

man, 1:11,20,24,26; J -- man, vegetation, animals, woman, 2:7, 9,19,22. Comparing the two chapters, the reader will see that Gen. 1 is very clear with its catalogue of "days." Each "day" indicates a new sphere of creative activity, although it does not preclude resumption of activities associated with previous "days." The Gen. 1 order of vegetation, animals, and man, seems the more definitive. But then, does Gen. 2 contradict this order? Gen. 2:7 starts with Adam's creation. Do verses 8-9 imply there was no vegetation before Adam? Not necessarily, since only the garden is mentioned. Eden was an extraordinary place, made especially for Adam. Its special preparation by God does not preclude earlier creation of ordinary vegetation. But even if all the world's vegetation were included in verses 8-9, God's "planting" still could have preceded Adam's creation. The Hebrew verb tense for planted usually indicates simple completed action, without specific time distinctions; hence it is often translated as a simple past tense, a perfect, a plu-perfect, and sometimes even as a future (indicating certainty). Considering the context, a possible translation would be had planted. Similarly, the animals mentioned in verse 19 could have been created before Adam: "the LORD God had formed every beast . . ." Hebrew verb tenses do not always provide chronological certainty, and can in this case be harmonized within the framework of Gen. 1.

But is there undue duplication between Gen. 1 and Gen. 2? Careful examination will show that the two chapters are only superficially parallel. Gen. 1 includes the creation of light, the firmament, seas and dry land, sun, moon, stars, fish, and birds. None of these is mentioned in Gen. 2. On the other hand,