

undermines belief in the authority of the divine law with its high principles of morality and ethics. It is important for the Christian minister to know exactly what the Bible teaches about creation. He should not read into the Bible anything that is not there, but when he carefully determines what the Bible teaches he can be confident that nothing contrary to it will ever be proven true, since God's works and God's Word would hardly contradict one another. Later on we shall examine particular details involved in this phase of the matter.

Both of these aspects ^{of the theory of evolution} are vital. One cannot say which is the more important, since they are interrelated, yet it is necessary that to some extent we keep them distinct in our consideration. Therefore we shall first look at the general nature of this theory which has had so great an effect upon the attitude of our present world.

DID EVOLUTION BEGIN WITH DARWIN?

There is a widespread impression that evolution began with Darwin. This is very far from the truth. Any good encyclopaedia article on the subject will probably contain a discussion of the evolutionary views of certain ancient Greek writers. If we are not to believe that God created and controls the great complexity of the world, the only other possible suggestion would seem to be that it developed by some sort of natural process. About ten years ago Professor Eiseley of the University of Pennsylvania published a book entitled Darwin's Century. After saying that he will not in this book discuss the ancient Greek ideas of evolution, but simply look at the precursors of Darwin within the preceding two centuries, Eiseley^e describes in detail evolutionary views held by a number of previous writers. He declares that many of these views were very similar to the views later advanced by Darwin, and he says that at least one previous writer presented views almost identical with what Darwin later taught.