

"Days" of Genesis 1

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Background

- **Not discussed last year!!!**
- **Hill Roberts spoke in McCarty...**
 - ***"Using Advanced Technology to Reach a Skeptical World"***
 - ***"Apologetics for the Skeptic: Using God's Natural Revelation"***

Background

- **Much Interest Generated**
 - ***Articles***
 - ***E-gossip***
 - ***Some brethren have been sent to the Electronic Mail Chair***

Background

- **Perhaps we did brethren a great service**



My Belief

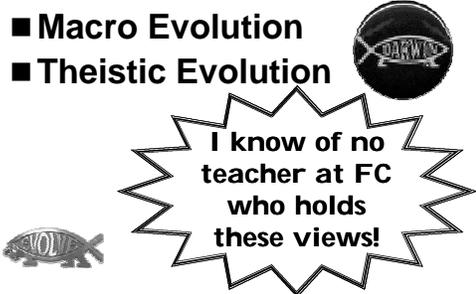
- **God created heavens and earth...**
 - ***Inclined to think – in six 24-hour periods, but I recognize some problems with this view***

Lesson on Creation

- **The Theme of the Bible**
 - No discussion of age of earth

I Reject...

- Macro Evolution
- Theistic Evolution



A Serious Error



A Serious Error

- Equate our understanding of the Bible with current understanding of "science"
 - "kind" = species
 - Flood = Wooley's level at UR
 - Noah's flood = Flood Geology

No Date for Creation

- No date – no conflict
 - Foy E. Wallace
 - Cecil Willis
 - John Clark
 - Ferrell Jenkins

How Problem Solved?

- Evolutionary science
 - Earth – 4.5 billions years
- Ussher's Chronology
 - Creation – 4004 B.C.
 - Not correct
 - But earth is "young"

How Problem Solved?

- Not literal 24-hour days but may involve long periods
- GAP between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2
- Gaps in genealogies of Gen. 5 and 11

Gaps in Genealogies

- Ussher took these at face value as literal!

How Problem Solved?

- Not literal 24-hour days
- GAP theory
- Gaps in genealogies
- Scientific evidence indicates a young earth

"Day" in Gen. 1 - 2

- Daylight – 1:5
- Day marked by evening & morning – 1:5, 8, et al.
- Daylight in contrast to night – 1:14
 - *Greater light – lesser light*

"Day" in Gen. 1 - 2

- Daylight – 1:5
- Day evening & morning
- Daylight in contrast to night
- 24-hour day – 1:14
 - *Contrast to years*
- Entire creation period – 2:4

Views of "Days"

- Literal 24-hour day
- Day-Age theory
- Literal day with gaps
- Revelatory day theory

Views of "Days"

Must we decide?

Must We Decide?

- Some respected scholars who reject long ages caution against dogmatism
 - *James Hodges*
 - Creation Versus Evolution
 - *B. B. Baxter*
 - I Believe Because...
 - *O. T. Allis*
 - God Spoke by Moses

The Gap Theory

- Called "ruin-reconstruction" theory
 - *Creation – 1:1*
 - *World blotted out*
 - "became" waste & void
 - *Reconstruction – 1:2ff.*

Why the Gap Theory?

- Honest attempt to avoid fossil problem of geology
 - *Suggests pre-Adamic race*
 - Robert Milligan
 - Robert C. Welch

Gap Theory

- At odds with catastrophe theory of Flood Geology
 - *Price, Nelson, Whitcomb, Morris, et al.*
 - *Critique by Koltenbah*
 - *Recent theory accepted by many believers*

Gap Theory

- Held by Harry Rimmer; rejected by George M. Price
- 20th Century Brethren
 - *Foy E. Wallace*
 - *Nichol & Whiteside*

Problems of Gap Theory

- 1:28 – *replenish* means “to fill” – not repeat
- Isa. 45:18 out of context
- Found in blank space between 1:1 and 1:2

Problems of Gap Theory

“does not fit in with Scripture”
Klotz – Genes, Genesis and Evolution

Problems of Gap Theory

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Problems of Gap Theory

O.T. Allis has response in God Spake by Moses

Question?

Are these men “young earth” or “old earth” advocates?

Conclusion

- Is there a place for two who strongly believe in creation but who hold differing views on the gap theory?
- What about the one who does not believe gap theory is the solution?

Conclusion

- Is there a place for two who strongly believe in creation but who hold differing views on the days of Genesis 1?
- What about the one who does not know the solution?

Conclusion

- David Koltenbah in 1970:
- "A trickle of dogmatism can grow to a tide of dogma in which are drowned true Christian liberty and the noble spirit of the Restoration Movement which 'speaks where the Bible speaks and remains silent where the Bible is silent'"

Let us be...

- Less "crisis-minded"
- Less suspicious of motives
- Get busy trying to learn how to reach the lost
- Study an issue carefully before we start a campaign against a brother...

Correction Read 2-9-2000

- In my class in Puckett Auditorium, Feb. 8, 2000, I stated that Archbishop Ussher dated the flood to May 5, 1491 BC. I then showed serious difficulties with that date in connection with biblical statements. One of my esteemed colleagues informed me that the date was much earlier (he suggested 2491).
- The source I used does say 1491 but other information in my own material on the Antiquity of Man indicates a date of 2348 BC for the flood. From a cursory glance at some additional information I am not sure if Ussher gave the date of 2348 or if others have used his method to reach this conclusion. (continued on next slide)

Correction Read 2-9-2000

- Either way there are difficulties with Ussher's calculations. Further study is needed.
- The point is a minor one since none of us, I think, would defend Ussher's chronology in its totality. But I regret the mistake.
- I take some comfort in the statement of Horace (65-8 BC): "Sometimes even the noble Homer nods."

Check the Internet

- <http://bibleworld.com>

