**Can we explain the “long days” of Joshua and Hezekiah?**

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| http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/sunset.jpg  “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since…”  —[Joshua 10:13-14](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh10.html#13)  In [Joshua 10](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh10.html), the Bible tells the story of the day when the sun--and time--stopped. The Israelites were fighting the [Amorites](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/amorites.html) in Canaan. During the battle, Joshua prayed for the sun and moon to stop, so he would have extra daylight to finish the task. Scripture records that this prayer was answered: The sun "delayed going down about a full day" (v. 13). The very objects in the sky that the Amorites worshipped fought against them!  Several modern interpretations of the story have been suggested:   * Some say there was no actual [miracle](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html), but only the use of poetic language. The Israelites had fought so hard that it just seemed like two days of work in a row! * Others propose that a cloud shaded the sun, keeping the day cool enough for the fighting to continue all through the afternoon. However, this relief from the heat would have benefited the enemy as much as Israel. * Similarly, a solar [eclipse](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/eclipse.html) has been suggested as causing reduced sunlight. But eclipses of the sun last for only a few minutes, not a whole day.   All of these explanations fall far short of the statement that there has never been another day like the one described ([Joshua 10:14](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/josh10.html#14), cf. [Habbakuk 3:11](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/hab3.html#11) - “…Sun and moon stood still in the heavens…”).  What *really* happened on that special day? As with all [miracles](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html), it is futile to speculate with scientific theories. The details are unclear, but we know that God could have refracted the light, or slowed the earth's rotation, or stopped the entire universe--all with equal ease!  Time stopped for Joshua, and it ran *backwards* for Hezekiah ([2 Kings 20:9-11](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2ki20.html#8)).  God used this event as a special sign to show Hezekiah that he would regain his health. The sun's shadow moved backwards by ten steps, probably five to six hours on the sundial. That is, the sun appeared to move eastward instead of westward. The conclusion is again the same, that such a [miracle](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html) is beyond scientific explanation.  God may have temporarily reversed the earth's rotation, including all its inhabitants, or the miracle in Hezekiah's day could have been local instead of worldwide. The latter view is supported by [2 Chronicles 32:31](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2chr32.html#31), which describes envoys who traveled to the land where the [miracle](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html) occurred.  Joshua and Hezekiah both made lofty requests of the Lord, that the very heavens might be altered. And God answered their prayers. The sun, moon, and stars obey the Creator who placed them in the sky by the power of his word.  **Also read**   * Have NASA's computers proven Joshua's long day? [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-a001.html) * Is it LOGICAL to believe that the biblical miracles really happened? [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/aiia-miracles2.html) * MIRACLES, more information and list of biblical miracles and our other article involving miracles - [Read](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html)   [ If this information has been helpful, please prayerfully consider a [donation](http://www.christiananswers.net/eden/donate.html) to help pay the expenses for making this faith-building service available to you and your family! Donations are tax-deductible. ]  Author: Dr. Donald DeYoung, Ph.D. (Physics) as excerpted from [*Astronomy and the Bible*](http://www.christiananswers.net/catalog/bk-astronomy.html), pgs. 53-54, published by Baker Book House Supplied by [Eden Communications](http://www.christiananswers.net/eden/home.html) (used with permission)  This page is located at: http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-c016.html  [Copyright ©](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) 1997, Eden Communications, All Rights Reserved - except as noted on attached [“Usage and Copyright”](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) page that grants ChristianAnswers.Net users generous rights for putting this page to work in their homes, personal witnessing, churches and schools. |