

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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No Gap For Gap Theories

(Jerry Fite)

Harmonizing the Bible with evolutionary theory is an agenda among some today. The randomness of chance demands an exorbitant amount of time for the complexity observed in our world today to occur. An extremely ancient earth must exist as the stage upon which the simple can evolve into complex organisms. If one is therefore going to harmonize the six days of creation with evolution, then one will be trying to fit great amounts of time before, during or after the Bible’s week of creation. The problem with finding the gaps is that the revelation of Scripture will not allow it and still uphold its harmony.

A popular gap theory, trying to harmonize Scripture with an extremely ancient earth, is that there was a great war between Satan and God after God created the earth, animals and man beginning in Genesis 1:1. As the result of this war, the earth became “*waste and void*” for millions of years. Then, in Genesis 1:2, God recreated the earth and man in the 24-hour days. Supposedly this allows for a fossil record, an ancient earth millions of years old, and still uphold the Bible’s six literal days for creation. The problem lies in the Bible claiming for itself that everything was created in the

first six days from the beginning. “*for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day...*” (Exodus 20:11). Adam, who was created on the sixth day, is referred to as the “first man.” *So also it is written, the first man Adam became a living soul*” (I Corinthians 15:45). This is Genesis 2:7 in Scripture, making Adam as the one created on the sixth day.

Turning the Hebrew word, “*hayah*,” properly translated “*was*,” into “*became*” in Genesis 1:1 will not work. If the world “*became*” waste and void, did it take millions of years for Lot’s wife to become a pillar of salt? In Genesis 19:26, she “*became*” (*hayah*) a pillar of salt. We understand she immediately became a pillar of salt just as the earth was immediately waste and void when created.

Other gaps supposedly occur during the creation week. Some try to find eons of time by looking at “*days*” as ages long. Others believe that there could be millions of years between the distinctive six days of creation. The problem with these theories is that they contradict Scripture as revealed. The context of the Hebrew word “*yom*” in Genesis 1 is

characterized as “*evening and morning*” (Genesis 1, 5, 8, 13, 19, 23 and 31). This is consistent with how we look at our 24-hour day today, not how we describe a span of millions of years. Also, when numbers proceed the “*day*” like first, second or third day, it refers to a 24-hour period. If there were millions of years between the day and night periods, it would be impossible for plants to live and flourish on earth.

Some try to find gaps of time after the creation week. How long did Adam and Eve live in the garden before they sinned and were driven from Eden? Since we cannot give a specific time, some think this may be the needed gap to make the Bible comply with the theory of the earth being millions and millions of years old. We may not know how long Adam was in Eden, but we do know how long he was on the earth. He died at the age of 930 years (Genesis 5:5). This is too short of time for an extremely ancient earth, regardless of how long Adam lived in the garden.

There are no gaps for the various gap theories. They only exist in the minds of those trying to harmonize the Bible with scientific theory.