

# The Covenant Context of Creation, the Curse, and Noah's Flood

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# The Question is one of *Nature*

- The **nature** of the “beginning” and the “end” must match.
- The **nature** of the curse and original creation must match.
  - cursed cattle
  - pain in childbirth
  - curse on the ground
  - thorns and thistles
  - sweat
  - return to dust

**God’s curse falls on what God created!**

So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle...” To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return. (Gen. 3:14, 16-19)

... many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt... (Dan. 12:2)

# Is the Genesis Debate merely over the age of planet Earth?

**Young-earth Creationism vs. Old-earth Creationism**

# Concordism and Creation

## Concordism

- Young-earth Creation
- Old-earth Creation
- Gap Theory

Genesis is a description of  
origination of physical  
universe

## Non-Concordism

- Covenant Creation
- Framework View
- Ancient-Near East
- Local Creation

Genesis doesn't describe  
origination of physical  
universe

## Concordism vs. Non-Concordism

# Concordism and Eschatology

## Concordism

- Premillennialism: futurism
- Amillennialism: futurism
- Postmillennialism: futurism

Prophecy gives a description  
of the end of physical  
universe

## Non-Concordism

- Preterism

Prophecy gives no description  
of the end of physical  
universe

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away... No longer will there be any curse. (Rev. 21:1, 4; 22:4)

# Preterism and the Genesis Debate

- Weakness in all other Non-Concordist Views:
  - Framework: Theologically oriented, non-sequential poetry (what is it ***about?***)
  - Ancient-Near East: Polemic against ancient polytheistic idolatry (what is it ***about?***)
  - Revelatory Days: Not creation days (What is it ***about?***)
  - Local Creation: Local terms (What is it ***about?***)
- Strength of Covenant Creation:

Creation describes the original temple of God, *the covenant order by which God dwells with man in relationship*: the Heavens, Earth, and Sea.

**You can't beat something (Concordism) with nothing!**

# Challenging Mistranslations

- Prophecy: Problems in Translation
  - verb tenses changed
  - “mello” disappears
  - “time of the end” becomes “end of time”
  - specific immediacy becomes vague “imminence”

The culprit is a concordist view of prophecy!  
(End = Physical Universe)

# Dealing with Mistranslations

- Creation: Problems in Translation

... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made ***the universe***. (Heb. 1:2 NIV)

... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made ***the worlds***. (Heb. 1:2 NKJ)

“... Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of ***the world?*** (Matt. 24:3 KJV)

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ***ends of the ages*** have come. (1 Cor. 10:11 NKJ)

Did the end of the ***universe*** come upon Paul and the 1<sup>st</sup> century church?

# Dealing with Mistranslations

- Creation: Problems in Translation

By faith we understand that the *universe* [aions] was formed at God's command.." (Heb. 11:3 NIV)

By faith we understand that the *worlds* [aions] were framed by the word of God... (Heb. 11:3 NKJ)

- context shows a reference back to Genesis creation
- speaks of Abel
- then the rest of covenant history in sequence
- “*aions*” formed

If the ***end*** of the “ages” is not the end of the universe, then why would the ***creation*** of the “ages” refer to the beginning of the universe?

# Dealing with Mistranslations

Let the redeemed of the LORD say this – those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north **and south**. (Psalm 107:2-3 NIV)

...And from the lands hath gathered them, From east and from west, From north, and from **the sea**. (Psalm 107:3 YLT)

- Structure of creation in Gen. 1: land and sea
- “east and west” (Judah), “north” (10 Tribes), “sea” (gentiles)
- “sat in darkness” v. 10, “out of darkness” v. 14, “sea” v. 23ff., “land” v. 33ff., numbers “increased” v. 38ff., Sabbath evaluation v. 43.

Psalm 107 is a creation Psalm, presenting **creation as God’s people!** (c.f., Psalm 102:18-28)

“But there is a much closer connection between the Biblical doctrines of the Fall and the Flood than the mere fact that neither can be harmonized with uniformitarian views of the earth’s history. The really important connection between them consists in the explanation which a universal flood provides for the laying down of the fossiliferous strata since the time of Adam... To put the issue into its sharpest delineations, a literal interpretation of the Fall demands as its corollary a thorough-going Biblical catastrophism; and the doctrine of the Flood can be fully understood only in light of the Fall and Edenic curse.”

Whitcomb and Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, p. 454.

The global flood doctrine is the logical extension of the “literal” (read ***physical***) view of the curse!

# Old-earth Creation: Theological Chaos

- 1) Creation as the **physical universe.** (Gen 1)
- 2) Curse as spiritual, **not on the physical universe.** (Gen 3.)
- 3) Redemption as a **brand new physical universe!?** (Rev. 21-22)

Covenant Creation and Covenant Eschatology is  
***the*** solution!

“Uniformitarian paleontology... assumes that uncounted billions of animals had experienced natural or violent deaths before the Fall of Adam... But how can such an interpretation of ***the history of the animal kingdom*** be reconciled with the early chapters of Genesis?

Does the book of Genesis, ***honestly studied in light of the New Testament***, allow for a reign of tooth and claw and death and destruction before the Fall of Adam? If not, we have further compelling reasons for questioning the uniformitarian scheme of reading the rocks and at the same time strong encouragement for finding in the great Genesis Flood the true explanation for fossil formations in the crust of our planet” [emphasis mine].

Whitcomb and Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, pp. 454-455.

The beginning and the end must match: creation,  
curse, and redemption.

# Covenant Creation According to Isaiah

As a woman with child and about to give birth writhes and cries out in her *pain*, so were we in your presence, O LORD. *We* were with child, *we* writhed in *pain*, but *we gave birth* to wind. *We* have not brought salvation to the earth; *we* have not *given birth* to people of the world.

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who  *dwell in the dust* wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the *earth* will *give birth* to her dead.

Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his *wrath* passes by. See, the Lord is coming out of his *dwelling* to punish the people of the *earth* for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer. (Isaiah 26:17-21)

Focus is on Israel!

# Covenant Creation According to Isaiah

*In that day*, the LORD will punish with his sword, his fierce, great powerful sword, *Leviathan* the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay *the monster of the sea*.

*In that day* – ‘Sing about a fruitful vineyard:...” I, the LORD watch over it; I water it continually. I guard it *day and night* so that no one may harm it. I am not angry. If only there were *briars and thorns* confronting me! I would march against them in battle; I would set them all on fire. Or else let them come to me for refuge; let them *make peace* with me, yes, let them make peace with me.” (Isaiah 27:1-6 NIV)

Focus is on the gentiles and on Israel, the “whole creation.”

Isaiah presents what the meaning of creation *had always been!*

# Covenant Creation According to Jesus

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat... (Matt. 13:24-25)

- the devil sowed weeds in God’s field (Gen. 2-3)
- wheat and weeds grow together until the end (Cain-Seth)
- same imagery as Joseph’s dream, whole family of Israel (c.f., 13:43); wheat & sun, moon, and stars as Israel (no sea element)
- the harvest” is ordained for Judah (Hosea 6:11)
- focus is on the land, Israel

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish... (Matt. 13:47)

- God harvests the “sea” (gentiles) as well as the “land” (Israel)

Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for the spreading of nets. The fish will be of many kinds – like the fish of the Great Sea... (Ezekiel 47:10)

# More Covenant Creation in Hebrews

**Land** [ge/erets] that drinks in the rain often falling on it that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives **the blessing of God**. But **land** that produces **thorns and thistles** is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be **burned**.

- audience of Hebrews is Israel
- “sea” judgment included in Rev. 20:13

The sea gave up the dead that were in it... (Rev. 20:13)

**The “whole creation,” originating in Gen. 1 is involved in the judgment.**

# Covenant Creation According to Paul

For the earnest expectation of *the creation* eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For *the creation* was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because *the creation* itself also will be *delivered from the bondage of corruption* into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that *the whole creation* groans and labors with *birth pangs together* until now. (Rom. 8: 19-22)

- same “the creation” first introduced in Rom. 1:20
- “the creation” informed the Jews about God – “light to the land” (Gen. 1:17)
- Paul’s teaching rooted in Gen. 1-3
- “The Creation” is God’s people, not the universe according to Paul (Psalm 102:18-28; Psalm 107, etc.)
- Paul said he preached only the Law and Prophets (Rom. 1:2; Acts 24:14; 26:22)
- Paul expositors Genesis creation in its own original context

**Conclusion: Genesis teaches Covenant Creation!**

# Noah's Flood in Covenant Context

## What was destroyed by the Flood?

...Everything on dry *land* that had *the breath of life* in its nostrils died... (Gen. 7:22)

- flood account inserted into the genealogy of Seth
- those with the breath of life (c.f., Gen. 2:7; John 20:22)
- no mention of sea creatures destroyed by the flood
- *specific portion* of the creation in Gen. 1
- Hebrew context
- local flood; a very *particular* land destroyed

# Covenant Creation According to Peter

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and ***the earth standing out of water and in the water***, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the ***heavens and the earth*** which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:5-7)

- the earth came up out of the water at creation (Gen. 1:9)
- direct reference to Day 3 of creation
- land, *God's covenant people*, destroyed by the flood
- sea is completely beyond the purview of the story

**Conclusion: Peter presents the Flood as a national judgment!**

# Noah's Earth: Re-established Creation

As long as the *earth* endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. (Gen. 8:22)

- no mention of sea, specific covenant context; the “land”
- hints that this earth will pass away; time statement
- seedtime and harvest; seasons/worship calendar of old covenant
- day and night; order of daily Temple worship in the Law

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them ***“Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth...”*** Just as I gave you green plants, I now give you everything... As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply and fill the *earth* and increase upon it. (Gen. 9:1, 3, 7)

- same blessing God gave “man on the land” in Gen. 1:27
- re-affirmation of condemnation of murder (Cain and Abel)
- god gives judgment for murder over to “man on the land.”
- Noah's covenant constituent element of the Old Covenant Creation
- Noah's sacrifice foreshadowed a better sacrifice

**Noah's Earth “passed away” at the End!**

# New Heavens and New Earth

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month... (Rev. 22:2)

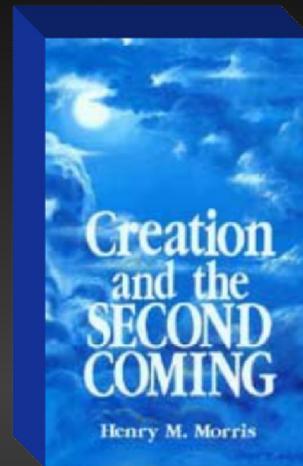
- the seasons end!
- No cold or heat
- No summer and winter
- No more sun or moon
- No more night
- No more sea
- Noah's earth is gone!

**What does Covenant Creation and Covenant Eschatology say?**

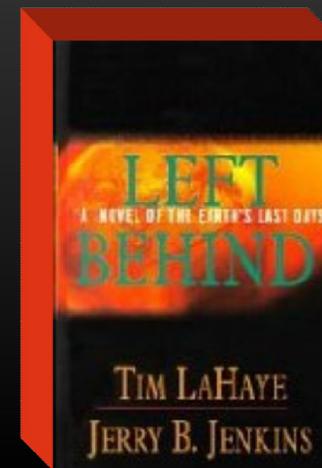
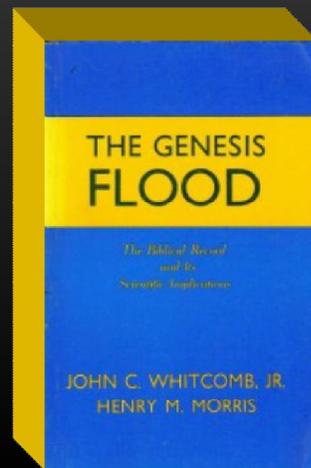
**Everything is connected from Genesis to Revelation!**

# Is there a relationship between YEC and our view of the end times?

Have we been misled about Genesis?



Have we been misled about Revelation?



# Is there a relationship between YEC and our view of the end times?

You may not agree with all of this book...



But it makes a lot of good points.