

## PREFACE

### THE PURPOSES AND METHODS OF THIS WORK

We are directing this book to the Christian reading public. Numerous groups of Christians in North America now recognize sizeable problems having to do with the relation of science to the Biblical account of creation. However, I believe that it is possible to properly understand God's meaningful world, and at the same time participate in the fellowship which He wants his own people to have with one another. The sharing of observations and ideas concerning God's record in nature can be a source of much joy and fellowship, as well as an enhancement of our love for God. We hope that at least the early chapters of this work will be found to be inspirational reading, while the other chapters may be used as a manual of important information concerning the earth and the studies which Christians have made with respect to creation. (Therefore we will sometimes refer to the entire work as a manual.)

One of our primary purposes is to encourage Christians to become aware of and benefit from the sedimentary time records found in nature. In chapters 3 and 5 through 9 we have made a deliberate attempt to translate some of the scientific reports of these time records into language which laymen, ministers, and theologians can understand. It is also hoped that the materials herein presented will lead thinking readers not to be satisfied until they have directly investigated some of the abundant source materials which deal with natural events related to time.

There are now widespread misunderstandings among conservative Christians concerning the evidences for the age of the earth. Many conservative Bible-believing Christian leaders in the early part of our present century were willing to accept the natural evidences which indicate that the earth was created long before man was put upon it. This view was stated briefly in the early pages of the Scofield Reference Bible, together with appropriate warnings against acceptance of a dogmatic evolutionary position. Yet we have now seen many theologically conservative leaders turning against the principles set forth by these Christian founders. Almost all the observations of geology relative to time are rejected as unbiblical, and it is supposed that the major sedimentary layers of the earth were somehow formed by events which have occurred during the relatively brief time man has been on the earth. Unfortunately, this belief concerning the nature of earth's geologic "treasures" fails to make use of the many marvelous discoveries which God has allowed man to make within the past 100 years concerning the nature of sedimentary rock layers--such as limestone deposits. This strange position taken by some Christian groups surely amounts to a backwards retreat in the work of God's kingdom. It has recently brought turmoil and disagreement into many churches and schools, and has greatly narrowed the field of ministry of those Christian workers who now feel that they must separate themselves from people who take geologic research seriously. Both the present author and those who have helped him in the writing of this book (see the "Acknowledgments" page) sincerely hope that our efforts will help to alleviate this confusion and loss.