

## How do we interpret Scripture?

- A. No part of Scripture can contradict another part of Scripture.
- B. Interpret Scripture as literature; in practice, this means literally unless there is clear reason to do otherwise.
- C. Always consider the surrounding context.
- D. Always seek to determine what it meant to those it was originally written to.
- E. Historical narratives are to be interpreted by didactic passages.
- F. The Bible uses the language of appearance, not precise technical language like a science textbook.

## Common Interpretations of Genesis 1

- A. **The Day-Age Theory**
  - 1. II Peter 3:8 used to support this, and the Hebrew “yom.”
  - 2. The “days” in Genesis overlap with the 7<sup>th</sup> day a continuing day.
  - 3. The order of events supposedly follows evolution.
- B. **The Gap Theory**
  - 1. The Genesis days said to be days of re-creation, not the first creation.
  - 2. There would be a great gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, which are meant to include the geological ages of evolution.
  - 3. A great catastrophe occurred in this gap of time that supposedly connected with the fall of Satan (see Ezekiel 28:11-19).
- C. **The Literal View**
  - 1. Creation by fiat command ex nihilo (Psalm 33:6-9, Hebrews 11:3, Romans 4:17)
  - 2. Earth formed out of water (II Peter 3:5)
  - 3. Light before Sun or stars (Gen. 1:3, 14-15)
  - 4. Six literal solar days (**Exodus 20:11**, Gen. 1:5)
  - 5. Fixed Biblical kinds of living things (Gen. 1:11,21, 24; I Corinth. 15:39)
  - 6. Vegetarian nature of Man and animals (Gen. 1:29-30 and Gen. 9:3)
  - 7. Adam and Eve real people in history (I Corinth. 15:45, I Timothy 2:13)
  - 8. Ideal environment in the beginning (Gen. 1:6-8, Gen. 2:5-6)
  - 9. Created maturity (Gen. 1:11-12, 24-25, 27-28; Gen. 2:7, 22)
  - 10. Men and women created in God’s image (Gen. 1:26-31, 2:20-24, 9:5-6)

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