

(2) Consideration of relevant Scriptural data

(a) The meaning of the Hebrew word "kind" (*min* = מִינִי)

[The following material is taken from lecture four of "[A Proposed Creationist Alternative to Evolutionism](#)," IBRI Research Report 12]

The Hebrew word translated "kind" is used ten times in the first chapter of Genesis. It is used a total of 31 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. This Hebrew word (מִינִי) is transliterated *min*. But now we must ask the question: What does *min* mean?

"One of the first principles of lexicography is that the meaning of a word is discovered by an examination of its usage in context. In this connection we are fortunate to have as many instances of *min* in Scripture as we do have, and we are doubly fortunate in the fact that 30 of its 31 occurrences are found in the writings of one author, namely Moses. We thus have a fairly solid base upon which to build our understanding of the meaning of this Hebrew word.

"As we approach the question of the usage of the word *min*, something that could affect its meaning strikes us almost immediately. In every one of its 31 uses, *min* is preceded by a preposition, and it is the same preposition in every case. This preposition (לְ) has the meanings "to, according to, for." It would appear that the meaning "according to" best fits its usage in these cases. Unfortunately, this preposition has sometimes been translated by the English preposition "after," and this has caused readers to think that there is some temporal idea, some time component in the Scriptural phrase. There is no idea in the Hebrew preposition לְ of something "coming after" something else, or of one thing "following" another. This time idea must be expunged from our understanding, if we wish to correctly interpret these usages. The meaning of this preposition, in all of its usages with *min*, is simply "according to."

"Let us proceed, then, to an examination of those scriptural passages in which *min* is used. However, lest we enter upon this examination of a portion of the Word of God in a careless manner, let us pause and ask ourselves, "What method of examination will best facilitate our study?"

"In inductive studies in which a considerable number of items are involved, it is sometimes quite sufficient to study them in simple enumerative order. At other times, especially when the items to be studied differ in degree of difficulty, it is often more efficient to begin with the less difficult problems and proceed to the more difficult ones. In this study, we shall adopt the latter approach.

"Let us begin at Genesis 6:19-20. Here we read God's words to Noah:

And from every living thing, from all flesh, two of each shall you cause to come into the ark, to preserve alive with you; they shall be male and female. From the bird, according to