



The Chaos of Isa 45:18 Refers to Genesis 1:2; Critique of the “Gap Theory” & Rebuttal; Universe Cursed by Sin & Is in Labor until 2nd Advent, Romans 8:19-22

Genesis 1:2a - But the earth became formless and void ...

אָהוּ *tohu* וְהָבֹהוּ *wabohu* - Best translation: “desolate and empty.”

25. If we had stayed with the sequential construction then “desolate and empty” would refer back to the creative act of verse one. However, the correct translation recognizes that this is a disjunctive construction and thus the verse does not relate back to Genesis 1:1 but rather to:

Isaiah 45:18 - For thus says the Lord, Who created [בָּרָא *bara*: out of nothing] the heavens [the universe] (He is the God who formed [יָצַר *yatsar*: to mold preexisting matter] the earth and made it [עָשָׂה *asah*: from a preexisting pattern], He established it and did not create it [בָּרָא *bara*: out of nothing] a waste place [אָהוּ *tohu*], but formed it [יָצַר *yatsar*: to mold preexisting matter] to be inhabited), “I am the Lord, and there is none else.”

26. Thus אָהוּ *tohu* וְהָבֹהוּ *wabohu* in Genesis 1:2 describes the conditions on Planet Earth that occurred as a result of the Luciferian Rebellion.
27. Many Hebrew lexicons and dictionaries reject this exegesis and assert that the original creation was chaotic. An example is found in:

Harris, R. Laird, et al. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 965:

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.

1. In response to this critique there are several points made which do not correspond with the “gap” or “interval” that I teach. We’ll take them point by point:
1. I do not “posit” that there is a “millennia-long period” between verse one and verse two. The period of time is unknown and could contain millions of years or only hundreds. The length of time is dictated by how long it took for several events to transpire:
 - the time period between original creation 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 the appeal trial (Genesis 1:3).
 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.



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 chaotic 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**].

Romans 8:20 - For the creation was subordinated to futility [*ματαιότης, mataiotēs*: **absence of order caused by sin (see the “curse” of Genesis 3:17b, 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.

v. 22 - For we know that the entire creation groans [*συστενάζω, sustenazō*] and suffers great agony [*συνωδίνω, sunōdinō*: **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.