

and much intellect and energy is often spent in defending views that are not found in the Bible at all. [to (8) below]

Let us make clear that we are not insisting that the Bible teaches long periods of creation. ~~We do insist that the Bible does not say~~ ⁽²⁾ that God caused that the earth should instantaneously be covered with all sorts of vegetation and ~~all sorts of~~ animal life. It very distinctly suggests a slow ^{or} process of bringing these ^{parts} into existence. [to (3) above]

of Universe

(8) It is sometimes as important to note where the Scripture is silent as to note the points on which it speaks. We should never try to twist Bible statements into conformity with the latest pronouncements of science. Neither should we proclaim superficial interpretations of the Bible as contradicting present scientific theories. As far as the length of time of creation is concerned, these theories neither contradict nor accord with Scripture, for Scripture is silent on this particular matter.

God did not give us His Word simply for a banner, but for a guide. He wants us "to believe all that the prophets have spoken". He wants us to approach it scientifically and to study it carefully. Where the Bible is silent, we should not claim to know. As we study beneath the surface, we learn more and more of what the Bible really teaches. We can stand upon its teachings with utter confidence, knowing that nothing can ever shake them. Theories of scientists and of philosophical theologians may come and go, but what God has declared cannot fail, for He, and He alone, knows everything.

(4) ~~not~~ The Bible does not ~~say~~ ^{state the length of the creation} ~~how long the earth~~ ^{day periods.} No one who believes in ~~an~~ ^{an} almighty God who is powerful enough to create the universe [to 11]