

## Life on Earth - Two Faiths - 13

The faith in the Genesis account of Creation is confirmed by all the facts of science, as distinct from scientific hypothesis. The believing scientist finds nothing in the laws of nature that is incompatible with his belief in God as the Creator.

For example, the famous astronomer, Sir James Jeans, once said: "The Universe is like a clock that is running down". Observers in this running-down period, noting the loss of energy in the "spring" of the clock, have correctly formulated the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which teaches this gradual loss of organization and the increasing randomness of natural things. What modern science fails to take into account is the fact that before it could run down the clock had to be wound up, and that the observable laws governing the running down cannot be applied to the winding up process.

The Bible informs the reader that "the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" - Hebrews 11:3. In other words, the "in the beginning" creation of Genesis 1:1 was a creation of the elements of matter, not just a re-organizing of them. This was followed by the formation of living things from these materials.

"Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done" - Genesis 2:1.

"...the works were finished from the foundation of the world" - Hebrews 4:3.

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day" - Genesis 1:31.

These statements leave no room for a continuing evolutionary process. The early Genesis account next describes the second phase of the world's history, which is equivalent to the "running down" of James Jeans' clock. Here we find that the Bible, unlike the theory of evolution, is perfectly in agreement with this general principle of a running-down earth. It tells us that because of man's sin the earth is cursed by a principle of decay. For example, God said in Eden -

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 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" - Genesis 3:17.

Commenting on this event the Apostle Paul wrote, "For the creation was subjected to futility...For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" - Romans 8:20. And so, although the Bible does not claim to be a scientific text book, its teaching is clearly not opposed to established scientific facts.

There has been an attempt in the modern churches to reconcile the Genesis account of creation with the theory of evolution. This concept suggests that the Creator used a process of evolution to diversify the forms of life on earth. Some have concluded from Darwin's Origin of Species that he may have had such a view - since he did not set out to eliminate the Creator as many of his followers have enthusiastically done. This raises the question whether such a view - called theistic evolution - can be found to be in harmony with what is taught in the Bible.