

earth, so that they could not be removed forever; and the sacred writers expressly declare that the sun and other heavenly bodies arise and set, and nowhere allude to any proper motion in the earth. And those statements corresponded exactly to the testimony of the senses. (p. 10)

Anything which contradicted this apparent teaching of the Bible was denounced as heresy, "throwing discredit upon the Bible" and upon "the unanimous opinion of the wise and good,--of all mankind indeed--through all past centuries." A great many very convincing Scripture references were formerly quoted to show that any person who contradicted this "plain teaching" of the Scriptures was in rebellion against God. What could be clearer than the teaching of Psalms 104:19 concerning the sun's movement across the sky, or of Psalms 93:1; 104:5; and 119:90-91, that the earth does not move? Is it not strictly the rebellion of man which would contradict such definite teaching given by the Spirit of God who understands the universe far better than we? And yet, after many decades of firm and bitter resistance, the Christian world finally had to admit that they had interpreted the Scriptures wrongly, and that "the whole difficulty lay in (their) assuming that the sacred writers intended to teach scientific instead of popular truth." (p. 11-13)

So it turned out that science, instead of harming the sacred writings or men's comprehension of them, had been an aid to understanding God's revelation. This leads Hitchcock to ask, "If the principle (of using the discoveries of science to aid in the interpretation of Scripture) has been found of service in chemistry, meteorology, and astronomy, why should it be neglected in the case of geology?" (p. 14) His desire to see this intelligent use of the discoveries of geology become universal in Christian circles appears numerous times in the lectures contained in the book. In most of these lectures he emphasizes that the science of geology illustrates, rather than opposes, divine revelation, and that "the varied principles of science are but so many expressions of the perfections of Jehovah" (p. 498). He also has much to say against those scientists who fail to see that God is the author of nature, and that He reveals himself therein (p. 499-508).

Hitchcock, in his efforts to show the harmony between geology and the Bible, naturally finds it appropriate to deal with the subject of creation, and to state a summary of numerous geologic discoveries which indicate that the earth has a great age. In fact, one might say that this group of lectures contains a summary of most of the main evidences for geologic time which were recognized by Bible-believing geologists up to that date. Below are a few of these evidences, as given in the lectures:

1. We are, in this present era, able to observe the actual formation processes of many kinds of sedimentary rocks. As we do this we find that the rocks being formed by these known processes today are very similar to the rocks found in the deeper strata of the earth. It is therefore logical to assume that the thick and extensive series of sedimentary rocks which exist were formed in