

The relation, then, between the latest conclusions of modern science, and the Bible history of creation, is one of independent truth, but of perfect harmony. Science reveals a long series of changes, once unsuspected, by which the strata of our planet were formed, and a succession of nearly thirty vegetable and animal creations, which were suited, no doubt, to the state of the earth in which they appeared....<sup>48</sup>

The works of Hitchcock, Miller, McCaul, and Birks, which we have cited above, give us an accurate picture of the sound integration of theological truth and geological data which had been worked out by about the middle of the 19th century. It is true that some points of the geologic theory of uniformitarianism, as outlined by Hutton and Lyell, had been extreme in failing to recognize catastrophic activities during the history of the earth, but the conservative writings to which we have referred show that these did not mislead conservative theologians. After all, Hutton and Lyell had never set their geologic theories up in opposition to the Biblical record.<sup>49</sup>

#### A Period of Progress for Evangelical Faith

A very influential part of Christianity in both the British Isles and the United States was still theologically conservative, and now great numbers of theologians and other clergymen realized that they could profit from the research of earth scientists without relinquishing their faith in the divinely inspired record of creation. The latter half of the 19th century was an era of great progress in the Protestant faith in Great Britain, with a large number of outstanding evangelical Bible-study and theological books being written during that time. In fact, a high proportion of the conservative resource material used at the present time in our Bible institutes, Bible colleges, and conservative seminaries is derived from this era. We can even safely say that a major part of the great body of Christian literature which is the heritage of present-day evangelicals (including fundamentalists) was produced during this latter half of the 19th century. And it seems very evident that the achievement of basic agreement in theological circles concerning the value of geologic evidences contributed greatly to the spirit and opportunity which brought forth these renowned theological and Biblical works. Some of the outstanding conservative authors of this era are listed in Appendix III. Nearly all of these men recognized the natural evidence for long periods of time, and had integrated this into their own theology.

We wish here to quote at some length from one of the better known of these works, as a typical illustration of the wholesome attitude which existed at that time among a great number of churchmen and theologians. It is refreshing to find here an uncompromising belief in the Bible as fully inspired by God, coupled with an appreciation for what science was revealing concerning the past history of the earth. The quotations are from the "Introduction to the Mosaic Account of Creation," by Rev. Robert Jamieson, in the well known Commentary on the Old and New Testaments, by R. Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown.<sup>50</sup> Jamieson served as pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian