

The Day The Earth Stood Still - Article by Rob Lund

As some of you know, there is a reference in one of the rituals to the following biblical passage:
“Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. 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 hasted not to go down about a whole day.”

There are two references: one in Joshua and the other in Habakkuk.
The first question I had is whether this is myth, or does it have some basis in fact? Knowing what we do today, it is reasonable to infer that, since both the sun and moon appeared to stand still, that it would actually be the Earth that stopped rotating or slowed down. Since this would be a global phenomenon, one would expect, if it is a fact, that there would be similar reports from around the world. Well, there are.

There are other myths that lend credence to the story. Ovid's epic work “Metamorphoses”, telling the tale of Phaeton's Chariot, makes reference to a day being lost. This legend originated with the Phoenicians—the same people Joshua was fighting. The Chinese had a legend of the sun standing still. The historian Herodotus recorded that the priests of Egypt showed him a temple record recounting a day that was twice as long as normal. Chinese history records that an ancient king, Yao, declared that during his reign there was a day when the sun stood so long above the horizon that they feared the world would be set on fire.
In Immanuel Velikovsky's 1950 controversial book “Worlds in Collision”¹, he makes mention of the Mexican annals of Cuauhtitlan which refer to a cosmic catastrophe that occurred in the distant past at which time the night did not end for a long time.

There are many more such references, but space does not permit me to state them all. I think there's enough corroborating evidence to indicate that the phenomenon actually did occur.

The next question I had was: what could cause such a phenomenon? Velikovsky's theory was that at some time in the middle of the second millennium B.C., the earth was interrupted in its regular rotation by a comet. He goes on to theorize that the planet Venus was that comet, which was subsequently captured into

orbit around the sun. I don't believe that that was the case, simply because of its current position in AU's (Astronomical Units—the distance from the sun in relation to the other inner planets).
So what else could have caused it?

Zechariah Sitchin proposes that, based on his translation of ancient Sumerian tablets which tells of the planet Nibiru, the home of the gods, which has an orbit of 3600 years, and has regularly created cosmic catastrophes in the past. One of its moons may have collided with ancient earth, splitting it in two (scientists now believe that such a collision did happen). Because of the huge forces that would be required, I rule out a comet. It would have to be a large body. However, could this happen without tearing the earth apart or destroying most of it?

The following webpage has some calculations to show the amount of energy required to slow the earth down: <http://www.halexandria.org/dward233.htm>. It also suggests that it may only have been the Earth's crust that was affected, requiring less energy. Whatever the cause, there is also evidence that it may also have slowed down the orbit of the Earth around the sun. It is suggested that it used to take the Earth 360 days to circle the Sun, based on old calendars, which had to add 5 days to them.

So.... myth or fact? Who knows for sure?
It certainly is interesting to think about though.

Notes:

¹ Velikovsky's books are well worth the read. One of his other controversial works “Earth In Upheaval”, describes cataclysmic events in living memory, much of which has since proved to be true.