

### A THIRD FACTOR

A third factor that must not be forgotten is the unfortunate error into which many Christians have fallen, of interpreting Scriptural phrases in a very superficial way, without bothering carefully to examine Biblical words in the original languages and to study the Scripture as a whole in order to see what it really teaches.

Let us examine this factor more at length. One of its commonest manifestations is the tendency of many Christians to make statements about the length of time that has elapsed since the creation. As we have seen, the Bible does not give us data with which to answer this question. As far as any clear Biblical teaching is concerned, the creation might have occurred at any time before the last few thousand years. Unfortunately, many young persons have been given the erroneous idea that a Christian must believe the earth has been here only a very short time. When such a person is confronted with what appears to be very strong evidence that the earth has existed for many millions of years, it puts him in a weak position, where he can easily be misled.

Another way in which Christians have unintentionally made it easy for evolution to mislead the minds of young people has been the result of reading the science of one generation into the Bible, and then continuing to insist that what has thus been read into the Bible is what the Bible really teaches. Here we refer to the matter of the "species."