



Why is it even important to examine the Gap Theory? "Does it even matter?," one might ask. This is not just a harmless theory. This is, in itself, an ATTACK on the WORD OF GOD ITSELF! It directly and underhandedly UNDERMINES THE **GOSPEL** to its very FOUNDATIONS as it allows for DEATH, BLOODSHED, DISEASE, and SUFFERING from SIN BEFORE ADAM'S SIN. It denies the Word of God which clearly tells us that man's SIN brought decay and death.

Romans 5:12 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 15:20-23 20 But now is Messiah risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah shall all be made alive.
23 But every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah's at his coming.

Romans 3:44 Certainly not: yea, let Elohim be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Just because "ruin-reconstruction" theorists want to square up with the fallible theories of scientists who have accepted the millions of years dating for the fossil record, they have DENIED THE VERY FOUNDATIONS of Scripture.



Psalms 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

In his book, *Earth's Earliest Ages*, Gap-Theory-promulgator George H. Pember suggested that the fossil record was "clear and compelling evidence of death, disease, ferocity, and even sin" all of which had occurred before Adam and Eve existed. He wrote: "For, as the fossil remains clearly show **not only** were disease and death "inseparable companions of sin" then prevalent among the living creatures of the earth, but even ferocity and slaughter." ... "Since, then, the fossil remains are those of creatures anterior to Adam, and yet show evident token of disease, death, and mutual destruction, they must have belonged to another world, and have a sinstained history of their own" (Earth"s Earliest Ages, George H. Pember; 1876, p. 35).

The bible is not ambiguous when it states that all people die because of Adam and Eve's original sin. All forms of Old-Earth creationism deny this, unthinkingly declaring that animals and prehistoric men died for millions and millions of years ... before Adam existed.

This also carries, with that theory, the implication that Adam was also doomed to physically die, regardless of sin. Gap Theory Proponents view death and struggle as a part of life that has existed since the beginning. In this alone should you decide whom you will serve! The case is settled now you must choose whom to believe: fallible man who wasn't there OR an infallible God who was.



THE WITNESS OF CHRIST

Concerning when CREATION occurred, we see in Mark 10:6 that Jesus said, "But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female." In these very words, Jesus clearly teaches that Adam and Eve were created in "the beginning of the creation"not after billions of years had passed. Also, the expression "beginning of the creation" rules out any "re-creation" or "second start" as taught by many gap theorists.



THE WITNESS OF BIBLICAL HISTORY

In a strong testimony, time itself bears record against this gap theory. Adam, Moses, Job, David, Jesus through the gospel writers, and all the other men and women of the bible do not seem to mention this most important catastrophic event of the pre-Adamic world.

NOT A SINGLE BIBLICAL WRITER MENTIONS AN INKLING OF THIS (what would be a) MOMENTOUS EVENT. Some refer to the Noachian deluge (Flood) but this other world calamity is not mentioned. Why is that? Maybe the bible doesn't agree with the gap theory! Tomes of silence echo in the halls of Truth!

Yet, where the bible is silent the inventions of men have shouted they know more than God's Word reveals! A famous nineteenthcentury expression of the Reformation was: "We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent" (which follows the pattern set forth in *1 Peter 4*:11).

1 Peter 4:11 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of Elohim; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which Elohim giveth: that Elohim in all things may be glorified through Yahshua Messiah, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.



THE WITNESS OF JEWISH HISTORY

The Churches that put forth the gap theory assert that "the earliest supposed recorded controversy on this point can be attributed to Jewish sages at the beginning of the second century." (Take notice that this admits the first argument of silence that the 6 day creation was not questioned by the biblical writers themselves.)

The Gap-Theorist corporate churches, of our genre, tell you that Hebrew scholars who wrote the Targum of Onkelos, the earliest of the Aramaic versions of the Old Testament, translated Genesis 1:2 as "and the earth was laid waste."

But is this entirely true? Let us look at the foundations this THEORY is built upon. The first translation of this Targum that we looked at said differently ... in fact it used "was waste and empty" - indicating it was created that way up to that point.

In the table below we print an excerpt from the Targum of Onkelos as translated by J.W. Etheridge. Something can be 'lay waste' until the worker puts his hand to the plow.

It does not necessarily mean it was previously good and ordered and then became wasted by something. A chunk of marble lays waste until the sculptor chisels his masterpiece or it can 'be laid waste' afterwards - so the word 'waste' has no bearing either way. So again, we see the legs and feet of the Gap Theory are feeble, more miry clay mixed with a bit of iron, and cannot stand the light of scrutiny.

Would you build a doctrine off this? Theories and suppositions can get us in deep doctrinal trouble ... the scriptures admonish us to not go beyond what is written.

1 In the first times the Lord created the heavens and the earth. 2. And the earth was waste and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the abyss; and a wind from before the Lord blew upon the face of the waters. Aramaic Targum of Onkelos translated to English by J.W. Etheridge



ADDITIONAL WITNESS OF LANGUAGE/ HEBREW GRAMMAR ON THIS VERSE

Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, the recognized textbook on the Hebrew language **opposes the gap** with a host of Hebrew Scholars as witnesses:

"A student writing a master's thesis on "Fundamental Christianity and Evolution" polled twenty leading Hebrew scholars in the united States, asking them if there were any exegetical evidences of a gap interpretation of Genesis 1:2. They unanimously replied in the negative." E. K. Gedney, Geology and the Bible, "Modern Science and Christian Faith", (Second Edition, 1950), p. 49



THE WITNESS OF CATHOLIC HISTORY

The next proof text put forth by Gapists is that the early Catholic theologian Origen (186-254), in his commentary De Principiis, surmised that the original earth had been "cast downwards" (Ante-Nicene Fathers, 1917, p. 342). This argument supposes much and proves nothing. In fact, let us look at the exact phrase Gapists refer to Origen speaking on the "foundation of the world":

Origen said, "This point, indeed, is not to be idly passed by, that the holy Scriptures have called the creation of the world by a new and peculiar name, terming it <greek>katabolh</greek>, which has been very improperly translated into Latin by "constitutio;" for in Greek <greek>katabolh</greek> signifies rather "dejicere," i.e., to cast downwards, ...'

First of all, the Catholic Origin is incorrect that the meaning of the word "foundation," or "katabole" in the Greek, means 'cast downwards' as a simple study will reveal:

The Bible Text uses "katabole," and NOT "kataballo," which is important! Strong's Greek Dictionary 2602. katabole katabolh katabole katab-ol-ay' from 2598; a deposition, i.e. founding; figuratively, conception:--conceive, foundation. See Greek 2598; Strong's Greek Dictionary 2598 kataballw kataballo kat-ab-al'-lo from 2596 and 906; to throw down:--cast down, lay. See Greek 2596. Although Strong's tries to connect the word katabole with kataballo the scriptures show differently by the usage of the words.
The katabole word in the Bible is used eleven (11) times. Ten of the eleven it is rendered "Foundation (katabole)" of the world (kosmos). The eleventh time is it used spells out distinctly its new testament use and meaning conception! Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive (katabole) seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Second of all, Origen didn't teach the Gap theory (although he believed in other worlds beginning and ending) and explains his position in the very same works "De Principiis." He wrote: "The particular points(1)

(1) clearly delivered in the teaching of the apostles are as follow:-- First, That there is one God, who created and arranged all things, and who, when nothing existed, called all things into being-God from the first creation and foundation of the world -- the God of all just men, of Adam, Abel, Seth, Enos, Enoch, Noe, Sere, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the twelve patriarchs, Moses, and the prophets;

... This also is a part of the Church's teaching, that the world was made and took its beginning at a certain time, and is to be destroyed on account of its wickedness. But what existed before this world, or what will exist after it [alluding to the new Earth in Revelation.], has not become certainly known to the many, for there is no clear statement regarding it in the teaching of the Church. ... [ORIGEN, DE PRINCIPIIS. PREFACE.4.] Origen continues:

1. And now, since there is one of the articles of the Church, which is held principally in consequence of our belief in the truth of our sacred history, viz. that this world was created and took its beginning at a certain time, and, in conformity to the cycle of time decreed to all things, is to be destroyed on account of its corruption, there seems no absurdity in re-discussing a few points connected with this subject.

And so far, indeed, as the credibility of Scripture is concerned, the declarations on such a matter seem easy of proof. Even the heretics, although widely opposed on many other things, yet on this appear to be at one, yielding to the authority of Scripture.... nevertheless the language of the narrator shows that all visible things were created at a certain UME. [ORIGEN, DE PRINCIPIIS. CHAP. V.--THAT THE WORLD TOOP

This is the BEST argument from this era that the Gap-ist can come up with? (The witness may step down - no further questions!)



THE WITNESS OF PROTESTANT HISTORY

Gap Theorist's say that the present idea of a gap of millions or billions of years can later be traced back to the rather obscure writings of the Dutchman Episcopius (1583-1643). We may add that Hutton"s Theory of the Earth (Edinburgh, 1788) was one of the first books to argue for an ancient earth and the closest thing to the modern gap theory was first recorded from one of Thomas Chalmers' lectures in 1814.

The best argument Gap Theorists have from the Protestant side of Christendom is found in Chalmers (1780-1847), a notable Scottish theologian and first moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

In the 19th century, it became popular to believe that the geological changes occurred slowly, and roughly at the present rate (uniformitarianism). There have been many attempts over the years to harmonize the Genesis account of creation with accepted geology (and its teaching of billions of years for the age of the earth), such as "theistic evolution" and "progressive creation."

The gap theory was another significant attempt by Christian theologians to reconcile the time scale of world history found in Genesis with the popular belief that geologists provide "undeniable" evidence that the world is exceedingly old (billions of years). Rev. William Buckland, a geologist, did much to popularize the idea to square the text with his science. The idea was also attributed to Cyrus Scofield in the 20th.

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

The basic reason for developing and promoting the gap theory can be seen from the following very telling quotes from Protestantism:

Scofield Study Bible: "Relegate fossils to the primitive creation, and no conflict of science with the Genesis cosmogony remains." Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: "When men finally agree on the age of the earth, then place the many years (over the historical 6,000) between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, there will be no conflict between the Book of Genesis and science."

You see, it wasn't in seeking God or His Truth but after answers to what they saw with their eyes on the world (walking not by faith as instructed but rather by sight). They took the bible and then saw a conflict with man's science. So they modified the Bible to fit into their science when we should be doing the opposite.

These promulgators of the Gap did not base their claim on what the Bible said, nor the claim of earlier Christians, but on the THEORIES of men and their new secular antigod view. Again, the weakness of the witness for pro-gap is obvious to all who seek truth.

"If human science is inconsistent with the sacred record, so much the worse for human science." - Rev Gardiner Spring, "God"s First Work. Geological Theories" Watchman and Observer 6.29 (May 8, 1851). 153. Spring rejected both the Day-Age and Gap theories as forcing the text beyond the bounds of plausible interpretation.

No matter what the Gap-Promoting men postulate, if they cannot square it with the rest of the scriptures in harmony, they can neither then assert their theory as viable or valid. The Young Earth six day creation view has been the majority position throughout the history of the church and was held with virtual unanimity by the reformers.

It is the view that was held without known exception by the authors of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms. Today, even with the rise of alternative theories, the twenty-four hour day view remains the majority position in conservative churches today.

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

Okay, let us get back to the biblical text - which is our prime witness today, as it should always be.



THE 'BECAME Vs WAS' CONTROVERSY

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

Hayah/Hayetha One of the major supports for the Gap Theory is the fact that the Hebrew word "hayetha" or "hayah", which is translated "was" in Genesis 1:2 can also be translated "became".

An example of this is found in Genesis 19:26 which states, "But his wife looked back from him and **became** a pillar of salt." There are five other instances of this type of translation within the Torah.

In Genesis 3:20, "hayetha" is translated "was" but would probably fit the context better if it were translated "became": "and Adam called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living."

Based on these instances, the proponents of the theory feel that it would be satisfactory to translate Genesis 1:2, "and the earth became without form and void." This translation, according to the theory, would appear to indicate that something had happened which had turned God's original creation into chaos.

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

A foundation for a doctrine would be built on shifting sands if it hinged upon this single word and its varied meaning.

hayah--(Strong's 1961)--"TO BE, TO EXIST...to become, to be made or done...to exist, to come to pass..." (H.W.F. Gesenius, Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament, p.221)

While it may be said that the supporters of the Gap Theory have a seemingly good argument, the light of Scripture refutes their arguments entirely. In response to the idea that "hayetha" should be translated "became" instead of "was," opponents of the theory point to the Scriptures.

While it is true that the translation "became" occurs six times in the Pentateuch, in each of these times the text clearly shows that a change took place [CONTEXT]. An example of this is found in Genesis 3:22, which reads, "and the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil."

There is no clear textual indication of a change taking place in Genesis 1:2. Also, while "hayetha" is translated "become" six times in the Pentateuch(Torah), it is translated "was" 258 times. In fact, in a broad overview of the entire Old Testament, the translation "became" appears 64 times while "was" appears 4900 times. (10) On the weight of numbers alone, a switch would seem very unnecessary.

Gen 1:2 And the earth WAS [hyh =hayah] without form, and void; and darkness as upon the face of the deep And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there BE [hyh =hayah] light: and there was light.

Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it SHALL BE [hyh =hayah] for meat.

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

A very telling use of the word is found when Moses asks YHWH what His name is. Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM [hyh =hayah] THAT I AM [hyh =hayah]: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto YOU.

Now did he mean "I became that I became?" Question: Did He **BECOME? EVER? Or He always** WAS? Had He BECAME or did He always exist (WAS)? Doesn't this say ... "I exist that I always existed?" Or "I AM because I **ALWAYS WAS (or HAVE BEEN)"?**

I think this all shows that the word can be rendered "was" yet, as we have said, we do not dare build a foundational doctrine on a single word and have other proofs to share with the reader. (Remember, to use the "became" translation one does also have to accept the proposition that sin, suffering and death occurred before Adam's sin; which is provably false, as clearly shown in undisputed bible texts.)


Genesis 1:2 "Was" or "Became" In Light Of Jonah 3:3

Jonah 3:3 offers an exact grammatical parallel to Gen 1:1,2: "Jonah arose and went to Ninevah...now Ninevah was an exceeding great city of three days journey."

Obviously Ninevah did not <u>become</u> a great city due to Jonah entering it. Just as Ninevah was already a great city prior to Jonah entering it, the condition of the earth stated in Genesis 1:2 is the same condition as God initially created it in Genesis 1:1--unformed and unfilled.



CREATE, CREATED, CREATING

The translation of Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." is used by some "Gap-ists" to state that God had completed this creation (and it fit well with their translation of the word Hayah previously discussed.) Does the word *created* mean completed?



God Begins His Creating

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen 1:1 KJV)

"In the beginning of God's preparing the heavens and earth...." (Gen 1:1 Young's literal translation)

"At the beginning of God's creating of the heavens and the earth..." (Gen 1:1 *Five Books of Moses*, Schocken Bible Vol. 1)

This tells us that God's work was, as yet, incomplete. He was in the midst of creating! The heavens and earth yet unformed and unfilled, the earth being merely a water-covered dark mass at this point: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Gen 1:2 KJV)

Gap theorists will still cling to their man made myth by reciting Isaiah 45:18 "...he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited "KJV ("not in vain" is translated from the Hebrew word tohu meaning waste or formless). This statement is entirely true. God didn't form the earth to be uninhabited, but as of Genesis 1:2, He wasn't done creating the finished product yet!



UNFORMED AND UNFILLED

Was the earth and all that is in it created all at once, or was it originally yet unformed ("without form"--"tohu") and unfilled ("void"--"bohu") at one time (that is, the initial unfinished creation of Gen 1:2), and had yet to be formed and filled over the six day period spoken of in Gen 1?

IS THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT REAL?

The days spoken of in Genesis 1 show the forming of the earth (days 1-3) and the filling of it (days 4-6), and these days correspond to one another. Notice: The Six Days of Creation

Day	Formed	Day	Filled
1	Light - Day ONE: Let there be lightday and night created (Gen 1:3-5)	4	Lights - Day FOUR: God made two great lightsone to fill the day (sun), one to fill the night (moon). (Gen 1:14-19) This first day of filling His creation corresponds to His first day of forming His creation (Day 1 "Light" and Day 4 "Lights")
2	Seas and Heavens - Day TWO: God separated the waters, thus forming the heaven above and the sea below (Gen 1:6-8)	5	Sea Life and Fowls of the Air - Day FIVE: God filled the waters He formed with all sorts of sea life and filled the heaven He formed with all sorts of fowls of the air. (Gen 1:20-23) This second day of filling His creation corresponds to His second day of forming His creation (Day 2 "waters below, waters above" and Day 5 "sea life and flying things")
3	Land and Vegetation - Day THREE: God gathered all the waters of below together and thus formed the dry land. He then named the water "Seas" and the land "Earth." He also formed the vegetation of the land. (Gen 1:9-13)	6	Land Animals and Man -Day SIX: God filled the land He formed with all sorts of living land animals, and of course, with man as well. (Gen 1:24-31) This third day of filling His creation corresponds to His third day of forming His creation (Day 3 "land" and Day 6 "land animals and man")

Elohim (Yahweh)

Elohim(Yahweh)

Heaven

Elohim(Yahweh) Heaven

Earth

Heaven



Spirit of Elohim

Heaven

Spirit of Elohim

Earth

Heaven

Spirit of Elohim

Spirit of Elohim



Earth

Heaven

Spirit of Elohim

Spirit of Elohim



Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Universe

The ancient Israelites divided the world into Heaven, Earth, Sea, and the Underworld.

They viewed the sky as a vault resting on foundations—perhaps mountains—with doors and windows that let in the rain. God dwelt above the sky, hidden in cloud and majesty.

The world was viewed as a disk floating on the waters, secured or moored by pillars. The earth was the only known domain—the realm beyond it was considered unknowable.

The Underworld (Sheol) was a watery or dusty prison from which no one returned. Regarded as a physical place beneath the earth, it could be reached only through death.

GOD **HEAVEN OF HEAVENS** AVE HEAVENS HEAVENS 4 GATE WATERS ABOVE THE FIRMAMENT THE SKY WINDOWS AND DOORS OF HEAVEN MOON CLOUDS STARS EARTH MOUNTAINS MOUNTAINS SEA SEA FOUNDATIONS OF FOUNDATIONS OF THE HEAVENS SHEOL THE HEAVENS FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH THE GREAT DEEP

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Thus in six days, the heavens and the earth, which were unformed and unfilled at their initial conception, were formed and filled. Day SEVEN: And God rested the Seventh Day from all His labors



EMPTINESS: WITHOUT FORM AND VOID

In Genesis 1;2 the words "without form and void" are "tohu" (Strong's #8414) meaning wasteland as in uninhabited, wilderness, desolation ... and "bohu" (Strong's #922) meaning to be empty, a vacuity.



"LUCIFERIC FLOOD"













