

APPENDIX II

THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD AS RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS

One of the basic principles of Christian theism is the truthfulness of God. This is in definite contrast to most heathen concepts of God's character. The truthfulness attribute of God is seen throughout the entire Bible, and is specifically declared in such passages as Psalm 138:2; John 3:33; 17:3; and Romans 3:4. Everything which God does, has done, or has revealed is in agreement with and consistent with his attribute of truth. In other words, there is perfect agreement between what God is and what He does.¹ In describing the revelations of God to man, A. H. Strong states, "All of (God's) revelations to creatures are consistent with his essential being."² This means that all that God reveals to man--whether in writing, in the observable phenomena of nature, or engraved in layers of fossil-bearing rock--is true, and in agreement with his eternal attribute of truth.

With the above principle in mind, we can be sure that what we see in the geologic record is true and reliable; for example, we will not find volcanic ash unless there was a volcano to produce it, nor sea shells unless there were sea-shell animals (such as mollusks) to produce them. We can be certain that since God is a God of truth, He never puts anything deceptive into his creations or revelations. A realization of this characteristic of God is especially necessary for the proper understanding of the physical world, which we recognize as having been created by God. It is true that the fiat creative acts of God in producing the earth, with whatever parts it originally contained, must have involved some appearance of age. For example, molecules of water surely did not "appear" to be new when they were first created. Then later, when living organisms were created, they must have appeared as though they had lived for an appreciable length of time. In no case, however, is there any necessity of postulating that parts or substances of the earth were originally formed with an appearance of great age. God's attribute of truthfulness definitely limited the types and extent of appearance of age which He could create. We will here cite a few examples of types which could not have been created by the God of truth:

1. Erosion--God did not create pre-formed marks of erosion. So wherever we find erosional topography there is no question but that it is a genuine example of erosional processes. A case in point is the existence of many deep river canyons on the continents, which show that they were formed primarily by the slow downcutting action of water. Such canyons, and the receding precipices over which the water often pours, have long inspired mankind with a sense of awe and wonder, but it has been only in the past 150 years that we have come to possess accurate means for study of such erosion. Because of these more precise means of identifying and measuring erosion we are now able to gain some idea of the immense periods of time which were required to wear away the hard rocks of such gorges as those of the Upper Nile River, and the Colorado River and its tributaries;