

The words in verses 2 and 6, "Let there be light", and "let there be a firmament", suggest instantaneous action. God spoke, and the desired result was immediately complete. A similar impression is made by the words of v.27, "God created man". Very different is the impression produced by ~~the~~ verses 11-12, 20, and 24. God did not say, "Let the earth be covered with grass and trees", but "let the earth bring forth grass", ~~etc.~~ "let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life", ^{and} "let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind" ~~etc.~~ God did ~~not order a sudden sweeping universal existence of trees, birds, and animals of all kinds. Instead we get the impression of a long process of growth and development, with specific divine interposition at certain vital points.~~ While God certainly would be able to speed up the process described so that it would all occur within a twenty four hour period, if He chose to do so, ~~there is~~ careful reading of the account gives quite a different impression. ~~The language used seems rather to~~

Let us make clear that we are not insisting that the Bible teaches long periods of creation.

Much apologetic ingenuity has been wasted in trying to determine whether God created trees with rings of growth already in them. A little careful scientific exegesis would have saved all this. The Bible does not say that God ordered that trees ^{should} come into existence, standing upon the earth. What it says is, that God commanded that the earth should "bring forth ^{insert 3 dots} ~~grass, the herb yielding seed, and the~~ fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth:and it was so."

~~What~~ Many a consecrated young man sets out to study philosophy or science, in order to defend the Word of God, without realizing the primary need of first learning solid scientific methods of interpreting that Word. Theoretical arguments are bandied back and forth, and much intellect and energy is often spent in defending views that ~~are not found in the Bible at all.~~ [4 A on 8A