

# **GAP THEORY**

*Cornerstone*  
BAPTIST CHURCH

This book is published by:  
**Cornerstone Baptist Church**  
NSW, Australia

**© Copyright Notice**

Any unauthorised reprint or use of this material is prohibited.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without express written permission from the author.

**Website:**

[www.cornerstonebaptistchurch.com.au](http://www.cornerstonebaptistchurch.com.au)

**Publisher's Note:**

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture verses are taken from the Authorised Version (King James 1611) Bible.

Date last modified: 24/04/20

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>The Gap Theory .....</b>                                   | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>Reasons Why the Gap Theory Cannot Be True .....</b>        | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Scriptures That are Used to Teach the Gap Theory .....</b> | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Conclusion.....</b>  | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Notes .....</b>  | <b>19</b> |



## THE GAP THEORY

There is a teaching that goes by several names that is very popular these days. That teaching is called by some **Gap creationism**, whilst others call it **ruin-restoration creationism**, whilst others call it **restoration creationism**, and others simply call it "**The Gap Theory**". This teaching is a form of old Earth creationism that believes the earth we stand on could be millions of years old whilst at the same time believing that mankind as we know him, has only been around for about 6,000 years.

Some who hold to the Gap Theory teach that when we read Genesis 1 verses 2 onward, we are reading about a re-creation; whilst others say we are reading about God "re-making" the earth. Those who postulate the theory teach something along the lines of, God created the heaven and the earth, put beings on there with Lucifer (who is now called Satan) as the ruler of the pre-Adam earth. However, in time, Satan rebelled, and so God destroyed the heaven and the earth, and then God re-made the earth and then made a man to take Satan's place.

Some people who believe in the gap theory teach that these events explain when Satan fell. They further believe that the gap theory explains many of the scientific observations, including the age of the Earth.

According to many of the Gap Theory proponents, creation unfolded as follows:

1. In Genesis 1:1, God created the heaven and the earth, complete with dinosaurs and other prehistoric life that we see in the fossil records.

2. Lucifer was set over the pre-Adam world. However, he and many others rebelled and so God sent a flood to wipe them out and clean the earth up (indicated by the "deep" in Genesis 1:2).
3. As a result, the earth was ruined or destroyed, reducing it to a place without form and void.
4. In Genesis 1:3-31, God began the process of remaking the earth and recreating life, putting man in charge of his restored earth.

In this book, we will list several reasons why this cannot be true and then we will look at some of the Scriptures used to teach the Gap Theory and show how those Scriptures do not teach a Gap Theory but rather refer to something else.

Now before we begin looking at this subject in more detail let us say from the beginning that many good people disagree about this doctrine. Moreover, we have many friends whom we know teach the Gap Theory. As such, we want to be very clear that we do not believe that someone is a heretic, stupid, or a false teacher just because they teach a form of the Gap Theory. We just believe they are wrong, just like they believe we are wrong. Moreover, we do not believe that this needs to be a bone of contention that causes brothers and sisters to withdraw fellowship from one another. Let us not divide over this but rather dive into the words of the living God over this. Let us study this subject together as Bible Believing brothers and sisters; and let us allow room for growth on subjects such as this, without condemning or labelling each other as false teachers.

And with that said, let us begin.

## REASONS WHY THE GAP THEORY CANNOT BE TRUE

1. The Gap Theory cannot be true because Lucifer (this is Satan's original name) was created on a certain day. Therefore, since there were no days until the days of creation began (which took place after the so called gap) then Satan could not have ruled in a world that was supposedly here before the six days of creation for the obvious reason that he was not made yet.

**☞ Ezekiel 28:13-15 “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”**

The above passage is very clear. Lucifer (Satan) was created “in the day” and was perfect “from the day” that he was created. There was not a “day” until Genesis 1:5 for that day was the “first day”.

**☞ Genesis 1:5 “And the evening and the morning were the first day.”**

**Now notice that the first day was after the so called gap (the gap is said to be between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1).** Now since Satan was created on a day, then he could not have been made before the first day. Therefore, the Gap Theory cannot possible be true!

2. There could not have been a Gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 because the Bible is clear that everything in the heaven and earth that was made (and that would include Lucifer), was made in the six days of the creation week as described in Genesis 1.

**📖 Exodus 20:11** “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and **all that in them is**, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Since God made everything that is in the universe in the six days of creation then there could not possibly be other beings made before the first day of creation! So the Gap Theory cannot be true!

3. The Gap Theory cannot be true because Satan could not have fallen before Genesis 1:31. We say that because in Genesis 1:31 God says that every thing that he had made, was very good, that includes Lucifer. That means there could not have been any fallen creatures at that time.

**📖 Genesis 1:31** “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

This one point destroys the Gap Theory. If Satan had already fallen prior to Genesis 1:31, then God could not have looked upon **every thing** he had made and said it was very good.



4. There could not have been a gap between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1 because Jesus said that Adam and Eve were from the beginning.

**📖 Matthew 19:4-5** “And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female**, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”

**📖 Mark 10:6-7** “But from the beginning of the creation **God made them male and female**. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;”

Notice how Jesus very clearly showed us that God made them male and female from “the beginning of the creation”.

Thus, there could not have been a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 or Jesus would have been mistaken for Adam and Eve would had been in reality, according to the Gap Theory, made many years (who knows how long) after the beginning.

Thus, according to Jesus Christ there cannot be a gap.

Just in case there may be someone who thinks there were other men before Adam, let us see what the Bible says.

**📖 Genesis 5:1-2** “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”

**📖 1 Corinthians 15:45** “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

Since Adam was the first man, and men have been here “since the beginning of the world” (see Isaiah 64:4), then there could not have been a gap at all. Again, the theory falls apart.

Just with the previous points it is very clear the Gap Theory cannot be true. However, there are some who use some verses out of the Bible to teach the Gap Theory. As such, let us look at those verses and see if they do indeed teach a Gap Theory.

## SCRIPTURES THAT ARE USED TO TEACH THE GAP THEORY

We just got through showing you enough proof to prove that there could not have been a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. However, we now need to look at some of the scriptures that some people believe teach that there must have been a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. Therefore, in this section we will list the verses and then show you how they do not prove the Gap Theory. So let us begin.

### 1. 2 Peter 3:3-7

**2 Peter 3:3-7** “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

People who believe in the Gap Theory will use the above passage to teach a gap by pointing to the fact that the passage says that the world that was then perished and then tell us that we know we are on the same earth that Noah walked on and so this cannot be talking about Noah’s flood, it must be talking about another flood, a pre-Noah flood. They tell us Noah’s

flood did not cause the earth to perish for we still live on it. Thus there must have been another earth that perished by a flood. There must have been a pre-Adam world that was destroyed by a flood that plunged the world into water and darkness creating a world that was without form and void as Genesis 1:2 says.

Now on the surface, that seems convincing. However, when you take a closer look at the scriptures, comparing scripture with scripture, the theory falls apart and the passage actually disproves the Gap Theory. E.g.

- A. Peter actually makes clear in the previous chapter that the world that then was, was in fact the old world of Noah. It is Noah's world that perished by a flood. See the passage below.

**☞ 2 Peter 2:5 “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”**

The scriptures are clear, we are not in the old world that was flooded by the flood of Noah's days, but rather we are now in a different world than the pre-flood world.

So, there you have it, the world that perished was the pre-flood world of Noah's days not some world before Adam!

Thus, 2 Peter actually leaves no room whatsoever for another flood or earth/world prior to Noah's.

- B. Moreover, the flood mentioned in 2 Peter could not possibly be a different flood than the flood that took place during Noah's generation for the simple reason that the only flood Jesus ever referred to was Noah's flood. Furthermore, Jesus called the flood of Noah's days “the flood”.

🔪 **Matthew 24:37-39** “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before **the flood** they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until **the flood** came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

🔪 **Luke 17:27** “They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and **the flood** came, and destroyed them all.”

If there was a flood much more catastrophic than the flood of Noah’s days, why did not our Lord mention it?

If there was a flood before Adam was created that wiped out the entire planet, why did our Lord refer to Noah’s flood as “the flood”, when there was another flood that showed his wrath more severely?

Would Jesus leave us in the dark about such an event?

🔪 **Romans 3:4** “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.”

All right, let us look at the next passage.

## 2. **Isaiah 24:1**

🔪 **Isaiah 24:1** “Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.”

Some gap theorists say this passage is talking about a destruction done to the world before Genesis 1:2. However, when we look at the rest of the chapter we see this passage is

describing to us what is going to happen in the future (see verses 2-3 and notice the words “shall”) not what happened in the past. Always remember that a text without a context is a pretext. Do not take a verse out of its context to teach something, otherwise you will twist the scriptures to your own destruction.

### 3. **Isaiah 45:18**

**Isaiah 45:18** “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”

The gap theorist will take that passage and say to us something along the lines of:

“According to that passage, when God originally created the heavens and the earth it was formed. Yet in Genesis 1:2, which is after God created the heaven and the earth, the Bible says the earth was without form and void. Thus, we must be reading about a re-making of the earth from Genesis 1:3 onward.”

However they are wrong. Isaiah 45:18 does not say that when God created the heavens and the earth that the earth was already formed and then something happened that caused it to become without form and void and then God MADE the world again. No! The scriptures are clear. The passage is easy to understand. The passage is simply telling you that the God who created the heavens, formed the earth and made it, he established it, and created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited. That is it, nothing else! It is so simple!! Do not confuse the passage nor make it say something it does not! Just believe it!

The passage matches Genesis 1 exactly. God created the heaven (singular) and the earth in Genesis 1:1. The earth was without form and void. In other words, the earth was a watery,

muddy, formless mass, without anything in it. Then he created the heavens (plural) when he made the firmament, and then he formed and made the earth; forming and making it for a purpose—to be inhabited by man!

The only way anyone can believe anything else is to read into the text what is not there.

Okay, let us now look at the next passage people use to teach the Gap Theory.

#### 4. Jeremiah 4:23-26

**📖 Jeremiah 4:23-26** “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.”

The person that believes in a gap will cross reference this verse with Genesis 1:2. They think Jeremiah is describing the destruction of the pre-Adam world. However, if they would only keep reading they would see that Jeremiah 4:23-26 is **speaking about the vision of the future** he saw. Look at the following passage:

**📖 Jeremiah 4:27-31** “For thus hath the LORD said, **The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.** For **this shall the earth mourn**, and the heavens above be black: **because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.** **The whole city shall flee** for the noise of the horsemen and bowmen; **they shall go into thickets**, and climb up upon the rocks: **every city shall be forsaken**, and not a man dwell therein. And **when thou art spoiled**, what **wilt** thou do? Though thou

clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers **will** despise thee, they **will** seek thy life. For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.”

So we see again that the context of the passage proves that the “proof text” for the Gap Theory is not a proof text at all.

Let us now look at the next passage.

## 5. Genesis 1:1-2

**📖 Genesis 1:1-2** “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

They draw upon the words:

- a. “**Without form**”, stating that everything God ever created had form. Thus, this description of the earth being without form is showing that something happened (the judgment of God) causing this earth to become without form (this matches the passages found in Jeremiah and Isaiah).

**Answer:** God is simply telling you that when he first created the heaven and the earth it was without form. Thus, in the first verse he created the foundational elements of the earth and heaven. Then the rest of the chapter is God forming everything; and that matches the passage in Isaiah perfectly, God created the fundamental elements and then he formed what or whomsoever he would!!



Some will say that is not how God does things. However, that is not true (see Psalms 95:5; Proverbs 26:10; Isaiah 45:18; etc.). It is how he made man (Genesis 1:27; 2:7-8; Jeremiah 33:2; 1 Timothy 2:13; Genesis 5:1; 6:6; etc.), animals (Genesis 1:21, 25; 2:19), Israel (Isaiah 43:1); babies (Jeremiah 1:5), etc. Thus, it is very natural and common to how God works. He is a great sculpture and artist, and as such likes to show us **his handy work**.

- b. “**void**”, they focus on this word stating that something had to happen to cause the world to become void because God does not create that way.

**Answer:** Let us pay attention to every word in the King James Bible! Notice that the world did not “become” void. The world “was” void. The word “void” in the passage is an adjective. It simply means it was empty and vacant. Of course it would be “void” in the beginning, considering God had not yet filled it with life. The rest of the chapter is going to tell us about God filling it. Simple!

- c. “**darkness**”, they focus on the word darkness stating it shows that God brought judgment.

**Answer:** The scriptures do not say it became dark, it says “darkness was upon the face of the deep”. It is simply stating the fact that darkness was upon the face of the deep. The reason darkness was upon the face of the deep was because God is over the heaven and the earth and since darkness is under God (2 Samuel 22:7-13; Psalms 18:9; etc.), then darkness would be upon the face of the deep!

Alright, so far every passage that has been used to teach the Gap Theory has been either misused or misinterpreted. However, there is actually one

verse that on the surface seems to lend weight to the Gap Theory; and that is the next verse we want to look at.

## 6. Genesis 1:28

**▣ Genesis 1:28** “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

This verse is the clincher for those who believe in the Gap Theory.

They say, “It says replenish, that word means to re-fill. Thus, the earth was full of inhabitants before man, but they got destroyed. So God made Adam and told him and his descendants to refill the earth.”

They will then turn to Genesis 9:1 and show how God gave Noah the same commandment as Adam. They will use this verse to connect both passages and then argue that the command to “replenish” the earth was given in both cases because in both cases the earth had to be repopulated due to God’s judgment destroying the previous civilization.

This line of thinking is caused by:

- a. Thinking that every time the prefix “re” is used it must carry the connotation “to do again”.

However, that is not true. E.g. rejoice, religion, require, reserve, reference, regret, represent, replete, remove, etc.

- b. Most people's lack of understanding of the English language. Today many words have lost some of their meanings.

For instance:

- The word "suffer".

Today when people hear the word "suffer", they automatically think of turmoil, trouble, hurting, etc.

However, the word actually has the meaning of "allow" built into it. This is why Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not..." Jesus was telling his disciples to allow the little children to come to Him.

- The word "let".

When our generation hears this word we normally associate the meaning "allow" with it.

However, the word can actually mean "to hinder".

Now as you can see from the previous examples, there are many words that have lost their original meanings. As such, this will sometimes hinder our study of the scriptures unless we are willing to put the effort into studying unfamiliar words. Well, the word "replenish" is just like one of those words; one of its meanings has been lost. The word "replenish" at one time simply meant "to fill". As a matter of fact, the first definition for the word "replenish" in Webster's 1828 is: "to fill; to stock with numbers or abundance". The word replenish is actually the verb that is associated with the word "replete" (replete being an adjective to mean something is full or well stocked,

whereas replenish being a verb simply means to fill up something).

Therefore, when we look in the dictionary we see that the word “replenish” can simply mean to fill up, that is it. However, let us not base our definition of the word “replenish” solely upon a dictionary but rather let us look to the scriptures and see how the scriptures define the word “replenish”.

Look at:

**📖 Genesis 1:28** “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Notice how God said to them “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth....”

Now look at:

**📖 Genesis 1:22** “And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.”

Notice how he uses the same wording in Genesis 1:22 as he did in Genesis 1:28 (Be fruitful and multiply...). However, notice in Genesis 1:22 he used the word “fill” in place of “replenish”. Thus, I believe if we use the interpretation method of scripture with scripture we see God defined for us what the word “replenish” meant in Genesis chapter 1—fill.

Now by the way, if the earth had been populated before Genesis 1:22; and the word “replenish” meant to “re-fill” in Genesis 1, why was “replenish” not used in Genesis 1:22, for

the seas would have needed to be refilled too? Well, the answer is simple, the earth had not been populated before Genesis 1:22 but rather was being filled (replenished) for the first time.

Now with that said, as far as I know, the previous passages are all the passages that a gap theorist has to offer. Thus, there is not one single, concrete proof for the Gap Theory.

## CONCLUSION

We believe that we have given you concrete proof that the Gap Theory cannot be true. Further, we have looked at every passage that I know of that a gap theorist will use to teach the Gap Theory and found that those passages did not conclusively prove a Gap Theory.

Now if you disagree with our conclusion then that is between you and the Lord. You are not our enemy, nor do we think you are a heretic because you disagree with us on this subject, we simply think you are wrong. May God help us to keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ and earnestly content for the gospel.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.



