

## The Gap Theory

Many Christians have been intimidated by evolution. In an attempt to defend the faith, some compromised the Bible by trying to fit it into an old-earth time scale. An example of this is the Gap Theory. The Gap Theory was invented in 1814 by a Scottish theologian named Thomas Chalmers. It was an attempt at compromise between Christianity and Evolution. This was before we had the science to disprove what the evolutionists were claiming. The Gap Theory is the idea that there is a Gap (of millions/billions of years) between Genesis 1:1 and Gen. 1:2, and that during this gap there existed a pre-adamite civilization which was destroyed at the fall of Lucifer. Many Christians use this to explain the worldwide layers of strata and fossils that evolutionists claim to be millions of years old. They say this is when the dinosaurs lived. They use the Hebrew phrase 'tohu waw bohu' in Gen. 1:2 to prove that this 'first earth' was destroyed. They say it means 'destroyed, in chaos.' However, if you look at it with an unbiased opinion, it literally and simply means 'unformed and unfilled.' They point out how 'tohu waw bohu' is used in Jeremiah 4:23, and say that Jeremiah had a vision of the destruction of the pre-adamite civilization. However, if you read these verses in context, you will see that he was prophesying the future destruction of Jerusalem. They also use the passage in 2 Peter 3- "For this they are willingly 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: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." The Gap Theorists say that this is referring to the destruction of a previous civilization, and the waters are those referred to in Genesis 1:2 "darkness was upon the face of the deep." However, it is clear that these verses are referring to the Flood, when the subterranean water chambers (Genesis 7:11) and the water canopy above the firmament (Genesis 1:6) ruptured, flooding the earth in minutes. Besides, Peter referred to Noah's Flood in the previous chapter. Gap Theorists also use Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish** the earth..." They say that replenish means refill- and they are right. But the King James Bible was written in 1611, and in 1611 the word replenish simply meant fill. It was not until 1650 that the word came to mean 'refill.' As we all know, English words change meaning quite frequently. In the original Hebrew, the word used there is 'male', which means 'to fill'. 'Shoov', the Hebrew word for 'refill,' is not the one used there.

There are many serious problems with the Gap Theory.

1. In Exodus 20:11, we read, "...In six days the Lord made **heaven** and earth, the sea, and **all that in them is**, and rested the seventh day..." 'Heaven...and all that in them is' would include Lucifer and the angels. In Revelation 21:1, we read, "And I saw a new heaven, and a new earth, for the **first** heaven and the **first** earth were passed away..." So if this is the first earth, and everything in heaven and on earth was created in the six-day creation week, it's senseless to have a

gap between Gen. 1:1 and Gen. 1:2. Day One was literally *the beginning*. Lucifer did not exist before Day One, so how could he have fallen before Day One?

2. In Mark 10:6-8, Jesus, when speaking against divorce, said, “**But from the beginning of the creation GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. FOR THIS CAUSE SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THEY TWAIN SHALL BE ONE FLESH.**” It’s obvious He’s talking about Adam and Eve- He’s quoting Genesis 2:24. So why would Jesus call this the beginning of the creation if millions of years had gone by, as the Gap Theory states? It wouldn’t be the beginning; on the contrary, it would be near the end. If that were the case, He would be lying. But the Bible tells us in Numbers 23:19 that God is not a man, that he should lie; and in Hebrews 6:18, that it is impossible for God to lie.
3. Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels were created to be ministering spirits for us, the heirs of salvation. So why would He make them millions of years before man? That just doesn’t add up.
4. In Genesis 1:31, “God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good.**” ‘Everything’ would include Lucifer. Would God pronounce him ‘very good’ if he had already fallen? There is nothing good about the Father of Lies. Neither would it be very good if there was death and destruction in the animal kingdom, nor if there were millions of years worth of dead things buried under the earth.
5. The Gap Theory puts death before man’s sin. That borders on heresy. It says in Romans 5:12, 15, 19, “Wherefore, as **by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin**, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...”, “Death reigned from Adam to Moses,” and “For as by one man’s disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” The Gap Theory is in direct opposition to this. So we see that if Adam, as a man, did **not** bring death into the world by sin (as the Gap Theory says), Jesus, as a man, could **not** have defeated death on the cross. In this way, the Gap Theory attacks the very foundation of our faith, making it a deadly deception. The Gap Theorists will refute this by saying, “Paul was referring to human death; Adam’s sin did not affect the creation.” That is a lie. God gave Adam dominion over the creation, so when Adam fell, creation fell with him. In Genesis 3:18, plants grew thorns as a result of Adam’s sin. For four thousand years afterward, innocent animals had to be sacrificed to cover man’s sin. Romans 8:20 (CJV) reminds us, “For the creation was made subject to

frustration- not willingly, but because of the one who subjected it.” The Gap Theorists will argue, “But didn’t plants die before Adam sinned? Isn’t that death?” The Bible defines living creatures as those ‘in whose nostrils is the breath of life.’ Plants breathe through their skin. They aren’t ‘alive.’ *There was no death before sin.* This is part of the foundation of our faith, and it is vital. If the foundation crumbles, so does everything else. Untold numbers have had their faith destroyed by this lie. The Gap Theory is incompatible with true Christianity. If we cannot trust God to tell the truth about His creation, how can we trust anything else in the Bible? Either we agree with the Gap Theory and call God a liar, or we stand on God’s word and not be dissuaded by the ‘oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith,’ as 1 Timothy 6:20-21 so clearly state.

6. Nearly four thousand human fossils have been found. Therefore, at the time that the fossils were made, there were human beings alive. We believe that the fossils and strata found under the earth were laid down by Noah’s flood. According to the Gap Theory, however, these were laid down by the destruction of a pre-adamite civilization. If this is true, then there were normal human people living at this time. This is a problem. Romans 5:18, “Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon **all men** to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” If the Gap Theory is true, and these fossils were laid down before Adam, how could Paul say that Adam’s sin affected **all men**? He would be lying. Adam’s sin could not possibly have condemned men and women who lived millions of years before him. Either Paul is lying, or the Gap Theory is false. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Gap Theory has to go.
7. Lastly, fossilized thorns have been found. We all know that thorns came about as a result of Adam’s sin. These fossils could not possibly have been laid down before Adam. But, according to the Gap Theory, these thorns were fossilized millions of years before man’s sin. That blatantly contradicts Scripture.

The Gap Theory clearly undermines everything we believe in. It is a compromise. *We cannot afford to compromise.* Either the Bible is true, or it’s a lie. Either every word is infallible, or all of it is worthless. Either we believe that God meant what he said, or we believe He is a liar. The Gap Theory was invented and elaborated on by people who did not have the science or technology to prove the absurdity of evolution. Now we see that there is no scientific or Biblical evidence to support the Gap Theory- it is mere fabrication and conjecture by men and women who were intimidated by ‘Evolution Science.’ No one is going to come up with the Gap

Theory by reading their Bible unless they've already been indoctrinated that way. The Gap Theory is not theologically acceptable.

The Day Age Theory is another attempt to compromise the Bible. It is the belief that the six days of the creation week were long periods of time. Day Age Theorists use the verses Psalm 90:4- "For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night," and 2 Peter 3:8- "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." What they fail to realize is that neither verse is referring to the creation- they are merely clarifying that time means nothing to God. Day Age Theorists use these passages to argue that each day of the creation week was a long period of time. However, in Exodus 20, God used the creation week as a model for the Jews' work week. Scripture makes it clear that the days of creation week were literal 24-hour days. The literal Hebrew word for 'day' used in the creation account is 'yom.' 'Yom' always signifies a twenty-four hour day, especially when modified with 'the first' or 'the second', or 'evening' and 'morning'. There is also a major scientific flaw in this theory. The Bible tells us that plants were created on Day 3, the sun on Day 4, and the insects on Day 5. Plants cannot survive for long without sunlight. If these days were long periods of time, the plants would have withered long before the sun was created. More importantly, plants need insects for pollination, and some flowers, such as poppies, are only open for a few days before they wilt. There is no way they could have survived for eons without pollination, as the Day Age Theory suggests. The Day Age Theory also has the same theological error as the Gap Theory, as it puts death before Adam's sin.

Sadly, some study Bibles and Bible translations support or teach the Gap/Day Age Theories. For example, the Scofield Bible and Bullinger Bible, although they may contain some great insights, are in error when it comes to the creation. It is important to understand that these, and study Bibles like them, are not the pure Word of God, and should not be taken as such. On the other hand, they should be read with care and discernment, as they are simply man's understanding. These Bibles were written during a time when Christians were struggling to keep their faith, since the science that so clearly disproves evolution was not yet known. Mature Christians should rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to reveal the interpretation of Scripture, and not on man's faulty interpretations. Keep in mind that all men, regardless of their spiritual status, are fallible, and their beliefs do not supersede God's word. Some Bible translations actually change the literal meaning of certain words in the Bible to support the Gap/Day Age theories. For example, the NASB Bible says, "And there was evening, and there was morning, one day." How many 'one days' are there in history? All of them. What happened to 'the first day?' We must not change God's Word to fit our fallible theories.

There is no scientific or Biblical reason to believe in the Gap Theory. It is a dangerous belief that has led many Christians astray. We realize that many big-time Christians believe this, but that doesn't change the fact that it is still wrong. Majority opinion does not change the truth. Six hundred years ago, the majority believed the earth was flat. Two hundred years ago, the majority believed that bleeding a person would cure sickness (that's what killed George Washington!). The majority is usually wrong. Evolution has already been proven false. Science points to a young earth, not an old one. We don't *need* the Gap Theory! It violates Scripture by undermining the very foundation of our faith, and it is unscientific. We would like to say true science as we know it is in harmony with the Bible. Neither Evolution, the Big Bang, nor the Old Earth belief are science. They are the religion of those who have chosen to reject God- that is the reason they were invented! Why can't we just believe God and take him at his Word? There is no reason, scientific or Biblical, to believe in the Gap Theory. As Dr. Kent Hovind says, "It has never been proven that the earth is billions of years old. There is ample scientific evidence that the earth is only 6,000 years old. Why should we compromise a perfectly good Bible, which has never been proven wrong, with a teaching that has never been proven right?" Scientists come up with new theories every day, and our understanding of science changes all the time, but the Word of God stands forever. Let us put our faith in that! I am sure that in the 1400s, when 'scientists' said the earth was flat, there were theologians who were scrambling to explain why the Bible said it was round. But in the end, the Bible was proven right. Aren't we just doing the same thing with the Gap Theory? Genesis 1-11 is known as the foundation of the Christian faith. It tells us how we got here, the purpose of life, the promise of redemption, and who our Creator is. If this, our foundation, is cracked, how can we hope to survive? Are we going to place our faith in scientific theories, or in the God who made science? The Gap Theory clearly contradicts Scripture. It is merely man's reasoning; it is not of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the end, everything-knowledge, science, even the earth-will pass away. In the end, the Word of God alone will be left standing. Let us place our faith in that!

#### References:

*The Garden of Eden* by Dr. Kent Hovind

*The Gap Theory* by Dr. Kent Hovind

The King James Bible

The Complete Jewish Bible

The NASB Bible