

Seeing

The number of words in a language that describes a single, particular concept seems to depend of where you live. For example, if you live in an area that is covered in dense tropical rain forests, there may be no word for “snow”. However, studies of the [Sami languages](#) of Norway, Sweden and Finland, conclude that these languages have anywhere from 180 snow- and ice-related words and as many as 300 different words for [types of snow](#), tracks in snow, and conditions of the use of snow.

I live in the eastern part of the United States, about halfway between permafrosts and rain forests. Our weather varies considerably. For example, it was 36° F this morning, so my husband cleared ice off of some of our car windows before he drove anywhere. The windows facing south needed only a cloth-wiping, but the ones facing east and west had to be scraped free of ice. In other words, it didn't take much work to see clearly out of some of them, but others took a bit of work. It all depended on the direction the windows were facing

All of this reminds me of the different interpretations of ancient Hebrew and how the meanings of some of the words are very clear, while others seem a bit blurry and need more work in order to be understood. It depends on which way I am “facing”: east or west. In the case of languages, whether I looking at the language from a Middle Eastern point of view or from a Western point of view.

Since the book of Genesis was written in the Middle East, I needed to adapt my “vision” to a Middle Eastern point of view.

Also, because any interpretation of the words in Genesis depend on the concept of “time”, I needed to understand the concept of time and how it was viewed by the original recipient of God's Word, i.e., Moses.

Western cultures view time as having a specific beginning and an ending. Time is viewed as finite. (Therefore, we have such things as “dead-lines”, i.e., times when things have to finished.) Westerners picture “the future” as somewhere “in front of us”, while “the past” is pictured as “behind us”.

Eastern cultures view time as being circular. (There are no “dead-lines”.) Time is viewed as infinite. These “circles” of time consists of such patterns as one week following the next, one year following the next, etc.) Easterners picture “the future” as being “behind them” (because the future

cannot be seen), while the past is pictured as “in front of them” (because it CAN be seen).

Moses was an Easterner. Therefore, he probably understood time to be circular...with repeating patterns. Yes, one week follows the next, and each week is a bit different from the last, but basically each week contains the same patterned elements...as did each year. (Sort of like having the same pattern of months every year, the same elements of events in those months, etc., but each element slightly different.)

God speaks to each of us in the way that we can best understand Him.

In the story of the Christian Pentecost, the Holy Spirit (God) spoke to each person in his or her own language.

How do you think God spoke to Moses, who understood life as an Easterner? If the book of Genesis was originally written by Moses, it was written according to time an Easterners saw it.

Therefore, we must look at the language that Moses used when he recorded what God told him.

When I used ancient Hebrew pictographs to look at the book of Genesis, I found many timelines in its pages (Western timelines—probably because I’m a Westerner—but, with each timeline circular in nature (probably because I was using two different ways to look at it.(I can only see two things at a time.)

Bear with me, here...

It’s a lot like the way we see. If you close one eye, you only see a single image. When you look at something with both eyes open, you see two images superimposed on one another. In other words, you see the “depth” that was missing by using only one eye.

Creation and Evolution, superimposed on one another gives “depth” to what is in the book of Genesis. Creation and Cellular development, superimposed on one another gives “depth” to the book of Genesis.

Only God can see ALL of the timelines, all at once. Amen.