

## CHAPTER 1

### NATURE AND SCIENCE

Christians are naturally interested in the world around them. The Bible encourages us to see God in the beauties and complexities of nature. In Psalm 92:4-5 we find the writer rejoicing in God's creation with the prayer, "Thou, O Lord, hast made me glad by what Thou hast done; I will sing for joy at the works of Thy hands. How great are Thy works, O Lord! Thy thoughts are very deep." Numerous other Psalms express the same appreciation of nature, as Psalm 104 which is devoted almost entirely to this subject. Both the physical (nonliving) and biological realms of the earth are important to the Christian, because God is the author of them both. In this manual we are presenting a body of information from nature which we hope will further illuminate the fact of divine creation. This body of information is recorded in great detail in recent scientific publications, but is not commonly known to the Christian public. However, it is hoped that a greater sense of need for the study of this data concerning God's works will be developed among Christians.

Our interest in God's natural world should extend to the point of causing us to ask what God has done, and the order in which He did it. The Bible itself gives us some basic answers to these questions, but God has left to us the privilege of ferreting out many of the details of his works with the scientific tools (methods) which are at our disposal. As we discover these details we not only gain an increased appreciation for God, but also enhance our ability to help the non-Christian world to come to a knowledge of our God and Saviour. In this space age there is renewed interest among non-Christians concerning the origin of the earth and the order of events upon this planet. For example, popular news and science magazines, as well as professional journals, are constantly publishing articles on the history of the earth and of its satellite the moon. This interest among people around us will improve our opportunity to guide them into God's way, if we properly inform ourselves concerning God's creation.

In this book we will be dealing primarily with the order of some of the events in the earth's history, and with some indications of the length of time required for those events. For us as Christians, the main facts concerning origins are settled. "He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9). We therefore accept the information on origins which the Bible presents, and then proceed to examine the natural record of the physical and biological processes which have taken place in the past. As we do this, we must seek to be truly honest, never casting aside or ignoring any of the evidences we find. We must recognize that the body of data we find in nature is primarily a record of the works of our God, and that the evidences He has left us are meaningful and for our use. To consider them as unworthy or unintelligible, as some Christians have done, is a grave error. We find a great many types of evidences