

Reasons for Believing in the Gap Between Genesis 1:1 & 1:2

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1. The Hebrews words *tohu* and *bohu* translated “without form and void” in verse two are used together in only two other passages. In both those passages, the subject is divine judgment. Both passages deal with the coming judgment known as “The Day of the Lord.” They are clearly an allusion to Genesis 1:2.

Isaiah 34:11	Jeremiah 4:23
11 But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, Also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He shall stretch out over it The line of <i>confusion</i> and the stones of <i>emptiness</i> .	23 I beheld the earth, and indeed <i>it was</i> without <i>form</i> , and <i>void</i> ; And the heavens, they <i>had</i> no light.

2. Only the earth, not the heavens (referring to rest of God’s universal creation) are said to be without form and void. If this were the condition as a result of creation why is not the rest of the universe included?
3. The face of the earth bears the marks of a catastrophe that goes beyond the flood of Noah.
4. The word “was” in Genesis 1:2 may be rendered “became” or “came to be” as easily as “was.”
5. Isaiah 45:18 specifically states that the earth was not created “in vain” (Heb. *tohu*). The earth was created to be inhabited, which condition could not prevail while it was covered with water.
6. This leaves room for the fall of Satan which is said to have taken place on the earth in a garden in Eden according to Ezekiel 28:11-19. This could only have happened after the creation, but before the flood of Genesis 1:2.
7. This explains Satan’s peculiar relationship which He sustains to the earth. It specifically answers the question as to why Satan bothered to tempt Eve. Undoubtedly, he believed man had usurped his authority over the earth.
8. The nature of Satan’s fall is therefore explained as presented in Isaiah 14. The words “I will ascend” can be taken literally only if Satan were not in the heavenly realms.
9. This view does not accommodate the theory of evolution as is thought by many creationists. The gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 is not for the purpose of allowing the geological ages, the age of dinosaurs, or any such geological or organic evolutionary process viewed as necessarily taking long periods of time. The gap is undoubtedly *relatively* short.