

Darwin's theory--survival of the fittest-- doesn't tell us how species could develop, but simply tells us how the best ones would last and the others disappear. But how would they come to change this way? He had no answer to that, and no answer has yet been found. A noted professor a few years ago wrote a very technical book on it in which he went into all the evidence to show gradual change from one plant to another, and there was no evidence for such gradual change. His conclusion was, Unless we are to accept the abandoned idea of special creation, the only thing we can believe is that instead of gradual change there must be sharp sudden changes. So that all the sudden you get and entirely different thing coming into existence from the egg of the former one. Of course he said, this would only happen once in a million years and the chance of anyone being there to see it is extremely slight. But, he said, unless you are going to believe in special creation you have to believe in this!

You see it is a matter of faith. It is not a matter of something that is proven. We should be care in interpreting Genesis. Genesis here is tremendous in what it teaches us about God. God is separate from his creation, God is superior to it. God is in control over it. God does things with orderly process. God institutes laws and principles that continue unless or until he chooses to change them. It teaches us a tremendous lot about God in relation to his universe.

But it does not give us a complete science. That is not the purpose of it. It gives us glimpses of certain stages in it. We should be careful not to read into them more than is there. There is a good bit that is there.

One place where many people have read into it, I think unfortunately, is that we know when it happened. We have no dating in this early part of the Bible. I heard of somebody, he said, he discovered an inscription which said, This was done in the year 2500 B.C. But no such inscription has ever been found. As a matter of fact the numbering system we have did not even start till 500 A.D. We cannot look for dates like that. In the OT there are many cases where it says a certain thing went a certain length of time, but there is no attempt to give a complete list of times.

The genealogy of Christ omits three kings. And Matthew would not just make a mistake and leave out three kings! Every Jewish boy knew the names of the Jewish kings, but he jumps from one king to the great grandson, and he says there are 14 generations. In other words he's just giving the number in the list to make it easy to learn, but he skips them because the word "son" in Heb. means like our word "descendant." It doesn't have to mean the one in the next generation.

So in the genealogies they undoubtedly were not complete. They give a specimen. This man lived so long, and he begat someone-- it means he became the ancestor of so and so. He may have come right after, or there might have been many many years in between. We do not know how far back creation came. But what we are told about it we do know.

Gen. 1:1 says, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Many scholars today say you have to translate that altogether differently, but that's the way all the ancient versions translate it.