

27. Many Hebrew lexicons and dictionaries reject this exegesis and assert that the original creation was chaotic. An example is found in this reference:

The “gap” or “interval” theory, which posits a millennia-long period of time implied by or in Genesis 1:2 and which usually translates 1:2a by the less likely “but the earth became without form and void,” has come into increasing disfavor in recent years. Its main exegetical support, Isaiah 45:18, reads “(God) did not create (the earth) *tohu*,” and has been interpreted to mean that therefore an original creation (described briefly in Genesis 1:1) was destroyed; that the geologic ages ensued (during the “gap”); and that the new creation portrayed in Genesis 1:3ff. was built on the wreckage of the old. But Isaiah 45:18, after the phrase quoted, goes on to say that God “formed (the earth) to be inhabited,” thereby assuring the reader that *tohu* was not his ultimate purpose in creation.²

28. In response to this critique there are several points made which do not correspond with the “gap” or “interval” that we have discussed. We’ll take them point by point:

1. I do not “posit” that there is a “millennia-long period” between verse one and verse three. The period of time is unknown and could contain millions of years, hundreds of years, or even less. The length of time is dictated by how long it took for several events to transpire:
 - the time period between original creation of the universe and the Luciferian Rebellion (Job 38:7),
 - the length of the original trial of Lucifer and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:41),
 - the time it took Lucifer to prepare his appeal (Revelation 20:10), and
 - the time it took for the Supreme Court of Heaven to make the decision to allow Lucifer’s appeal to go forward (Genesis 1:2b).

² R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1980), 965.



2. Harris points out that the translation, “but the earth became without form and void,” has come into disfavor. But he doesn’t explain why the disjunctive construction should not be translated this way. He immediately turns to Isaiah 45:18 as proof. But this verse confirms the disjunctive construction that begins Genesis 1:2*b*.
3. Harris accurately points out that Isaiah 45:18 states that the universe was created perfect, or “God did **not** create (the earth) “*tohu*,” but goes on to say the “gap” or “interval theory” contends that the “original creation (described briefly in Genesis 1:1) was destroyed.”
4. If “God did **not** create [*bara’*] (the earth) *tohu*,” then how did He create it? God is perfect therefore we must conclude that (1) all His creative acts are perfect and (2) He therefore does not create chaos.
5. If God by definition could only create the universe in a perfect state, and if God could not be the Creator of chaos, then the original creation must have not been “destroyed,” but rather placed into a suspended state following the fall of Lucifer.
6. We know from Romans that the present universe, including planet Earth, became cursed and disordered at the fall of Adam:

Romans 8:19 For the creation waits eagerly with confident expectation for the revealing of the sons of God [the resurrection at the Second Advent].

v. 20 For the creation was subordinated to futility [*ματαιότης (mataiotēs)*: absence of order caused by sin (see the “curse” of Genesis 3:17*b*, cf., the disordered mind in Ephesians 4:17] against its own will, but because of Him Who has subordinated it in confidence.

v. 21 Therefore, the entire universe shall also be set free from the slavery of corruption [release from the curse beginning with the Millennium] into the freedom of glory with the children of God.



Romans 8:22 For we know that the entire creation groans [συστενάζω (*sustenázō*)] and suffers great agony [συνωδίνω, (*sunōdínō*): a personification: the creation is depicted as enduring labor pains and suffering between the curse in Genesis 3:17b and the Millennium (see Isaiah 65:18-25)] along together with us until now.

7. If the fall of man caused the universe to be cursed, followed by restoration to perfection at the Millennium, then it follows that the fall of Lucifer would have caused the same thing, followed by a restoration to perfection during the six days documented in Genesis 1:3-31.
8. Some expositors suggest that those who subscribe to the doctrine of the “gap” or “interval” imagine that the “geologic ages ensued (during the ‘gap’).”
9. The fossil record shows great upheavals, which science explains with geologic ages, but these fossils also support the catastrophist’s view. These various strata were probably laid down during the universal flood of Genesis 7–8.

NOTE: Catastrophism: the theory that changes in the earth’s crust during geological history have resulted chiefly from sudden violent and unusual events. Often contrasted with uniformitarianism.³

10. A publication by Ark Encounter, *Ark Signs: That Teach a Flood of Answers*, provides graphic evidence of catastrophism. Here is one excerpt related to evidence that is visible at the Grand Canyon in Arizona:

The high vertical walls of many canyons show that they were carved quickly. If they were cut slowly over long periods of time, the walls would be sloped due to years of erosional forces. Most canyons are many times wider than the river that flows through their base. This indicates that the amount of water responsible for cutting through the rocks was much greater than the current flow. (p.80)

(End JAS3-29. See JAS3-30 for continuation of study at p. 291.)

³ *The New Oxford American Dictionary*, eds. Elizabeth J. Jewell and Frank Abate (2001), s.v. “catastrophism.”



11. Some wonder where the dinosaurs fit into this scheme. I suggest they were wiped out during the global flood documented in Genesis. We glean this from the unlikely source of the environmentalists' community:

Most types of dinosaurs continued to flourish until the very last phases of the Cretaceous Period. Then they disappeared completely from the geologic record [**the universal flood of Genesis 7:17–8:14**] and succeeding rock strata show not the slightest trace of a dinosaur.

The cause of this sudden demise is not at all clear. One widely accepted explanation for their mass extinction has been that a major geologic cycle of mountain building at the end of the Cretaceous Period reduced the lowland areas in which dinosaurs flourished and also changed the world's climate, thus stimulating evolutionary changes in the plant life upon which the dinosaurs fed.¹

NOTE: In volume 4 of the very same *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, we find this article on the extinction of the dinosaurs:

The total extinction of the dinosaurs and the decimation of many other reptile groups occurred at the end of the Cretaceous. Many hypotheses have been proposed to explain their disappearance: deteriorating climate, with its attendant effects on food supply (e.g., seasonal declines in edible plant matter); alteration in habitat because of Earth movements; or reduction in numbers due to egg-eating reptiles or mammals. The most credible theory, however, is that a catastrophic collision of a comet or asteroid with the Earth raised a global dust cloud that enshrouded the planet in darkness for months or even years, resulting in the cessation of photosynthesis and the death of green plants on which herbivores and their predators were ultimately dependent.

¹ *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia*, 15th ed. (2010), 4:104, s.v. "dinosaur."

Given their abruptness, their worldwide scope, and the number of groups involved, the Cretaceous boundary extinctions have provided one of the great enigmas of geology and paleontology.²

29. What caused this was the original sin of Satan. This act called for a trial before which the entire angelic population appeared before the Supreme Court of Heaven.
30. The charges filed for the Luciferian Rebellion was tried before the Divine Triumvirate of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
31. The issue before the Court was to determine the facts behind the Luciferian rebellion and those angels who joined him in his sedition.
32. In Revelation 12:3, 9, note that the number of angels who did so amounted to one-third of the angelic population. They were all found guilty and sentenced for eternity in the lake of fire, which was created for the devil and his angels according to:
Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”
33. It was at this trial that Lucifer was assigned the title consistent with his function in the courtroom. Since he acted as defense attorney for himself and the rebellious angels, the title given was:

שָׂטָן *Satan*: The basic meaning is “hostility” and “opposition.”

Other concepts include “animosity toward; to be at enmity.” It describes those who express hatred by “repaying good with evil; to seek an opponent’s downfall.” In a legal sense it refers to a defense attorney, an accuser, or an adversary. In Job, Satan is Job’s enemy and opponent. We can also see Satan’s function in the divine courtroom in Zechariah 3 where he is called an accuser or adversary:

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord [**Jesus Christ**], and Satan [שָׂטָן] *standing at the high priest’s right hand to accuse* [שָׂטָן] him.

34. The Hebrew title *Satan* is used twice, first as a title and secondly as a function. An expanded translation reflects these ideas:

² Ibid., 3:731.

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord [**Jesus Christ**], and the Adversary [**שָׂטָן**] standing at the high priest's right hand to be an adversary [**שָׂטָן**] to him.³

35. The Bible assigns this title to Lucifer for the remainder of the Angelic Conflict. His title's Greek equivalent is:

διάβολος (*diábolos*): “the devil.”

36. This word also means the “slanderer” or the “adversary” as noted in:

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit. Become vigilant. Your adversary [**ἀντίδικος** *antídikos*: an opponent in a lawsuit; an adversary], the devil [**διάβολος** (*diábolos*): accuser or adversary], **prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

37. The Greek also expresses the Hebrew title **שָׂטָן** *Satan* with the transliteration:

Σατανᾶς (*Satanás*). This title also means adversary.

38. Thus, the title, Satan, is primarily a legal term indicated in the appeal, where Lucifer serves as the defense attorney for himself and the fallen angels. The chilling reality we learn from this is that Lucifer was the first trial lawyer.
39. In this capacity he is constantly seeking witnesses for the defense that he can bring before the Court to testify on his and the fallen angels' behalf.
40. The pool of human witnesses among which he “prowls about, like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,” includes cosmic believers of every dispensation.
41. Since his fall, Lucifer has been an adversary of God and in the resultant Angelic Conflict he constantly seeks to accuse believers before the Supreme Court of Heaven as evidence for his case:

Revelation 12:10b ... the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

42. In this verse we see a Greek word that is a synonym of **διάβολος** *diábolos* in the sense of its definition of “accuser.” Here we see both the noun and the verb form of:

³ See also Job 1:6–12 and Job 2:1–7a.

- κατηγορέω (katēgoréō):** “to accuse someone of a thing”; “to speak against.”
43. This is a legal term that refers to charges brought forward in court. The specific court is the Supreme Court of Heaven as per Revelation 12:10. Old Testament references of Satan as an accuser of men in the appeal include Job in Job 1:6–12 and 2:1–6 and Joshua the high priest in Zechariah 3:1–2.
 44. How all of this got started was when Lucifer committed his original sin documented in:
Ezekiel 28:16 “By the proliferation of your egotistic thought and ideas your stream of consciousness was filled with the violence of rebellion and you sinned. Therefore, I have evicted you as defiled from the throne room, the mountain of God. And I have disgraced you, O covering cherub, from the stones of fire.”
 45. Because of Lucifer’s sin, he was banished from the presence of the Lord in the third heaven.
 46. This banishment precipitated the initial trial of Lucifer and of the entire angelic community. This period of judgment brought about events that occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:3.
 47. The universe in the status quo of its original perfection was apparently for the use, function, and even the enjoyment of the angels. This means that the angels were able to move in and out of time and in and out of the eternal state.
 48. During the original trial the angels’ privilege to access the universe was withdrawn. To ensure that they could not become fugitives by escaping to the universe, the angels were placed under house arrest in the eternal state until the trial was completed.
 49. Two major passages document the fall of Lucifer: **(1)** Ezekiel 28:11-19 and **(2)** Isaiah 14: 12-14. The second of these sheds light on the situation that we now have in view: the absolute zero situation in the universe that occurs between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:3.
 50. Isaiah 14:13-14 is Lucifer’s proclamation of his Five Assertions, the first of which reads:

Isaiah 14:13a “I will ascend into heaven.”

