

Year 2 Class 3 Session B Notes

Review: Reasons not to reinterpret Genesis

1. **No part of the Bible can be trusted**
2. **God is needlessly cruel**
3. **Adam's strange dominion** (most of the animals are dead by the time Adam is created?)
4. **The Flood: Only Local?** (long-age views cannot accept a global flood) Note:
 - Described as global 30 times (Gen 6-9)
 - Lasted 371 days!
 - The ark was HUGE
 - Rainbow promise?
 - Compared to coming GLOBAL judgment (Matthew 24, 2 Peter 3)
5. **Order of creation reversed** (Secular science says the sun came first then the earth, whales came after land animals, and birds came after reptiles. Genesis says that these are completely backwards: God created the earth before the sun, the whales before the land animals, and the birds before the reptiles).
6. **The cross nullified**

“Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus’ earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing!” G. Richard Bozarth, “The Meaning of Evolution”, American Atheist, Feb., 1978, pp 19, 30
7. **Restored to death?** What kind of a restoration would it be if God created the world full of death and suffering at the beginning?
8. **Is God deceptive?** God cannot lie – Hebrews 6:18
9. **God can't communicate?** Genesis is written “very plainly” (Deut. 27:8).
10. **Is the New Testament in error?** The NT affirms the reliability of Genesis as history.

The Genesis Record

Genesis reads like historical narrative

Those pressured by popular scientific opinion have sought to find a way to add “millions of years” to biblical chronology. Two attempts to do so will be explored:

1 The gap Theory

Proposes a gap of time (millions of years) between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2

Key text: 1:2 “the earth was without form and void” simply means unformed and unfilled (not finished and no one lives there)

Taken to mean “*the earth became without form and void*”

Gap theorists propose that the first earth was created very good million of years ago, but was destroyed by the intrusion of sin. Some see Satan’s rebellion occurring here, culminating with a the judgement of God in the form of “Lucifer’s Flood”

Gap Theory is Recent:

Pre-1700’s: Bible thought to teach 6 literal days, global flood; earth 6,000 years old

1726-1779 James Hutton

1797-1875 Charles Lyell

1814 - Thomas Chalmers (“Gap Theory” proposed)

1856 Darwin Origin of Species

1850-1924 Clarence Larkin (Hyper-dispensational)

1917 - The Scofield Reference Bible (first edition)

Exodus 20:11 “*For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.*” Argues against the Gap Theory. Some see a distinction between “created” and “Made” – that is, they see that God created the heaven and the earth millions of years ago, but made them (re-made) after the Lucifer’s Flood.

This is incorrect. Genesis uses the terms interchangeably:

“*And God said, Let us **make** man in our image, after our likeness: So God **created** man in his own image, in the image of God **created** he him; male and female created he them.*” Gen. 1:26-27

When did Satan fall?

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... and all the sons of God (angels) shouted for joy?” Job 38:4,7

“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: And the evening and the morning were the third day.” Gen. 1:9-13

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Gen. 1:31

This does not sound like Satan was running loose leading a rebellion against God. Also, the present earth is called the first earth. If the Gap Theory was true, we would be living on the second earth.

*“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for **the first heaven and the first earth** were passed away; and there was no more sea.” Rev. 21:1*

2 The Day Age Theory

Each creation day is actually millions of years

How Long is a day?

The word “day” (Hebrew *yom*) has a variety of meanings: A solar day, Daylight, An indefinite period of time

- Occurs 2291 times in the Old Testament (refers to a literal day in all but 65 cases)
- Plural form – *yamim* (845 times) always a literal day
- Modified by a numeric ordinal (359 times outside of Genesis 1) – always refers to a literal day
- Modified by evening and / or morning (38 times outside of Genesis 1) always means a literal day