

***The Battle for the Beginning, Part 6***  
**The Gap Theory – Genesis 1:1, 2**

1. Space – the physical universe beyond Earth’s atmosphere – is a magnificent place.

A. Kaleidoscope Eye

1. This colorful portrait of the Helix nebula, made of the remnants of a sunlike star, was taken through a backyard telescope in Ocala, Florida, on October 5. Located some 700 light-years from Earth in the constellation Aquarius, the Helix nebula is composed of colorful gas blown out from the outer atmosphere of the dying star.

2. The Gap Theory

A. Definition and Reason

1. The Gap Theory states that there is a great gap of time between verse 1 and 2 of Genesis chapter 1. The idea is that God created the time-space-mass continuum and then billions of years of Earth history passed. The different forms of life developed that are now in the fossil record. These life forms represent those ages – the invertebrates of the Cambrian Period; the dinosaurs of the Cretaceous Period; ... finally the birds, mammals, and ape men of the Tertiary Period, just before the recent era of time.

**Note:** This was allowed even by fundamentalist Bible expositors in an effort to accommodate the evolutionists so as to simply avoid dealing with them and this theory is even recorded in the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible. The theory was suggested as a means of harmonizing Bible chronology with the evolutionists’ geological ages as a sort of means to ignore the whole problem of the Earth’s age. These theologians felt that the way to simply not deal with the age problem was to sort of pigeonhole the evolutionists’ historical ages here between verse 1 and 2 and then let them have all the ages they want. Sadly, this effort by these theologians allowed this theory to get into our schools, the news media, and most other important institutions of our society.

Then at the end of these geological ages, this idea purports, is that a great cataclysm occurred on Earth, with Satan having rebelled in Heaven and along with many angels, was thrown out of Heaven and to Earth, cataclysmic event left Earth without form and void and with darkness on the face of the deep.

Also known as the “Ruin and Reconstruction Period,” it is said that God then reconstituted the Earth in six literal days as it is recorded in Genesis 1. The argument for this theory makes verse 2 read, “The Earth became without shape and void,” or “The Earth became waste and desolate,” as though it had previously been a beautiful world. But now because of Satan’s rebellion and because of the resulting cataclysmic events, the Earth became waste and desolate.

B. This Theory is False because ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible

a. It is an egregious, unsound exegesis or misinterpretation of the Bible which is motivated by serious criticism and doubt concerning the inerrancy and authority of the Bible, God's holy Word.

- **In interpreting the Bible, you are warned not to add to it or take away from it (Revelation 22:18, 19) and you cannot insert some theory of billions of years of Earth history into the text that plainly does not even give any thought of such a thing.**

2. "Was" means "\_\_\_\_\_"

a. The Hebrew word here hayah means literally 'was,' and not 'became, and is almost always translated this way.'

1a. Occasionally, it has been translated 'became' but only when the context requires it, and this context not only does not require it, it prohibits it.

2a. In the absence of anything indicating that the Earth changed from a previously existing state to a different state, the word cannot be translated 'became.'

- **The Earth was, in response to God's divine fiat, formless and void.**

3a. Some use Isaiah 45:18 as an argument for use of the word 'became' in Genesis 1:2. But the word here is tohu and means 'in vain; that is, God did not create the Earth in vain, He had a purpose for it and that was that we – people – should live on it.

- **In the beginning, the Earth was formless – it was not even yet spherical.**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

a. Verse 2 begins with the conjunction [a connector] 'and,' which is used to introduce each sequence of the creation event along with the word 'then.'

- **Literally, it means that one after the other, this happened and this happened and this happened and this happened and then this happened, etc.**

4. Necessity of \_\_\_\_\_

a. Gap Theorists argue that since the world was clothed in darkness that something was wrong and since a perfect God cannot make something imperfect, then the Earth which used to be perfect, suffered some cataclysmic event.

b. But, again, this damages the context of the Bible and in order for God to create night and day, which is necessary for the purpose of God and the environment of man, there had to be day and night, so God created darkness to fit into His plan.

c. Some say that darkness represented evil which hints that Satan was cast from Heaven to Earth in his rebellion and that implies old Earth science and a reconstructed Earth later.

1c. But there is no hint of evil in the text and darkness cannot be interpreted this way as it is in 1John 1:5.

5. God's \_\_\_\_\_ Statement

a. The idea that billions of years of geological history occurred between verse 1 and 2 contradicts and belies God's plain statement found in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:11.

b. In this Commandment where God specifies man's rhythm of life, we see that nothing could have been left over to create after six days and that nothing was created before the six days of Creation.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Before Sin?

a. Theologically, the Gap Theory does not work because God specifically says there was no sin or death until man brought them into this world. According to the Gap Theory there had already been billions of years of suffering and death in the world, represented by the fossil record and sedimentary rocks of the Earth's crust, which are supposed to identify the geological ages. This cannot be because the Bible plainly states that man brought sin into the world and with it came death (**Romans 5:12**).

7. \_\_\_\_\_-Science

a. The whole essence of evolution is based on uniformitarianism, the idea that everything came into being by the natural processes that we see today and which began somehow billions of years ago. Well, uniformitarianism cannot allow for a cataclysmic even such as the Gap theorists suggest, because the process would have interrupted for a lengthy period of time. The whole geological age system is belied with a cataclysmic event, which is why no evolutionist embraces the Gap Theory in any form. Further, any cataclysm of this magnitude that would render a beautiful world formless and void would have to be a nuclear-like explosion of mammoth proportions and that would have blown trillions of particles of debris out into space, thus eliminating the fossil record and sedimentary rock formations for scientists to observe. So the Gap Theory would destroy the evidence of the so-called geological ages.