

1091 Evans Street,  
San Bernardino, Calif  
August 3rd - 1953

Allan A. McRae, Ph.D., Pres  
Faith Theological Seminary  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. McRae:

I am much interested in your series of articles running currently in Bibliotheca Sacra on the "Scientific Approach to the Old Testament." The first in the series in the January issue is especially fine. But I am somewhat confused by your second article in the April issue relating to the question of the "days" in Genesis 1. Therefore, I am taking the liberty of writing you for I feel that the whole matter of scientific approach is jeopardized by the ambiguity of your discussion of the "day" question.

When I was a small boy, they taught us in Sunday School that God created the universe in six days of twentyfour hours. That the six days of Genesis 1 is an amplification of the brief but all inclusive statement in Genesis 1:1. Then later, when I was in my teens, the liberals were getting under way with their "more scientific approach" and we were told that these "days" were really great geological ages of untold millions of years.

A few years later when I was delivered from Church, "denominational" controlled teaching and discovered the Scofield Reference Bible and had the privilege of studying with some of the best Evangelical and pre-millennial teachers, my attention was called to the fact that there was an original CREATION, a DESOLATION or chaos, followed by a RESTORATION. We were then taught that there is no way of knowing how old the original creation mentioned in Genesis 1:1 is nor by what method or how long God took in accomplishing it. This would allow for all of the time the geologists think they need for the original creation if Bible scholars must hold out an olive branch to men of science.

There is plenty of scientific evidence that there was a universal chaos and just how long the earth lay in a chaotic condition, there is no way of knowing. Then some time after that, probably not more than 6000 years ago, God re-made or restored the heavens and earth and this must have been accomplished in six days of 24 hours. God was setting up a new order under which man was to live. On the third day, Genesis 1:9, vegetation was created. If the days were ages and not 24 hour days, this vegetation would not have survived a night of hundreds or thousands of years. It is a known scientific fact that corn will not survive without a man to care for it. Man was created three days later and was ready to take over the care of the garden. The survival of corn down to the present day cannot be explained in any other way.

The teaching that there was an original creation, followed by a desolation and later by a restoration has satisfied thousands of young people in a way that no other interpretation of the Genesis account has. I feel that it is most unfortunate that one in your position presenting an otherwise fine series of articles on the Scientific Approach should have failed to indicate three distinctions indicated above. I would welcome any correspondence on the matter your busy time would allow.

Yours for the Faith,

*Ray R. Perry*