



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

Gap Theory



In the Beginning

- Our dilemma – we know from scripture that sometime between creation and the events of Genesis 3 that evil entered the universe - we know the event, but not the time.
- One of several attempts to plot the time of evil's entry is called the Gap theory. This theory postulates there was an indefinite 'gap' of time between Gen 1:1 and Gen 1:2 and it was in this gap that evil entered the universe.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. NIV
- The wording of verse #2 is such that one has to wonder what God had in mind in verse #1 unless there was some chaotic event that happened between the verses.



In the Beginning

- Without form – Hebrew ‘tohuw’ – translated as to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), i.e. desert; figuratively, a worthless thing; adverbially, in vain:
- Void – Hebrew ‘bohuw’ - translated as (meaning to be empty); a vacuity, i.e. an undistinguishable ruin.
- Dark – Hebrew ‘choshek’ – translated as dark, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness.



In the Beginning

- Isa 14:12 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: '***Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, 17 who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?***'



In the Beginning

- And so, the theory goes like this:
 - The words of Gen 1:2 are inconsistent with God's perfection.
 - The verbs of Gen 1:3 through 1:31 are just as indicative of a renovation as they are a new creation.
 - Isaiah 14:17 seems to point to a time when Satan destroyed the earth. (if it wasn't between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 then when was it?)



In the Beginning

- The bottom line – if the ‘Gap’ theory is correct, man is still in the same sin predicament he is if the theory is incorrect.
- It does allow for millions of years to pass between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 – some say this allows for all of the geological ages modern science points to. (or was it the flood that makes things seem older than they are?)
- I find it interesting, but not transforming. 😊



In Support of the Gap Theory



Refuting the Gap Theory



You Decide 😊



When Were Angels Created?



In the Beginning

- We will begin by stating that the answer to this question may not be as clear as you may want it to be.
- There are (2) credible camps and we will examine the arguments of each.
- One camp holds that the angels were created before day #1 of the Genesis record and the other includes the creation of angels in the Genesis 6 day account.



In the Beginning

- Camp #1's arguments begin with this scripture –
- Job 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. 5 Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? 6 What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone 7 as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”
- This would seem to put the creation of angels before day #1 of the Genesis account.



In the Beginning

- A problem with this argument is that if you are going to use it to place the creation of angels before the creation of the universe, then who, or what are the morning stars?
- Here is the text again, “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy”.
- In order for this argument to be valid for camp #1’s view, you have to spiritualize the “morning stars” as something other than “stars”.



In the Beginning

- Angels have at least two roles – to worship God and to serve mankind.
- Rev 5:11 Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.
- Heb 1:14 Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.



In the Beginning

- So there could have been a “worshipping” role for angels long before the creation account of Genesis 1, but not a “serving of mankind” role.
- Camp #1 conclusion – it is scripturally supportable and probably widely held.
- However, it is not air tight enough for us to say with certainty that angels were made prior to Genesis 1.



In the Beginning

- Camp #2 – angels were created on day #1 of the Genesis account.
- Exodus 20:11 *For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them;* but on the seventh day he rested.
- In this view, if the heavens are more than the stars and planets, then the angels would be a part of the “everything in them”.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 2 says nearly the same thing as Exodus 20:11.
- Gen 2:1 *So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed.*
- Neh 9:6 “You alone are the Lord. *You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them.* You preserve them all, *and the angels of heaven worship you.*



In the Beginning

“While the passages in Genesis...mention only the making of the firmament, sun, moon, stars, and animals, it must be carefully marked by the reader that in Nehemiah 9:6 the objects of God’s making include the heavens, the heaven of heavens, and the earth, and everything contained in and on it, and the seas and everything they contain, as well as the hosts of heaven (probably angels)”.

Weston Fields



In the Beginning

- John 1:1 *In the beginning* the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.
- Gen 1:1 *In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth.
- Both of these texts point to a beginning of time followed by the creation of everything.



In the Beginning

- Camp #2 conclusion - it is scripturally supportable but probably not widely held.
- However, it is not air tight enough for us to say with certainty that angels were not made prior to Genesis 1.
- We can say with great certainty that angels were made prior to man, most likely prior to day #5 (as a part of the everything in the heavens on day #4), and possibly even prior to day #1 of the Genesis record.



Questions

