

Yehi! When the Holy Spirit hovers...

Reading: Gen.1:1-3; 2 Cor.4:6-7

Gen:1:1-3 (Poetic account of creation...)

v.1 In the beginning God **created** (*bara'* = to create from nothing) the heavens and the earth

But: v.2:

- Earth **without form and void** (Heb. *tohu wabohu* = wasteland/ solitude/emptiness and void/waste [Phrase has come into European languages such as French, German, Estonian, Hungarian and Armenian, as “confusion” or “commotion”])
- **Darkness upon the face of the deep** (Heb. *tehom* = primeval ocean/deep, symbolising chaos)

Contrast Isa.45:18 (all words same as Gen.1): “For this is what the LORD says – he who created [*bara'*] the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; **he did not create [*bara'*] it to be empty [*tohu*], but formed it to be inhabited...**”

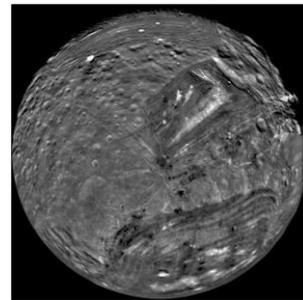
What has happened? Why is there darkness and chaos?

“**Gap**” theory: Fall of Lucifer takes place between v.1 and v.2

Fall of Lucifer results in:



Darkness (Lucifer = “light-bearer”)



Destruction of God’s creation



Chaotic, broken universe:



Is Genesis 1 a **re-creation** of the earth?



Two words used in Gen.1 for God's creative activity:

- *Bara'* – to create from nothing [e.g. vv.1, 21, 27]
- *'Asah* – to make from pre-existing material [e.g. vv. 7, 16, 25])

v.2b And the Spirit of God **was hovering** over the waters (what was involved in this “hovering” – a relaxed floating above the waters [like an albatross] or something else?)

Hebrew does things with verbs differently from English = *pi'el* or intensive form), e.g.

- *Shabar* (break) >>> *Shibber* (break utterly >>> **shatter**)
- *Kaphar* (cover) >>> *Kipper* (cover utterly >>> **atone**)
- *Rachaph* (shake) >>> *Richēph* (shake or hover tremulously / shimmer?) – cp. *wiri* in Māori waiata?



“Hovering” of Holy Spirit indicates intensity/vibrancy/ incubation/calling forth of life

Example: illustration of abundant life on summer's day – Living God >>> God the Life-Giver – cp. Chemist James Lovelock and Microbiologist Lynn Margulis, “Gaia hypothesis” (1970s): Earth = self-regulating complex system

- Hovering in the **darkness** (light not yet recreated)
- Hovering in midst of **chaos** (what previously was has gone)
- Hovering to incubate **new life/new creation** (a new thing [life not yet created] >>> Spirit is God's **incubating agent**, facilitating **potential** of creation)

Illustration: BK (1998) Darkness >>> unconscious incubation of new directions/new life

v.3 “**Be!...**” >>> “**And there was...**” (*Y^ehi!* >>> *Way^ehi...*)

Command more than just “**let** there be...” = **creative word**: “**BE!**”

- Be what God **dreamed** for His creation to be
- Be (in **actuality**) what is there in **potential**
- Be (**power in the creative word itself** = **active agent** of God's purposes cp. Luke 5:17)

What is happening in the darkness/chaos/etc.?

- Holy Spirit hovering over us to **incubate** new life
- God's **creative word** to us all: “Y^ehi! BE!”
 - Be what you are created to be (as individuals and as a community)
 - Be what you are gifted and have the potential to be
 - Be your future!