

conservative Bible scholars hold to the Gap Theory. It is not a fundamental of the Christian faith and is a point about which good Christians may differ.

- b. The Bible affirms that the earth, as originally created, was NOT a wasteland: “For this saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it, he created it not in vain [not a waste], he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else” (Isa. 45:18).
- c. The words “without form and void” (Heb. *tohu, vohu*) are used together in only two other places in the Old Testament. Both times they refer to judgment (Isa 34:11 and Jer. 4:23). Their initial use together in Genesis set the stage for their use later referencing God’s judgment. Remember, the Gap Theory postulates that the earth became “without form and void” as a result of God’s judgment on Satan’s fall.

#### **From *The Gap Is Not a Theory* by Jack W. Langford**

1. Both the English translations and the Hebrew text present a formula defining the creative activities of God on the 6 days of creation. Each day begins with “and God said” and ends with “and the evening and the morning were the first (or second, third, etc.) day.” Verses 1 and 2 stand outside of the formula. It is an assumption unmerited by the text to include those verses in the first day. It simply doesn’t say that.
2. There can be no Hebrew “day” until light is created, marking the first day. Light alone was created on day 1. Prior to day one there was the universe, the earth, and darkness.
3. Each day of creation *begins* with the words “And God said...” Verses 1-2 do not have that wording, therefore, they are not part of the first day.
4. The Holy Spirit hovering over the face of the waters signals the beginning of the first day of creation. Note that the earth was already present.
5. The work God accomplished on each day is carefully defined for each day. Creation of the earth is NOT within the defined days.
6. The heavens and the earth were in existence prior to the 6 day creative activity of God. The initial creation was witnessed by the heavenly angelic host (Job 38:1-7). Note the fact that angels witnessed the initial creation of the earth assumes their creation prior to the universe.

#### **The Angelic Connection**

1. Angels were created by God prior to the creation of our universe and earth. Think of it as God having two families: The heavenly host (angels, etc.) and human beings—both made in His image. The heavenly host was created first; man was created later.
2. Satan had access to the initially created earth, and likely it was his special dwelling place (Ezek. 28:11-16). Fruchtenbaum comments: “...the created earth of Genesis 1:1 became the abode of Satan; and he was the guardian over the earth in its original form” (p. 38).

3. Angelic beings, including Satan, were created before the heaven and the earth. Job (the oldest book of the Bible) testifies that the “sons of God” (Angels—much more about that later) “shouted for joy” as they beheld the original creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7).
4. It is important to note that the word “angel” is generic for created spiritual beings. Angels had rank—some higher than others. Biblical Scholar Dr. Michael Heiser views most angelic visitations in Scripture as of the lower or messenger class of angels. He views other created beings (The Divine Counsel) as a higher or perhaps even a different class. For a discussion on this distinction, see his book *Super Natural: What the Bible Teaches about the Unseen World and Why It Matters* (available on Amazon.com).
5. Interestingly, the Bible refers to Lucifer as “the anointed cherub that covereth” (Ezek. 28:14). Some see cherubs as a higher class of angelic being, while others view them as a separate class—distinct from angles.
6. What is clear is that God created heavenly beings (the heavenly host) prior to creating earth. What is also clear is that Satan staged a rebellion at some point and a significant number of heavenly beings followed him in his fall.
7. Those holding to the Gap Theory hold that Satan’s fall resulted in the judgment and chaos identified in Genesis 1:2.

### **Misapplication of the Gap Theory**

1. Some argue that the Gap Theory was “invented” to placate modern geological science (Uniformitarianism) which postulates a very old age for the physical earth. Of course, that motivation would be wrong, and would force a scientific theory upon the Scripture. Biblical Gap Theorists are not worried about the age of the rocks. And “uniformitarianism” has been replaced with catastrophe even among secular scientists. Ever heard of the Younger Dryas theory
2. Some argue that the Gap Theory was developed to give space for the fossil record and even dinosaurs. However, anyone believing that would have to go way beyond what the Bible says. There is no clear record of biological life being created and then destroyed with a new beginning happening on Day 1 of creation. Any assumption that the fossil record and dinosaurs belong to the prehistoric, pre-creation-week world is a conjecture not supported in Scripture.
3. Some opponents of the Gap Theory erroneously believe that it makes room for evolution. This is simply not true. Evolution is not taught in the Bible and biological life as we know it began during creation week as a direct act of God. Some perhaps confuse the Gap Theory with the Day-Age Theory, the belief that the creation days were not literal, 24-hour days, but rather were huge epochs of time during which “theistic evolution” could take place. Bible believers reject these notions.

### **Notable Proponents of the Gap Theory**

The following Bible scholars affirmed the Gap Theory: Arthur W. Pink, Harry Rimmer, C.I. Scofield, C.S Lewis, M.R. DeHaan, Donald Grey Barnhouse, Francis Shaeffer (Boice, pp. 57-58).