Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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Evidence for a "Young" Earth

(Jerry Fite)

There is a great difference between 4.5 billion years and 6,000. The large gap is 4,499,994,000. Yet, that is the gap between those who believe that the earth is "old " and those who believe the earth is comparatively "young." Evolutionists, knowing they need time for their theory to be valid, declare the earth is 4,500,000,000 years old, and those who believe the Bible argue the earth is 6-10 thousand years old. 10, 000 is a big number, but take the number off the table, the evolutionists could still round their number up to 4.5 billion.

Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), a Scottish theologian tried to bridge the gap between the increasingly accepted 19th. century scientific thought and the Genesis account of God's creation. He believed the Genesis account had a gap between Genesis 1:1 and verse 2 that could accommodate millions and millions of years. Therefore, the Bible's account of creation, could be compatible with the present scientific theory in 1814.

Chalmers promoted the idea that after Genesis 1:1 reveals God *"created the heavens and the earth"* that a global catastrophe occurred causing "ruin" – the earth became *"waste and void" (Genesis 1:2).* The gap theory proposes this condition could have been caused by a rebellious Lucier being cast down to the earth to cause a flood that destroyed man and animals, providing the fossil record over millions of years. Chalmers sees a "reconstruction" of the wasted earth and a "recreation" beginning in Genesis 1:3.

A faithful reading of the first three verses of Genesis does not necessitate such theorizing. Verse two, is a description of the earth when created along with the heavens in verse 1. The earth did not "become" waste and void, over millions of years, but "was" empty and void of form when created, being entirely covered by water *(Genesis 1:2),* not by an imaginary "Lucifer flood."

In trying to force millions and millions of years in the Genesis' creation account, the "gap theory" contradicts revealed Biblical teaching regarding sin and death. Death is the consequence of sin. Paul declares, "... though one man sin entered into the world , and death through sin... (Romans 5:12). That man was Adam (Romans 5:14, Genesis 3). He was the *"first man"* (I Corinthians 15:45, Genesis 2:7). The "gap theory" has death occurring before sin entered the world through Adam.

The "Day-Age theory" also contradicts the Bible. Advocates of this theory believe God created the heavens and the earth in "six days," but not in "six literal days." These "days" mean to such theorists that the days could be "ages," comprising millions of years.

Over 2,000 times the Hebrew word *"yom"* translated *"day"* occurs. In Genesis one, the word is described as an *"evening and morning,"* comprising *"one day."* When it occurs with a "ordinal" number like first, second, third...etc., it is always a literal 24-hour day.

The day age theory contradicts Jesus' statement, that male and female were made *"from the beginning of the creation" (Mark 10:6).* If each day of creation was an "age" of many millions of years, and not a literal 24-hour day, then Adam and Eve could not have been created at the beginning of creation as Jesus teaches. The sixth day can legitimately be characterized as the beginning of the creation consistent with Genesis 1, but not if the earth is 4.5 billion years old and man has only been on earth from 1-3 million years.