

# The Prophetic Creation

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# Creation and Eschatology Match

## Young-Earth Creationism

- Literal Hermeneutic
- Creation of the Physical Universe
- Biological Emphasis in creation
- Biological Curse/Fall

## Futurism

- Literal Hermeneutic
- End of the Physical Universe we know
- Biological Emphasis in prophecy
- Biological Redemption

# Biological Curse = Global Flood

- Fossils record biological death
- Young-earth creationists teach, “No biological death before Adam’s Fall”
- Therefore, the fossils were formed *after* Adam
- A global Flood is the physical explanation of the fossil record – the flood formed the fossils
- A global Flood is an extension of the biological view of the Curse

But there is a much closer connection between the Biblical doctrines of the Fall and the Flood... The really important connection between them consists in the explanation which a universal Flood provides for the laying down of the fossiliferous strata *since* the time of Adam... To put the issue into its sharpest delineations, a literal interpretation of the Fall demands as its corollary a thorough-going Biblical catastrophism; and the doctrine of the Flood can be fully understood only in light of the Fall and Edenic curse.

Whitcomb & Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, p. 454.

# Fossil Record and Eschatology

- Young-Earth Creationism denies biological death before the fall ->> young fossil record.
- Old-Earth Creationism accepts biological death before the fall ->> old fossil record

## **An Ancient Fossil Record Confirms a Preterist View of the Curse!**

# Global Flood $\Leftrightarrow$ Global End

- The two views are connected
- They reinforce each other
- As long as young-earth creationism's global flood dominates Christian's minds in Genesis, global futurism will dominate Christian's minds in The Revelation
- The Genesis debate is extremely important to the future growth of covenant eschatology

# Does This Match?

## Young-Earth Creationism

- Literal Hermeneutic
- Creation of the Physical Universe
- Biological Emphasis in creation
- Biological Curse/Fall

## Preterism

- Covenant Hermeneutic
- End of the Old Covenant Economy
- Covenant Emphasis in prophecy
- Spiritual Redemption

# Creation and Eschatology Match

## **Covenant Creation**

- Covenantal Hermeneutic
- Beginning of a Covenant World Economy
- Covenantal Emphasis in Creation
- Covenant or Spiritual Curse/Fall
- Symbolic Literature

## **Covenant Eschatology**

- Covenantal Hermeneutic
- End of a Covenant World Economy
- Covenantal Emphasis in Prophecy
- Covenant or Spiritual Redemption
- Symbolic Literature



# Introduction to Covenant Creation

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 Apocalypitics*, p. 56.

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

It is a most remarkable revelation to stand at the beginning of the Holy Scriptures, and it is well for us, at this early stage of our apocalyptic studies, to point out the fact that the last prophetic book of the canon makes conspicuous use of the symbols and suggestions of the first three chapters of Genesis, and seems divinely adapted to stand as its final counterpart.

Milton Terry, *Biblical Apocalypitics*, p. 56.

# Apocalyptic/Prophetic Literature

- Symbolic
- Metaphorical
- Covenantal
  - “the wolf and the lamb will feed together”
  - “they will beat their swords into plowshares”

# Apocalyptic/Prophetic Literature

- Indirect historical reference but not a plain literal historical account
  - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15 NIV)
- Indirect, symbolic reference to the historical crucifixion of Jesus Christ

# Prophecy in Genesis Creation

Indeed, *Paradise is where prophecy began*. It is worth noting that the very first promise of the coming Redeemer was stated in highly symbolic terms... Obviously, this is not simply “history written in advance.” It is a symbolic statement, very much of a piece with the evocative, poetic language used throughout the Bible, and especially in Revelation.

David Chilton, *Days of Vengeance*, p. 11.

# The Curse and Prophecy

Genesis 3:14-19 references three entities in God's curse:

- **Serpent**
- **Woman**
- **Man**

Same three elements referenced regarding the New Heavens and New Earth to come:

They will **not toil in vain** [Curse on Adam] **or bear children doomed to misfortune** [Curse on Eve]; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but **dust will be the serpent's food...** [Curse on Serpent]. (Isaiah 65:23-25 NIV)

# Inconsistent Preterist Creation

Landmass Rising from Global Ocean

Literal Sun, Moon and Stars

Covenant life in Gen. 2 (Breath of life)

Tree of Life (Eternal Life/Christ)

Covenant Death in Gen. 3 (The Death)

+ Biological Mother of All Living (Eve)

Schizophrenic Interpretation

# Consistent Preterist Creation

But if these opening chapters of the Bible are a revelation of God's creative relation to the world, may they not be apocalyptic in character? Is it not fitting that the canon of Scripture should open as well as close with an apocalypse?

We gain nothing for the honor of the Scriptures by attempting to force upon them a meaning they were never intended to convey.

Milton Terry, *Biblical Apocalypstics*, p. 43.



# Prophetic Creation Week

## Day

1 - Light

2 - Sky/Water

3 - Land and Plants

## Day

4 – Luminaries

5 - Life in Sky/Water

6 - Animals and Man

## Day

7 - Rest

# Prophetic Creation Week

## **(Old Covenant)**

1 - Light

2 - Sky/Water

3 - Land and Plants

## **(New Covenant)**

4 – Luminaries

5 - Life in Sky/Water

6 - Animals and Man

## **(God's Rest/Eternal Life)**

7 - Rest

# Evening (Old) and Morning (New)

Relatively speaking, the whole history of the world from Adam's Fall to Christ's Ascension was Night; relatively speaking, the whole future of the world is bright Day. This follows the pattern laid down at the creation, in which the heavens and earth move eschatologically from evening to morning, the lesser light being succeeded by the greater light, going from glory to Glory.

David Chilton, *Days of Vengeance*, p. 573

# Evening (Old) and Morning (New)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. (Rom. 13:11-12 NKJV)

# Symbolic Creation Weeks

## Genesis 1

- In the beginning...
- Light and Darkness
- Six Days
- Rest
- Symbolic of all God's Work

(Much longer period of time)

## John 1

- In the beginning...
- Light
- Six Days
- Wedding at Cana
- Symbolic of all Christ's Work

(Much longer period of time)

# The Prophetic Sun

But for you who revere my name, the *sun of righteousness* will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. (Malachi 4:2 NIV)

The *rising sun* will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. (Luke 1:78-79 NIV)

**The Sun made on Day 4 (center of creation week)  
prophetic of Christ (center of all covenant history).**

**See also Psalm 19:5-6.**

# Creation Reflects Covenant

- Sun/Bridegroom/Ruler of the Day
- Stars/Children/Shine in the Night
  - “count the stars... So shall your offspring be”
  - “eleven stars” bow down to Joseph
  - “those who are wise will shine...like the stars”
  - Christians “shine like stars in the universe.”
- Glory of the Sun (Messiah) drowns out the glory of the lesser lights (God’s people)
- The Sun and Stars live together in the heavens

# The Prophetic Garden

- Breath of Life → Spiritual Life
  - Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:21-22 NIV)
- Adam → Christ
- Eve → Church
  - Jesus Resurrected (Made) First
  - Church Resurrected (Made) Second
  - Bridegroom
  - Bride



# The Prophetic Man and Woman

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. [quoting Gen 2 and the creation of Eve] ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but **I am talking about Christ and the church.**

(Ephesians 5:28-32 NIV).

# Woman Made From the Side of Man

- Adam underwent “Deep Sleep”
- Rib taken from the side of Adam
- Woman was made from the side of Man
  - The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was *already dead*, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers *pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water*. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. (John 19:32-35 NIV)

# Church Made From the Side of Christ

- Christ underwent “Deep Sleep” (Death)
- Blood and Water from pierced side of Christ
- Church was made from the side of Christ
  - Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the *washing with water* through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church... (Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV)
  - These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have WASHED their robes and made them white in the BLOOD of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14 NIV)

# The Prophetic Temptation

## Genesis (Failure)

- Eve tempted first
  - Adam tempted second
  - Tempted in garden
  - Surrounded by food
  - Sight of the fruit
  - “Not surely die”
  - *Already* “like God”
- (Made in the image of God)

## N.T. (Success)

- Christ tempted first
  - Bride tempted second
  - Tempted in wilderness
  - Tempted while hungry
  - Sight of the nations
  - “Not surely die”
  - *Already* heir to the nations
- (Divine Son of God)

# Eve, “Mother of all the Living”

- Eve → Mother of (Covenant) Life = Church
- Two Covenant Lines: Serpent vs. Woman
  - Cain (Serpent)
  - Abel (Woman)
    - The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the **sons of the evil one.** (Matt. 13:38 NIV)
    - If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here.... **You belong to your father, the devil,** and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:42, 44 NIV)

# Eve, “Mother of all the Living”

- Eve → Mother of (Covenant) Life = Church
- Two Covenant Lines: Serpent vs. Woman
  - Cain (Serpent)
  - Abel (Woman)
    - Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. [That is a temptation] He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is **of the devil**, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning... This is how we know who the children of God are and who the **children of the devil** are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.** (1 John 3:7-12 NIV)<sup>30</sup>

# Serpent vs. Woman

## **Cain (Genesis 4)**

- Born first
- Apart from God's presence
- Lamech 7<sup>th</sup> from Adam
  - Polygamy / Violence
- No life-spans
- Dead line of serpent

## **Seth (Genesis 5)**

- Born second
- In God's presence
- Enoch 7<sup>th</sup> from Adam
  - Perfect life (365 years)
- Long life-spans
- Living line of woman

# Life-spans = Covenant Life

- **Only the covenant line from Adam to Noah and Shem to Abraham have long life-spans!** They are the only ones to enjoy covenant life in the presence of God.

Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth...  
Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed... For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people.

(Isaiah 65:17, 20, 22 NIV)



# Prophetic Life-Spans

- None of the Patriarchs reached 1000 years

God's Day for Adam lasted almost a thousand years (930 years) God's Day for the New Adam lasts a full millennium (Rev. 20:4, 6)

James Jordan, Creation in Six Days, p. 91.

# Millennium = Symbolic Life-Span

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them... And they *lived* and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:4 NKJ)

- 1000 years of life is symbolic of eternal life
- Millennium is the fulfillment of Isaiah 65 (100 year old youth → 1000 years full life = 100 X 10)
- The Millennium is a symbolic life-span rooted in the symbolic life-spans in Genesis
- 1000 years = 1 Generation = 40 years
- The end of the Millennium is A.D. 70

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new  
earth for the first heaven and the first  
earth had passed away.*

*(Revelation 21:1 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the  
foundations of the earth, and the  
heavens are the works of your hands.  
They will perish, but you remain.  
(Hebrews 11:10 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*We know that the whole creation has  
been groaning as in the pains of  
childbirth right up until the present time.  
(Romans 8:22 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*And I have put My words in your  
mouth... That I may plant the heavens,  
Lay the foundations of the earth, And  
say to Zion, 'You are My people.'*

*(Isaiah 51:16 NKJ)*

Do you see the connection?

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*By the same word the present heavens  
and earth are reserved for fire, being  
kept for the day of judgment and  
destruction of ungodly men.*

*(2 Peter 3:7 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?

# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*But in keeping with his promise we are  
looking forward to a new heaven and a  
new earth, the home of righteousness.*

*(2 Peter 3:13 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?



# Covenant Creation ⇔ Covenant End

**In the beginning, God created  
the heavens and the earth...**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but  
my words will never pass away.*

*(Matthew 24:35 NIV)*

Do you see the connection?

# The Prophetic Creation

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# Covenant Creation: Theology of Mercy

- Young-earth futurism is junk science/junk theology
- Young-earth futurism creates unnecessary war between modern scientific advance and the Kingdom of God
- Covenant creation re-centers Christians on the redemptive themes of the Bible
- Covenant creation removes obstacles to rich Kingdom life in God's good creation
- Covenant creation matches covenant eschatology.

# Covenant Creation ↔ Covenant End

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*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. (Revelation 21:1 NIV)*

In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth...**

*In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish, but you remain. (Hebrews 11:10 NIV)*

In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth...**

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In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth...**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Matthew 24:35 NIV)*

**Do you see the connection?**