

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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Is Gen. 1:2 a gap between the beginning and day one?

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Did God create the heavens and the earth in the beginning, and then the earth became waste and void due to God bringing judgment of death and destruction upon sinful pre-adamic man and angels? Then after this indefinite period of time, did God reconstruct the ruined earth, beginning on day one?

Some feeling the pressure from evolutionary geological thought, have viewed Gen. 1:2 as providing the gap (maybe millions and millions of years) to harmonize Scripture with the thought that the earth is millions of years old. Others, not trying to accommodate any scientific theory, believe that the language of verse two says that after creation, the earth “became” waste and void. Therefore, Genesis 1:1 is the only verse in chapter speaking of the original creation, the other verses speaks of the earth’s reconstruction. Regardless of intent, seeing a gap of a long period of time between the beginning and day one is a false view.

The Hebrew verb, “*hayetha*” is properly translated “was” in accurate translations. It conveys the thought that when

God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was brought into existence instantaneously without form (no continents, hills and valleys) and was void of inhabitants. There is nothing in the verb to lead one to believe that after created, the earth “became” waste and void.

Well, what about Gen. 19:26, where Lot’s wife “became” a pillar of salt. Was there a indefinite period of time between her being a woman and then only a pillar of salt? She, all of a sudden “was” a pillar of salt, indicating a complete and instantaneous judgment upon her sin. Likewise, The earth was instantaneously created in its waste and void form. But there is no indication that this action was the result of judgment.

Well, what about Isaiah 45:18, where Jehovah establishing his uniqueness says, “For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited.”? If God did not “create” it waste and void, then does it not follow that it “became” waste and void? Notice the rest of the verse that completes the meaning. It also was formed to

be inhabited. The verse is teaching that God’s plan for the earth was not for it to remain waste and empty. It was to be inhabitable. From the beginning to the sixth day this plan of God in creation was completed.

But don’t you see that when God speaks of bringing things into existence for the first time he uses the word “*create*” - (Heb. *Bara*), and when He speaks of remaking or making over again, he uses the word “*made*” (*asah*). So God “created” the earth in the beginning (v.1), the animals of the sea and air (v.21), and man (v.27). All other things were “made over” or made again, not created.

Such a view fails to see that the words are used synonymously. In Genesis 1, man was “created” in God’s image (v.27) but prior to the action, God said “let us *make* man in our image” (v.26).

There is no indefinite period of time dividing the beginning from day one. “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).