

...we were planning to room together Thursday night in Ogden, Utah, because we both had papers to read at the Biblical Research Institute Science Committee the next morning. But that night I had no rooming.

On Wednesday I arrived in Salt Lake City to conduct some research at the University of Utah. Thankfully, on Thursday evening I had the privilege of staying with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during their weekly evening rehearsal which helped to fortify me for the tragic news I received later that night when I arrived in Ogden. The next morning I was asked to read Hasel's paper to the BRISOC group. I found it a difficult task indeed. However, before I presented my paper, Bill ...

How could a warrior go at this time,  
One who stood firm on the ground of biblical authority and truth,  
Devoting himself to making every thought captive to its revelation?

How could a man of God stop over and  
Away from this place that benefited so much from his service—  
One who without intimidation whatsoever

Carried so many of us through the hermeneutical and theological  
Quagmire, providing us guidance and vision, bearing our commitment  
To the Lord Jesus Christ and to His Church?

How could one who through Your providence, O God, among those  
Who helped me personally shape a new Christ-centered worldview  
Since my exodus from Islam, now be out of my reach? How?

How could a soldier, a defender of the faith  
Be suddenly taken from us,  
One who relentlessly upheld the present truth  
To prepare a people for Jesus' glorious coming?

Overwhelmed, but not overcome,  
We have decided even this day  
Not to let dread have its way to creep and settle in our bones,  
Rather we cling to our hope,  
A hope that goes beyond the veil of death.

How does one attempt to put all these events into some  
Perspective? Concerning the why of Gerhard's death I wait for God  
To reveal in the hereafter. But now that Hasel's passing is a reality,  
One that we will never forget, what was about academically at  
The time of his death? I hope we will not forget to mention  
His final contribution.

Andrew University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

TRIBUTES TO GERHARD F. HASEL

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

BY

CHURCH ASSOCIATES AND COLLEAGUES

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BRISOC group. I found it a difficult task indeed. However, before I  
presented my paper, Bill ...

"As for me, I will see Your face in  
righteousness;  
I shall be satisfied when I awake in  
Your likeness."

Hasel's paper dealt with the question concerning the  
Hebrew word for day, *Yom*, in Genesis 1. Gerhard presented an  
extensive scholarly study documenting the reasons why the term  
means a literal 24-hour day rather than long ages or some  
other metaphorical or symbolic meaning. As usual, he referred to the latest  
scholarly research on the topic, including a reference to a 1994  
publication, entitled *The Creation Hypothesis*, which, in my  
opinion, is the finest assemblage of scholarly articles in print  
dealing with the evidences of scientific research in the  
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TRIBUTES TO GERHARD T. HASSEL  
BY  
CHURCH ASSOCIATES AND COLLEAGUES

"As far as I will see Your face in  
righteousness,  
I shall be satisfied when I awake in  
Your likeness."

John T. Baldwin  
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

How does one place the death of a colleague and friend into some perspective? We were planning to room together Thursday night in Ogden, Utah, because we both had papers to read at the Biblical Research Institute Science Committee the next morning. But that night I had no roommate.

On Wednesday I arrived in Salt Lake City to conduct some research at the University of Utah. Thankfully, on Thursday evening, I had the privilege of singing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during their weekly evening rehearsal which helped to fortify me for the tragic news I received later that night when I arrived in Ogden. The next morning I was asked to read Hasel's paper to the BRISCO group, a difficult task indeed. However, before I presented the paper, Bill Shea led in an hour-long testimony period in which we remembered our fallen colleague and closed with earnest prayers for God's continued presence in our lives, in the Hasel family, and for His guidance in the work of BRISCO.

Hasel's paper was devoted to the question concerning the Hebrew word for day, *yom*, in Genesis 1. Gerhard presented an exhaustive scholarly study documenting the reasons why the term represents a literal 24 hour day, rather than long ages or some metaphorical symbolic meaning. As usual, he referred to the latest scholarly research on the topic, including a reference to a 1994 publication entitled: *The Creation Hypothesis*, which, in my opinion, is the finest assemblage of scholarly articles in print showing the evidences in the natural world for the need of a divine creating cause of biological forms.

How does one attempt to put all these events into some perspective? Concerning the why of Gerhard's death I wait for God to address in the hereafter. But now that Hasel's passing is a reality, I hope that we will never forget what he was about academically at the time of his death, that is, I hope we will not forget the nature of his final academic contribution.

Gerhard Hasel died in a scholarly endeavor he dearly loved—working with the creation texts, and clearly establishing that the word *day* in Genesis 1 is intended to mean a literal 24 hour day. This academic activity in association with Hasel's death has significant implications. First, it means that Hasel died defending the truth of the great biblical doctrine of creation. But more particularly, he gave his life while vindicating the truth not only of the Mosaic intention of a literal six-day creation week, but also of the historical accuracy of a literal six-day creation in this post Darwinian age, in a time when most biblical scholars of note reject the latter conclusion as wholly anachronistic because of the existence of allegedly overwhelming scientific evidence supposedly rendering a literal interpretation of the creation texts untenable.

Second, a literal six-day creation is the basis of the seventh-day Sabbath, which in turn is the basis of that part of the *First Angel's* Message in Revelation 14 calling us to worship God as Creator. Furthermore, it is the basis of the *Third Angel's* Message where God lovingly calls all people in this end-time to honor His entire will. Without the historical accuracy of a six-day creation the meaning of the Three Angel's Messages are fatally undermined. Thus, in the second place, Gerhard Hasel died supporting God's remnant peoples' message, the Three Angel's Messages, to be shared before the return of Jesus. This is most interesting when we recall that Gerhard Hasel wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the topic of the "remnant." Therefore, his last academic act was to uphold the biblical and implied scientific truth of the God-designed message to be given by the remnant church to the world.

In conclusion, may Dr. Hasel's passing serve to refocus our attention upon the reality, scientific truthfulness, and practical, personal relevancy of God's profound, saving messages, and upon the privilege and responsibility of sharing these themes. May his passing prompt us to greater community, to the up-building of each other, and to a responsible, academically informed, vigorous reaffirmation of God's distinct last day message, so that it will not dim, but will shine only more brightly to God's glory until Christ comes.

Robert H. Carter

Past-President

Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

During my seventeen years of service at the Lake Union Conference office, it was my privilege to establish a very cordial friendship with Dr. Gerhard Hasel. It is a friendship that I will always cherish. His firm handshake, broad smiles, and warm greetings always brought cheer to my heart.

Many were the times that he would stop by my office and share with me his dreams for a more effective ministry. One did not have to be around Gerhard very long before recognizing that he loved his church and the message it espoused. Some have referred to him as a "defender of the faith." I would be hard put to identify someone who could uphold the teaching of Seventh-day Adventists more ably than he.

He was also a pre-eminent scholar. His literary contributions in the field of theology are recognized both within and without our denomination.

Dr. Hasel felt that if we were to have a strong church, then we must have a well prepared ministry. His efforts as Dean and Professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary were focused on that dual objective. It was under his inspiration and leadership that programs were developed at the Seminary to:

- a. Provide seasoned pastors the opportunity to sharpen their skills and earn higher degrees.
- b. To make sure that seminarians received both practical and theoretical training.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church will always be indebted to the distinguished career of this dedicated former preacher of righteousness.

Norman R. Gulley  
Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists  
Collegedale, Tennessee

Dr. Gerhard Hasel was an internationally known and respected scholar. He was a man of deep conviction and believed in the authority of Scripture. His consistent upholding of a high view of Scripture was central to his articles written for the Adventist Theological Society, in which he served as its second president. With his knowledge of German scholarship he knew what lesser views of Scripture had done. I admired Gerhard for standing tall for his convictions. His article on the Sabbath in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* is a case in point.

Gerhard Hasel was not only a well known Old Testament scholar, but a real friend. I remember when I was doing some research on Daniel, he was willing to take the time and give me insights into one aspect of the year-day principle as supported by Daniel. I remember when he put my name down to join his MCI "Friends and Family" circle. We joined, and had many a free call as we talked from time to time. I always enjoyed phoning Gerhard, and miss the lively conversations which always ended with Gerhard saying, "God bless you."

Gerhard was a family man, with a wonderful wife, a son and two daughters. I could sense the closeness of the family when Gerhard invited some of us to dinner at their home. He was a very good host. He encouraged conversation from his guests, and we all had a terrific time.

A year ago, after the ATS meetings in Washington D.C. and Maryland, some of the ATS officers had an important meeting with a church leader. After this was over, Gerhard took me to the airport in his rented car. There was never a dull moment when you were with Gerhard. We had an hour before we would be boarding different planes, and he regaled me with human interest accounts reaching back to his time at Southern College, and more recently when he was the Dean of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. The hour sped by all too quickly.

The last time I phoned Gerhard was about two weeks before his tragic accident. He was telling me about his son Michael and the

way God has so wonderfully blessed him in his doctoral studies and mentioned some specific providences. He talked about Michael's archaeological dig during the summer when he had a leadership role. He was so proud of you Michael, and I know that was mutual. I remember how Gerhard and Michael attended professional meetings together, as friends and colleagues. It is a real testimony to a father who can inspire his son to follow in his footsteps to become another Hasel Old Testament scholar. I admire Gerhard for that.

So, as I think of Gerhard today, I give him tribute as a great scholar, a genuine friend, and a family man. Yet, above all Gerhard loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and was unafraid to place Him as preeminent in all his work. On April 14, 1994, I had the privilege of introducing Gerhard before he gave his last presentation to the Adventist Theological Society, at the sixth international ATS convention held at Southern College, Tennessee. The title of Gerhard's presentation was "The Importance of Belief in the Resurrection of Jesus." How fitting that he should talk about the resurrection of His Savior, which is the basis of his own resurrection. We trust that the glorious resurrection of the saints will come soon, so that we can be with our esteemed brother and friend once again, and forever. "Even so, come Lord Jesus, quickly come."

Gordon M. Hyde

Former Director, Biblical Research Institute  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

My first acquaintance with Dr. Gerhard Hasel dates to the mid-1960's when he served as a member of the Religion Department faculty at Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists, in Collegedale, Tennessee. In course of time, it was our privilege to come to know as special friends his much-beloved wife Hilde and the three M's—the children Michael, Marlana, and Melissa.

By the end of the decade, we had both moved—he to Andrews University and I to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists where it was my privilege to undertake the planning and formation of the Biblical Research Institute, with its several standing committees of research, administration, and publishing. In that total operation I was always most grateful to have Gerhard as a major counselor, critic, and contributor. (I have been even more pleased to see that since my move out of the Biblical Research Institute office, the subsequent leadership there has published Hasel at least as frequently as we did earlier. I applaud their judgment!)

When today more and more Seventh-day Adventists are recognizing that to be true to our Spirit-directed mission we must reach out the hand to those other Christians than ourselves who champion the authority of Scripture and who worship both at the cross and the empty tomb of the Christ and await His return—as genuinely as do any of us—it is particularly gratifying to note the high esteem in which Gerhard Hasel's contributions to biblical theology are held in the Evangelical world.

Permit a little personal postscript: There were special facets to the warmth of the friendship of the Hydys and Hasels. Gerhard and I both had German fathers (and I carried the surname of Heide into my late twenties). But *my* father emigrated to London as a boy of fourteen. So while Gerhard always carried touches of a German accent, mine (you may perhaps have noticed) are somewhat British. Incidentally, at different times we each emigrated to the U.S.A. in quest of a baccalaureate Adventist education and beyond, married over here, and were each blessed with three children.

May we solicit your continued love and prayers for Gerhard's family (and when I presented this tribute initially, the Christmas holiday season was approaching). Please also intercede with God to bring along to His cause a number of replacements for Gerhard.

BY

AND

THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

"I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.  
Henceforth there is laid up for me  
the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,  
the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day,  
and not only to me but also to all who love his  
appearing."