

It is true that Christians have often become perplexed when trying to deal with scientific observations which are related to the Bible. Frequently those who are well trained in the Scriptures and theology encounter difficulty in understanding the language and methods of science. Likewise, those Christians who have developed skills in research science are often unable to relate their work to the Biblical message. Biology and geology are disciplines which can be very useful in unraveling some of the problems faced by those who wish to properly relate modern science to the creation account found in the Book of Genesis. There seems to be no possible way of satisfactorily relating these without acquainting oneself with at least some of the elementary facts and principles of biology and geology.

In this manual we will make use of these two disciplines, but will not attempt to follow or employ all the usually accepted theories or lines of reasoning used in biology and the earth sciences. We will proceed mainly by discussing certain local sequences of sedimentary strata with respect to the lengths of time required for their deposit and subsequent modification. (We use the term "local sequence" here to refer to strata which are found at one particular geographic location, and can be observed in a single bore hole or test well made through the sequence.)

A method which uses mainly local sequences of strata will not supply us with a precise and composite estimate of the total age of the earth, nor even of the total length of time since the deposition of fossiliferous strata began. Arriving at a precise theory as to the total age is unnecessary for our purposes here, as this is not intended to be a technical book. Our main interest here is in taking a simple look at specific, local sedimentary records in the earth, in order to prevent us from falling into the error of ignoring their meaning, or of adopting illogical or unrealistic methods of explaining them. The characteristics of these sedimentary records are almost never presented in young-earth creationist publications and are unknown to most evangelical Christians. Actually, these natural time records are relatively easy to understand, and do not require more knowledge of mathematics than one normally uses in everyday life.

For examining the sedimentary records we will use only the more simple principles and forms of data. Thus we will not attempt to make use of radiation dating methods, because of their complexity which is not easily mastered by busy laymen or by theologians who are unable to find large segments of time for scientific studies. When persons who have only a minimum knowledge of radiometric dating attempt to relate the results of this technique to theological knowledge, misunderstanding and confusion are the usual result. Such confusion has already become a stumbling block in some Christian circles.

Our setting aside of radiometric studies undoubtedly calls for somewhat of an apology to the numerous Christian geologists and biologists of our country, but it is hoped that they will understand