

GAP

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Job 22:15-16 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? **16** Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:

2 Peter 3:5-7 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: **7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Psalms 104:5-6 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. **6** Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

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Introduction

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:2 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.

God created the heaven and the earth; then God made the earth without form and void. He also filled the heaven with a universe size body of water identified as the deep. Many Bible students infer that an indeterminate span of time exists between Ge.1:1 and Ge.1:2. Theologically, this elapse of time is referred to as the *gap theory*. There is, however, no theory about it- the gap is there. This Bible study's purpose is to present scriptural evidence supporting the doctrine that there was an elapse of time between Ge.1:1 and Ge.1:2. Ge.1:3-31 is an accounting of God recreating the universe.

There is an opposing point of view to the gap. Many Christians believe God did not cancel or obliterate his original creation, and no elapse of time between Ge.1:1 and Ge.1:2 even happened. They believe the earth is approximately 6,000 years old. Proponents of this theory are sometimes called the "young earth theorists" or "creationists."

Perhaps the main argument set forth by young earth theorists is Christians who believe in the gap have compromised with evolution. Their point being- secular science teaches the earth is millions of years old, and a gap could agree with an evolutionary time line; therefore, Christians have imagined the gap theory to agree with science. They suppose Christians were just too ignorant to defend the Bible against the secular science and the evolutionists. But Christians holding to the gap fact believe emphatically in divine creation and stand opposed to evolution. Persons who think the gap agrees with evolution do not (or will not) comprehend the full teachings of the gap fact position.

Certainly Christians sometimes have to agree to disagree, but let's be honest and clear about those differences of opinions. Christians who believe God voided his first creation also believe the moon, sun, and all the stars were created on the 4th day of the creation week, only about 6,000 years ago. Gap fact proponents believe only the earth is older. They also believe God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, on the 6th day, approximately 6,000 years ago. Such beliefs are no compromise with evolutionary science. Creationists know this, but they choose not to mention it as they try to defend their position by diminishing those who disagree with them. The very name "creationists" is misleading as it implies their view alone believes in divine creation.

Creationists primarily focus on when God made the earth. And anyone who disagrees with their interpretation supposedly compromises with evolution. Ironically, it is the creationists who are constantly appealing to physical science to validate their interpretation of creation. In fact, many creationists seem more interested in fossil records and geography than they do in comparing scripture with scripture.

Another question young earth theorists ask is: "When did this theological idea of the gap even come about?" Thereby insinuating their position has been established doctrine for thousands of years. I propose there is equal merit in asking when the young earth theory came about?

Counting Backward

Before doing a verse by verse account of Genesis 1, a summary of God's creation week reveals important information. To make this point more vivid, let's move backward starting with day seven and review what God created or accomplished on each specific day.

Day 7-God rests from his labor-Ge. 2:2

Day 6-Animals, Man -Ge. 1:24-31

Day 5-Aquatic life, birds- Ge. 20-23

Day 4-Sun, Moon, Stars- Ge. 1:14-19

Day 3-Gathers waters, land appears- Ge. 1:9-13

Day 2-Divides waters, firmament- Ge. 1:6-8

Day 1-Light- Ge. 1:3-5

Notice God did not create the earth during the creation week. God did not create the earth on the 4th day when he created the sun, moon, and the stars. The earth was already in existence. So even if someone does not believe in the gap, one must admit the earth is older than everything else in the universe, even if it's only a few days. Why do you suppose God does not record what day he made the earth?

The earth was made in verse 1 which is not part of the creation week. The earth was made void in verse 2. On day 3 God gathered the waters covering the earth into one place making the dry land appear, thus the earth was already in existence- although it had been submerged in water.

Void

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Notice the singular heaven. In the beginning there were not 3 heavens as there are now. Originally, there was one uninterrupted infinite expanse of space.

Genesis 1:2 *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.*

The whole heaven was filled with water making the making the earth void. Notice the earth is already in existence before we even get to the creation week.

Verse 2 declares the earth was without form and void. The first and primary definition of the word "void" in English dictionaries is to cancel out, make invalid, or annul. A secondary definition defines *void* as empty or without. Comparing scripture with scripture, let's examine the way God uses the word *void*.

The next 3 times God uses the word "void" it means to cancel or nullify. Consider the very next usage of the word *void* in Numbers 30. The scripture is discussing a woman making a vow. If her husband so determine, **he can make void her vow**. In other words, he can cancel it.

Numbers 30:10-13 *And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; 11 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. 12 But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. 13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.*

Even in today's modern times, if one makes a mistake writing a check or on a financial document, the bank's advice is to write VOID on it. And then write out a new document. The original, is replaced with a new.

In the Bible, there are several places where God uses the word *void* in the secondary definition- meaning "without" or "empty". But it is not the first or primary use of the word. **For sake of argument only-** Even if one believes God is using the word *void* in the sense of being *empty or without* --wouldn't it still look like something happened to the earth after God created it?

After God created the heaven and the earth, he made it void. And he filled the heaven with water. This water is called the deep. God voided his creation by filling the universe with water- literally the universe is flooded with water. Noah's flood, compared to this flood, was minuscule. Noah's flood was only global. Why God obliterated his initial creation is not revealed in this chapter, but something happened that provoked God's judgment. The Lucifer/ angelic rebellion is a logical and educated guess.

Genesis 1:3-8 *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

As God pulls back the waters, the firmament appears. God calls the firmament heaven. Observe the earth has already been created even before light! As of the 2nd day, the earth exists alone inside the firmament. This is a very important point: there is no record of the earth being created during the creation week; the earth was created in verse one.

The Deep

Genesis 1:2 *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.*

Genesis 1:7 *And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.*

As God pulled back the waters, the firmament appeared. The cosmos being divided into 3 heavens is a consequence of the way God re-makes his universe. Inside the 1st heaven is the earth. Where earth's atmosphere ends, the 2nd heaven begins. The 2nd heaven contains the moon, sun, stars, and galaxies; it is literally outer space. At the end of the 2nd heaven is the deep, a body of water with enough volume to fill the 1st and 2nd heavens. The deep is a barrier separating the 2nd and the 3rd heaven. The 3rd heaven is infinite; it is where the city on sides of the North, God's temple, and God's Throne are located.

Read Genesis 1:2-7 while considering the following analogy:

Imagine a basketball submerged deep into the ocean. Miles of water surround the ball on every side. Now imagine the basketball has infinite elasticity, and God begins pumping air into the ball. As the basketball enlarges it separates (pushes back) the deep water on every side. When the expansion stops the water remains above the rim of the basketball. The space inside the basketball is the firmament (heaven). And in this space God puts the stars, planets, sun, and the moon.

Verses depicting three heavens: and the water between the 2nd and 3rd heaven:

Psalms 148:1-4 *Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.*

2 Corinthians 12:2 *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

1 Kings 8:27 *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

Psalms 11:4 *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

Revelation 14:17 *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

In the future, after the Great White Throne Judgment- God will re-create the firmament. Notice God says there will be no more sea. The "sea" in Re.21:1 is the deep. God returns the universe to its original design, one eternal expanse of heaven, a heaven without the segregated barrier of the deep.

Revelation 21:1 *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.* Presently, God views the earth from his throne in the 3rd heaven. Inhabitants of the earth are quite literally underwater. Hence, the concept of being "fishers of men" has profound symbolic truth.

Universal Flood

Of Genesis 1:2

Genesis 1:2 *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.*

2 Peter 3:5-7 *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: **7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now**, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

2 Peter 3:5-7 is directed at the universal flood (as opposed to Noah's global flood) for the following reasons:

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now"... Implicit in this text is the understanding that today's heavens and the earth are different than they were in the past. Peter is describing a flood which altered, if not obliterated the universe. We know this from the record of God creating stars on the 4th day. In Noah's global flood, only the earth perished. Everything on the surface of the earth; and the entire preadamite world was made void. Nothing happened to the stars or the second heaven. Noah gazed into the same heavens and saw the same constellations we see today.

The earth standing out of the water and in the water is a description of the deep filling the universe found in Ge.1:2.

Noah's whole world did not perish; a remnant survived. In fact the days of Noah- literally continued. Noah lived 350 years this side of the flood. An often overlooked fact is the "*days of Noah*" include Genesis chapter 6 and Genesis 11. Noah *was a citizen of Babel, and he died just 2 years before Abraham was born.*

Genesis 7:6 *And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.*

Genesis 9:28-29 *And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. **29** And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.*

In The Beginning

Salient verses for the young earth theory are presented below. Their point being: the scripture is putting marriage, (men and women) in the beginning. Since Adam and Eve were created about 6,000 years ago- And this beginning is emphatically believed to be Ge.1:1; therefore, evidence for the 6,000 year old earth with no recreation is found here.

Matthew 19:4 *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them **at the beginning** made them male and female,*

Mark 10:6 *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*

Numerous scriptures use the word **beginning** where the context is obvious, explained right in the verse. There are passages, however, where the context is understood from previously established knowledge. Rightly dividing the word of truth includes understanding the context. God always uses "beginning" as the origin of something, but "beginning" does not always refer back to Ge.1:1. Consider the exact same expression "**as at the beginning**" used in 1 Chron. 17:9-10.

1 Chronicles 17:9-10 *Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, **as at the beginning**, **10** And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.*

Was Israel wasted in the creation week? Of course not; God is speaking about the creation of the state of Israel. It is interpreted based on information the reader already knows about Israel; therefore, we conclude this "**at the beginning**" is in the dispensation of the patriarchs.

In much the same way, believers in the gap have concluded Mt.19:4 define the beginning of an age immediately after the voiding of the earth, approximately 6,000 years ago. In contrast the creationists insist this is proof text for the 6,000 year old earth, because they believe God created the earth the same week as he made Adam and Eve.

Within this debate, it's important to remember no one doubts Adam and Eve were created only 6,000 years ago- Nor does anyone doubt the contents of the 2nd heavens are only 6,000 years old. Only the earth is older. In my opinion, it is remarkable creationists view Mt.19:4 and Mk.10: 6 as absolute evidence for a

young earth. After careful consideration, one should, at least, acknowledge the alternative explanation as a possibility. God voiding his original earth is based on a thoughtful examination of a large body of scriptural evidence.

Exodus 20:11

Exodus 20:11 *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Often the "proof text" for the young earth theorists is Exodus 20:11. Gap fact believers can answer this as follows:

God did indeed make this current universe (heaven) in six days. A distinction should be observed in the word "make" as opposed to "create" One can make something out of material that already exists. Creation is from nothing. In fact, the word create is not used until days five and six- when God makes animal and human life. If the words "create" and "made" are absolutely synonymous, why does God use both words in the same sentence?

Genesis 2:3 *And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God **created and made**.*

Consider also that God did not make or create anything on the third day. Genesis 1:9-13 is the account of God's actions on the third day.

Genesis 9-13 *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. **10** And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. **11** And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. **13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.***

1st day: let there be light

2nd day: God made the firmament

3rd day: Nothing made or created

4th day: God made moon, sun, stars

5th day: God creates aquatic life and birds.

6th day: God made land animals; creates man

7th day: God rests

Revelation 21:1

Another "proof text" commonly cited:

Revelation 21:1 *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.*

The voiding of the earth in Genesis 1:2 did not dissolve the planet nor did the physical elements disappear; thus, the first earth or planet still exists. The earth was submerged in water and everything on the surface was obliterated.

Revelation 21:1 is not an argument against the gap. As this study has stated numerous times, the earth was created in verse 1 which is not part of the creation week. The earth was made void in verse 2. On day 3 God gathered the waters covering the earth into one place making the dry land appear, thus the earth was already in existence- although it had been submerged in water.

Genesis Chapter 1

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-28 *In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth.*

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2 *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.*

Day 1

3 *And God said, **Let there be light:** and there was light. **4** And God saw the light,*

*that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. **5** And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were **the first day.***

Day 2

6 *And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. **7** And **God made the firmament,** and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. **8** And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning **were the second day.***

Day 3

Nothing made or created

Day 4

14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: **15** And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. **16** And **God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.** **17** And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, **18** And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. **19** And the evening and the morning were **the fourth day.***

Day 5

*20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 21 And **God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind:** and God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. 23 And the evening and the morning were **the fifth day.***

Day 6

*24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God **made the beast of the earth** after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So **God created man in his own image, in the image** of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Genesis 1:29-31** 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 for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 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.

***Thought to ponder:** If one is committed to interpreting the beginning as a point in time only 6,000 years ago, does this mean John 1:1-2 is referencing 4,000 BC ?*

***John 1:1-2** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

Light Years

Both young earth theorists and gap fact believers should have an answer when it comes to stellar distance and time. How can the visible universe be only 6,000 years old, when science convincingly asserts that light from stars and galaxies takes millions of years to arrive on earth?

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Astronomers compute the distance to a star according to light years, in other words, how long it takes light emanating from a particular star to arrive on earth. The nearest star (after our sun) is Alpha Centauri which is 4.4 light years away. Star light from the center of our own Milky Way Galaxy is 27,000 years away. The time and distances become literally astronomical from there on. Galaxies exist whose light is millions of years old. Light from the Sombrero galaxy (M104) takes over 60million years to arrive on earth, yet we see it today. The problem is obvious, how can the universe be only 6,000 years old.

True science agrees with the Bible. And Christians need not view science as an enemy. And although evolution is complete foolishness, light years and star distances could well be accurate. Nothing about light years contradicts a 6,000 year old universe.

Genesis 1:14-19 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*

On the 4th day of the creation week, God made the contents of the universe. He made the moon, sun, and stars. This includes many billions of galaxies. Everything in the universe (except earth) was made on the 4th day.

Look closely at Genesis 1:14-19. Everything that gives light was created to minister to the earth. The very purpose of the stars, no matter how far away, was to give light upon the earth. God made the stars' light already visible to earth the moment he made the stars. All of the action out there in the universe from quasars to supernovas, from comets, meteors, to unexplainable

phenomena- all was made for the earth to see or to minister to the earth in various capacities- and to divide light from darkness.

Thought to ponder: It is interesting to examine the construction of the word universe. **Uni** and **verse**, uni- meaning one- and verse meaning text. God made everything in one verse, hence we have the uni-verse; therefore, when scientists refer to the cosmos as the universe, they are unconsciously referring to Genesis 1:1.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Replenish

Genesis 1:28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

The first definition of the word replenish- is to put back or fill again. It is argued by young earth theorists that **replenish** can also mean to fill (which is true). Thus Ge.1:28 is not evidence for a pre-adamite earth. It is true Genesis 1:28 by itself- is not proof text. And no one who believes in the gap ever believed the doctrine based on this verse alone.

Bible students know the wisest way to interpret scripture is to let the Bible interpret itself. **God uses the word replenish only twice and replenished 5 times.** The verses where replenish is used (after Genesis 1:28) clearly mean to refill or put back. Compares this to the word **fill used 249 times.** If all replenish means is to fill- why did God use the word replenish? Obviously, God has serious, discriminating reasons to use the word replenish instead of using the word *fill*.

Below are the 7 verses where God uses the word **replenish**. For the 249 times God uses the word **fill**, the reader is encouraged to examine them on his/her own.

Genesis 1:28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Genesis 9:1 *And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*

Isaiah 2:6 *Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.*

Isaiah 23:2 *Be still, ye inhabitants of the isle; thou whom the merchants of Zidon, that pass over the sea, have replenished.*

Jeremiah 31:25 *For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.*

Ezekiel 26:2 *Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:*

Ezekiel 27:25 *The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.*

Even ardent defenders of the KJV go to great academic lengths to show **replenish** does not always mean refill. They will appeal to the etymological history of the word **replenish**, in an attempt to prove replenish only meant *to fill* in the 17th century. This however is not true. Replenish appeared **in a poem in 1612**. It appears again in Pepys' Diary, where he says: *'buy to replenish the stores'*.

The Oxford English Dictionary comes out every 10 years like a census; it is an authority on the English language. The OED provides an etymological historical reference from 1612 and 1632 where replenish was used in a refilling context. So what does this do to the claim that it was never used this way? And even if it wasn't (but it was) why would it surprise anyone the KJV was ahead of worldly, secular writers? Because after all is said and done concerning the word "replenish" it is the King James Bible, as usual, that gives scholars an etymological pain in their frontal lobes.

Romans 11:33 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

The Fall of Lucifer

Curiosity about the Bible is spiritually healthy. In order to have an engaged, maturing relationship with the Bible, one must think about what God wrote down. Knowledge often generates questions, and questions are a consequence of thinking. It's amazing how uncurious Christians are about the Bible. It is also amazing how seldom the fall of Lucifer is even discussed. But since there was a time when Lucifer lived in a holy and righteous relationship with God; it is logical to wonder when that age existed. What was it like? How long did it last?

The first appearance of Satan in the Bible is Genesis 3; there he is called the serpent. Obviously, Satan's fall has already happened because he is tempting Eve to sin against God. There is nothing good or holy about the serpent in Genesis 3.

For information about Satan's original position with God, and the age in which he lived as a righteous being, we turn to the prophets. From Isaiah and Ezekiel we learn Lucifer once held high favor with God. His status and position is lofty and extraordinary.

Isaiah 14:12-15 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

Alas, no matter the anointed cherub's greatness, he wanted equality with God. Above everything, Lucifer wanted to be like God; Lucifer wants worship. Satan often gets accused of things for which man's flesh is the real cause. Satan is far more interested in bible versions, religion, church, education, and political power than he is in the works of the flesh. In other words, Satan is far more interested in Sunday morning than he is Saturday night.

Notice Lucifer boasts he will "ascend into heaven". **The singular heaven is an important reference.** In the beginning there was one singular heaven (not three) Scripture is consistent when placing the point in time when Lucifer fell. Today, the sides of the north are in the 3rd heaven.

Implicit in the passage is the fact Lucifer weakened the nations. These nations are collateral damage with Lucifer's fall. What nations is God talking about? The nations are weakened due to Lucifer's rebellion. These nations existed during

Lucifer's rebellion. *If one believes Satan fell only a few days (or years) before Adam and Eve fell - then what nations existed on earth before Lucifer fell?*

The idea of an inhabited earth in eternity past- an earth where Lucifer held a very high position, gives insight to Satan's claim that the world is his (Mt. 4:8-9). It also explains the intense jealousy he has toward mankind. What was once the home of angels, God gave to an entirely new creation, a being created in the God's image, a being capable of reproducing images of God! As great as angels are, they are not created in the image of God. Nor do they reproduce.

Matthew 4:8-9 *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

Lucifer, the anointed cherub, King of Tyrus;

(Tyrus means "to distress")

Ezekiel 28:12-19 *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;** every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth;** and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, **O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;** therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 **All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.***

King of Tyrus is Satan because he was in the Garden of Eden. Although the passage below (Ezekiel 28:12-19) has an historical application to the human King of Tyrus, it's obvious the doctrinal application concerns Satan. The only persons recorded to be in Eden were Adam, Eve and the Serpent. King Tyrus is also called the anointed Cherub.

The text gives important insight into Lucifer's history. This beautiful being enjoyed high status in God's kingdom. God actually calls him perfect in beauty and in all his ways, including wisdom. It seems Lucifer just may be the most powerful, smartest creature God ever created?

Consider the significance of this passage. Satan's title (before his fall) was "the anointed cherub that covereth". He was in the Garden of Eden. He was upon the holy mountain of God. This mountain is no doubt heaven's Mount Zion. The same mountain holds the temple wherein is the throne of God. It is presently located in a region of the 3rd heaven called the sides of the north. This city was on the earth in the past, and this city will be established on earth again in the future.

Notice Satan defiled his own sanctuaries. These sanctuaries must have been very important in the original earth's society/culture. The sanctuaries were somehow connected with business and an economic system. God tells us Satan corrupted them through a multitude of iniquities. Curiously, God also says by the iniquity of his traffick. **God uses the word traffick only 5 times in the Bible.** Each use is connected with trading, merchandise, and economic dealings. In modern times the word traffic is still used to define the same activities.

Satan desired worship of himself. And in order to promote himself, he required wealth and power. This sounds amazingly reminiscent of human sin. There are other scriptures which connect these original satanic sins with mankind. Have you ever wondered how the "love of money is the root of all evil"? Ezekiel 28:12-19 is manifesting the root. The original "money lover" was the anointed cherub himself. And since Satan provoked Eve and Adam to sin- this sin is the root of all man's sinfulness.

1 Timothy 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Consider also the business practices of the coming antichrist. The primary action that consolidates and promotes the world's acceptance, even worship of the Beast- is when the antichrist recreates the world's economic system. And the only prerequisite condition -is global economic collapse. **Make no doubt about it- the coming antichrist will be an economic genius.** To "buy or sell" is a

perfectly succinct definition of an economic system. And ultimately, it will be an economy controlled by Satan, just as it was in a previous age.

Revelation 13:16-18 *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

The wisdom of Solomon teaches everything that happened in the past, happens again in the future. This includes Lucifer trying to be like God.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. 10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

Ecclesiastes 3:15 *That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*

Lucifer, The original creation; a preadamite world:

Jeremiah 4:23-26 is the sister text to Ezekiel 28:12-19. It, too, reveals much about God's original earth and world. The passage, if contemplated honestly, poses a conundrum for creationists. Admittedly, what I am suggesting is speculative, but the alternatives of ignoring what Jeremiah writes- or reducing it to spiritualized fluff is worse.

In Jeremiah chapter 4- God gives Judah a warning; imminent judgment is coming. If there is no repentance, Nebuchadnezzar will invade and implement God's will and punishment. The Lord's chosen people are about to witness the destruction of their nation. Survivors will be taken prisoner and removed into captivity. This is the gist of Jeremiah chapter 4. But in the middle of the ominous prophecy, Jeremiah says,

"I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void..."
Clearly this statement is a direct reference back to Genesis 1:1.

Jeremiah 4:23-26 *I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*

Why would God have Jeremiah incorporate this into Judah's prophetic warning? Obviously, Jeremiah was not alive in Genesis 1:2. The prophet is having a vision much like Apostle John had in the book of Revelation. The difference is John saw the future and Jeremiah saw the past.

Here is the conundrum for creationists. Why does God even have Jeremiah say this? If one runs the passage to Ge.1:2, ***(which all Bible students know they have to do)*** what is God's point? How is the earth being without form and void relevant to Jeremiah 4? The whole chapter concerns judgment, especially punishment for rebellion and sin.

The point God makes to Judah is as follows: God reached a breaking point with a world in eternity past, and he flooded out his entire universe, and voided the original earth; don't think for a second God won't judge one nation. Just like Lucifer's and the angels' sinful behavior met with divine catastrophic judgment; so too will Judah's and Israel's.

The four "I beheld" statements in verses 4:23-26, are a direct commentary on God's original world. The world he made void. It was a world holding cities, a fruitful place, mountains, and at least some animal life. Notice there was no man and no light. The birds being fled, implies that birds were once there. Let the Bible student consider:

When was there no man?
When was there no light?
When were all the cities broken down?

And how do these statements relate to the earth being without form and void? Jeremiah has been given a vision of God voiding his original earth. The heavens only had no light in Genesis 1:2 because darkness was on the face of the deep. There was a civilization- city inhabited by angels with social structure. People don't think much about how and where angels live. But angels are not just sitting around on clouds playing harps. Some kind of societal habitation provided home to angels on the original earth.

Lucifer held a very lofty position in God's original earth. He was dissatisfied with his condition and sought equality with God. Apparently some of the angels were unhappy and eventually turned to rebellion. This war ended when God flooded out the heaven and voided the earth. Then God started over by recreating the earth and creating man in his own image.

Angels

When were the angels created? No specific mention of God creating angels, seraphim, or cherubim in Genesis. Obviously God created angelic life without specifically stating when he did it. No matter one's position on the gap- some speculation is required concerning the angels. A passage from the book of Job adds insight. Notice the angels already existed when God created this earth; they shout for joy when they saw it.

Job 38:4-7 *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Good angels gone bad It may be an over simplification to say all evil angels are in Satan's army. Some angels are imprisoned in hell right now, while other evil angels are free to wage war against mankind. We are not told exactly when the angels sinned and went to war with God, but scriptures make clear they did, and they continue in rebellion till at least the Tribulation. It appears this war has raged much longer than 6,000 years.

Revelation 12:7-9 *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

1 Corinthians 6:3 *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Jude 1:6 *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

From Re.12:3-4, some students of the Bible speculate as many as one third of all the angels joined with Lucifer. If that interpretation is correct, it is very disturbing. God often likens angels to stars, if the number of physical stars in the universe is comparable to the number of living angels, then their number is astronomically huge! Consider our Milky Way Galaxy consists of approximately four hundred billion stars. Consider also there are billions of other galaxies in the 2nd heaven.

Revelation 12:3-4 *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

Timeline Charts

No one knows the exact date the fall of man took place. We do know, however, it was about 6,000 years ago. To put this in a chronological time frame I have provided two general time charts for the reader to examine. **Chart One** shows events from the perspective of believers in the gap. **Chart Two** shows events from the perspective of the young earth theorists.

Although most events are not identified with a fixed date, we can draw several conclusions from the information. Counting time from day one of the creation week, God does not record another fixed date until the birth of Seth. Since Lucifer was already fallen when he tempted Eve, we conclude Satan fell before Adam and Eve fell.

The problem- if there is no gap- one must speculate Lucifer was created in the same week as Adam and Eve. I say speculate because the Bible does not say God created Lucifer or angels during this week; creationists theorize he did. Remember God is so pleased with the anointed cherub he calls him perfect in wisdom and beauty. Lucifer was appointed to a very high position in God's kingdom. It seems probable it took some time for Lucifer to turn against God and even lead angels into war.

The big mystery is how long were Adam and Eve in the Garden before they fell? This is an important question; a question will not be answered definitively (in this study). One thing is certain; they were not in the Garden very long. Why is this time frame so important? Because, without a gap-the creation of all angelic life, the anointed cherub's service to the Lord, the eventual rebellion of Lucifer and the angels, and their war with God happened before Adam and Eve fell. Does it seem probable that everything happened within a few days or years of creation?

CHART ONE

Gap Fact Perspective

Time	Event	Bible
?	Heaven, earth , created Lucifer and angels created; Angels rejoice over earth's creation	Ge. 1:1 Job 38:4-7
	Lucifer in righteous state. Notice he is in Eden.	Eze. 28:13-15
	The Fall of Lucifer	Isa. 14:12-14
	Angelic rebellion	Job 4:18 Mt.25:41; Re.12:7; Jer.4:23-26
	The Gap (unknown span of time)	
	Earth void, universe flooded	Ge. 1:2
4000 BC	Creation week	Ge. 1:3-31
	The Fall of man	Ge. 3:6
	Expelled	Ge. 3:23-24
	Cain and Able	Ge. 4:1-2
Year 130	Seth is born	Ge. 5:3
Year 930	Death of Adam	Genesis 5:5

CHART TWO

No Gap Perspective

Time	Event	Bible
4000 BC	Creation week	Ge. 1:1-31
4000 BC	Heaven, earth , created Lucifer and angels created; Angels rejoice in earth's creation	Ge. 1: Job 38:4-7
4000 BC	Lucifer in righteous state. Notice he is in Eden.	Eze 28:13-15
4000 BC	The Fall of Lucifer	Isa 14:12-14
4000 BC	Lucifer/angels war with God begins	Job 4:18 Mt.25:41 Re.12:7; Jer.4:23-26
4000 BC	The Fall of man	Ge. 3:6
	Expelled	Ge.3:23-24
	Cain and Able	Ge4:1-2
Year 130	Seth is born	Ge5:3
Year 930	Death of Adam	Ge. 5:5

Out of Time

Without digressing into a tedious, philosophical time study- Adam was created about 4000 BC. Something happening "out of time" is an event which happens outside the boundaries of datable events. Bible students only have a little slice of eternity, 7,000 years, where we can locate events in time. Thus either end of eternity's time line, could be considered "out of time."

Job 22 contains a curious passage on a civilization destroyed by a flood. Admittedly, Job's generation is not very distant from Noah's flood; so it is reasonable to presume the passage is dealing with Noah's antediluvian generation. Never the less- the passage below may be commenting on preadamite era.

*Job 22:15-20 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? 16 **Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood:** 17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? 18 Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. 19 The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. 20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.*

The context is one of Job's friends, Eliphaz, engaged in dialog with Job. Eliphaz is commenting on wicked men who lived in the past, men who suffered the judgment of a flood. The question is which flood, Noah's flood or the Gap's universal flood?

Verse 16 is the provocative verse. These men were "cut down out of time." What does this mean? The Gap literally took place out of time, if we define time as the measure of biblical world history.

The idea becomes even more intriguing when we look at the words "*cut down.*" These are the same words used to define Lucifer's fall; a fall that took place out of time.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou **cut down** to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Glossary

Antediluvian: Noah's world before the flood

Deep: Astronomically huge body of water separating the 2nd and 3rd heaven.

Etymology: The study of the origin and history of words.

Firmament: As defined by Genesis 1:8, it is Heaven, outer space, universe, space containing the 1st and 2nd heavens.

Gap fact: The theological term for the idea that the indeterminate amount of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 is not a theory, it is a fact.

Gap theory: The theological term for the idea that there is an indeterminate amount of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2

Heaven: As defined by Genesis 1:8, it is the firmament, outer space, universe, space containing the 1st and 2nd heavens.

Noah's flood: A flood that covered the entire earth.

Preadamite: An era or world existing before the creation of Adam.

Universal flood: Flood that filled the entire universe. Genesis 1:2