

Creationism, the Fall,
and Eschatology:
Futurism's Fatal Error in
Genesis

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&

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Eschatology and Genesis

Eschatologies, in other words, implicate their holders in a wide range of stances, including views of human origins. Perhaps the statement would be just as true if it were reversed.

Mark A. Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), p. 188.

Young-Earth vs. Old-Earth Creationism

Young-Earth Distinctives

- 24-Hour Days in Gen.1
- Biological Death Arrived on Planet Earth at God's Curse
- Global Flood in Genesis

Old-Earth Distinctives

- Non-24-Hour Days in Gen.1
- Biological Death Existed Before the Fall of Adam
- Local Flood in Genesis

Young-Earth vs. Old-Earth Creationism

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Futurism

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Preterism

Young-Earth Interpretive Method

A biblical literalism, gaining strength since the 1870's, has fueled both the intense concern for human origins and end times. Literal readings of Genesis 1-3 find their counterpart in literal readings of Revelation 20 (with its description of the thousand-year reign of Christ.)

Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, p. 194.

Futurist Literalism

Dispensationalists claim that their principle of hermeneutics is that of literal interpretation.

Charles Ryrie, *Dispensationalism Today*, p. 86

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, but take every word at its primary, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context clearly indicate otherwise.

Tim LaHaye, *Understanding Bible Prophecy for Yourself*, p. 14

Young-Earth Literalism

The reader who desires to accept the Biblical account literally and without reservation will discover that the authors have shown such a position to be supported by excellent proof and sound interpretation.

Whitcomb & Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, xvi

This is a well-written, carefully reasoned and easy to understand presentation of an event all Christians should know thoroughly ... I could hardly put it down.

LaHaye on back cover of Morris' *Creation and the Second Coming*

Young-Earth Literalism

We should take Genesis literally. Furthermore, it should be noted that you cannot ‘interpret literally,’ for a ‘literal interpretation’ is a contradiction in terms. You either take it literally or you interpret it!

Ken Ham, *The Lie*, p. 162-163

Augustine on Genesis 1

But at least we know that it [the creation day] is different from the ordinary day with which we are familiar.

Augustine, *The Literal Meaning of Genesis*, Book 5, Chapter 2.

Reasons For Non-literal Days

- Sun, moon, stars created on Day 4
- “Evening and Morning” is an uncommon phrase in the Old Testament used to denote a long period of time (Psalm 55:17, Dan. 8:14, 26)
- Adam and Eve created on Day 6 - Yet many activities recorded about Adam before Eve was presented to him (see Gen. 2)
- Time does not permit us an exhaustive list of the numerous internal problems with literal 24-hour days in Genesis 1 & 2

Augustine on the Curse

One might ask why brute beasts inflict injury on one another, for there is no sin in them for which there could be a punishment, and they cannot acquire any virtue by such trial. The answer is that one animal is the nourishment of another. To wish that it were otherwise would not be reasonable. For all creatures, as long as they exist, have their own measure, number, and order.

Augustine, *The Literal Meaning of Genesis*

Augustine on Thorns and Thistles

We should not jump to the conclusion that it was only then that these plants came forth from the earth. For it could be that, in view of the many advantages found in different kinds of seeds, these plants had a place on earth without afflicting man in any way.

Augustine, The Literal Meaning of Genesis

It is difficult to explain how man was created immortal and at the same time in company with the other living creatures was given for food the seed-bearing plant, the fruit tree, and the green crops. If it was by sin that he was made mortal, surely before sinning he did not need such food since his body could not corrupt for lack of it.

He was mortal... by the constitution of his natural body, and he was immortal by the gift of his Creator. For if it was a natural body he had, it was certainly mortal because it was able to die, at the same time immortal by reason of the fact that it was able not to die. Only a spiritual being is immortal by virtue of the fact that it cannot possibly die; and this condition is promised to us in the resurrection. Consequently, Adam's body, a natural and therefore mortal body, which by justification would become spiritual and therefore truly immortal, in reality by sin was made not mortal (because it was that already) but rather a dead thing..

Augustine, *The Literal Meaning of Genesis*

Young-Earth
Creationism <-----> Futurism

world of Genesis 1-2	world of Revelation 21-22
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our world
(digression)

Young-Earth
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world of Genesis 1-2	world of Revelation 21-22
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our world
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Old-Earth
Creationism <-----> Futurism



Dispensational View of the Past

[A] philosophy that divides history into a number of distinct eras in each of which the mode of God's operations, if not nature's, is unique.

Ovid E. Need, Jr., *The Death of the Church Victorious*, p. 11

[Young-earth] Creationism could, in fact, be called scientific dispensationalism, for creation scientists carry the same attitude toward catastrophe and the sharp break between eras into their science that dispensationalists see in the Scriptures.

Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, p. 195

Young-Earth Creationism's Cursed Universe

world of Genesis 1-2	world of Revelation 21-22
our world (digression)	

Running right through the entire Bible... is the theme that the God who consistently reveals himself therein made a good world (no death, struggle, violence, cruelty, or bloodshed). This entire universe has been cursed by God (Gen. 2, Rom. 8) as a consequence of the rebellion (sin) of the first man, Adam, against his maker.

Carl Wieland, *Stones and Bones*, p. 10

Since the Curse now permeates the very elements of the earth, its removal requires purging the elements. This, indeed, is what will happen: 'The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up... all these things shall be dissolved' (2 Peter 3:10, 11)... Thus will the new earth and its inhabitants at last be restored to the conditions of the Edenic earth.

Morris, *Creation and the Second Coming*, p. 132

What Does “Good” Mean?

- Young-earth view is based on an arbitrary definition of a “good” creation.

Life can only live on life... Are we to believe that the lion and the tiger, the ant-eater and the shark, were all vegetarians till Adam fell, and that the sharp claws of the big cats and the magnificent array of teeth in a lion’s mouth were for vegetarian purposes only? One might affirm that such a creation could hardly be called *good*, but that is to pre-judge what good means.

Bernard Ramm, *The Christian View of Science and Scripture* , p. 233

Catastrophic Genesis Flood

- Global According to a Literal Interpretation.
- Changed Life and Geography Across Planet Earth.
- Biological Life-spans Shorten After the Event.

Young-Earth View of the Future

People will live for hundreds of years again, just as their counterparts did in the antediluvian period.

Similarly, in the millennium, life spans will be long again, appetites will be herbivorous again, rains will be gentle again, storms will be absent again, and the whole world will be habitable again.

For the millennial period, “every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked will be made straight , and the rough places plain’ (Isaiah 40:4) Apparently, the topography of the earth’s surface in the millennium will be quite similar to that in the world before the flood.

Morris, *Creation and the Second Coming*

Young-Earth View of the Future (cont.)

The earth itself will be restored largely in the millennium to its antediluvian beauty. In the original “very good” creation, there were no uninhabitable deserts or ice caps or high mountains. The seas were relatively narrow and shallow, all interconnected and more or less uniformly distributed among the earth’s land surfaces, thus assuring a relatively equable humidity everywhere.

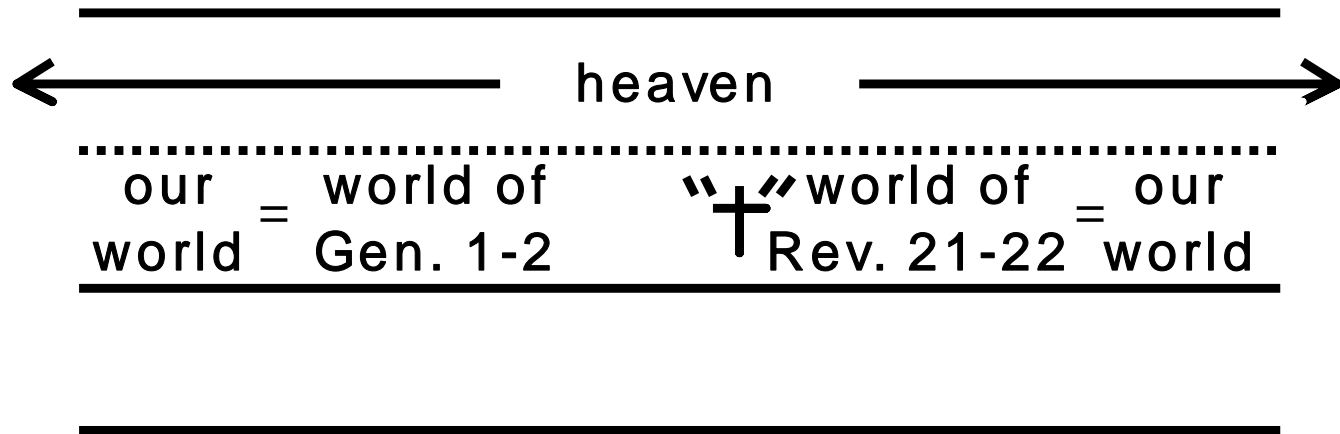
Morris, *Creation and the Second Coming*

The Driving Force for YEC

[M]ost flood geologists (in America at least) came from churches awaiting Christ's soon return to earth. And for Christians expecting the imminent end of the present age – whether premillennial Baptists and Adventists or amillennial Lutherans and Church of Christ members – Whitcomb and Morris offered a compelling view of earth history framed by symmetrical catastrophic events and connected by a common hermeneutic. "If you take Genesis literally," reasoned Morris, "you're more inclined to take Revelation literally."

Ronald L. Numbers, *The Creationists*, p. 339

Old-Earth
Creationism <-----> Preterism



Old-Earth View of the Curse

- Old-Earth Creationism = Curse is Related to the Spiritual World of Mankind.

The concept of ‘spiritual death’ is common in Scripture. The Bible often contrasts the dead heart with the living heart (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). Jesus talks of people as “dead” though they are physically alive (Matt. 8:22), as does Paul (Eph. 2:1). This kind of death is unique to humans.

David Snoke, *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, p. 62.

Old-Earth View of the Curse

Jesus undoes the work of Adam by bringing life where Adam brought death. How does Jesus do this? Does he give eternal life to all the animals? There is nothing in Scripture to warrant such a belief, much as we might like to say that “all dogs go to heaven.” No – Jesus brings spiritual life to humans right away, as Adam brought spiritual death right away.

David Snoke, *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, p. 73

The Edenic apocalypse is clearly seen to set forth an age-long conflict in the moral world, and to foreshadow what the end shall be.

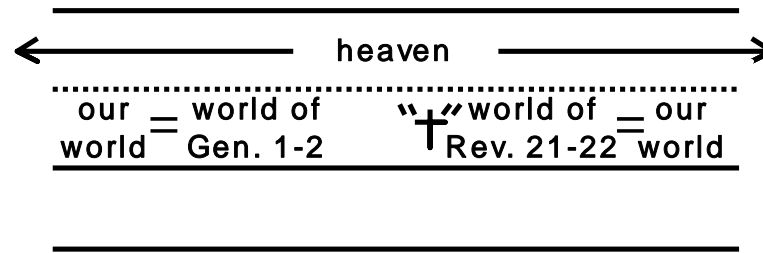
Milton Terry, *Biblical Apocalypics*, p. 56

Fossil Record and Eschatology

- Young-Earth Creationism Denies Biological Death Before the Fall ->> new Fossil Record
- Old-Earth Creationism Accepts Biological Death Before the Fall ->> old Fossil Record

**The Ancient Fossil Record (geology)
Confirms Preterist View of the Curse!**

The Curse and Time Indicators

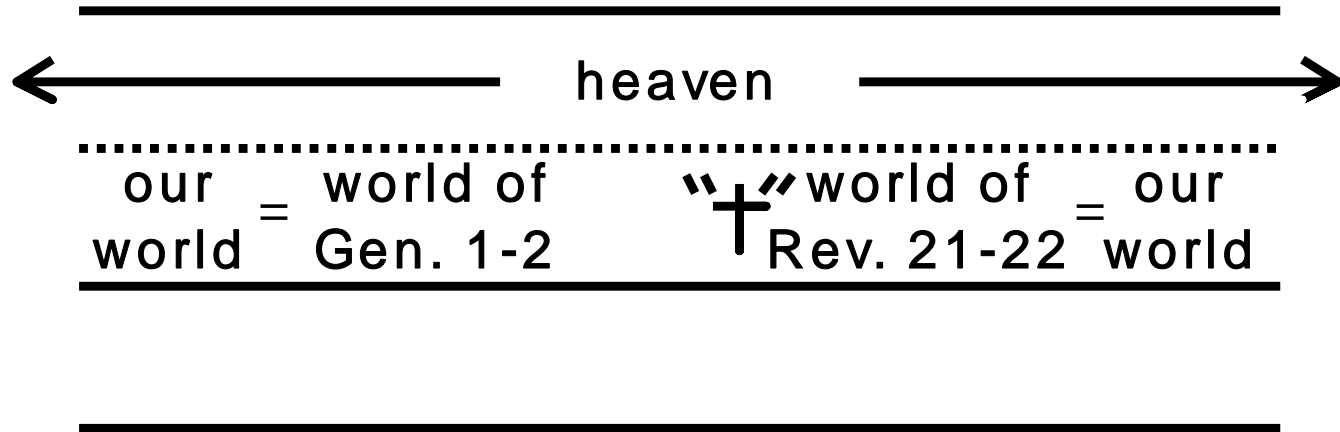


For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together *until now*. (Rom. 8:20-22 NKJ).

It was *the time* of the Edenic curse of Genesis 3:17-19 that “the creation was subjected to vanity by God.”

Whitcomb & Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, p. 459

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together *until now*. (Rom. 8:18, 22 NKJ).



Old-Earth
Creationism

Preterism

The God-Centered Creation

[A]ll creation is primarily symbolic. All creatures reflect the glory of God and are images of some aspect or other of His nature. God's personality is imprinted on everything he has made.

David Chilton, *The Days of Vengeance*, p. 32

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Did God make tame lions?

The Teaching Creation

- Powerful Physical Phenomena in Creation Teach of a Powerful God.
- The Love Manifested in God's Creatures Teaches of the Love Within God's family
- God's Good Creation is God's Gift Given to Foster Human Love Returned to the Creator
- The Creation Reflects the Covenant

The Creation: The Place of God's Presence and Joy

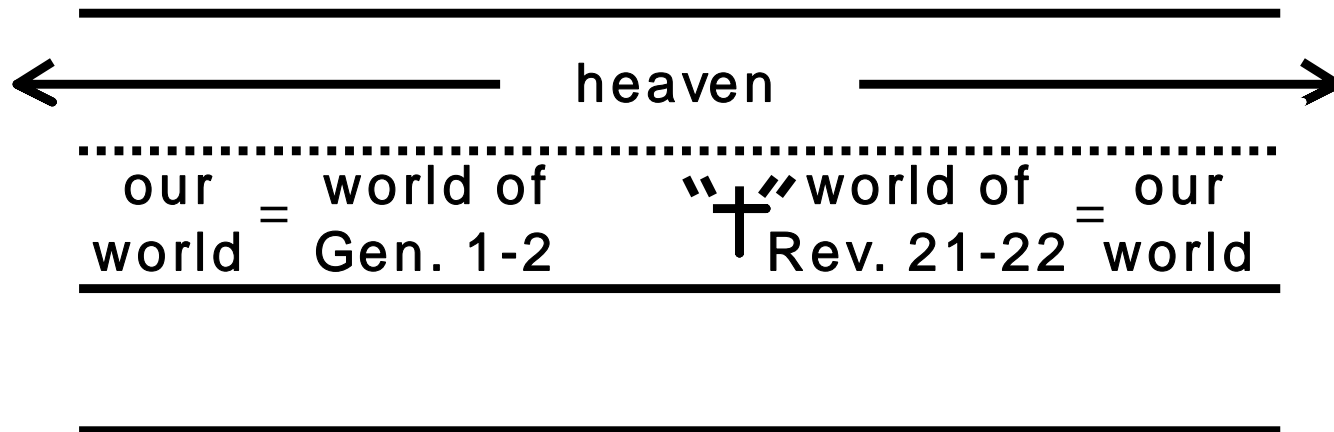
We pay a lot of money to get a tank with a few tropical fish in it and never tire of looking at their brilliant iridescence and marvelous forms and movements. But God has seas full of them, which he constantly enjoys (I can hardly take in these beautiful little creatures one at a time).

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 63

Time Perspective: Millions of Years Both Directions

Old-Earth
Creationism

Preterism

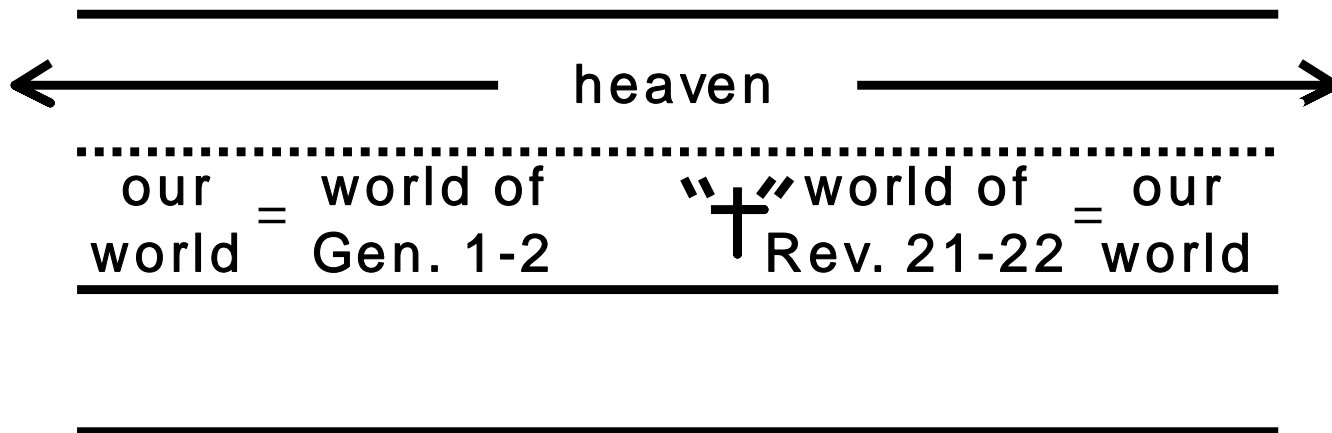


Old-Earth

Creationism <-----> Preterism

Curse = Moral World
of Mankind

Lifted = Moral World
of Mankind



Young-Earth Futurism

vs.

Old-Earth Preterism

Young-Earth Distinctives

- 24-Hour Days in Gen.1
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- Global Flood in Genesis

Futurist Distinctives

- "Generations" = 1 Week
- Biological Death Ends at the Consummation
- Global Destruction at the Parousia

Old-Earth Distinctives

- Non-24-Hour Days in Gen.1
- Biological Death Existed Before the Fall of Adam
- Local Flood in Genesis

Preterist Distinctives

- "Generations" = Long Time
- Biological Death Continues after the Consummation
- Local Destruction at the Parousia