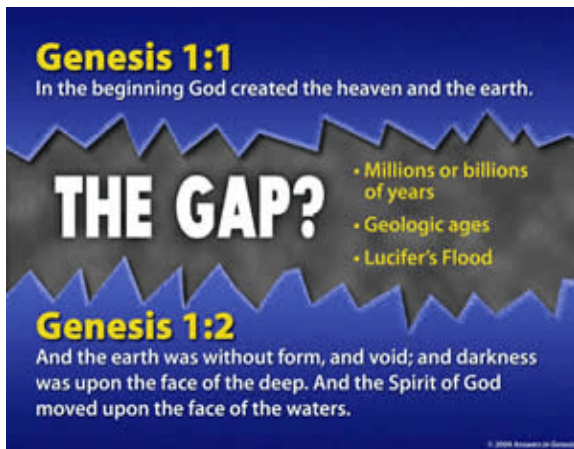


# THE GAP THEORY IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

By Marie Casale  
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The Gap Theory (Ruin-Reconstruction Theory) says that there is an indeterminate period of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 that can account for science's assertions that the universe must be billions of years old.

If you insert the Gap Theory between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, this is how Genesis is interpreted: Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. This beginning was sometime in the far distant past. It can be pushed back to accommodate whatever amount of time science deems necessary to account for what they say is the age of the heavens and earth. Science provides the fossil records that indicate animals as well

as people they believe lived during this time before Adam. Gap theorists believe Satan ruled the earth during this time. Then he rebelled against God, and was cast out of Heaven. As a result, the earth suffered a great cataclysm that left it without form and void and covered with water. Gen 1:2 And the earth BECAME 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. After this cataclysm there was a global ice age when the light and heat from the sun were somehow removed. God restored this light and heat on the fourth day of re-creation week. Thus, the six days of Genesis 1 do not record the original creation, but a re-construction after Lucifer's flood, and a preparing of the earth for the race of Adam.

United Church of God inherited its teaching of the Gap Theory from its parent, Worldwide Church of God.

But, is this the way God intended Genesis 1 to be understood?

Here are answers to the various points for the Gap Theory.

## 1. THE AGE OF THE GAP THEORY

This United Church of God web page, <http://www.ucg.org/booklets/BT/earth-age-genesis.asp>, claims as a point of defense that the Gap Theory has existed for more than 2000 years. They list scholars such as Origen (185-254AD), Hugh of St. Victor (1096-1141 AD), Hebrew scholars who wrote the Targum (from the Second Temple period until the early Middle Ages), Dionysius Petavius (1583-1642 AD) and others who alluded to it in their writings.

## ANSWER

It may also be claimed as a point of defense that from earliest times Genesis 1 was understood by Catholics, Protestants and Jews to be the record of the original creation and not a reconstruction. It was not until the Gap Theory entered that this understanding changed.

The church may have gotten the idea for the old age of the Gap Theory from Canadian physiologist Arthur Custance. He argued that the belief can be traced back to biblical times, (See

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gap\\_creationism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gap_creationism)) However, no actual quotes from these scholars are given on the UCG web page. So this claim may bear looking into.

We as Christians should already know that just because an idea is very old, that does not necessarily prove it is the TRUTH.

Most scientists will point to Dr. Thomas Chalmers, a Scottish minister, as the one who proposed the Gap Theory first in modern times. In 1814, as a response to scientists who were beginning to teach that the earth was billions of years in age, Chalmers theorized a "gap" in time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 that could allow for these billions of years.

## 2. THE GAP THEORY IS AN ATTEMPT TO FIND AGREEMENT WITH SCIENCE

The United Church of God web page, <http://www.ucg.org/booklets/BT/earth-age-genesis.asp> is in agreement with the motive of cooperating with science. It says, "If such an interval (between Gen 1:1 and 1:2) is indeed intended, there is no discrepancy between the Bible record and scientific determinations that the earth is up to several billion years old. If, on the other hand, there is no such gap, then the earth itself must be only around 6,000 years old—which most scientists consider an impossibility."

### ANSWER:

Many sincere Christians have interpreted Genesis 1 in ways that avoid conflicts with science. The Gap Theory is one of these. Another theory puts a gap between Genesis 2 and 3. Another says that similar to other ancient creation myths, the account in Genesis 1 must be symbolic, not literal; and the literal creation took place eons ago. Today, other compromise positions like "progressive creation" (the belief that God created new forms of life gradually over hundreds of millions of years), or "theistic evolution", (the idea that evolution is a tool that God employed to develop life) are even more popular than the Gap Theory.

Seeking harmony between science and the Bible seems like a good motive, but it is not good if we become willing to force an interpretation on the Bible that it does not teach in order to make it agree with science. What we should ask is, 'what does the Bible really teach? Does it really teach that the earth is 6000 years old, or several billion years old?'

## 3. WAS VERSUS BECAME

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

Gen 1:2 And the earth WAS vs BECAME 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.

When you say something WAS - like, 'Martin Luther King WAS a black man', it just describes a state of being, not implying that Mr. King was some other color before. But when you say something BECAME, like the earth BECAME without form and void, it implies that before it BECAME that way, it was a different way. If the Hebrew word in Gen 1:2 is translated BECAME, this would allow for the insertion of the Gap Theory because it implies that the earth was in a different state before it BECAME without form and void. The word WAS would give no such implication.

The United Church of God web page, <http://www.ucg.org/booklets/BT/earth-age-genesis.asp> agrees with the word BECAME and cites Gleason Arthur, a professor of Biblical languages who says that the word WAS in Gen 1:2 can indeed be translated BECAME.

## ANSWER:

To say simply that the word 'was' CAN be translated 'became' in verse 2 does not give adequate proof that this is the correct translation. A fuller explanation of the grammar, Hebrew and what early translations say is needed so that a proper judgment can be made.

Here are some statements I found on the grammar, Hebrew and early translations of Gen 1:2

## HEBREW

HA-YA = Was (Modern Hebrew) NI-HI-YA LE = Became (Modern Hebrew)

VA-YE-HI = Was (Biblical Hebrew) VA-YE-HI LE = Became (Biblical Hebrew)

Shelly Smith, Hebrew Instructor

Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA

## GRAMMAR

The most straightforward reading sees Gen 1:1 as a subject-and-verb clause, with verse 2 containing three circumstantial clauses (i.e., three statements that further describe the circumstances introduced by the principal clause in verse 1).

The grammarian Gesenius says that the Hebrew conjunction waw, meaning "and" at the beginning of verse 2, is a "waw copulative," which compares with the old English expression "to wit." This grammatical connection between verses 1 and 2 thus rules out the Gap Theory. Verse 2 is in fact a description of the state of the originally created earth: "And the earth was without form and void" (Genesis 1:2a).

<http://www.answeringgenesis.org/articles/nab/gap-ruin-reconstruction-theories>

## GRAMMAR

The sentence starts with the noun subject, which suggests that the statement is giving attendant circumstances. The second clause seems clearly to be doing this. It is verbless, implying "and darkness was over the surface of the deep." The third clause is the same way. It, too, is verbless, except for a participle, saying that "the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the water." In Hebrew when the clause starts with a noun and is verbless, it often is giving attendant circumstance. Here the attendant circumstances are to the fact that God created the heavens and earth. Since the last two clauses seem to be circumstantial, it is natural if the first clause is also circumstantial: "the earth was empty and void."

Harold Holmyard

B-Hebrew Online Hebrew Discussion Group

## HEBREW

The Hebrews did not have a word for became, but the verb to be did service for to be and become. The form of the verb 'was' in Genesis 1:2 is the Qal, perfect, third person singular, feminine. A Hebrew concordance will give all the occurrences of that form of the verb. A check in the concordance with reference to the usage of this form of the verb in Genesis reveals that in almost every case the meaning of the verb is simply 'was'. Granted in a case or two 'was' means 'became' but if in the preponderance of instances the word is translated 'was', any effort to make one instance mean 'became', especially if that instance is highly debatable, is very insecure exegesis.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/442>

## TRANSLATION

The verb hayetha of Genesis 1:2 is translated 'was' in all the standard translations because that is its meaning. Surely it is significant that none of the Old Testament linguists felt compelled to translate hayetha to suggest that the Earth 'became' waste and void as gap theorists propose.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/442>

## TRANSLATION

The earliest available manuscript of Genesis 1:1-2 is found in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint (LXX), prepared about 250-200 B.C. The LXX does not permit the reading of any "ruin-reconstruction" scenario into these verses, as even Custance admitted.

<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-gaptheory-problems.html>

## GRAMMAR AND HEBREW

Arthur Custance, ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gap\\_creationism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gap_creationism)), a supporter of the Gap Theory, claims that out of 1,320 occurrences of the verb hayah in the Old Testament, only 24 can certainly be said to bear the meaning "to be." He concludes that in Genesis 1:2 hayetah must mean "became" and not simply "was."

However, we must note that the meaning of a word is controlled by its context, and that verse 2 is circumstantial to verse 1. Thus "was" is the most natural and appropriate translation for hayetah. It is rendered this way in most English versions (as well as in the LXX). Furthermore, in Genesis 1:2 hayetah is not followed by the preposition le, which would have removed any ambiguity in the Hebrew and required the translation "became."

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/gap-ruin-reconstruction-theories>

## HEBREW

I'd argue that the proper way of indicating 'becoming' in Hebrew is HYH + L (ie. the verb HYH followed by the preposition Le). In that regard, if the earth 'became' empty and void, the text should probably have the preposition L before THW WBHW. The fact it doesn't probably indicates that the earth 'was' empty and void.

George Athas

B-Hebrew online Hebrew discussion group

## HEBREW

'hayah' certainly can mean "became" without use of the preposition 'le' following it. All you have to do is search for the word "became" or "become" in an English translation and look at the underlying Hebrew. Examples are Gen 3:22; 19:26

In my opinion, based on looking at all the 'hayah's in Genesis, in Biblical Hebrew, 'hayah' always means 'became', or at least that there is some process involved. If no process is involved then Biblical Hebrew does not use a verb. I don't think that the 'haya' alone makes it definite either way.

Steve Miller , Detroit

B-Hebrew Online Hebrew Discussion Group

## HEBREW

I don't see how you can translate Gen 1:2 as 'became' only as the word 'was'. The word Haya means 'was' the word n'yah means 'became' and the word nyah doesn't say in the verse. Scientists cannot prove from just reading the text in the torah that the world is billions of years old. Regarding 2:7 for the word 'became' it uses the word vayiheh which comes from the same root but it has a different translation.

Rabbi David Holzberg, Hebrew Instructor  
Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA

## CONCLUSION

These statements indicate that the earliest translations support the word 'was'. The grammar of Gen 1:2 overwhelmingly supports the word 'was'. The Hebrew supports the word 'was' because it does not have the 'le' preposition, which is the usual indication of 'became'. The only reason it CAN support the word 'became' is because a few other scriptures like Gen 3:22, 19:26 translate the word 'became' without the 'le' preposition. The reasoning is that since these other scriptures can do so, it also can be done in Gen 1:2.

But when you put the evidence of the early translations, the grammar context and the Hebrew all together, the word 'was' is undoubtedly the intended word in Gen 1:2. Also note in the scriptures where the word is translated 'became' without the 'le' preposition that the context of the verse better suggests that the word 'became' should be used. (For example: Lot's wife 'was' a pillar of salt or Lot's wife 'became' a pillar of salt.) There is no such 'context suggestion' in Gen 1:2.

## 4. FORMLESS (TOHU) AND VOID (BOHU)

A.

One argument in support of the Gap Theory having to do with these words says that it does not make sense for God to have created an imperfect world without form and void because God always does things perfectly. So God originally created the earth perfectly in Gen 1:1. Then it 'became' without form and void because Satan's rebellion caused a great cataclysm that left it this way in verse two..

B.

A second argument is that Isa 45:18 is often used to support the Gap Theory.

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not IN VAIN (Tohu), he formed it to be inhabited: I [am] the Lord; and [there is] none else.

The words 'in vain' are translated from the same word "tohu" as 'formless' in Genesis 1:2. Gappists say that since it says in Isaiah that the Lord did not create the earth 'tohu', and since the earth in Genesis 1:2 was 'tohu', that it must have become 'tohu' as the result of the cataclysm of Lucifer's flood that left it this way.

C.

A third argument in support of the Gap Theory has to do with the only three scriptures where the words 'tohu' and 'bohu' are used together in the Bible.

Gen 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.

Isa 34:11 But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, (tohu) and the stones of emptiness (bohu).

Jer 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, [it was] without form, and void; and the heavens, and they [had] no light.

Gappists say that since Isa 34:11 and Jer 4:23 use these words in context of God's wrath and judgment, then in Gen 1:2 the earth 'became' without form and void also because of God's judgment.

## ANSWERS

A.

The earth being without form and void when it was first created does not make God somehow imperfect when you see God like a potter who takes a lump of formless and void clay. Then he forms and works on it until it becomes a beautiful finished vase full of flowers. Notice that God chose to create Adam in this way too. He did not speak or snap his fingers and a perfect man instantly appeared. He FORMED Adam from the dust of the ground. Then he breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Before God was finished forming and finally breathing life into Adam, he was WITHOUT FORM AND VOID of life. God created all the creatures in this way too. (Gen 2:19)

B.

In Isaiah 45:18 the fact that it says, “he formed it TO BE inhabited” shows that the MEANING of the verse has to do with the purpose for which God formed the earth. It does not have to do with the original state of the earth. God created the earth not (for the purpose of being forever) without form (as it was in the beginning); He formed it (for the purpose of being) inhabited (and so it became inhabited).

If the meaning of Isaiah 45:18 were that there was a great cataclysm that caused the earth to be ‘tohu’, then it would read this way: Isa 45:18 For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not IN VAIN (tohu), he formed it perfect and inhabited, but it later became tohu.

C.

The fact that ‘tohu’ and ‘bohu’ have to do with judgmental destruction in Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23 does not prove that this was the case in Gen 1:2. The words ‘formless and void’ do not of themselves tell us the CAUSE of being formless and void. The cause has to be understood from the context. An example would be a blank computer screen. The cause of the blank screen could be because it has not been taken out of the box and used yet. Or the cause could be that the computer took on a virus and the screen went blank. The context of Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23 indicates that the cause of being formless and void was a judgmental destruction. But it is not valid to infer that same meaning into Genesis 1:2, because the context does not suggest it there. The suggestion in Genesis 1:2 is that the earth was ‘tohu’ and ‘bohu’ because it was in the beginning stage of creation. The rest of Genesis 1 shows how the earth was perfected.

Also the form of use of ‘tohu’ and ‘bohu’ in Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23 is called “verbal allusion”. These passages allude to the formless and empty earth at the beginning of creation to suggest the extent of God's judgment to come. God's judgment will be so complete that the result will be like the earth before it was formed and filled—formless and empty. This does not imply that the state of the creation in Genesis 1:2 was arrived at by some sort of judgment or destruction because Isaiah and Jeremiah were not interpreting the meaning of Genesis 1:2.

### 5. THE FORMLESS AND VOID EARTH WAS CAUSED BY SATAN'S FALL

The Gap Theory holds that it was Satan's rebellion and fall from Heaven that caused the great cataclysm that left the earth ‘without form and void’ in verse 2..

Isaiah 14:12-15 (that talks about the fall of Satan), and Ezekiel 28:11-17 (that talks about the King of Tyrus) are used as proof-texts.

## ANSWER

One problem with this idea is that if Satan fell at the end of the billions of years of geologic ages at the time of the pre-Adamic flood, then all the death and suffering recorded in the fossils of those billions of years must have been God's fault. Since they occurred before Satan's rebellion and fall, then Satan and sin cannot be blamed.

Second, common sense is not served by this story. Satan had ruled the earth for billions of years during the Gap. He then caused a great rebellion among God's angels and incited a catastrophic war that left the earth without form and void, dark and covered with water. (Gen 1:2) Then God cast him out of Heaven and began the six-day reconstruction of the earth. But then God allowed Satan into the Garden of Eden and gave him authority (Luk 4:6) over the earth AGAIN. Satan then immediately continued his rebellion by deceiving Eve. If someone gets your neighbors to help him destroy your house, are you going to invite him to live in and be in charge of the beautiful new one you are building?

The Bible does tell us that Satan fell from Heaven. ( Isa 14:12, Luk 10:18) It also tells us WHEN Satan fell from Heaven. Most people assume, because Jesus said in Luk 10:18, "I SAW Satan fall from Heaven", (and SAW is past tense), that his fall must have occurred at some time in the past. The most logical time to suppose it happened is before the creation or during the gap. But notice that Satan still had access to Heaven at the time Job lived. (Job 1:6-7) So he could not have been cast out of Heaven before that. Now compare Luk 10:18 with Rev 21:1-2. These verses show that even though Jesus was speaking in past tense about the fall of Satan, he could have been prophesying about a future event – just as John said, "I SAW a new heavens and new earth." The Bible tells us that the fall of Satan did indeed take place future from when Jesus said this.

At the Passover meal the evening before he died, Jesus said, Jhn 12:31 NOW is the judgment of this world: NOW shall the prince of this world be CAST OUT. So Satan was cast out of Heaven at the time of the death of Jesus Christ. This agrees with Rev 12:1-9 which tells us that the war in Heaven that caused Satan to be cast out occurred at some time AFTER Jesus was born.

Therefore, the war in Heaven and fall of Satan had nothing to do with the earth becoming without form and void in Gen 1:2.

## 6. REPLENISHING AND RENEWING THE EARTH

Gap Theorists believe that except for verse 1 the record of Genesis 1 is not the original creation, but shows how God was repairing this cataclysm and making the earth habitable for man. God was REPLENISHING the earth according to Gen 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. They also quote Psa 104:30 that says, "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou RENEWEST the face of the earth."

## ANSWER

The only two places that the word REPLENISH is used are in Gen 1:28 and Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and 'replenish' the earth. That God said this to Noah seems to agree with the idea that God was renewing something that had been previously destroyed. But the Hebrew word 'male' (mah-lay) simply means to fill as an initial act of completion. It does not mean 'refill'. The word mah-lay was translated 'replenish' which meant simply 'to fill' when the King James Version of the Bible was written in 1611. Later the word

‘replenish’ took on the meaning of ‘refilling’ when it was incorporated into the English language about 1650. God told both Adam and Noah to "go fill (mah-lay) the earth". Even though in Noah’s case, he was ‘refilling’ the earth after the flood, the original Hebrew word does not mean to refill. Since this is so, the word ‘replenish’ cannot be used to prove that God was restoring the earth that was previously destroyed in Gen 1:2

In regards to Psm 104:30, this verse is not talking about the initial creation in Genesis. In context it is talking about the ongoing creation of living things - the beasts. In the previous verse it says when God takes away their breath they die and return to their dust. But when he sends forth his spirit (of life), they are created and God renews the face of the earth - with newborn living creatures.

## 7. CREATE (BARA) AND MAKE (ASAH)

Supporters of the Gap Theory say that the Hebrew word ‘bara’ used in Gen 1:1 (In the beginning God ‘created’ (bara) refers only to “creating” something from nothing - the “original” creation. The word translated ‘make’ (asah) refers only to making,” not the original creation, but something “made over” or made from preexisting materials. Thus Genesis 1 can be divided into the first verse where the heavens and earth were originally ‘created’ eons ago and the rest of Genesis 1 where the ‘making’ over or reconstruction took place in the six days.

## ANSWER

Is there such a difference between ‘bara’ and ‘asah’ in biblical usage? A number of verses show that while ‘asah’ may mean ‘to do’, or ‘to make’, it can also mean ‘to create’, the same as ‘bara’. These are examples where ‘bara’ and ‘asah’ are used interchangeably.

The reference in these scriptures is obviously to the original ex nihilo creation, but the word ‘made’ (asah) is used.

Neh 9:6 Thou, [even] thou, [art] Lord alone; thou hast ‘made’ (asah) heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all [things] that [are] therein, the seas, and all that [is] therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Exd 20:11 For [in] six days the Lord ‘made’ (asah) 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.

In these scriptures the words ‘bara’ and ‘asah’ are used in the same verse, both words referring to the same creation.

Gen 2:4 These [are] the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were ‘created’, (bara) in the day that the Lord God ‘made’ (asah) the earth and the heavens,

Gen 1:26-27 And God said, Let us ‘make’ (asah) 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. So God ‘created’ (bara) man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Isa 43:7 [Even] every one that is called by my name: for I have ‘created’ (bara) him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have ‘made’ (asah) him.

## 8. DEFINITION OF A DAY

Gap theorists generally believe that the days in Genesis 1 are literal 24-hour days. But some who hold with the old age of the earth whether or not they believe the Gap Theory will say that the days in Genesis 1 are one thousand years long according to 2 Peter 3:8, or indeterminate periods of time or even symbolic days. Are there scriptures by which we can KNOW how long each day is in Genesis 1?



## ANSWER

Gen 1:5 defines a day as a night portion and a day portion.

Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Earth rotates about its axis once each day (approximately 24 hours) with half of this time facing the sun (day) and half facing away from the sun (night). No other period of time combines a day and night portion as does the 24-hour day.

Ex 20:9-11 further clarifies the meaning of a day by the fact that we are to do our work six days and rest the seventh because God himself created all things in this time frame. God did not have to take six days to create everything, but he did this deliberately as a pattern for the seven-day week. The weekly cycle continually bears witness to the fact of how God created.

Exd 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exd 20:10 But the seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:

Exd 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.

These scriptures prove that the days in Gen 1 are not indeterminate periods of time but 24 hours long. Days are also not symbolic but literal since we must literally work for six days and then rest the seventh just as God did.

Another proof against each day in Genesis 1 being a thousand years has to do with symbiotic relationships between totally different living things. The plants were created on day three. Many plants depend on wildlife to process and disperse seeds for planting and germination. Many need insects to provide pollination. But these animals and insects were not created until day six. If days were a thousand years long, then plants that required these animals could not have survived for three thousand years until the animals they needed were created. Likewise the birds were created on the fifth day. Many examples of symbiotic relationships between birds and animals are found in nature. But if the birds had to wait a thousand years before the animals arrived on the scene, they would not have survived. See this site for many examples of symbiotic relationships.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_symbiotic\\_relationships](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_symbiotic_relationships)

The thousand-year days in 2Peter 3:8 have to do with prophetic symbolizing of the six thousand years of man's reign followed by the seventh day millennial reign of the Kingdom of God, not with the literal length of days in Genesis 1.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

## 9. THE AGE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Scientists believe heaven and earth are billions of years old. To be fair I am including a link that supports the assertions of science.

<http://www.ips-planetarium.org/pubs/age-of-universe.html>

## ANSWER

We have proved the Bible teaches that the days in Gen 1 are 24-hour days and that the heaven and earth were created on the first day. On the sixth day God created Adam. From Adam there are precise geneologies and time periods beginning in chapter 5 that take us through to New Testament times. A

survey of all these shows that according to the Bible the earth is now approximately 6000 years old, not several billion years old.

The Gap Theory was invented to solve this discrepancy between science and the Bible by reinterpreting Genesis 1:1-2 to make the Bible agree that the earth could indeed be billions of years old. Instead, shouldn't we be HONEST about what the Bible says as well as what science says even though they disagree?

After all, there is also scientific evidence available to support the Bible teaching of a young earth. [http://creationwiki.org/Young\\_earth\\_evidence](http://creationwiki.org/Young_earth_evidence)

And here is another explanation for a young universe to be considered...

Any scientist who looked at Adam would say he was an adult. Although he looked like an adult, Adam was only one day old in the day God created him. God could have also created the heavens and earth in the 'adult stage' so that although they look much older to scientists, they are actually only 6000 years old.

#### 10. PRE-ADAMIC HUMAN BEINGS

Gap theorists believe that there were pre-Adamic humans according to the fossils present in the geologic strata. Some even interpret the animals created on day six and the serpent as being symbolic of other nations.

#### ANSWER

According to the Bible, men could not have existed before Adam for several reasons.

1. Having already proved from Gen 1:5 and Ex 20:8-11 that days are 24 hours in length, we see that the earth was uninhabitable - formless, void (of life) and covered with water only five of these days before Adam was created. (Gen 1:2)

2. Rom 5:12 tells us that Adam's sin is what introduced death into the world. There was no death before Adam. Therefore, any fossils of dead humans found in the geologic strata could not have come from before Adam.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

3. The Bible says plainly that Adam was the FIRST man and Eve the mother of ALL living. There could be no other human beings before the FIRST. In support of this fact, God tells us how Adam and Eve were specially created. (Gen 2:7, 2:22) They did not come from pre-existing parents.

1Cr 15:45 And so it is written, The FIRST MAN Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.

1Cr 15:47 The FIRST MAN [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven.

Gen 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the MOTHER OF ALL LIVING.

#### 11. PRE-ADAMIC ANIMALS

Gap theorists believe that there were animals on earth millions of years before Adam according to the fossils present in the geologic strata.

#### ANSWER

According to the Bible animals could not have existed millions of years before Adam because

1. Having already proved from Gen 1:5 and Ex 20:8-11 that days are 24 hours in length, we see that the earth was uninhabitable - formless, void (of life) and covered with water only five of these days

before Adam was created. (Gen 1:2) The birds and sea creatures were created on day three, but that was only three days before Adam was created, not millions of years.

2. There may have been the potential for death in animals because they were not offered eternal life by partaking of the tree of life as was Adam. But Rom 5:12, which says that death ENTERED THE WORLD through Adam's sin, confirms that there was no death in the world before Adam's sin. So any fossils of dead animals found in the geologic strata could not have come from before Adam's sin.

3. The Bible says that the animals created on day six were docile and could be brought to Adam to see what he would name them. They were also all vegetarian. Gen 1:30 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.

Therefore there could have been no carnivorous activity (as the fossil records show there was) until after Adam sinned when the nature of animals was changed.

For further information I found here a page that explains what happened to the dinosaurs from a Christian perspective.

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/what-happened-to-the-dinosaurs>

## 12. DEATH BEFORE ADAM

Gap theorists believe that during the billions of years existence of the earth, death, and decay reigned. The fossil records bear witness of this death. Science teaches that death is simply part of the process that nature uses to continually promote species and allow survival of the fittest.

### ANSWER

The Bible teaches that:

DEATH IS THE WAGES we get for having sinned.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DEATH ENTERED THE WORLD through the sin of Adam.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Death REIGNED in the world because of Adam's offense.

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

By Adam DEATH CAME.

1Cor 15:21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.

We all DIE IN ADAM.

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

These scriptures prove that there was a CAUSE of death being in the world and that cause was Adam's sin. If death entered the world because of Adam's sin, it could not have been already in existence before Adam's sin.

Gap theorists justify all the physical death that occurred during the geologic ages before Adam by saying that the death pronounced on Adam was spiritual, not physical death.

The Bible defines spiritual death:

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

As we see here, a person who has a carnal or natural mind without God's holy spirit and who is not subject to God's commandments, but is rather focused on things of the flesh is spiritually 'dead'. It is true that Adam and Eve became spiritually 'dead' when they were not subject to God's commandment through the deception of Satan.

However Gen 3:19 tells us that Adam's sin led to physical death, not just spiritual death.

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return.

Besides denying the scriptures about death, the gap theory undermines the foundations of the gospel.

The whole message of Christianity starts with mankind's fall from paradise into death through Adam's sin. To believe there was death before Adam destroys the basis of the Christian message, that death came only after Adam sinned and made man's redemption necessary through the death of God's son Jesus Christ. "He tasted death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). How could Adam's sin be blamed for death entering the world if billions of years of death already existed before Adam?

## CONCLUSION

Understood in context of its true and pure God-intended meaning, Genesis 1 is one of the most awe-inspiring chapters in the Bible. In six majestic days God brought the entire universe and all of life into being. In this chapter God shares with us exactly how he accomplished this monumental work on each 24-hour day. The Gap Theory takes this chapter and turns the first verse into an event that happened at some unknown time in the far distant prehistoric past. The primary origin of the universe is reduced to a single verse with no additional explanation given. We are left to envision billions of years of earth's history filled with death, decay and naturalistic trial and error. Then the Gap Theory moves the rest of Genesis 1 away from being the explanation of the original creation and makes it all about an anti-climactic reconstruction.

If we allow the Bible to interpret itself and consider the implications of the Gap Theory on key scriptures, it is easy to see that every argument in support of the Gap Theory can be defeated.

As Sabbath keepers, the greatest defense we have against the Gap Theory is the fourth commandment. How could we have missed the plain truth that God told us to work six days and rest the seventh because he himself did his work of creating all things in this time frame?

The fourth commandment conclusively proves that the creation of heaven and earth in Gen 1:1 took place WITHIN the six-day period - on day one - not billions of years before. So there is no room between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 for a Gap.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the HEAVEN AND THE EARTH.

Exd 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.

It is time to free our selves from the false doctrine of science and restore the true meaning of the awesome and magnificent Genesis chapter one.