

R.B.S. Positional Paper

R.U.S.H.



A BIBLE STUDY

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

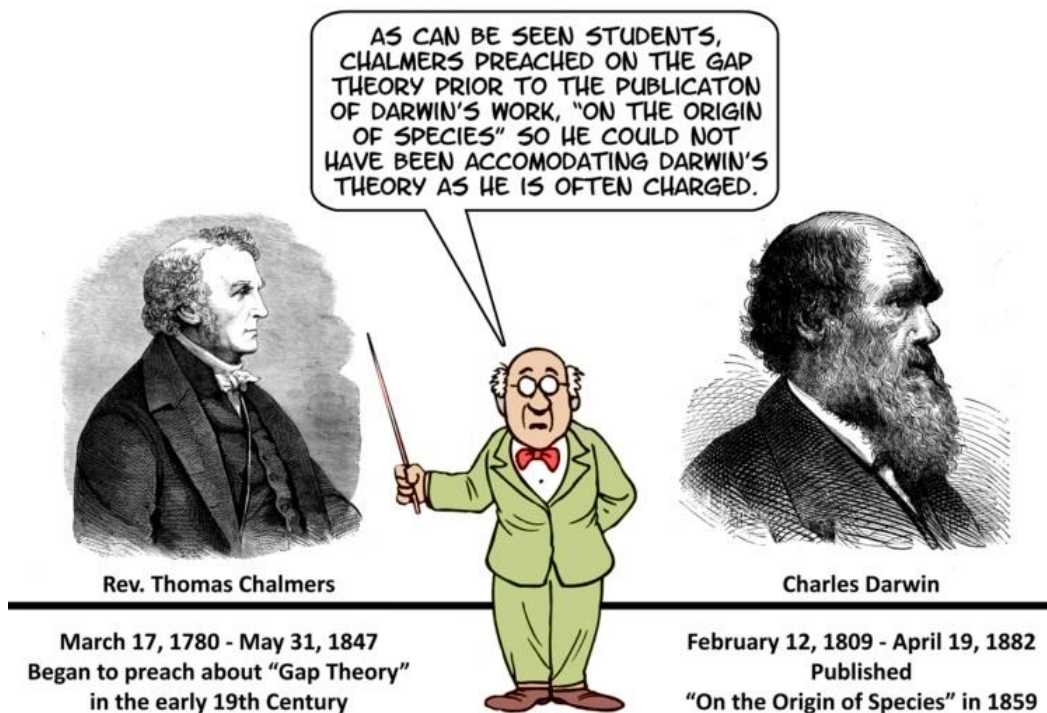
Gap Theory

DAVID HOBRATH

I believe in Gap Theory!



*Let's not go crazy about this stuff folks. I believe in Gap Theory. It's no harm no foul if you don't.
I think it's interesting enough to blow through in class but I'm not dying on this hill. DH*



The Genesis "Gap Theory" Interpretation and its Basis in Bible Doctrine

The very short version of Gap Theory is that there exists in between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:3 an unspecified period of time. Most of us Gap Theorists concur with the relatively common assumption that the scientific communities estimate age of the Earth is 14.6 billion years is entirely possible. It could be more or less. The exact age of the Earth has no bearing on the theory.

I often hear that Gap Theory is an invention to allow time for evolution to develop. This is false in that in its most recent form, Gap Theory was being preached by a theologian named Chalmers 12 years before Origin of the species was penned by Darwin. We do not, nor have we ever, believed in the theory of evolution.

We as Gap Theorists also believe that the Genesis 6 days of creation narrative is referring to 6 literal 24 hour periods, that occurred around 4800-9800 years ago. We don't contest the 6000 years ago view for Adam and Eve. This falls within acceptable parameters allowed by the genealogies offered in scripture. We however start that 6000-year clock with Genesis 1:3, NOT Genesis 1:1. We find this to be the correct reading of Genesis 1:1-3.

The origins of Gap Theory do not stem from a desire to accommodate science. It stems from 2 different passages of scripture.

*"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."
Genesis 1:28*

*"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Genesis 9:1*

Note the use of the word "replenish" and not "plenish" in both passages. Refill, rather than fill. I have heard many young earth creationists say that Websters translates this word as fill or re-fill. True, but not until recently. Originally it was defined by websters as re-fill. But does that really matter? Because the Bible was written in Hebrew, not English. Below is the word for fill in Hebrew.

That is not the word used in the Genesis passages quoted above. This is the word used in those passages.

The translators of the KJV used the word replenish because in the original the word fill is repeated.

Not fill, but fill fill, or re-fill. Noone would question the command to replenish after the flood as being anything other than re-fill. God wiped out the Earth, and Noah's family is to replenish or re-fill the Earth. We as Gap Theorists believe the same is true about the Genesis 1:28 account. Same words, same definition.

Gap Theory espouses a timeline as follows.

1. God creates the Heavens and the Earth. Time Space & Matter.
2. The Earth is populated by angels and many other creatures. Perhaps dinosaurs among other creatures of God's fancy.
3. That creation fell. Most likely this is when Satan fell and took 1/3 of the angels with him. That answers how Satan is fallen already in the garden before the fall of man. Many feel the Earth's axial tilt was zero degrees during this time, and tilted when God wiped out that creation. This explains palm trees growing vertically at the poles. This then is where Genesis 1:3 picks up with the Earth being void and without form. Below is the Hebrew portion that accentuates this point. The English translates like this, "the Earth **was** void..." The Hebrew translates this as "the Earth she **became** chaos"

1:2	וְהָאֲרֶץ	הָיְתָה	תְּהוֹ
	u·e·artz	eithe	theu
	and·the·earth	she-became	chaos

4. God re-populated creation with the plant and animal life that now exists starting in Genesis 1 verse 3.



The Original Earth
Genesis 1:1
2 Peter 3:5
Isaiah 14:12-16
Ezekiel 28:13-17

The Chaotic Earth
Genesis 1:2
2 Peter 3:5-7

The Current Re-creation
Genesis 1:3
Genesis 1:3-2:1

That is Gap Theory in a nut shell.

Let's look at the above scripture verses in the diagram, among others, in more detail.

The Original Earth scripture references:

*¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1
God creates time space and matter.*

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: 2 Peter 3:5

This creation was old and the Earth stood in water and out of water. This cannot be the flood of Noah because as we will soon see, Peter differentiates the 2 worlds by saying "the world which now is." In verse 7. Clearly showing this current world is different from the creation that was of old and was destroyed.

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; Isaiah 14:12-16

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:13-17

These passages refer to the fall of Satan, which happened before the Adamic creation.

The Chaotic Earth Verses:

² 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. Genesis 1:2

Remember from above, the phrase "was without form" in the original Hebrew is "became chaos"

"And the earth became chaos, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

⁵ *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:*

⁶ *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

⁷ *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.*

Clearly, we are in a different heavens and Earth today. "The world that then was", and "the world that now is..." From this reference coupled with Genesis 1:2 it would seem the flood of Genesis 1:2 was a solar system wide flood. Perhaps even universe wide. We feel this is a possibility because the stars aren't created until day 4. That would explain both the darkness of Genesis 1:2 and the Earth in water and standing out of water. It also shows that the stars of the universe are young, as opposed to an ancient Earth, agreeing with much of the direction of science not poisoned by Darwinian bias. Another point of evidence for this not referring to Noah's flood is that Noah's flood did not affect the Heavens, and Peter here states the deluge he is talking about required new heavens as well.

³ *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

Verse 3 quoted here starts the "re-creation" that we now exist in.

The Genesis Gap Doctrine, commonly called the "Gap Theory" or "Ruin-Reconstruction" interpretation of Genesis, is not a modern-day interpretation of the Holy Bible. It is a theological teaching that was espoused by the early Church and even the fundamental Protestant faith in the years before Darwin's Theory of Evolution was even published, at a time when the geological sciences were still in their infancy. The Genesis Gap Doctrine has always been within the Holy Bible. It was there when Moses penned the book of Genesis, it is not a recent notion.

Notice also in that passage that the earth is said to be "standing out" of the water and "in" the water. In our English language, these descriptive terms suggest that these particular waters were not confined to the surface of the planet. The passage describes a deluge that raged across the solar system, and areas beyond with Earth where also caught up in the destructive overflow. Try to draw this mental picture: Think of a dark and ruined universe with water strewn throughout it like one big messy galactic spill. That is what Genesis 1:2 is speaking about when it says that darkness was upon the face of the "deep" (*Genesis 1:2*). And imagine the planet Earth drifting awash in this roaring and rolling, formless mess while still orbiting around the dead star that once was Earth's early sun. Where would such waters have come from? Well, it is an established scientific observation that aging stars create and give off lots of water. Lots of it.

Certainly, there must have been lots and lots of stars in the heavens that were "of old" (*just as there are today*) and, if something had caused the entire cosmos to have gone dark, and all those stars died (*including our sun*), then there would be excessive waters everywhere throughout outer space. If that was indeed the case, then all those extinguished stars would need to be reignited to be seen in our present heavens.

At Genesis 1:2 the heaven and the Earth are in darkness and great waters are upon the deep. If we interpret the deep to include everything in the physical universe, which included everything below God's heavenly realm far above (*See John 8:23*), then the situation becomes clear. Before any

reconstruction of the heavens and Earth could begin, God had to do something with all that water scattered across space. We felt that is why the Bible says:

***"And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."
(Genesis 1:7 KJV)***

The Bible is saying that God placed a "Sea" (*waters above the firmament - See Psalms 148:4*) between the footstool of His heavenly throne and the less than pure physical cosmos down below that Satan's rebellion ruined. This division was not good, but necessary. Note that, although God says, "it was good" concerning days 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, He does not say that about the work of day 2. *To quote my friend Jonathan Welch, even God knows Monday sucks.*

The Ancient Earth and the Angels

***"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1 KJV)***

In the Holy Bible, the actual description of the Earth's original creation (*Genesis 1:1*) is not found in the book of Genesis. It is found in the wisdom book of Job:

***"⁴Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. ⁵Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? ⁶Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; ⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? ⁹When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, ¹⁰And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, ¹¹And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?"
(Job 38:4-11 KJV)***

The Biblical viewpoint says that the Earth's waters emerged from within the planet. Further, the Bible also says that God created the Earth to be inhabited, early on.

***"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."
(Isaiah 45:18 KJV)***

The Bible passage in Job reveals that early Earth was created to be inhabited, not by men, but by the Angels. Job 38:4-11 also reveals that the Lord God was not inhabiting eternity alone in those ancient days when He first formed the Earth. Also present are living entities who are figuratively called "the morning stars" that sang and "the sons of God" who shouted. The passage in Job suggests these beings were quite enthusiastic about the result of God's handiwork. That is because these spiritual beings were destined to be the first inhabitants of the ancient Earth. But who or what were they?

The Bible identifies them as *Princes* (see *Daniel 10:13, 21 & 12:1*) and *Angels* (see *Judges 13:6 & Revelation 21:17*) respectively.

The Pre-Adamite World and Ancient Origin of Satan

Every Bible-believing Christian knows that when the serpent tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (*Genesis 2:17, 3:5, 3:6, 3:22*), the man and the woman lost their innocence and died spiritually. Adam's transgression allowed death to enter into the world of man:

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
(Romans 5:12 KJV)*

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 6:23 KJV)*

The Serpent (*Satan*) was an enemy of God before he tempted the man and woman, which is obvious by the fact that the serpent tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. That would mean that Satan MUST have become a sinner and an enemy of God sometime prior to the Adam and Eve's temptation and fall. And if sin "entered" Adam's world, where did it enter from? That brings up an important question:

IF Death results from Sin. WHEN AND WHERE did Satan Sin Against God?

It could NOT have happened during or shortly after the seven-days of Genesis, else the serpent (*a.k.a. Satan, Lucifer*) would have been responsible for Death entering man's world, not Adam. The Bible does not say that (*Romans 5:12*). That means Satan's sin MUST have happened before the world of the seven-days of Genesis, in a previous world that was on the face of the Earth prior to the world of Adam. And this is revealed by the Holy Bible. The Bible says that God made "worlds" (*plural*):

*"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"
(Hebrews 1:2 KJV)*

In the above verse, the writer is speaking to us who live in this 'present evil world' (*Galatians 1:4*) on the face of the Earth. If ours is the first and only world ever created, then why does he refer at the end of the verse to "made the worlds" (*past-tense & plural*). And if there was a previous world before ours, what does the Bible say about it?

The Holy Bible says in the very first verse that:

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1 KJV)*

And I'm sure that every Christian would agree that, when God created the heaven and Earth "In the beginning", that God created everything perfect and holy (*whenever He did it*). But the Bible also tells us that Satan sinned against God sometime after God created the heaven and Earth:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

(John 8:44 KJV)

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

(1 John 3:8 KJV)

So, if the Spirit of Truth tells us that God created the heavens and Earth perfect and sinless "In the beginning" and that Satan was a "murder" and "sinner" since "from the beginning", and we know from both the Holy Bible and common sense that the Serpent was an evil entity before Adam sinned (*Genesis 3:1*), then WHEN did Satan sin?

"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."

(Genesis 1:2 KJV)

It happened sometime after *Genesis 1:1* but before *Genesis 1:2* and SIN is the reason why the "earth was without form, and void" and there was great darkness over the face of what remained of the original creation.

Why was SIN (*and by implication, death*) already in existence before the seven days creation and before Adam sinned? For that answer we must look to the writings of Isaiah and Ezekiel and Job. There, in the prophetic and wisdom books of these men, the Holy Ghost speaks concerning the ancient origin of Satan, which is a key doctrine to unlocking and understanding this great mystery of SIN.

In the passages below, the prophets are speaking against the "king of Babylon" (*Isaiah 14:4*) and the "prince of Tyrus" (*Ezekiel 28:2*) who were mortal men of history. But the Holy Ghost is speaking here against more than mere evil men. He is directly addressing an ancient, unholy, and malevolent spirit that motivated the evil deeds of these historical and mortal men. That ancient being is the spirit and person of Satan (*Lucifer*). Prophetically, the Holy Spirit is also addressing the spirit of an evil man yet to come, the antichrist (*2 Thessalonians 2:1-10*).

"¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, [and] consider thee, [saying, Is] this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;"

(Isaiah 14:12-16 KJV)

"¹³Thou 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. ¹⁴Thou [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. ¹⁵Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."
(Ezekiel 28:13-17 KJV)

Even a casual glance at the passages tells you it speaks of things that could not possibly be attributed to the actual acts of any human king or prince. No man in history has ever "walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" or "fallen from heaven." These verses are spiritually addressing a being named "Lucifer" who is also known as the "anointed Cherub" (*a.k.a. Satan*). The main setting of these verses is the Earth's ancient past, geologically VERY "Deep-Time" if you will.

The words "garden of God" reveals that there was vegetation on the Earth, even way back then. The word "Eden" represents a specific geographic place on the face of the Earth. It was the same location on the face of the Earth where God later planted another garden and formed Adam and Eve (*Genesis 2:8*), where (*as Satan*) the serpent tempted the man and his wife. That same place was, in Lucifer's day, said to be upon the holy "mountain of God" and the "sides of the north" which, Biblically, identifies the geographic location as where the city of Jerusalem is now located:

"And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD."
(Isaiah 66:20 KJV)

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."
(Psalm 48:2 KJV)

This Lucifer (*Satan*) was not an angel. Angels do not have wings. Lucifer was a cherub, a winged creature with great power. He was not one of the "sons of God" or "morning stars" (*the Angels*) spoken about at the time of creation:

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?"
(Job 38:4-11 KJV)

Lucifer had a higher place of authority and glory within the creation and the cherub was said to be "anointed", indicating he had a high position of holy service to the Lord when he was created. Note in Ezekiel 28:13-17 that the "anointed cherub" had a covering containing jewels similar to what was on

the breastplate of Israel's high priest. The breastplate of the priest had 12 jewels (*See the breastplate of Aaron in Exodus 39:10-13*). Lucifer had a covering of nine jewels set in gold. Similar, but different numbers. The "tabrets" and "pipes" indicate an association with music, the implication being that Lucifer (*the 'Light Bearer'*) was involved in the performance of worship.

The word "covereth" implies that he was the steward over the entire physical creation of the original Earth and heaven, in the beginning. This was also the beginning of the Kingdom of Heaven, (*a subject discussed in greater detail elsewhere on this website*). The "stones of fire" reference is obscure, but the Hebrew word indicates something akin to building stones. It could indicate there was a Temple of Fire upon the holy mountain at that time. Keep in mind that "fire" can be a physical and/or spiritual component:

***"And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain [was] full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."
(2 Kings 6:17 KJV)***

***"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."
(Exodus 3:2 KJV)***

***"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."
(Revelation 4:5 KJV)***

***"For our God [is] a consuming fire."
(Hebrews 12:29 KJV)***

That, in a Biblical outline, defines who Satan was (*Lucifer*), and where his story begins. His original purpose and position was second only to the Lord God in power and glory, but he wanted more than his anointed lot, he wanted to be worshiped like God. And that act of rebellion was his trespass against the Lord God. That SIN brought DEATH into the ancient heavens and Earth.

When Lucifer rebelled and transgressed against the Lord God, he became the first created being to SIN, and it was a long, long time ago before Adam or his world was even created. It was a sin documented in the Holy Bible that occurred countless eons ago. We know this by two things: The law of Sin and Death (*Romans 8:12*) that states DEATH COMES BY SIN (*Romans 5:13*). If there is evidence of death in Earth's Deep-Time geologic record, it is there for only one reason, SIN. There can be no other Biblical explanation.

***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."
(Proverbs 9:10 KJV)***

Geologists have observed a record of life in the fossil record (*more accurately, a record of death*) back in Deep-Time as far as 3.8 billion years ago. From a Biblical standpoint, this tells you that death has been on the Earth for at least that long. Death results from Sin.

Did these fossils sin? NO, but someone who had stewardship over the creatures of God's creation did sin. SIN is key that unlocks the Mystery of Genesis 1:2 and Biblically resolves the Science vs. Scripture issues of origins, entropy, and the fossil record of death found in Earth's Deep-Time. We believe this was the result of Satan's fall. And that surmises the discussion so far.

Genesis 1:1
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

THE GAP?

- Millions or billions of years
- Geologic ages
- Lucifer's Flood

Genesis 1:2
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.

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