

universe as it is. We must not assume that all of this is intended to be ~~given~~ ^{fully explained} in the account ~~here~~ ^{in Genesis.}

The Bible is not a book of physics or chemistry. We could not write a complete physics or chemistry from the statements in the Bible. ~~That is not its purpose~~ That is not its purpose. Its purpose is to tell us about God and how we may be saved from our sins and born into the family of God. However, wherever it touches on physics or chemistry we can be sure that what it says is correct.

The Bible is not even a book of history in the sense of attempting to give us a complete history. It does not give us a complete history of Israel. It ^{explains} gives those matters that are important to the account of salvation. ^{(2) that} Whatever it ^{states} gives ⁽³⁾ we can be sure is true and dependable, but ^{that} there ^{will be many} may be many elements ^{that are left out} which are not touched upon in it.

Let us now look at the ~~first statements of the~~ ^{principle} chapter and see how this enters in to our interpretation. The first verse says, "In the beginning God created ^{the} heaven and ^{the} earth." What sort of beginning does this mean? Is ^{it} this speaking of the creation of the universe as a whole, or of the particular earth on which we live? ~~The statement does not make clear.~~ ^{It} This may be a reference to the creation of original matter,

out of which all the ^{parts} ~~constituent~~ parts of the universe came into being. Or it may be ^{speaking} dealing simply with ^{of} the particular earth ~~concerning~~, with which the Bible ^{primarily} ~~particularly~~ deals. In the latter case it is the beginning of this earth that is ^{had} in mind, not the beginning of the whole universe. As between these two we ~~simply~~ are not given material to make a decision.

~~We cannot check.~~ The Bible elsewhere clearly teaches that everything in the universe comes from God's creative power, ^{and} ~~but~~ also stresses the fact that everything about this earth is a result of His creative activity. ⁽²⁾ Whether verse 1 relates to the universe as a whole, or to this earth and the heavens ^{that} ~~which~~ surround it. ^{(1) We} We cannot state dogmatically

⁽³⁾ In any event both are true. Both are true whichever of them is dis-