

Genesis 1:3-5

HOW LONG WERE THE CREATION DAYS – AND HOW CAN WE KNOW?

Back in the day, I can remember a series of TV commercials that featured people discussing their financial planning in a crowded restaurant or on a busy New York street corner. They would be surrounded with all sorts of background noise and then one of the parties involved would say, “Well, I spoke with E.F. Hutton.” And at that point everyone in the restaurant or the busy street scene would stop, and listen to the conversation in silence. The catch phrase was, “When E. F. Hutton speaks, everybody listens.”

You have also probably heard it said that the President of the United States is the most powerful man in the world; and he may be. However, that doesn't mean that their decrees are instantly followed.

For example, in Richard Nixon's first term in office, he ordered the removal of some ugly temporary buildings on the mall (not a shopping mall) that had been there since the WWI era. However, it took many, many months before that order was obeyed.

But when God speaks, something happens!

Ps. 33:9

***For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.***

Last week we talked about how the Bible never attempted to prove the existence of God, it was declared. This week we see the evidence of that existence as well as the power behind that existence. God spoke things into being. When God speaks, things, become!!

If I asked you to go home and read Genesis chapter 1, and then asked you how long it took God to create everything, what would your answer be? If your only source was the Bible, you would have to say it was all done in 6-days.

This was what everyone thought until some alleged breakthroughs in geology came about. As Christians, we put our faith in the Word of God, not the ever-changing scientific theories of man.

We then have to ask ourselves, what if the Bible is wrong? Are we to follow it in blind faith?

We have to be honest. If the Bible is wrong at any point we ought to stop wasting our time.

However, what generally happens is that science is given the benefit of the doubt while the Bible is subjected to some very unscrupulous methodology.

Today we will discuss what the word *day* means as well as some different theories that have come about as a means to "reconcile" the Bible with science.

We have an obligation to truth. And we, as Christians are to rightly divide truth. We have to determine what our standard of truth is going to be. It will either be the Bible or man-made theories.

As we look at Genesis 1 you will see a recurring phrase: and the evening and morning were the first day, second day, etc.

Gen 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Gen 1:4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

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

Gen 1:8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

So it appears that God created everything in 6 literal 24-hour days. But some people don't think so. How old is the earth according to what you were taught in school?

A literal 6-day creation right around 6,000 years ago was the general consensus until the early 1800's.

It was then that the idea of uniformitarianism became popular among scientists in general and geologist in particular.

explain uniformitarianism/ geologic column

slide

compare to catastrophism

slide

It was as this point that men began making attempts to harmonize scripture and science. The two weren't always at odds. In fact, many of the most influential scientists of the Enlightenment period were Creationists. It was their belief in Creation by a God of order that allowed them to formulate the various scientific laws. Have you ever heard of the Law of gravity? How about the Law of conservation of energy? How about the Law of angular momentum?

“Laws of science” are not to be expected in universe that came about by chance and other random mistakes.

Therefore many well-meaning churchmen attempted to harmonize what was being published as scientific fact with what God had published millennia ago.

Gap theory:

The Gap Theory was popularized in the early 1800's, by Dr. Thomas Chalmers, of Edinburgh University.

It was thought that this interpretation of Genesis could eliminate the obvious conflict between the orthodox view of scripture and the new revelations that were coming from the findings of geology.

It was then popularized in the pulpit with the use of a footnote in the Scofield Reference Bible. All of a sudden the traditional Jewish/ Christian interpretation was thrown to the wind or passed off as the belief of uneducated fundamentalists. It was a compromise that we are still paying the price for, even in evangelical circles.

The traditional Gap Theory, with variations due to personal preference, is as follows:

*In the far distant dateless past, God created a perfect heaven and perfect earth. Satan was ruler of the earth which was peopled by a race of “men” without any souls. Eventually, Satan, who dwelled in a garden of Eden composed of minerals (Ezek. 28), rebelled by desiring to become like God (Isa. 14), Because of Satan’s fall, sin entered the universe and brought on the earth God’s judgment in the form of a flood (indicated by the water of 1:2), and then a global ice-age when the light and heat from the sun were somehow removed. All the plant, animal, and human fossils upon the earth today date from this “Lucifer’s flood” and do not bear any genetic relationship with the plants, animals and fossils living upon the earth today. The biblical proofs for this theory are as follows: The verb **hayeta** in Genesis 1:2 should be translated “became” or “had become,” not “was.” The words **tohu wabohu** (without form and void) represent a sinful, and therefore , not an original state of earth. Furthermore, Isaiah 45:18 states that God did not make the earth “**tohu**,” so the earth which Genesis 1:2 describes as **tohu** could not possibly be the originally created one.*

However, the Hebrew grammar doesn’t support this claim that the earth “had become” without form.

A little problem for the GAP theory:

Exo 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

No sin before Adam:

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

It is also said that since God told Adam to **replenish** (KJV) the earth in Genesis 1:28, the earth must have been inhabited beforehand. However, this is a misnomer. At the time the KJV came into print, the word **replenish** didn’t carry the definition of filling again. The prefix ‘re’ wasn’t used in the same way it is today. If you look at a dictionary from that era, you will see that **replenish** simply means – **to fill**.

The Day/ Age Theory

DAY-AGE THEORY

The Day-Age Theory took shape as a way to extend the Genesis account so as to give the Bible credibility among the academics that were flocking to the idea of an old earth. If the days of Genesis could be said to be vast indefinable ages, then there would be harmony between scripture and science. This theory gained traction as the geologic column was constructed as evidence for an earth many times older than the chronologies of the Bible indicated. This idea, while thought to be the salvation of biblical relevancy, was actually another nail in the coffin of literal Biblicism. If the days of Genesis one weren't literal, then the chronologies of Genesis that Bishop Ussher had so meticulously worked out were simply wrong, or at the very least full of gaps. The door was opened for the tidal wave of doubt to come rushing into the church. We're still trying to shore up the leaks today.

The biggest hurdle to overcome with this theory aside from defining the word "day," is the one of time itself. If each day is a vast amount of time then there are by necessity vast amounts of darkness between the vast amounts of light. God created plants on the third day and plants need the process of photosynthesis to live. This requires sunlight. The plant kingdom couldn't survive an extended period of darkness, especially not one of possibly millions of years.

The so-called proof-text:

2Pe 3:5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

2Pe 3:6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, ***that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.***

So how long is a day?

The Hebrew word for "day" is yom. Like most other words it can have a variety of meanings depending on the context of its use.

If we take the word day to mean a literal 24-hour day, which is implied from the statement, "And the evening and the morning were the first day," then we solve

this problem of long periods of darkness between the long days of the Day-Age theory. We see this phrase used at the completion of each day of the creation week. God seems to be plainly speaking of a solar day. The terminology doesn't change once the sun and moon enter the picture. The plain meaning of the word day is that of a solar day. We further see that when the word "day" is combined with an ordinal, ("first day") or with definite boundaries such as ("evening and morning") it never means anything other than a literal "day".

It would only make sense that God would make the first usage of the word the plain one. After all, if He meant to communicate to us any other term, the Hebrew language is rich with words that would suffice. It is only when man brought in so-called evidence to the contrary that there was ever a question. The majority opinion for thousands of years was that the earth was young. There was no internal dispute.

These issues may seem technical, but we have to deal with them because how we deal with these issues will determine how we interpret the Bible.

Will we look at the world through Biblical glasses or look at the Bible with worldly glasses?

This question affects how we live our lives.

Now, concerning light and how it was present before the Sun and moon were created, we will discuss that in the near future. But for now, I would like to call your attention to the principal of light overcoming darkness.

Gen. 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness

First of all we see that when light enters the fray, there is an automatic division. In God's created order we see that there is a natural division between light and darkness. Darkness is the absence of light. And in the Bible we read that light is associated with:

- Life – John 1:4
- Christ – John 8:12
- The Word of God – Ps. 119:105, 130

- God's people – Mt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8
- God's blessing – Prov. 4:18

While darkness is associated with:

- Satan – Lk. 23:53; Eph. 6:12
- Sin – Mt. 6:22, 23; John 3:19-21
- Death – Job 3:4-6,9
- Spiritual ignorance – John 1:5
- Divine judgment – Mt. 8:12

God separated the light from the darkness because they have nothing in common.

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

II Cor. 6:14-18

Be Holy

11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. 13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people.”

17 Therefore

“Come out from among them

And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you.”

18 “I will be a Father to you,

And you shall be My sons and daughters,

Says the Lord Almighty.”

Eph. 5:1-14

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet- smelling aroma.

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Walk in Light

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For

it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,

Arise from the dead,

And Christ will give you light.”

The science and the theology work in our academic mind to help us see God and His power through His creation. But the revelation of God must move from the head to the heart in order to effect change in our lives. So, let's come out from among the world in order that we no longer walk in darkness, but are a light unto the world.