

these two purposes never conflict. Scripture can only be meaningful if its integrity is preserved; and if its integrity is preserved, it will be meaningful.

"In this passage God told Noah that "from the bird, according to its kinds, he was to take two of each into the ark. "The bird according to its kinds" simply means "various kinds of birds" which Noah was to take into the ark. The correctness of this translation is reinforced by the clause, "two of each shall enter unto you." The phrase "two of each" certainly does not mean that only two birds, two cattle, and two creeping animals of the ground were to enter the ark with Noah, but rather that two of each kind of bird, two of each kind of cattle, and two of each kind of creeping animal of the ground were to be brought into the ark.

"This translation receives further support from the record of fulfillment of God's command, as found in Genesis 7:13-14. This passage states:

In the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth the sons of Noah entered, and the wife of Noah and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark. They, and every living animal, according to its kind, and every cattle, according to its kind, and every creeping animal which creeps upon the earth, according to its kinds, and every bird, according to its kinds, every winged bird.

"Here we do not read that Noah brought into the ark those animals which came after and were similar to their parents (the idea associated with the expression "after its kind"). We read simply that Noah brought into the ark two specimens of each kind of living animal, each kind of cattle, each kind of creeping animal, and each kind of bird. Thus the phrase "according to its kind" as the translation of *min* with the preposition is not only the proper translation, it also makes good sense!

"Proceeding now to Leviticus 11, we discover that *min* is used five times in connection with animals that are not to be eaten. Verse 14 states that the kite, according to its kind, is not to be eaten. (Incidentally, this is not addressed to that famous species of kite-eating tree which plagues Charlie Brown; it is a prohibition to the children of Israel against the eating of the various kinds of long-tailed, long pointed-winged birds called kites!) Notice what this verse does not say. It does not say that the kite which has come after and is similar to its parents is not to be eaten. It simply says that the various kinds of birds known as kites are not to be eaten!

"The same is true in Leviticus 11:15, 16, 19 and 29. The children of Israel are forbidden to eat various kinds of raven, various kinds of hawk, various kinds of heron, and various kinds of tortoise.

"In Leviticus 11:22 we find that *min* is used four times in connection with animals which may be eaten. The children of Israel are permitted to eat various kinds of locust, various kinds of bald locust, various kinds of beetle and various kinds of grasshopper. In all of these cases, instead of translating *min* with its preposition by the phrase "after its kind," we should translate it by the phrase "according to its kind."