

Doctrine of the “Gap” Theory

1. Most Christians who favor a time gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 believe that the original earth was populated with plants and animals (and perhaps even pre-Adamic men), and because of the Fall of Satan it was destroyed by God through means of a global flood, was plunged into total darkness, and thus became *"waste and void."*
2. The vast ages of the geologic timetable are thought to have occurred during this interval, so that the fossil plants and animals which are found in the crust of the earth today are relics of the originally perfect world which was supposedly destroyed before the six literal days of creation (or, rather, re-creation) as recorded in Genesis 1:3-31.
3. The Gap Theory is built upon four main pillars of thought.
 - The verb translated *"was"* in Genesis 1:2 (Hebrew, *hayetha*) should be translated *"became"* or *"had become."* This different verb translation would allow for a profound change in the condition of the earth. It would permit the age of earth to be millions of years old.
 - The phrase *"waste and void"* (Hebrew, *tohu wa-bohu*) appears in Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23 and speaks of judgment and destruction. The argument is made that God would not have created the world *"without form, and void."*
 - Darkness is a symbol of evil. The implication is that the darkness that covered the earth was because of a judgment upon Satan and his followers.
 - A distinction is made between *"created"* and *"made"* which suggests that many of the things mentioned in Genesis 1 were simply remade or re-created.
4. The purpose of the Gap Theory is to reconcile modern science and the Bible. In certain areas, it cannot be done. The Gap Theory should be challenged and discarded for a simple reading of the Genesis account of creation in a literal creation week of seven days.