

Evangelical Views of the Creation Account in Gen 1–2

Prepared by
Dr. J. Paul Tanner
5th ed.
Sept 1, 2013

More Literal

Less Literal

Young Earth View

Gap Theory

Pre-Creation Chaos

Promised Land View

Old Earth Views

Figurative Day Views

Cosmic Temple View

Theistic Evolution

Traditional View. God created everything (a few thousand years ago) in six consecutive, 24-hour days, starting at Gen 1:1. Vs 2 depicts the earth in its initial incomplete stage, before God formed and filled heaven and earth (vs 3ff).

There is a long gap of time (perhaps billions of years) between an original creation in Gen 1:1 and a judged earth depicted in vs 2. This is followed by a new re-creation in six literal days starting at vs 3.

Gen 1:1 is a summary statement for the whole chapter (comp. 2:4). Vs 2 depicts the earth negatively (not by God--something wrong has happened). New creation starts in vs 3 (implies a previous creation).

Gen 1:1 is the creation of the entire universe over millions (perhaps billions) of years. Vs 3ff describes God's work to prepare the Promised Land (= Garden of Eden), for Israel. [Heb word *'erets* can mean earth or land].

Millions of years were involved in the "six-day" creation wk.
Day-Age View
Each Day = millions of years (not 24 hour days).
Intermittent-Day Age View
A day = 24 hrs, but millions of years between each day.
R. C. Newman
John C. Lennox

Relies on literary analysis to take the days or the week figuratively.
Framework View
Days are not 24 hr days or sequential, but used to convey theology.
Literary Day View
Richard E. Averbeck
Analogical Days View
C. John Collins

Gen 1-2 is not about material creation, but God giving *function* to pre-existing things. Cosmic space is prepared as His temple within which He will rule. (View relies heavily on comparison to ANE Literature).

God used natural processes, namely evolution, to create everything (e.g., stars, earth, plants, animals and man) over billions of years. Many (not all) see Genesis as an allegory and deny a historical Adam & Eve.

John Whitcomb
Terry Mortenson
Todd Beall
William Barrick
Douglas F. Kelly
John MacArthur
Answers in Gen.

George H. Pember
Harry Rimmer
Arthur Custance
Scofield Ref. Bible

Bruce K. Waltke
Allen P. Ross

John H. Sailhamer

Day-Age View
Gleason Archer
Walter Kaiser
Millard Erickson
J. P. Moreland
Reasons to Believe
(Hugh Ross)

Framework View
Meredith G. Kline
Henri Blocher
Lee Irons
Mark Futato
Bruce K. Waltke

John H. Walton

Francis Collins
Peter Enns
Tremper Longman
N. T. Wright
Howard J. Van Till
Bruce K. Waltke
BioLogos