

Can We Really Understand The Biblical Record?

I. General Principles Of Interpretation

Interpret

Bring out the meaning of

- Mt.1:23, translated
- Lk.24:27, expound, explain, interpret
- Ac.17:11, process illustrated: search; examine carefully; study thoroughly

Literal: interpret word for word

Figurative: not original usage [represent by means of figure, symbol, or likeness].

- Lk.9:58, *Foxes have holes...*
- Lk.13:32, *Go tell that fox...*

Literal is the rule.

Figurative, the exception.

- Some twist literal into figurative (v. versa) to support speculations.
- ‘Figurative’ does **not** mean a word teaches nothing, is untrue, or did not happen.
 - Ps.91:4 . . .
 - Untrue? Misrepresent God? Aesop?
 - Mt.23:37 (non-poetic context). (Jg.9)
 - Mal.4:5-6 . . . Mt.11:13-14
 - Jn.6:52-53 . . . (63)

NT warns against deception

- 1 Tim.1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim.4:4; 2 Pt.1:16...
 - Some thought Jesus, His transfiguration, His resurrection were fables
 - “Gn.1-11 is poetry”
 - What if it *were* poetry?
 - Job is a dramatic poem

God on Creation – Job 38

- 1-2, warning...
- 4-7, foundation – creation
- 4-11, sea confined to limits – God's design
- 18, breadth of earth. Just happened?
- 19-21, some: day / night are warring powers.
[Gn.1, orderly design of Creator]
- 22-24, snow, hail, light, wind...
- 25-30, rain, desert, frost, ice...
- 31-33, astronomy: constellations.
- 34-38, meteorology
- 39-41, animals...

Job sees
God's
greatness.
Anthropic
principle.
Ezk.14;
Ja.5:11

I. General Principles Of Interpretation

II. Other Figurative Desires For Days Of Genesis 1

Exegesis: explanation

Eisegesis: read into text

‘If, in the face of the biblical data, the theistic evolutionist chooses to accept the hypothesis of some scientists, he at least should be conscious of what he is doing to the Bible in the process. He no longer makes it the source book for his knowledge of origins. In place thereof he chooses the verdict of science and allows it to sit in judgment on the Bible rather than letting the Bible sit in judgment on science’ – Harold Lindsell

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

¹Day-Age Theory

- Gn.1: days = long ages, not 24-hour days.
- Living Bible ftnts.: “day (or, ‘period of time’)”
 - Why? To reconcile Gen. and evolution
- Consider:
 - When ‘day’ is preceded by numeral, always means 24-hour day. Num.29
 - Each day (day 1- 6) has evening and morning

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

¹Day-Age Theory

- Gn.1: days = long ages, not 24-hour days.
- Living Bible footnotes...
 - Why? To reconcile Gen. and evolution
- Consider:
 - Arthur Custance: nine Hebrew scholars (Canada; US; Britain)
 - All: it means 'a day as commonly understood'

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

²Gap Theory

1. God created world billions of years ago
2. Satan sinned. God cast him from heaven
3. Left earth in darkness as divine judgment
4. Most place gap between Gn.1:1 and 1:2
5. Thus most of Gn.1 is God's re-creation

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

²Gap Theory

Scofield Bible Notes: Gn.1:1 and 1:2

“Earth made waste and empty by judgment.

Note: ...Three creative acts of God are recorded in this chapter: (1) the heavens and earth, v.1; (2) animal life, v.21; and (3) human life, vs.26, 27. The first creative act refers to the dateless past, and gives scope for all the geologic ages.”

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

²Gap Theory

Consider –

1. V.2 should read ‘became waste’ [it does NOT]. Also, Ex.20:11
2. God created from nothing, not from chaos. (Hb.11:3)
3. Why does Genesis bypass this great catastrophe?
4. Gap theory would bring death into world before Adam (1Co.15: 21-22).

Creative attempts at rewriting Gn.1

³Framework Hypothesis

1. Literary device
2. Stresses system and order in creation

Day 1, light	is	Day 4, lights
Day 2, sky, sea	is	Day 5, birds, sea creatures
Day 3, dry land, vegetation	is	Day 6, land animals, man

Contrast Ex.20:11

I. General Principles Of Interpretation

II. Other Figurative Desires For Days Of Gen.1

III. Other Passages
Complement Genesis Claims

All Stand Or Fall Together (1/2)

- Ex.20:8-11, six days; 7th day pattern; all...
- Ex.31:15-17, historical precedent, Sabbath
- Pr.3:19-20; 8:22-31, wisdom in Creation
- Is.40:26, 28; 44:24, God, not bang
- Mt.19:4-8, history lesson
- Lk.3:23...38, Jesus' genealogy → Adam
- Lk.11:50-51, Abel to Zechariah
- Jn.5:46-47, Moses' ... not 'once upon a time'
- Jn.8:44, murderer from beginning (Gn.3)
- Ac.17:23, 24, 26, one God...made...one blood

All Stand Or Fall Together (2/2)

- Ro.1:18-21, power / divinity seen in creation
- Ro.5:12-14, no death before Adam
- 1 Co.11:8, 11-12, woman 'of' man
- 1 Co.15:45-48, Adam – the first man...
- 2 Co.11:3, serpent / Eve...
- 1 Tim.2:13-15, “Adam – Eve” – creation; fall
- Hb.11:3, framed by the word of God...
- 2 Pt.3:4-5, by Word of God...heavens, earth...
- Jd.14, Enoch, the seventh from Adam (Gn.5)
- Rv.4:11, You created all things...

How to explain universe?

Four possibilities

1. Illusion.
2. Eternal, self-existent.
3. Created itself.
4. Created by Someone.