

misunderstandings concerning the subject of geology. Dr. Hitchcock was well educated both in Biblical studies and in geology; and, in addition to his duties as president of the College, served as Professor of Natural Theology and Geology and did a large amount of geological research in New England. The above mentioned publication represented the work of over 25 years of comparing Biblical, theological, and scientific materials. The author had long felt a special burden to help the public understand that the Bible and the science of geology are really complementary to each other, rather than being contradictory.

In the first lecture of the series Dr. Hitchcock clearly states his uncompromising belief in the "divine inspiration" and "paramount authority" of the Bible. He states that whenever science comes forward with "probable deductions" which are contrary to the teachings of the Bible, "science, I say, must yield to the Scripture." (p. 2) Throughout the book he refers many times to the great truths of the Bible, which he gladly accepts. These include the physical resurrection of the body, all the miracles of the Bible, heaven as a real place, the recent creation of man in the Garden of Eden as described by Moses, the temptation and fall of man, and salvation by grace through the substitutionary death of Christ.

Hitchcock begins by laying down some of the basic principles necessary for a proper understanding of the Bible in its relation to science. One of the most important of these is given in the following quotation:

...we ought not to expect to find the terms used by the sacred writers employed in their strict scientific sense, but in their popular acceptation....Revelation may describe phenomena according to apparent truth, as when it speaks of the rising and setting of the sun, and the immobility of the earth; but science describes the same according to actual truth.... Had the language of revelation been scientifically accurate, it would have defeated the object for which the Scriptures were given; for it must have anticipated scientific discovery, and therefore have been unintelligible to those ignorant of such discoveries. Or if these had been explained by inspiration, the Bible would have become a text-book in natural science, rather than a guide to eternal life. (p. 3-4)

A failure to realize that the sacred writers were conforming to the general usage of the day, rather than speaking in accurate scientific terms, can only lead to such absurd and unfortunate controversies as that of the Church's opposition to the discovery that the earth travels around the sun. Hitchcock says concerning this:

Until the time of Copernicus, no opinion respecting natural phenomena was thought more firmly established, than that the earth is fixed immovably in the centre of the universe, and that the heavenly bodies move diurnally around it. To sustain this view, the most decided language of Scripture could be quoted. God is there said to have established the foundations of the