

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

#09-1509

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Is God on the Ropes? Chaos, Divine Order, God Particle

Periodically, in my writings, I mention the *gap theory* of Genesis 1:1-3. It's a theory because no one was there at the beginning and when Elohim moved on the waters of the earth that were in chaos. The gap theory is a controversial subject within the creationist school of thought. Frankly, at this point in my understanding, I have no desire to jump into this controversy or to be a defender of creationism against evolution, or gap or no gap, for that matter. To me, Elohim created; end of discussion. Now, how He did it and when He did it are open for discussion; however, let us not get so worked up over it that we call our brethren names if they have a different view. After all, in the big scheme of things, does it really matter?

I think it is fun to delve into the when and how, especially as more and more scientific data becomes available. To me, science is simply man's endeavor to try to figure out God and how He put His creation together. Whether a scientist believes in a creator God or not, doesn't really matter as long as at the end of the day, truth prevails. As Paul once said, it matters not that Christ is preached for the wrong reasons just as long as He is preached. Likewise, in science, it matters not if men search for answers for the wrong reasons just as long as it ultimately proves there is a creator, whether men acknowledge Him or not.

I find it rather curious when I read learned and devoted brethren who hold to various schools of thought. For some, when a challenge comes their way, they get very defensive and, at times, mean-spirited, as if they must defend God, as if He needs defending. A self-righteous indignation rises up, as if God's reputation is on the line. It comes across as if they fear God might get upset over these contrary views or be challenged by them. Let me put your mind at ease: God knows how to defend Himself, if He so chooses. If controversy were a problem to God, the world and its inhabitants, including, or perhaps especially, Christians, would be in trouble all the time.

I don't know about you, but when I pursue the many and various controversial arguments made by brethren, by the way, all in the name of Jesus, I find myself falling into **rabbit holes**. In case you are not familiar with or are unclear about the meaning of *rabbit holes*, it is a metaphorical way of describing a long and winding path that has many side routes that can get one distracted or even lost from what one is pursuing. It's like going down one path only to discover it divides into two or more other paths, each of which also divide into other paths. Before you know it, you no longer recognize the path that you are on or where you are going or how to get back to the beginning. Don't get me wrong; I love rabbits, but I do not like religious, exegetical, theological brethren that take on an air of self-righteousness and indignation for what they think is an offense to God that needs to be rooted out at all cost. Relax; God has everything under His control and all is well, in spite of what we might see, think, or even experience. If we hold to a particular view one day and sometime later the Spirit of God enlarges it, tweaks it a bit, or perhaps burns it all up, it is a good thing. Wouldn't you rather be on the side of truth? I know I would.

Well, this leads back to the gap theory and Genesis 1. In the following two verses, we discover that Elohim created the heavens and the earth and that He did not create the earth to be in chaos. And yet, in Genesis 1:2, we find that, at some point after the beginning, the earth was in chaos. How are we to interpret this?

Created [*bara*] by the Elohim were the heavens and the earth. Yet the earth became a **chaos** [*tohu*] and vacant, and darkness was on the surface of the submerged **chaos** [*tohu*]. (Genesis 1:1-2 CLV [bold italic added])

For thus says Yahweh, Creator of the heavens; He is the Elohim, and Former of the earth, and its Maker, and He, He established it. He did not create [*bara*] it a chaos [*tohu*]. He formed it to be indwelt. (Isaiah 45:18 CLV)

According to Strong's *Concordance*, the Hebrew word *bara* is "a primitive root; (absolutely) to *create*." The Hebrew word *tohu* is "from an unused root meaning to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), that is, *desert*; figuratively a worthless thing; adverbially in *vain*." So, ***bara*** means "**to create**" and ***tohu*** means something that lies waste or, as is translated in the CLV, is **in chaos**. Both words are discovered in these two verses, which raises the question: Can or did God create through chaos? The simple, no rabbit hole answer is: Of course; He can and maybe He did!

Chaos is a very interesting subject. Generally, it is believed that God doesn't produce chaos and that He is not in it. The reason is that chaos is a negative and it is difficult for His people to lay a negative at the feet of our God, so to speak. How could something so positive (divine order) come out of something that, on the surface, appears so chaotic? The problem with this view is that we are looking at the chaos and not seeing what is going on within it. We see it as a single dimension, in a linear manner. In mathematics, there is what is called ***chaos theory***. This is way beyond my ability to explain, so I will give you the short version—what appears to be randomness (i.e., chaos) simultaneously contains a broader pattern of order. In non-technical terms, **there is order in chaos**. Could it be that this is one of the means by which God creates? Did He start in the beginning with some level of chaos? Perhaps!

In other writings I have made the point that **the perfection of divine order** seems to progress from death to life. I offered this thought because some months back, as if out of nowhere but I believe by the spirit, I was challenged in my thinking that God cannot and did not create out of chaos or disorder. I was taught this early on and have held to it for about 30 years, until now. I was also led to believe that God created out of nothing, as if He just made things up. This thinking was shattered quite some time ago when I realized that Hebrews 11:3 actually tells us that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible, meaning the unseen building block(s) of the seen are real; we just cannot see them. Then, I discovered that scientists are searching for this unseen thing that has been dubbed the ***God particle***, something much smaller than the atom, which, by the way, is unseen as well. Add to this Paul's word in Romans 11:36 that *from Him and through Him and to Him are all things*, and now we are really cooking. This *God particle* is actually out from God Himself, so that it is not something He cooked up in a cosmic laboratory.

I digress a bit, but after a period of time had passed during which I spent thinking about disorder, I noticed an article on the net that read: "***God is on the ropes: The brilliant new science that has creationists and the Christian right terrified.***" The subheading for this article, written by Paul Rosenburg, is: "A young MIT professor (Jeremy Edwards) is finishing Darwin's task – and threatening to undo everything the wacky right holds dear." Frankly, I am not so sure I disagree with the wacky part, for, at times, we Christians do come across as rather wacky, and I don't mean in a good way. I am not trying to be disrespectful to my fellow brethren, but I do believe we need to stop and smell the roses a bit more and maybe even fill in some rabbit holes.

The article is obviously not pro-Christian and, especially, not pro-creationist. I imagine some creationists might get quite upset over it, but I would recommend such ones just relax; the world and God will not come to an end because of this professor's new theory based on a thermodynamic mathematical equation he has formulated that needs to be tested. The article gets into some of the technical aspects in respect to the *second law of thermodynamics*, quoting, "which states that in any closed process, there is an increase in the total entropy (roughly speaking, a measure of disorder)." If I read this correctly, this means that, given the right conditions, disorder could lead to order. Of course, the conclusion being proposed is that life itself could come from such disorder to order. If this new theory can be proven, does it shatter the truth of the creator God? Not one iota! But it just might shatter the view that God cannot and does not start with disorder or what might appear to be chaos. Please do not read into this that I am proposing man came from some primordial soup, for I am not.

What I am proposing is that in the big scheme of creating things, perhaps there was a bit of disorder and chaos. So, is God challenged by this? Is God wringing His hands wondering how to refute this? ***Is God on the ropes?*** Never! He is the master engineer and creator of all things. He wrote the how-to-book of creation, and He challenges us, even delights in us, to figure it out! Let's break down the walls of the box of tradition. The truth might surprise us!