

THE “GAP THEORY” OF CREATION
(Genesis 1:1 - 2:4)

- I. ORIGIN of the “Gap Theory”
 - A. J. H. Kurtz, *Bible and Astronomy*, 1857
 - B. G. H. Pember, *Earth’s Earliest Ages*, 1876
 - C. C. I. Scofield Reference Bible, 1909, 1917
 - D. Harry Rimmer, *Modern Science and the Genesis Record*, 1937
- II. REASONS for Proposal of New Theories of Creation
 - A. Desire to RECONCILE Scripture with “MODERN GEOLOGY,” assuming the RELIABILITY of Charles Lyell’s “uniformitarian” model
 - B. Desire to find a time for the FALL of SATAN
- III. PROBLEMS of Uniformitarian Geology
 - A. Laws of thermo-dynamics have NOT ALWAYS APPLIED
 - 1. “Matter and energy can only be CHANGED; they cannot be CREATED or DESTROYED”
 - 2. “Nature tends to DISORGANIZATION, not to higher organization in COMPLEXITY and DESIGN”
 - B. Great worldwide CHANGES at the time of CREATION (Gen. 1-2)
 - C. Great worldwide CHANGES at the time of the FALL (Gen. 3:14ff)
 - D. Great worldwide CHANGES at the time of the FLOOD (Gen. 6-10)
 - E. Significant CHANGES at and/or shortly following BABEL (Gen. 11:5-9)

- F. The dilemma
 - 1. The uniformitarian model, considered “modern geology,” has been thorough DEBUNKED by “MODERN GEOLOGY”
 - 2. “Modern Geology” has been UNABLE to construct a CONSISTENT MODEL

IV. The “Gap Theory” as Proposed

- A. Genesis 1:1 describes ORIGINAL, complete and perfect creation
 - 1. Place of ANGELS TESTING and their habitation with “pre-HISTORIC” animals
 - 2. The fall of SATAN and other ANGELS
 - 3. The earth was CURSED and DESTROYED by WATER
- B. Genesis 1:2a is a scene of JUDGMENT, not of CREATION
 - 1. “Was” is changed to “BECAME without form and void”
 - 2. “Darkness” is FIGURATIVE, referring to the presence of SIN
- C. Genesis 1:2b is the beginning of the RECONSTRUCTION of a DESTROYED earth

V. Issues of Biblical Interpretation

- A. CONTEXT determines APPLICATION (Isa. 24:1; 45:12, 18; Jer. 4:23-28)
- B. Specifically says ALL creation was done in SIX DAYS (Gen. 1:31-2:4; Exo. 20:11; 31:17)
- C. “Gap Theory” has DEATH before MAN and SIN (cf. Gen. 2-3; 3:21; 4:4; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21-22)
- D. No biblical record of any cataclysm in connection with SATAN’S FALL
- E. At the end of DAY SIX God describes everything as “VERY GOOD” (Gen. 1:31)