

deepest strata were never living, why would they have calcareous septa as dividing partitions for their gastric cavities just as living ones do? If they were never more than pieces of rock, they would have no more need for calcareous septa than a piece of common sandstone would. And what about such structures as the elaborate chewing apparatus possessed by both fossil and modern sea urchins? This apparatus is composed of an intricate array of hard chewing plates which are arranged in essentially the same order in fossil sea urchins as in modern ones. Because of the hard, limy composition of these chewing plates they fossilized very well. Now the question arises, if the ancient fossil sea urchins were never alive, why did they need the same kind and shape of chewing apparatus that modern sea urchins have? So we see the absurdities at which one can arrive by indiscriminately using the idea of appearance of age. Now that modern paleontologic studies have discovered the detailed structure and the life habits of so many thousands of species of fossils, we must recognize these as a part of God's record of what has happened during the long periods of time since his original creation. This conclusion is based on the fact that God is a God of truth. Would God leave us with so much evidence that these were living, growing animals, when in reality they were not? We must further remember that these fossil species are also found in different stages of their growth, from small immature ones to adult, just as we observe development today. Surely the "One True God," as Christ spoke of Him, could never have left such a deceiving set of data as this in the fossil record!

There are some who cite the creation of wine by Christ at the wedding in Cana in support of the idea that God created sedimentary deposits in place, with an appearance of age. This is an entirely incongruous comparison: first, because this miracle was done openly so that the news of what had actually taken place soon got out, and has been carefully preserved in the Bible to the present day; and second, because the creating of wine was for the purpose of meeting a human need at a particular time--by bringing about a chemical change in some jars of a common chemical already in existence (H₂O). Thus the changing of water into wine is not really comparable to the forming of geologic deposits. A careful examination of all the cases where the Bible describes a miraculous production of appearance of age as a part of his dealings with man will reveal that none had to do with any long-lived substance or structure. Therefore, these have no bearing on geologic or paleontologic records. All of God's works, both in the past and during Bible times, are consistent with his attribute of truth.

FOOTNOTES

1. A. H. Strong, Systematic Theology, 1907, p. 260.
2. Ibid., p. 288.