

## BOOK OF GENESIS – Part 2

### Genesis 1:1-2

1/18/23

- Tonight – Opportunity to give a Bible study
  - Series – Book of Genesis – Part 2
  - Title – Genesis 1:1-2
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- Last Wednesday's Bible study – YouTube video titled "Is Genesis History?" – 30 minutes  
youtube.com – March 26, 2020 – entire video = 1 hour and 44 minutes
  - Here were 4 main conclusions from last week's video
    1. The video used geology to conclude that the Noah flood was a global flood
    2. The video used geology to accept creation – instead of evolution
    3. The video concluded that the Genesis 1 creation occurred in 6 days
    4. The video supported a "young earth" scenario
  - Last Saturday, one of my friends asked me if I was believing the "young earth" scenario
  - My response to him included the following thoughts
    - I mentioned – I was taught the gap theory in college – leaning toward "old earth"
    - The "old earth" versus "young earth" discussion had not aroused any passion
    - Because of this Bible study series – I began looking back at Genesis 1:1-2
    - Because of this Bible study series – I recognized weaknesses in the gap theory
    - The weaknesses have always been there – but I hadn't been studying the subject
- One could ask: "Is the purpose of this study to change my perspective about Genesis 1?"
- My answer – No sir and No ma'am
- One could proclaim: "I can make a much stronger case for my perspective"
- My response – "Of course, you can; I am not trying to sway to a particular theory"
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- "Day-Age" creation
    - "Days" were longer than 24 hours – (of thousands or millions of years)
  - "Gap theory"
    - Proponents had an interest in reconciling the Bible with fossils
    - Proponents generally believe in 6 literal days
    - 6 literal days – but a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2
    - Genesis 1:1 = a creation
    - Genesis 1:2-31 = a type of re-creation – judgment – ruin and re-creation
    - Perfection – chaos – perfection again
  - "Young earth" creation
    - Original creation occurred – entire chapter of Genesis 1
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Gen. 1:1                    in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth  
2                    the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the  
   deep—the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters

1.        Basic test #1 – Check different translations

The James Moffatt translation – “When God began to form the universe, the world was void and vacant, darkness lay over the abyss”

The Holy Scriptures (according to the Masoretic Text) – “Now the earth was unformed and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep . . . ”

The Interlinear Bible (Hebrew, Greek and English) – “And the earth being without form and empty, and darkness on the face of the deep . . . ”

2.        Basic test #2 – Language (Hebrew)

·            “was” – “became”

Gen. 1:2                    “was” – Hebrew “hayah” (1961) – to exist, become  
Gen. 2:7,10                “became” a living soul – “became” four river heads  
Gen. 3:22                    has “become” as one of us

·            “without form and void”

Gen. 1:2                    without form (tohu – #8414) and void (bohu – #922)  
Jer. 4:23                    I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form (tohu – #8414) and void  
   (bohu – #922) – and the heavens, they had no light  
24-25                    trembling mountains – man and birds fled  
26                    cities were broken down – fierce anger of the Lord  
Isaiah 45:18                thus says the Lord – “I am the Lord and there is no other”  
   6 descriptions – who created the heavens – who is God – who formed the  
   earth and made it – who has established it – who did not create it in  
   vain (tohu – #8414) – who formed it to inhabited

·            Scriptures in Isaiah and Jeremiah – do not PROVE – “ruin and re-creation” at Genesis  
1:2

·            Revelation 22:18-19 – Jeremiah 23:16 – Jeremiah 23:21

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Isaiah 14:12-14            how are you fallen from heaven?  
Ezek. 28:11-18            in Eden – iniquity found in him  
Luke 10:18                “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”  
Jude 1:6                    angels – who did not keep their proper domain  
Rev. 12:3                    dragon – 7 heads and 10 horns  
4                    his tail drew 1/3 of the stars of heaven – thrown to earth  
4-5                    bore a male Child to rule – her Child was caught up to God  
7-9                    war in heaven – Michael & angels against devil & angels

- What happens if there is no gap theory between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2?
- When was war in heaven (Revelation 12:7-9)? – When did dinosaurs roam the earth?
- Hebrews 6:10-12

“The gap theory is a form of ‘old earth’ creation that posits that the creation period involved six literal 24-hour days, but that there was a gap of time between two distinct creations in the first and second verses of Genesis.”

From 1814, Thomas Chalmers popularized the gap theory. He attributed the concept to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch Arminian theologian Simon Episcopius. Chalmers wrote: “My own opinion, as published in 1814, is that it [Genesis 1:1] forms no part of the first day, but refers to a period of indefinite antiquity when God created the worlds out of nothing.”

#### Difficulties with the “gap theory”

1. No mention of Creation – only one verse and the bulk of the record deals with re-creation
2. Not the historical view – of Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant interpreters
3. Genesis is not a cryptic account
4. No earlier creation taught anywhere
5. Contrary to scripture – Genesis 2:3-4
6. No direct statement of judgment in Genesis 1:1-2
7. No death before sin – (Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:21)
8. God made the world very good – Genesis 1:26
9. Death is a result of Adam’s sin
10. Darkness (Genesis 1:2) is not necessarily evil
11. Plants and animals (destroyed and fossilized in Genesis 1:2)
12. Too much is made out of the Hebrew conjunction “waw”
13. Was or became?
14. Tohu and Bohu does not necessarily assume some type of judgment
15. No context of judgment in creation account
16. In the beginning – Mark 10:6
17. Isaiah 45 – supporting Genesis 1:31 and an argument against gap theory?
18. Jeremiah 4 – not original creation
19. Isaiah 24:1 – not original creation
20. Gap principles in scripture – not parallel to Genesis
21. Created and made
22. Ezekiel 28 and fall of Satan – not earthly Garden of Eden
23. Time of judgment of angels is not specified
24. Angelic rebellion could occur after creation and before the fall of man
25. Hebrews 4:3 – does not correlate to Genesis 1:2
26. Did God fail twice?
27. No Biblical record of pre-Adamic humans
28. Why create light again?
29. Theory of evolution
30. No connection between geology and Genesis
31. Discounts Genesis Flood
32. Not replenish
33. No judgment on Earth

34. Recent idea – 1814
35. Self-defeating