

THE GAP THEORY – A Study of Genesis 1:1-2 (part two of five)

The foundational proof text which resolves the gap theory controversy for me, and hopefully for some of you, is found in Matthew 19:4, where we read this –

“And He answered and said, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE . . .’”

In its context, our Lord and Savior is being questioned by the Pharisees about the issue of divorce (v3), in regard to Moses and the certificate of divorce (v7). Jesus affirms in Matthew 19:8 that divorce was never God’s original intention for a marriage between a man and a woman –

“He said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.’”

In both of the above passages, Christ uses the word “beginning.” Both uses are in reference to God’s original creation of Adam and Eve, as well as His fundamental intention for marriage to be a life-long relationship. Does the connection between “created” and “beginning” in Matthew 19:4 ring a bell? It does for me! It is clearly reminiscent of Genesis 1:1, where we read this –

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Common sense tells us that there can’t be two beginnings. Even gap theorists deny such a concept, claiming that the condition of our present earth consists of the “restoration” of an earlier earth which God created in the beginning. However, Jesus declares the opposite to be true. He tells us that the beginning of God’s creative activity includes the creation of the first human couple, which the Pharisees would have been able to “read” about. Where could they have read about the creation of the first male and female human beings which Jesus correlates with “the beginning?” Genesis 1:26-27, as well as Genesis 2:18-25 provide us with those “readable accounts,” in stark contrast to some non-existent fantasy which has been inserted between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

This is confirmed by the apostle Paul when he twice refers to Adam as “the first man” in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47. If there was a pre-Adamic race of people which God destroyed, starting over with the creation of Adam, no Biblical author would describe Adam as “the first man” whom God created “in the beginning.” Therefore, we can conclude with a high degree of certainty, based on the testimony of Scripture, as well as our Lord and Savior, that Genesis 1:1 serves as an introduction to the creation account of Genesis 1:2-2:25; and does not refer to some pre-historic, extra-Biblical event, which neither the Pharisees nor any of us can read about, since no such Biblical record exists! In the next three segments, we will incorporate the multitude of Scriptural passages which support this conclusion.