

of Sciences is usually recognized as the most prestigious scientific organization in the United States. The above-named booklet was prepared by a special committee of research scientists appointed by the Academy for this task. Distribution of this 28-page, attractive, 8½ x 11 booklet was rapid and effective; 40,000 copies were sent out to teachers, educational administrators, and legislators throughout the United States; and more copies have been available on demand.

In order to assure success of the message of this booklet, the authors prominently displayed the young-earth assertions of creationism at the beginning of the first section. The second paragraph of the chapter reads as follows:

The teachings of creationism as advocated by and exemplified in the writings of the leading proponents of "creation science" include the following judgments: (1) the earth and universe are relatively young, perhaps only 6,000 to 10,000 years old; (2) the present physical form of the earth can be explained by "catastrophism," including a worldwide flood; and (3) all living things (including humans) were created miraculously, essentially in the forms we now find them. These teachings may be recognized as having been derived from the accounts of origins in the first two chapters of Genesis in the Bible. (p. 7)

Notice that the Bible is named as the source of the 3 beliefs listed. This is most unfortunate, since the first two beliefs of their list are obviously contradictory of dozens of characteristics which we all can see in the earth around us and beneath our feet--and the Bible is blamed for this error. This false accusation against the Bible is particularly disappointing to those of us who have been teaching for several decades that God, by His Spirit, preserved the writers of the Bible from any errors or false mythology as they wrote. However, the young-earth creationists openly publicize their view that the Bible is the source of their young-earth doctrine. As a result, many members of the anti-creationism movement take them at their word, and strongly condemn the Bible.

In the third section of the book Science and Creationism there is another prominent paragraph which elaborates on the paragraph just quoted. It says:

A major reason for the creationists' opposition to the geological record and evolution is their belief that earth is relatively young, perhaps only a few thousand years old. In rejecting evidence for the great age of the universe, creationists are in conflict with data from astronomy, astrophysics, nuclear physics, geology, geochemistry, and geophysics. The creationists' conclusion that the earth is only a few thousand years old was originally reached from the timing of events in the Old Testament, including the counting of recorded generations (Renckens, 1964). (p. 13)

In the fourth section, specific reference is made to the "creationists' claim that the entire geological record, with its orderly succession of fossils, is a product of a single universal flood...." (p. 17) It is then pointed out that