

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 3

Lesson 36

GAP THEORY PART 1

10 April, 2015

Read 2 Peter 3:3-7

“Whereby the world that then was...perished.” (vs. 6)

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now...are...reserved unto fire against the day of judgment.” (vs.7).

Read Genesis 1:1-5

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (vs. 1)

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep.” (vs. 2).

TWO POSITIONS:

NO GAP: God created everything in Genesis 1:1 in six days. We can count backward from the birth of Jesus Christ to the first day in Genesis 1:1 and count four thousand years. Day one is the first day that God ever did anything in all of eternity. **“The world that then was”** (2 Pet. 3:6) would refer to the world from Genesis 1:1 until the flood in Noah’s day destroyed it.

GAP: God created the heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1), which is **“The world that then was”** (2 Pet. 3:6). Then a great catastrophe occurred that caused God to judge that creation and bring it into chaos and darkness (Gen. 1:2) and an overflow of water (2 Pet. 3:6). Then in Genesis 1:3 God began to create **“the heavens and the earth, which are now”** (2 Pet. 3:7) and He accomplished it in 6 literal 24 hour days.

A catastrophe in Genesis 1:2 puts a gap in our time chronology, which some believe lends support to the theory of evolution, which relies on a very old earth (millions of years old, etc.). But we can’t change or ignore what the Bible says just because someone may use it to support their false beliefs. We ought to believe the Bible over and above the teachings of science.

FIVE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS REGARDING THE AGE OF THE EARTH

1. We have a very old earth, a very old human race, and no God. The earth evolved, man evolved, and there never was a God.
2. We have a very old earth and a very old human race and somewhere in back of it all is GOD (theistic evolution). God only started the creation on a small scale (amoebas and pond scum) and then He left it alone to see what would happen over time.
3. We have a very young earth and a very young human race created by GOD.
4. We have a very old earth and a very young human race as taught by science.
5. We have a very old earth and a very young human race, both created by GOD—with a gap—in-between the two—about which the Bible has a little to say, but is relatively silent.

Food for thought: God did not create Adam to sit idly in the garden. He gave him a job immediately. God is obviously one who believes in keeping busy. Therefore it is not feasible that the eternal God Himself was sitting idly in eternity—doing nothing—until the day He created this earth. There is no reason to believe that this earth was God’s first job. The earth is finite (2 Pet. 3:10, Luke 21:33). God is eternal.

JOHN 1:1-5 God created everything. There is no evolution.

COL. 1:16-17 God created everything and He remains actively involved in His creation. He continues to hold everything together.

PSALM 139:16 God fashioned everything by His specific designs.

GENESIS 1:1-3

God created the heaven, the earth, and light, which matches the scientists' space, matter, and energy; the building blocks of every atom in the universe.

Out of space and matter, God formed Heaven (a place for man to dwell) and Earth (a place for man to dwell) (Genesis 1:8-10).

2 Peter 3:5-6

When the **"heavens were of old,"** the earth was partly flooded. The heavens that God made 6,000 years ago are not the heavens of old. The flood of Noah's day flooded the entire earth (Genesis 7:17-24).

FOUR QUESTIONS

1. In the Bible, darkness is always a result of God judging sin. Shouldn't we understand that the darkness in Genesis 1:2 was a result of God judging sin between verses 1 and 2?
2. Why aren't the heavenly creatures mentioned in the creation account? When did God create them? Isn't it possible that they were created before the six-day creation, especially since Satan shows up in the Garden?
3. Satan is a fallen tempter who has a following of fallen gods with him. Where did they come from and when did they fall? In all the days of creation except the second day, God saw that it was good. On the second day, God created the firmament—which is the dwelling place of the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). The fall of Satan must have already occurred before the creation account since it wasn't mentioned there and since God called everything he created on those six days "very good" (Gen. 1:31).
4. If the Lamb of God is the light of the universe (Rev. 21:23, 22:5), why is there darkness in Genesis 1:2 if nothing existed at that time except God? What turned the lights out?

EZEKIEL 28:12-17

The King of Tyrus refers to Satan since he **"has been in Eden the garden of God"** (vs. 13). The only ones who were ever in the garden were Adam, Eve, and the serpent (Satan according to Rev. 12:9). This passage looks back to the beauty and wisdom that was once found in this creature of God before pride brought him down out of the mountain of God.

ISAIAH 14:12-15

In this passage, in Lucifer's plan to overthrow God, He needs to ascend past the clouds, past the stars, and past heaven to get to God. Looks like an ascension in sinful pride that started from earth and defiled all of God's creation, plunging it into darkness.

JEREMIAH 4:23-28

This passage speaks of a time when the earth was **"without form, and void"** and there was **"no light"** AFTER all the **"cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce ANGER."** What used to be a fruitful place became a wilderness. This cannot be applied to the end of the Tribulation because it says "there was no man" (vs. 24). There will be men who survive the Tribulation and enter the millennium.

Bible verses that show us that darkness is always spoken of negatively: Gen. 15:12, Exod. 10:21-22, Deut. 28:28-29, 1 Sam. 2:9, Job 10:21-22, Matt. 8:12, 22:13, John 3:19, Rev. 16:10.

How can the darkness of Genesis 1:2 be a good thing when everywhere else in the Bible it identifies the consequence and the end result of God's judgment?

Genesis 9:1

After the destruction of the earth, God told Noah to "replenish the earth."

Genesis 1:24

God told Adam and Eve to "replenish the earth." That means that it WAS plentiful (full of men) and now it's not; make it so again. (New Bibles remove this important word).