Doing this is a rejection of her writings according to her own words. I have much more respect for those who flat out admit they do not accept her writings, or those who simply are unsure. Thus the only reason I will use her in a few places will be for the SDA’s who do accept her writing’s as authoritative.

In studying this issue it is easy to discover that the entire issue is what constitutes a “day” in scripture. Is a “day” only the “sunlight” portion of a 24 hour period or is a “day” a full 24 hour period consisting of both a “light” portion and a “dark” portion”? I will show in this study that a “day” in scripture actually has many meanings depending on context so the answer to the above question is in reality neither. Now the studies that I have read from those who promote “daylight only” always begin in Genesis chapter one. This is good as they are following rules of interpretation in starting there. However the conclusion they ultimately come to is based on “word” inspiration, not “thought” inspiration. This is very important because I have noticed that error always relies heavily on “word” inspiration. Here is an example of word inspiration: Jesus told us to call no man “father” and thus if we apply word inspiration to this we would have to conclude that we should never call anyone on earth “father”. The reality is Christ was talking about magnifying or exalting men to a position where you give them full and complete trust in all that they say. This is the “thought” behind His statement. A person using word inspiration would say “so your saying Jesus is wrong and we can call men “father”?” In saying its ok to call your dad “father” you are in reality going against the word Christ spoke yet you are perfectly in harmony with the truth and the “thought” He was trying to express. Another example of “thought” inspiration is a person can be an “elder” yet that person at the same time is not an “elder”. In word this statement contradicts each other but in thought the person is simply “old” yet he doesn’t have the office position of an “elder” in church. There are hundreds of examples in scripture like this. Jesus is God (nature and authority) yet He is not God (the person).

Here is the primary foundational text to this entire issue:

*“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.⁵ And **God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.**”*
(Gen 1:3-5)

In the above we can see that God called the “light” “day/yom” and the “darkness/night”. Thus we can plainly see that it is true that when the sun is up shining its light it is “day” and when the sun is down and darkness pervades it is “night”. Now of course the sun was not yet created here on “day one” but the light that was created is in all reality is coming from the position where God would later create the sun. The point is we have discovered one definition to “day/yom”. The debate is over “and the evening and the morning were the first day”. Now the websites I have read claim this is translated incorrectly. I believe it is translated perfectly correct. I do not know if all “sunlight only” believers make the claim of translation error so I will not go over that argument. However if they do have to argue translation error with no good evidence (I have seen no evidence for the argument) for it they have already placed themselves in a bad position. The “sunlight only” position makes the claim that “first day” is of course referring to the sunlight portion of a 24 hour period. They do not include the “night” in the “first day”. The argument goes like this: God called the “light” “day” and the “darkness” “night” so the “night” cannot be the “day”. I make the claim that the night is part of the “day” yet it is not part of the “day”. This is why I spoke on the issue of word inspiration versus thought inspiration. The night is part of the “day/a 24 hour period” and yet the night is not part of the “day/when the sun is up”. We will come back to the “evening and the morning” later but first we will take a look at what the word “yom/day” means in scripture. So far we know for a surety that “day” has at least one meaning referring to the daylight portion of a 24 hour period.

*“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the **day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,”* (Gen 2:4)

Did God create everything in “one daylight” portion of a 24 hour period? Of course not, as scripture says that God created everything in “six days”. The word “yom/day” here has the meaning of a “period of time”. It’s like saying “back in grandpa’s day”. So we now have at least two meanings for “yom”.

*“And in process of **time (yom)** it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.”*(Gen 4:3)

In the above passage we see that “yom” is translated “time” showing that “yom” can take on the meaning of a lengthy period of time covering much more than a “day”. This is similar to the previous example in that “yom” is a period of time yet it is different in that you would not translate the word “yom” as “day” here for it would make no sense. We now have three different “senses” in which “yom” may be used.

*“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil **continually** (yom).” (Gen 6:5)*

In the above passage we see that “yom” carries the idea of something taking place constantly having nothing to do with “daylight or darkness”. We now have four different senses in which “yom” may be used. Now before going over the “fifth sense”, a 24 hour period, I’m going to explain the sorcery trick being used by the “sunlight only” position. Please note it is highly unlikely that those teaching the “sunlight only” position are conscious of performing sorcery. Sorcery is the incorrect methods of interpreting scripture that brings people into Babylonian confusion according to the book of Revelation. One of the most common sorcery tricks is to show someone the meaning of a word from a few passages attempting to get that person to believe in that meaning and get them to plug that meaning into a desired text. In Genesis 1:5 a “sunlight only” believer would take the meaning “day=sunlight” and slide it over to the phrase “first day”. Of course there will be various arguments to uphold it but the foundation for doing this is “day=sunlight”. I’ll show you a sorcery trick Jehovah Witnesses use in this same area using this passage:

*“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the **day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,” (Gen 2:4)*

JW’s would typically accompany this with “a day is as a thousand years” to get you to believe that the “first day” is really a very long period of time as they do not believe in a literal six day creation. They rightly know “yom” in the above passage is more than a 24 hour period and get you to buy into the idea that “yom” can be a lengthy period of time, which is true, and then slide the meaning over to “first day”. Of course they disregard the context that “the evening and the morning were the first day”. Now that you know what “sleight of hand” sorcery looks like we will go on to show the “fifth sense” of “yom” which is a 24 period. Now I could literally use hundreds of passages to show this but I realize the opposition will claim these passages are referring to “daylight” only and that I am “assuming” a 24 hour period onto them. This is why I had to show you the evidence that “yom” has much more than the idea of “daylight”. In showing these multiple meanings it will make it very plain that I’m not making any assumption in

showing this “fifth sense” meaning of a 24 hour period. I’ll only use one example at the moment as I will bring in much more evidence that the night is part of a day later in this study.

*“And the **days** of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:”(Gen 5:4)*

Notice in the above that the “days” of Adam are equal to 800 years. Adam didn’t just live during the daylight hours but rather the night as well and those he lived full 24 hour days. This is called taking the Bible as it plainly reads. However I realize how sorcery affects the mind so when a “daylight only” believer reads the above passage he plugs in the idea of “daylight” into “days”. He would claim I am making an assumption here but in reality it is he that is making the assumption. He is sliding the meaning of “day=sunlight” from Gen 1:5 over to this passage and hundreds of others because he preconceived in his mind that “day” cannot be associated with “night” based on “word inspiration”. I’m not assuming that Adam was alive at night and that both the daytime and nighttime were full days in which he lived accumulating into 800 years. I’m taking the Bible as it plainly reads. I know “yom” has a much broader meaning than “daylight” because I study based on “thought inspiration” not “word inspiration”.

I will now return to “and the evening and the morning were the first day”. This line is repeated for each of the six creation days adding “second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth day”. Now the “daylight only” believers basically claim that evening ends a “day” and morning begins a “day”. I believe evening both begins and ends the “day” containing a morning yet at the same time it is true morning begins the “day” and evening ends the “day”. Of course “thought inspiration” is very confusing to these guys as they see this as a contradiction because they use “word inspiration”. The fact concerning Genesis 1:5 is the passage doesn’t say “and the morning and the evening were the first day”. This in reality is what they really need the passage to say but it doesn’t so they claim the order of “evening and morning” is not significant in the text when in reality it is very important. Now of course when God said “let there be light” not every place on earth was radiated with light for he divided the light from darkness so part of the earth was dark while part was light. In reality the entire earth started off as night according to Gen 1:1-2. The earth was actually created on day 1 while it was dark. Read the fourth commandment (for in six “days”) and you will see everything concerning the earth was created in six days, not some of the earth many years previously. In fact the Spirit moving on the face of the waters is God’s power as creation is taking place in the “dark”. Many believe only light was created on day one but this isn’t true. The expression “and the evening and the morning were the first, second, third day” is important as to its order. Evening is first as the sun sets then as time progresses morning comes as the sun rises until the sun once again sets in the evening. This cycle has repeated since the

creation. This is why it says “and the evening and the morning were the first day”, not “and the morning and the evening were the first day”. They would have a plain thus saith the Lord if the text said and the “morning (sunrise) and the evening (sunset) were the first day.” Anyhow I know the arguments that I have put forth so far would probably not persuade them at this point but this foundational portion of the study was important. What we will do now is look further into scripture to see what evidence there is to support either view.

*“Jesus answered, Are there **not twelve hours in the day**? If any man walk in the **day**, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the **light of this world**. 10 But if a man walk in the **night**, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.” (John 11:9-10)*

I quote this passage first because it is one of the most common passages these people quote to support their position. Please note the text doesn't support their position however it does support the truth that “day” often refers to the daylight hours of the day. It is a common practice for a position that is in error to quote passages such as the above attempting to make it appear that their opposition doesn't believe the passage. You won't find anyone that I'm aware of that doesn't agree with the above passage. Please note that “twelve hours” is not 60 minute hours but rather a time reference they used based on a sundial. No matter what time of year it was the sundial was broken into 12 equal hours though in reality the day light time was less or more depending of the time of year. Here is one of the confusing realities of their position, depending on where you live in this world Sabbath could technically be 0-24 hours long. I'm not sure what they do for those who live in places such as Anchorage Alaska where they may not see the light of day for a very long time. That's an extreme example of the confusion in their belief but the reality is some places on earth may have a 16 hour Sabbath while others may only have a 6 hour Sabbath. As I said in reality it could be anywhere from 0 to 24 hours but it will be very different depending on where you live. In the summer time in the northern hemisphere Sabbath would be longer while those in the south will be having a short Sabbath day and vice versa in the winter. This is extremely appealing to the carnal heart that just can't wait for the Sabbath hours to end. For someone who loves Sabbath this is very much a letdown to have so much Sabbath time stripped from them.

*“For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth **forty days and forty nights**; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.” (Gen 7:4)*

The above passage may be used as one of those texts which they believe proves the night cannot be part of the day. Apparently God says it this way to show an important distinction. I agree that there is a reason but not the same reason the “daylight only” believers would claim. This summer in June we had a period of time where it rained 20 out of 22 days, however it did not rain day and night. Most of the time it rained during the day but sometimes it rained at night. In the above passage it didn’t just rain 40 days, it rained non-stop for forty days and forty nights. The expression “forty days and forty nights” actually qualifies “forty days” which if there was no qualification could simply mean that it rained a little every day for 40 days. Now notice:

*“And the **flood was forty days upon the earth**; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.” (Gen 7:17)*

Did the rains stop coming or dry up during the night? No of course not, it is obvious that the forty days here includes the night time. It was qualified earlier but here it’s just given in simple general terms. We see this again here:

*“And the waters prevailed upon the earth an **hundred and fifty days**.” (Gen 7:24)*

Here we see the flood actually lasted 150 days and these days most certainly included both daytime and nighttime. Now the “daylight only” believers know that the flood obviously was on earth throughout the night so they would claim the obvious is not said. To them “days” is once again expressing “daylight time” only. There are literally hundreds of passages like this I could quote but they will always interpret them as the “obvious is not stated”. That’s how sorcery can take out hundreds of texts to make them irrelevant. They assume “days” is only “daylight” while accusing the other side as “assuming” “days” include the nighttime. Thus I won’t be quoting the hundreds of texts I could quote but rather get right to the heart of the issue to deal with this idea that “night is not part of a day”.

*“And on the **fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread**.” (Lev 23:6)*

According to this text based on their interpretation of “days” it would have been ok to eat leavened bread at night since night is not part of the day. Now of course they would argue that the command is to get rid of all leaven out of your house so they shouldn’t have any leaven in order make or eat leavened bread. Ok that’s a good point back in that day, but today most of the “daytime only believers” are feast keepers and this world is very different. Now I’m not a feast keeper but for those who are and believe this way there is no reason why they can’t after

sundown sundown to a store or restaurant and eat some leavened bread. They would not be in violation of the command they believe in. Obviously “days” here includes the night, I’m just showing how unreasonable this doctrine is.

*“It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the **ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.**” (Lev 23:32)*

The above passage is really a simple way of showing the error of their doctrine however they will tell you the context of this is concerning the “day of atonement” not the Sabbath. Right they are but I’m not using this claiming it’s referring to the 7th day Sabbath, I know the context is the “DAY of atonement”. They claim God made this command to be from “even unto even” specifically and only for the “day of atonement” because they were to afflict their souls and fast. One article I read said this way Israel would know they should eat their last meal just before sundown because they could not eat again until after the following sundown. That’s really irrelevant to the issue. The fact is notice what the previous passages say:

“Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month there shall be a **DAY** of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.²⁸ And ye shall do no work in that same **DAY**: for it is a **DAY** of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God.²⁹ For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same **DAY**, he shall be cut off from among his people.³⁰ And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same **DAY**, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.³¹ Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.³² It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.” (Lev 23:27-32)

In the above passage twice the word “*day*” was supplied so I italicized it as I know the opposition would cry foul but the other 5 times “DAY” is mentioned it is “yom”. When did the “Day of Atonement” begin? “in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.” Here we plainly see that the DAY that the children of Israel were to afflict their souls on was a full 24 hour period from sundown to sundown. The “night” was part of the “day” something they claim cannot be. They call this an “exception”. God is not the author of confusion giving some people only a few Sabbath hours while giving others more Sabbath hours. We will see that this is no exception but the way it always works.

*“And Moses wrote their **goings out** according to their journeys by the commandment of the Lord: and these are their journeys **according to their goings out**.³ And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the **fifteenth day** of the first month; on the **morrow after the passover** the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.” (Num 33:2-3)*

In the above we see that Israel left “Rameses” Egypt on the 15th DAY of the month. Now it says they left on the “morrow” after the Passover which some may assume means after sunrise but the term “morrow” doesn’t mean after the sun has come up. We can see this here:

*“Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt **by night**.” (Deut 16:1)*

This escape at “night” from Egypt can also be seen in the Exodus story. Now Lunar Sabbath keepers really confuse all of this because they believe Israel stayed in Rameses Egypt during the “daylight” portion of the 15th in order to observe the Sabbath which they claim always falls on the fifteenth of the month. The above scriptures I gave are enough to show that error so I won’t be going into it although I know they cry “translation error”. The point is that God brought the children of Israel out of Rameses on the 15th DAY of the month by NIGHT.

*“Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the Lord thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the Lord shall choose to place his name there.³ Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the **day** when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.⁴ And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou **sacrificedst the first day at even**, remain all night until the morning.” (DEut 16:2-4)*

In the above we see Israel was to “remember the **day** when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt” and that according to verse 1 the time of day was “night”. Now the Passover was to be sacrificed on the 14th day of the first month at even (sundown) but here we see it is said to take place on the “first day at even” and this “first day” is a reference to the “seven days” of unleavened bread. The 14th is not the “first day of unleavened bread”, the 15th is so how can this be? We are to guard the edges of the Sabbath referring to sundown as “evening” is a fairly broad term able to start well before sundown and going past sundown and because the sacrifice was performed at the very end of the 14th day it’s basically falling on both days, the end of the 14th

day and the start of the 15th day. The Day of Atonement began on the evening of the 9th but this is also the start of the 10th day. The 14th day is ending at even and the 15th day is beginning at even so this is why God can say the sacrifice was performed “the first day at even”. Thus we can see that the first day of unleavened bread began at “even” just as Atonement began at “even” so Atonement was not a special case. We can see this same idea in these texts:

*“Now the **first day** (day is supplied here) **of the feast of unleavened bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.20 Now when the **even was come**, he sat down with the twelve.” (Matt 26:17-20)*

*“And the **first day of unleavened bread**, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?(Mark 14:12)*

In the passage in Matthew “day” is supplied but rightly so as we see in Mark 14:12 “day” is not supplied but actually in the text. Just as Deut 16:4 shows the Passover was sacrificed on the “first day of unleavened bread”. This is important because in the “daylight only” doctrine the “first day of unleavened bread” didn’t start until sunrise the following morning but here we see it was starting at even. You can see more of this if you read Exo chapter 12.

*“And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That **this day**, even in **this night**, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.”(Mark 14:30)*

*“And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow **this day**, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.”(Luke 22:34)*

*“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock **by night**.9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all*

people.¹¹ For unto you is born **this day** in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:6-11)

The Greek word translated “this day” appears 41 times in the Bible and is always translated “this day or “to day”. As we can see these all took place at “night”. In Leviticus chapter 8 we have these important texts:

*“And Moses said unto Aaron and to his sons, Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and there eat it with the bread that is in the basket of consecrations, as I commanded, saying, Aaron and his sons shall eat it.³² And that which remaineth of the flesh and of the bread shall ye burn with fire.³³ And ye shall **not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you.**³⁴ As he hath done this day, so the Lord hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you.³⁵ Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation **day and night seven days**, and keep the charge of the Lord, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.” (Lev 8:31-35)*

In the above we can see that “seven days” is qualified to be “day and night”.

“And the priest shall look on him the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague in his sight be at a stay, and the plague spread not in the skin; then the priest shall shut him up seven days more:” (Lev 13:5)

Do you believe the leper was free at night to go about and do what he wants, where he wants?

*“In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.¹⁶ There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.¹⁷ Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?¹⁸ Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.¹⁹ And it came to pass, that **when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath**, I commanded that the **gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath**: and some of my*

servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.” (Neh 13:15-19)

In the above we can see that as the gates of Jerusalem “began to be dark” the gates were shut in order to prevent buying and selling on the Sabbath day. This was not done in the morning at sunrise but rather at even, at sunset. That’s because at even is when the Sabbath begins. This finishes this portion of the Bible study but I wanted to plainly show how the night is indeed part of the day. Do you realize the Bible never says something like “on the 23rd night of the 8th month” but rather always says “day”. On top of this according to the “daylight only” doctrine there is no word for a 24 hour period. These people also claim the Jews went astray on this issue in their apostasy but I have never seen any recorded evidence that they changed the time they kept Sabbath. This claim is also made by Lunar Sabbath keepers. I am unaware of any arguments in the Old Testament to prove the “daylight only” doctrine outside of the texts I have covered. There may be some but I’m confident they can be answered with what we have already learned.

This next portion of the study is going to go over the crucifixion event because the “daylight only” people seem to use this heavily as evidence for their position. Here is the basic point of their argument. Jesus died too late in the day, 3pm in today’s time, with sundown around 7pm, leaving only 4 hours to accomplish all the events of his burial before sundown. The claim is there just wasn’t enough time and all the events took place as the sun was going down and throughout the night finishing up just before sunrise when the Sabbath would begin. The first point I would like to make is I do not believe that it would have been illegal for them to take care of Jesus body after dark during Sabbath hours; however I do believe they accomplished everything before Sabbath hours began. I will first mention the two primary texts that are used in the crucifixion argument for a “daylight only Sabbath”.

*“When the **even** was **come**, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.” (Matt 27:57-58)*

*“And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on (**began to dawn**).” (Luke 23:53-54)*

In the first passage it is claimed that “even” is basically as the sun is disappearing while other texts also show that Pilate first had to get a centurion to prove Jesus was dead as he could not believe it. The obvious point is the sun is already going to be down before they can get Jesus in

the tomb. Couple this with the claim that “drew on” in Luke 23:54 should be translated “began to dawn” claiming the sun was about to rise starting the Sabbath day. This means Joseph and others worked all night to get Jesus in the tomb. Now it is claimed that even if “even” was much earlier than right at sundown there still wouldn’t be enough time. I should say this is the argument of at least one popular Lunar Sabbath site. Nevertheless I will still show that “even” in Matthew 27:57 doesn’t have to be at the last minutes of sundown.

*“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.¹⁵ And **when it was evening**, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.¹⁶ But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.¹⁷ And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.¹⁸ He said, Bring them hither to me.¹⁹ And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.²⁰ And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.²¹ **And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.**” (Matt 14:14-21)*

As the passages notes this took place “when it was evening”. Now there were 5000 men to feed plus women and children. Being very conservative it should be safe to say were dealing with potentially 8,000 or perhaps more than 10,000 people. 12 disciples were to disperse the food to the crowd and then the crowd had to eat, then the disciples had to gather up the fragments. Then notice what was next:

*“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and **when the evening was come**, he was there alone.” (Matt 14:22-23)*

Please note that both times “evening” is mentioned it is the same word. Now I can’t say exactly how long it took to do all of the above but there was enough time for this large multitude of people to be fed and the fragments cleaned up by 12 people. These passages shows us the broad meaning of “even”. Now as I said the website I read admitted this but I wanted to add it in case not all admit it. However that site still doesn’t believe everything could be accomplished. I

won't go over all the speculation they put into their story but you can clearly tell they had an agenda in their speculation. Here are some important facts from scripture:

“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” (John 19:31)

The Jews wanted the bodies down before Sabbath showing a rush of urgency.

“Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:” (John 19:32-33)

The soldiers came to break their legs that they may die quickly but found Jesus already dead which from what I have seen all agree was about 3pm.

*“And now when the **even was come**, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,⁴³ Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ And Pilate **marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.**⁴⁵ And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.” (Mark 15:42-45)*

A key point here is we do not know how long this took to get the information but the speculation that someone had to be sent to the cross and then come back is not true for the Jews had already had soldiers go to break their legs. The centurion could have returned to inform Pilate nearly when Joseph had arrived. When Pilate gave the order for the soldiers to go break their legs he didn't know Jesus was going to be dead when they arrived. We do not know exactly when the centurion arrived back to tell Pilate.

*“And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.⁴¹ **Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.**⁴² There laid they Jesus therefore because of the **Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.**” (John 19:38-42)*

Notice Joseph had a helper, and the tomb was “nigh at hand”. In the article I had read they speculated on the time it would take for Joseph to get the cloth but in reality we really don’t know. However we do know the preparation was not yet finished by the time they put Jesus in the tomb, as it says “therefore because of the Jews’ preparation day”. Thus it certainly wasn’t the middle of the night or even dark yet when Jesus was laid in the tomb. There really was plenty of time for all of this to be accomplished. In fact the idea that all of this took all night until near sunrise just isn’t plausible based on the scripture record as well as the events that needed to take place. Now let’s deal with the other text which says:

“And he (Joseph) took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.⁵⁴ And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on (**began to dawn?**).” (Luke 23:53-54)

The first question is why do they believe this should be translated “began to dawn” and refer to “sunrise”?

*“In the end of the sabbath, as it **began to dawn** toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.” (Matt 28:1)*

The Greek word in these two passages exists in scripture only these two times so we don’t have much to go on. As you can see in Matthew 28:1 it fits perfectly that the two Mary’s were coming to the tomb about sunrise. Now the “daylight only” people will point out the words “toward the first day of the week” claiming it could not be the first day of the week based on the word “towards”. Just do a search on this word so you can grasp the idea of it. Again thought inspiration has no issue with understanding the above passage.

*“And he (Joseph) took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And **that day was the preparation**, and the sabbath drew on (began to dawn?).⁵⁵ And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.⁵⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.” (luke 23:54-56)*

Please notice that just like John’s passage Luke’s passage says “that day was the preparation” which is referring to Joseph and all he was doing. Joseph accomplished his work during the preparation day not in the middle of the night when it was dark. Thus I believe the Greek word translated “drew on” is more than likely fine showing that the Sabbath was approaching. The Greek word according to Strong’s means “to begin to grow light”. There are many words in scripture that are translated in a way that fits the idea or thought of the word and I believe that may be the case here. The light (figuratively) of the Sabbath was approaching. Perhaps someone has a better approach to this word than I without denying that Joseph completed his work on the preparation day. My last witness to the truth will be from the Testimony of Jesus given through Ellen White:

*“At last Jesus was at rest. The long day of shame and torture was ended. **As the last rays of the setting sun ushered in the Sabbath**, the Son of God lay in quietude in Joseph's tomb. His work completed, His hands folded in peace, He rested through the sacred hours of the Sabbath day.” {DA 769.1}*

And:

*“While the **evening shades were gathering**, Mary Magdalene and the other Marys lingered about the resting place of their Lord, shedding tears of sorrow over the fate of Him whom they loved. "And they returned, . . . and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:56. {DA 774.1}*

And:

“I saw that it is even so: "From even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath." Said the angel: "Take the word of God, read it, understand, and ye cannot err. Read carefully, and ye shall there find what even is, and when it is. I asked the angel if the frown of God had been upon His people for commencing the Sabbath as they had. I was directed back to the first rise of the Sabbath, and followed the people of God up to this time, but did not see that the Lord was displeased, or frowned upon them. I inquired why it had been thus, that at this late day we must change the time of commencing the Sabbath. Said the angel: "Ye shall understand, but not yet, not yet." Said the angel: "If light come, and that light is set aside or rejected, then comes condemnation and the frown of God; but before the light comes, there is no sin, for there is no light for them to reject." I saw that it was in the minds of some that the Lord had shown that the Sabbath commenced at six o'clock, when I had only seen that it commenced at "even," and it was inferred that even was at six. I saw that the servants of God must draw together, press together.” {1T 116.1}