



Seeing What We  
believe

1 Jn. 5:13, Isa. 26:3

1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

True believers know and understand the depth of God's love. The more we know Him, have assurance of eternal life, and grow in grace, the more we will be at peace in the midst of troublesome times.

# MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

## ARTICLE 1

### NAME AND PURPOSE

## ARTICLE 2

### STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

#### **SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**(A) The Holy Scriptures.**

**(B) Dispensationalism.**

**(C) The Godhead.**

**(D) The Person and Work of Christ.**

**(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**

**(F) The Depravity of Man.**

**(G) Salvation.**

**(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**

**(I) The Church**

**(J) Separation.**

**(K) The Second Coming of Christ.**

**(L) The Eternal State.**

**(M) The Personality of Satan.** We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

1. The Creation of Satan
2. The Character of Satan
3. The Corruption by Satan
4. The Conflict with Satan
5. The Conquering of Satan

Why go over the constitution and by-laws? Very simply, everyone needs to...

## KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Rom. 14:5b "...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Please remember that the topics we are covering on a Wednesday evening are brief summaries of a specific doctrine. We are only covering the main points, not going into minute details.

Tonight, our subject is...

(N) **Creation.** We believe that the Genesis account of creation is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of God's creation of the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

- The statement about Creation includes several theories regarding "origin."

### Literal, 24-hour day

Ex. 20:11 For **in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is**, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

- The Hebrew word that is translated “day” is *yôm*.

**Original Word:** יום

**Transliteration:** yom

**Definition:** day

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3117.htm>

### **Meaning of *yôm***

- When Moses, under the inspiration of God, compiled the account of creation in Genesis 1, he used the Hebrew word *yôm* for ‘day’.
- He combined *yôm* with numbers (‘first day’, ‘second day’, ‘third day’, etc.) and with the words ‘evening and morning’, and the first time he employed it he carefully defined the meaning of *yôm* (used in this way) as being one night/day cycle (Genesis 1:5).

- Thereafter, throughout the Bible, *yôm* used in this way always refers to a normal 24-hour day.
- Professor James Barr, professor of Hebrew at Oxford University agrees that the words used in Genesis 1 refer to ‘a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience’, and he says that he knows of no professor of Hebrew at any leading university who would say otherwise.

Source: letter from Prof. James Barr to David C.C. Watson, dated 23 April 1984. Note that Prof. Barr does not say that he believes that Genesis is historically true; he is just telling us what, in the unanimous opinion of the world’s leading Hebrew-language professors (including himself), the Hebrew words used were intended to convey.

<https://creation.com/how-long-were-the-days-of-genesis-1>



- The meaning of “day” in Gen 1:5, 8, 13-14, 16, 19, 23, 31, etc. = 24-hour day.

## **Evolution**

Evolution is the “theory that all life originated from nonliving material and has developed according to natural selection and speciation as random mutations effect changes without purpose or design over billions of years” (*Baker Compact Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 76).

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/can-christians-believe-in-evolution>

- The illusionary faith in evolution is mankind’s refusal to believe God and to fear Him.
- Bible believers have faith in the Scriptures:

**Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

## **The Gap Theory**

Many try to reconcile the Bible with the teaching of evolution. One of the most popular ways of doing so is known as the Gap Theory or the ruin and reconstruction theory. Although there are some variations among those who hold to the Gap Theory, its basic teachings are as follows:

- The “Gap Theory” holds that Gen. 1:1 refers to God's initial perfect creation. Everything that God made was beautiful, there was no sin anywhere. In Gen. 1:2, on the other hand, assumes that a great catastrophe occurred that caused the earth to become in a chaotic state through the judgment of God.

- According to the Gap Theory, the formless and void state, as recorded in Gen. 1:2, is in direct contrast to the perfect initial creation. Something happened between the first two verses of Genesis to cause the earth to become desolate and uninhabitable after having been made perfect. Those holding the Gap Theory contend that this state of ruin could have possibly lasted millions of years. Proponents refer to Isa. 24:1 and Jer. 4:23-26:

Isa. 24:1 **Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty**, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

Jer. 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, **it was without form, and void**; and the heavens, and they *had* no light.

24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.

25 I beheld, and, lo, *there was* no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.

26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place *was* a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, *and* by his fierce anger.

### *Problems with the Gap Theory*

The Gap Theory says that millions of animals lived and died not only before Adam, but also before the fall of Satan. But how could there be death in a sinless world? The Bible says that death was a result of sin:

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;** and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Isa. 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, **he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited:** I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.

- Jesus stated a connection between the time Creation and Adam and Eve:

Mark 10:6 But **from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.**

## The Day-Age Theory

- Also known as “Day-age creationism,” this theory is a type of “old Earth creationism,” and is an interpretation of the creation accounts in Genesis.
- **It holds that the six days referred to in the Genesis account of creation are not ordinary 24-hour days, but are much longer periods (from thousands to billions of years).** The Genesis account is then reconciled with the age of the Earth.
- A “proof-text” for the “Day-Age” Theory is 2 Pet. 3:8:

2 Pet. 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

## *Problems with the Day-Age Theory*

- 2 Peter 3:3-10 is a unit. The context speaks of scoffers in the last days who will ridicule the second coming of Christ.
- Peter refutes these uniformitarian assumptions with a reference to the Flood and the certainty of judgment for these scoffers.
- Then, responding to the charge that Christ has failed to fulfill His promise, Peter writes the words in question, and concludes by reaffirming the certainty of the second coming of Christ.

- **Verse 8 was never intended to be a mathematical formula of  $1 = 1000$  or  $1000 = 1$ .**
- **Note the use of the word *as*, describing similarity, is not the same as an equal sign. Conversely, God is able to do in one day what would normally require a thousand years to accomplish.**
- **2 Peter 3:8 has nothing whatever to do with the length of the creation week.**

### **Theistic Evolution**

Theistic evolution is a subset of evolution with, minimally, two versions.



- According to one version, **theistic evolution is defined as “the theory that all life has developed according to evolutionary processes into which God has at times intervened to accomplish his purpose. It affirms both divine action (‘theistic’) and evolution”** (*Baker Compact Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 77).
- To take one example, **theistic evolution is “the view that God created matter and after that did not guide or intervene to cause any empirically detectable change in the natural behavior of matter until all living things had evolved by purely natural processes”** (*Theistic Evolution*, 946).

- Thus, after God's initial creative act to bring into existence a world apart from himself, he did not play an ongoing role in the evolutionary processes that he had put into effect.
- According to a second version, theistic evolution is defined as the view that **“God creates all living things through Christ, including human beings in his image, making use of intentionally designed, actively sustained natural processes that scientists today study as evolution”** (“A Flawed Mirror”).
- Thus, **God not only acted initially to create the world but continues an active involvement throughout the development of all that exists. He oversees the evolutionary processes like natural selection, speciation, and random mutations to ensure that they engender both nonliving and living beings in accordance with the divine design.**

## The Scriptural Presentation of Creation

Gen. 1:1 **In the beginning God created** the heaven and the earth.

Jn. 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 **All things were made by him**; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Col. 1:16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

Isa. 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and **behold who hath created these things**, that bringeth out their host by number: **he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might**, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth. ...  
28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, **that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth**, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

Isa. 42:5 Thus saith **God the LORD, he that created the heavens**, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.**

Jer. 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! **behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power** and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

## Conclusion

- G. K. Chesterton – “When a man stops believing in God, he doesn’t then believe in nothing, he believes in anything.”

Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because **that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.**

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse:**

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.**

22 **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,**

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.**

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**