

LETTER 34
1948

**DID GOD MAKE OR MERELY REVEAL
HIS WORK OF CREATION
IN SIX DAYS?**

I have looked over the abstract of the book by Wiseman and I am sorry to have to report that it has no foundation, as far as the Hebrew is concerned. The theory seems to be based upon the idea that where it says in Exodus that God made heaven and earth in six days it really means that he revealed the story of creation in six days. This does not at all fit the detailed account in Genesis 1 which describes what was done on each of the successive days. It rests entirely upon a mistaken interpretation of the Hebrew word which is translated "made" in Exodus. This word occurs hundreds of times in the Old Testament and always means do, make, perform, or something of this type. It always describes a definite accomplishment.

Wiseman probably built his theory upon the fact that there are 44 instances in the Hebrew Bible where the word is translated "shew". At first sight this would suggest that it might mean "reveal". However, in all of these instances it is used of God showing mercy or kindness to His people, which might just as well be translated "do" as "show". There is no thought in any of these passages of God simply telling His people something. It always pictures Him as actually performing a work of kindness on their behalf. The theory is one of those unfortunate suggestions which are made without any accurate knowledge of the meaning of the original. As I understand it, one of the primary purposes of the American Scientific Affiliation is to guard the Christian public against such misinterpretations. While they might help preserve the faith of some for a brief time, the eventual exposure of their lack of foundation would finally do much harm to the cause of Christ and lead people to think that all Christianity is founded upon superficial interpretation or ignorance.