

Lecture 5 - THE RISE OF EVOLUTION (cont'd)

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(subhead)

GENESIS 1 AND 2

In view of these considerations about the correct interpretation of Scripture it is evident that we cannot expect to find in the Bible a full account of *any* area of science, but that we can place complete confidence in every Biblical teaching, including those that deal with science.

The Bible describes the creation in the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis. Sometimes it is said that there are here two contradictory accounts of creation. We shall not take time now to look into this in detail, but merely to point out that while we do have two accounts of creation, they are not contradictory but supplementary. The first account, which runs from Genesis 1:1 to 2:4, contains a general survey of the creation of the universe. The second gives a more detailed account of the creation of man and refers to the factors particularly related to him. It is as if an atlas were to begin with a map of the world, followed by a more detailed map of the United States. On comparing these two maps we would find many places named on the map of the United States that were passed over completely on the map of the world. Yet there would also be many places on the map of the world that were outside the area covered in the map of the United States. There would thus be real differences between the two maps, but no contradiction. ¶ If time permitted it would be interesting to look in detail at the account of the creation of the universe in Genesis 1:1-2:4 and compare it with the account of the creation of man in the rest of chapter 2 and see how they fit together. There are points at which at first sight there might appear to be a contradiction, but on careful examination all such passages can be shown to fit together perfectly.

The great danger of pushing a few words to their extreme conclusion can be well illustrated by comparing the statements about the creation of man in these two chapters.