



“Formless and Void”

Gen. 1:2

Feb. 2, 2025

Hebrew narrative:

Summary statement

Detail and elaboration.

Gen 1:1 (Summary statement)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1:2- 2:3 (Detail and elaboration)

Gen 2:4 (Summary statement)

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

2:5-25 (Detail and elaboration)

Gen 1:2

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

oht

“to-hoo”

“formless” – wasteland, desert, without form.

ohbw

“v-bo-hoo”

“and void” – empty, desolate, unfilled, void, nothing.

Gen 1:2

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Evj

“kho-shek”

“darkness” – total absence of light.

Moht

“teh – home”

“surface of the deep” – the deep (primeval ocean covering the earth.)

Hor

“roo-akh”

“Spirit of God” – the Holy Spirit. All 3 persons of the Trinity are involved in creation.

Gen 1:2

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Ujr

“raw-khaf”

“was moving” – hovering, fluttering, shaking, going back and forth - as a hen would over her brood of chicks. God was involved in creation, even when it was but a watery mass. God did not create and then walk away – Deism.

M’np

“paw-neem”

“over the surface of the waters” – face of, forefront.

• this matter God created, called earth, was covered in water.

- So, in its initial stage, here is what we know about earth:

- it was a mass of matter
- it was dark
- it was deep water
- the presence of the Spirit of God moving, indicates God is getting ready to do something with this uninformed and uninhabited matter.

Gen 1:2

- 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.
- This was the condition of the earth when God began to form and shape it.
 - Think potter and clay. Potter takes clay, forms vessel and then fills it. So, God creates the clay and then begins to form and fill it.
 - This is all headed for the creation of man (the pinnacle of His creation) and so God is making a place that is habitable for man.
 - God first creates time, space and matter in vs. 1 which are the raw materials He will use. It is unfinished and unformed.
 - **Note:** God will spend the first 3 days forming the earth and the last 3 days filling the earth.

1 Cor 2:14

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

“The gap theory is the view that God created a fully functional earth with all animals, including the dinosaurs and other creatures we know only from the fossil record. Then, the theory goes, something happened to destroy the earth completely—most likely the fall of Satan to earth—so that the planet became without form and void. At this point, God started all over again, recreating the earth in its paradise form as further described in Genesis.”

Gen 1:1-2

“The main purpose of the gap theory has been to try to harmonize the Biblical chronology with the accepted system of geological ages . . . Christians have felt they could ignore the whole troublesome system of evolutionary geological ages by simply pigeonholing them in this “gap” and “letting the geologists have all the aeons they want. Unfortunately this attitude has allowed the evolutionary establishment to take over the nation’s school systems, news media, and most other important institutions of our society.”

- Henry Morris

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gap: Millions of years caused by the fall of Satan or some other catastrophe. Original creation (the earth and life on it) in verse 1 was judged and the result is in verse 2.

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Gen 1:2

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

- The text reads with no “gaps” indicated.
- God ends His creative acts with “and God saw that it was good.” If there was already evil in the world, it was not “good.”
- **BIG PROBLEM:** Rom. 5: 12

Rom 5:12

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —

- You cannot have death occurring before sin and the Fall (ch. 3)
- Cannot have a judgment and destruction (death) of plants and animals before the Fall).
- Why don't we put “gaps” in other places in the Bible when God does a miraculous act?
- Let's look at John 6:1-14 . . .

9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"

Obviously, there is a big problem here. No food to feed the 5,000 men +.

“Fishwich Gap Theory”:

1. Jesus and disciples go to nearest village, buy flour, grain, etc., come back, make and bake loaves.
2. Jesus and disciples go fishing on sea of Galilee, catch and prepare enough fish to feed 5,000+.
3. Takes days, weeks to do this.

When everything is ready, verse 10 begins . . .

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

- No miracle was required.
- Food network, Betty Crocker, General Mills, were all satisfied that this method followed the normal way you gather and prepare food. Very natural explanation.
- But that is not the way it happened.

John 6:1-14

- 1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).
- 2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.
- 3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.
- 4 Now the Passover, the Feast of the Jews, was near.
- 5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"
- 6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.
- 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."
- 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,
- 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"
- 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.
- 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.
- 12 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."
- 13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.
- 14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Application

1. God begins creation with the basics, and displays His creative abilities to us for His glory.
2. God is a God of order, and systematically details the earth for man. He is not a God of chaos.
3. There is no gap between verse 1 and 2.