

There's no such thing as a plu-perfect in Hebrew. We have a plu-perfect in English. You don't have that in Hebrew but the meaning is perfectly clear. That's what he means. The Lord made man. The Lord plants a garden, and puts man in the garden. But he planted the garden first and it had a few years growing. The garden was grown. Then God made the man and put him in the garden.

It's no creating of vegetation at all. Some of the cratics admit that there is no vegetation created here. But what I'm looking at at the moment is'nt so much the matter of vegetation, it's the matter of the fact that the planting is not after man is created but before.

Then in v. 18 the Lord said, It is not good the man should be alone. I'll make a helpmeet for him. God had put man in the garden. Look, the poor fellow is all alone! What are we going to do? I'll make a helpmeet for him so out of the ground the Lord formed every beast of the field. A helpmeet for man? So let's make a tiger. Says, Adam, how will this do for you? No, it won't do says Adam. Well, I'll make a lion! No, won't do. Well, let's make a donkey. How's this Adam? no. Well, let's make a tortoise. So he makes all the different animals trying to see if they will fit man.

Nobody that ever wrote any part of the Bible had such a crude idea of what God did. No J writer would mean such a thing as that. What it means is that God had already formed the animals, and fowls of the air. He had already planted a garden before man was created. God didn't make animals in order to see if he could find a helpmeet for man.

God brought the animals before Adam in order to show Adam the fact that no one would make a satisfactory helpmeet for him. So that when he got Eve he would be more contended with her than he would have been otherwise. Because he could see she was far better than any of the animals ever would be. The purpose of bringing the animals before man was not in order to find out == not in order for God to find out if they would make a helpmeet for Adam, but in order to show Adam his need of a proper type of helpmeet.

Actually the only creation you have in ch. 2 is the creation of man and woman and there is a little space between them with the vegetation and the garden planted before and the animals created before, but the garden that was planted before was the place where Adam was put. The animals that were created before were brought before Adam in order to demonstrate certain things to him. So actually you do not have any contradiction in the order of creation. You have a smaller section of the story of creation.

Now I want to say just a word about evolution. I think it is important for every Christian to know a little about it. About these two chs. very definitely. A man said to me, How can anybody ~~wx~~ question evolution? Why, you can see the evolution of a boy into a man! Everybody sees that. Well I can think of a better illustration than that one. You can see the evolution of a caterpillar into a butterfly. When we use evolution that way we just mean development.