

The Gap Theory **Gen 1:1-2**

Intro: First revived in the early 19th century by a Scottish theologian, Thomas Chalmers. The gap theory claims that the earth was created in perfection and beauty, but a cataclysm of some sort took place to make the earth w/o form and void. Many say this is when Satan was cast from heaven and came to the earth. Gap theorists include dinosaurs and the supposed billions of years that scientists say that earth has been here in this “gap.” The truths below not only debunk the Gap Theory, but they also disprove the following:

Day-Age Theory – the belief that each day of the Genesis account of creation represents a long period of time rather than a literal 24 hour period.

Theistic Evolution – the belief that God used the means of evolution to bring about things in existence.

Texts used to support the Gap Theory:

1- Jer 4:23-26

- “earth” - translated “land” (1543 times); “earth” (712); “country” (140); “ground” (98).
- Refers to the land of Judea
- Jeremiah likens it to the condition of the whole earth in Gen 1:2.
- If this is a reference to a cataclysm that made the original creation “without form and void”, then there were “birds” vs. 25, “fruit” vs. 26, and “cities” vs. 26 (implying that there were humans).

2- Isa 14:9-20

- Likening this king to Lucifer as Jesus likened Peter to him when He said “Get thee behind me, Satan.”
- Satan was already in Heaven
- Vs. 16 “man” - Satan is not a man.
- Vs. 17 “destroyed the cities” – If this text is interpreted as a description of the cataclysmic event between Gen 1:1 and 1:2, then there was a pre-adamic race of people.
- Vs. 18-19 – Speaks of him being one of the kings of the earth.
- Vs. 19 speaks of his grave.

3- Isa 24:1

- In context, Isaiah is talking of judgment upon Israel.
- Again, if this speaks of a cataclysmic judgment, there were “inhabitants.”
- Could be prophetic of Rev 16.**

4- Isa 45:18

- I agree, and it does not do away with the thought that God created it in stages as He clearly did Adam. Adam was a form but was void of life until God breathed into him the breath of life.
- This verse just declares that God did not make this world for nothing or “in vain”, but to be inhabited.
- God did not create this world to be useless or for no reason.

5- Ezek 28:12-15

- Directly interpreted as speaking of this king of Tyrus.
- No doubt a reference to Satan.
- Has no bearing on Gen 1:1-2

6- 2 Pet 3:5-6

- Again, sounds like a reference to Noah’s flood - we know that the world was overflowed with water and perished.

7- Genesis 1:28

- God told Adam to “replenish” the Earth.
- Those who support the gap theory say that this indicates that the Earth had been previously inhabited.
- The Hebrew word used here means “to fill” or “to be full.”
- In modern English, we understand the word to mean “refill” which would indicate that the Earth had been full of people before Adam.
- However, if you were to go back to the English used in 1611 when our KJV was translated, the word “replenish” meant “to fill.”
- In Webster’s 1828 dictionary, the definition for “replenish” says “1. To fill; to stock with numbers or abundance.”
- This lets us know that even into the 1800’s the English word “replenish” simply meant “to fill” and not “refill.”
- Another example of the changing of English definitions over the centuries is found in 2 Thess 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. In modern English, the word “letteth” means “to allow.” But the Old English word meant “to hinder.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary gives the number 5 definition as follows: “5. To retard; to hinder; to impede; to interpose obstructions. 2 Thess. 2. [This sense is now obsolete, or nearly so.]” This lets us know that by 1828 the English word had almost lost its old meaning.

Problems with the Gap Theory:

1- It is just a theory - cannot be proven.

- Its main purpose has been to try to harmonize the Biblical chronology with the accepted system of geological ages.
- It is an effort to harmonize what scientists used to call “facts” and the Bible.
- C.I. Scofield acknowledges this in the footnotes of his Bible: page 3 number 2 “geologic ages” & page 4 number 3 “no conflict of science”.
- Most, if not all, of these so-called “facts” have since been disproved.

2- Assumes that death, suffering, pain, disease, and thorns came before Adam

- Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- 1 Cor 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
- Thorns came after the curse: Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;
- Creation has only suffered since sin: Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

3- Assumes that there were humans before Adam.

- 1 Cor 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

4- Assumes that the earth is very old.

- Science does not back this up.
- Archaeologist/Anthropologist Colin Renfrew says: "The Egyptian king lists go back to the First Dynasty of Egypt, a little before 3000 B.C. Before that, there were no written records anywhere."
- Radiocarbon Dating: Robert Lee 1981 "The troubles of the radiocarbon dating method are undeniably deep and serious... It should be no surprise, then, that fully half of the dates are rejected. The wonder is, surely, that the remaining half come to be accepted"
- Evolutionist William Stansfield: "There is no absolutely reliable long-term radiological clock."
- All communities, metallurgy, ceramics, construction, written language, and so on appeared at essentially the same time, only several thousand years ago, probably in the Middle East.
- Human populations indicate a recent origin. From one man and one woman and the population increase at 2 percent per year (current worldwide rate in 1982) it would reach current world population in 1,100 years. If man has been upon this earth a million years or more, there must have been trillions who lived and died. Where are their bones?
- A study of a timeline of the lives of people from the first man, Adam, to today reveals the earth is about 6,000 years old.

-Lots of physical evidences for recent creation:

- 1- Decay of the earth's magnetic field
- 2- Buildup of atmospheric radiocarbon
- 3- Efflux of helium into the atmosphere
- 4- Influx of uranium, nickel, and other chemical elements and ions into the ocean
- 5- The breakup of comets
- 6- Influx of cosmic dust

5- The word is “was” not “became” “without form and void”.

- We should just take what the KJV says.
- It is the Hebrew verb of being (hayetha).
- It is not the word normally used to denote a change of state (haphak).
- It simply means “was” in 98 % of its occurrences.

6- The phrase “without form and void” does not imply a cataclysm.

- “ruined and desolated” would indicate that a change had taken place.
- “without form” implies that God was not finished molding it as He did when he separated the waters and the land. He also formed man out of it.
- “void” implies empty or uninhabited.

7- Scriptures teach in a literal 7 day creation.

- Ex 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- This is clear as a bell.
- God created EVERYTHING (includes all things) in 6, literal, 24 hour days.