

## The “Gap Theory” refuted

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### History & premise:

In 1795 James Hutton, an avowed atheist wrote a book entitled “Theory Of The Earth” in which he stated that the earth was millions of years old. This caused many Christians to doubt that the earth was 6,000 years old as it was commonly believed at that time.

Many Christians bought this lie, which contradicted and cast doubt upon God’s word. They then sought to reconcile the bible to this theory instead of using the bible to test the wisdom of man.

**1 Corinthians 3:19** “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

In 1814 Thomas Chalmers, a Scottish preacher and member of the Masonic Temple invented the “Gap Theory”; suggesting that there was a gap of time between **Genesis 1:1** and **1:2**. He suggested that in this gap of millions or even billions of years, a previously unknown people group and world could have existed and that this pre-Adamic group of people rebelled against God and were subsequently wiped out and destroyed in God’s judgment of this “pre-historic” world, and that God essentially started over.

In 1859 Darwin published his book “Origen Of The Species” causing many to doubt the creator. By this time many had accepted the idea of millions or billions of years. Some have since suggested this theory as a means to accommodate or advance some form of “Theistic Evolution”. Others have suggested that it was in this “gap” of time that God created the angelic host and that in this time span Lucifer rebelled, taking 1/3 of the angles with him, and that these events cannot be explained apart from the “gap theory”. Proponents of this theory assert that this theory allows for all the geological eras to take place.

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I personally have chosen to interpret the Bible as literally as possible; the plain reading is the plain meaning.

- The plain reading of the text would never bring you to assume or understand that there was a gap in between the two verses. We would simply progress from verse one to verse two as part of an uninterrupted continuum.
- If in this case a “day” is not a “day”, but actually refers to some other spiritualized definition i.e.: millions or billions of years then why wouldn’t it follow that “salvation” is not literal either? If the common meaning of the words that God used to communicate to us are set aside, if they are given figurative or symbolic definitions how then can we rightly interpret the rest of the Bible? What or who is Jesus? Is Heaven real? Where does it end? I believe that the plain reading reveals the plain meaning, literally?

**Genesis 1:5** “... And the evening and the morning were the first day.” As opposed to “a” day or “one” day.

- Other versions of the Bible translate this same scripture “one day”. (NASB, NIV, AMP, RSV, ASV) This is because the translators of these Bibles did not believe in a literal 6 days of creation.
- Proponents of the gap theory try to use **Psalm 90:4** and **2 Peter 3:8** to bolster their case.

**Psalm 90:4** “For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”

**2 Peter 3:8** “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

- Both of these scriptures are intended to be figurative; they also both refer to “thousands” as opposed to “millions” etc., unless of course we change the meanings.
- Neither of these scriptures in context particularly relates to creation but in fact describes that time does not matter to God, that He is beyond the constraints of time, space, or matter; He is truly timeless.

**Genesis 1:1** “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

- Notice that it is written “heaven” singular and “earth” singular – not earths as in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Genesis 1:2** “And the earth was without form, and void; ....”

- Without form and void; unformed and unfilled as opposed to “destroyed” as the proponents of the gap theory suggest.

“Without form” (H-8414). “tohuw”, (to'-hoo); formless, confusion, wilderness, waste; as in wasteland. Used 19 times in the Bible none of which refer to “destruction”.

“Void” (H-922) “bohuw” (bo-hoo); to be empty, a vacuity, void, not filled. Only used 3 times in the bible, each time indicating emptiness, not related to destruction.

- Nothing in the meaning of these words supports the supposition of a previously existent and subsequently destroyed world prior to the one that we know presently.

**Genesis 1:28** “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth....”

- In the KJV translation there is a foot note that indicates that “replenish” means “fill”.
- In our current or modern language “replenish” means to fill again or to re-fill. But in 1611 that was not the current meaning of the word, some words change meaning

over time. When I was young “gay” meant happy and care free, today it is a reference to homosexuality.

- In 1611 the word “replenish” meant “to fill”. By 1650 a second definition “to re-fill” was added to the definition. At that point “to fill” was the primary meaning, and “to re-fill” was a secondary definition. For hundreds of years the word “replenish” was used primarily to mean “to fill”. In 1892 the order of these definitions was switched where “to fill” became a secondary definition. Later still the meaning “to fill” was dropped in lieu of “to re-fill” because that was the common usage of the word because the English language is constantly changing.
- Another example is in **James 2:3** where the phrase “**gay clothing**...” is meant to mean happy, good, or cheerful attire as opposed to homosexual attire. **Romans 1:13** “but was let hitherto” meaning they were hindered. Let now means the opposite of hindered.

### Comparison to other scriptures:

**1 Corinthians 2:12-13** <sup>12</sup>“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. <sup>13</sup>Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

1. **1 Corinthians 15:45** “And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”
  - Was Adam the first man or not?
2. Trying to account for the fossil records in this “gap” of time would indicate that all these men and animals perished in this other world – which contradicts God’s word.

**Romans 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 Corinthians 15:21-22** <sup>21</sup>For since by man came death, by Man came also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

- Death entered by one man, Adam; and reigned from Adam to Moses.
  - If sin and death preceded Adam, then basically God’s word is not true.
  - In a sense getting past verse one, but never getting to verse 2.
  - The gap theory asserts that sin and death took place in between verses 1 and 2 prior to the creation of Adam.
3. **Exodus 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.”

- The Lord made the heaven and the earth in six days, and everything in them which would include the angelic host.
- For anyone to say that Lucifer existed and fell from Heaven before this has a conflict with this verse.

**Exodus 31:17** “It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for ever; for in six days the Lord made heaven (singular) and earth (singular), and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

4. **Revelation 21:1** “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.”

- This is still the 1<sup>st</sup> heaven and the 1<sup>st</sup> earth.
- As opposed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> heavens & earths...

5. The gap theory is not needed to explain or accommodate the creation of the angelic host:

**Job 38:4-7** “<sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

- The angels, including Lucifer, were present as the foundations of the earth were laid. Referring to day 3, **Genesis 1:9** when the dry land appeared.
- This means that the angels were probably created on day 1 or 2.

6. **Hebrews 1:14** “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

- Why would God create these ministering spirits to minister to us millions of years before we existed if that was His plan?

7. **Ezekiel 28** describes the creation and fall of Lucifer, and that he was in the Garden of Eden prior to his fall.

**Ezekiel 28:12-15** “<sup>12</sup>... Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup>Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and

gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. <sup>14</sup>Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup>Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

- Eden wasn't created until day six. Lucifer was in the garden prior to his fall. Lucifer couldn't have fallen from Heaven between verses 1 & 2 because Eden hadn't been made yet.

8. **Genesis 1:31** “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

- At this point Lucifer exists as a created being, but not yet in a fallen state. If he has already fallen, then he / everything is not good. His fall must have taken place some time after the sixth day.
- Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born, plenty of time passed after day six to accommodate the fall of Satan before the fall of man.

Once again, I believe that the plain reading reveals the plain meaning – literally.