

In the second giving of the Law, as recorded in Deuteronomy 14, there are four instances of *min*. They are found in verses 13, 14, 15 and 18, and they all concern animals which are not to be eaten by the children of Israel. In verse 13 they are forbidden to eat the vulture according to its kind. In verse 14 they are prohibited from eating the raven according to its kind. In verse 15 they are commanded not to eat the hawk according to its kinds. And in verse 18 they are told not to eat the heron according to its kind. All of these uses are quite transparent. They are simply not to eat any kind of vulture, raven, hawk, or heron. There is not the slightest hint, in the expression of *min* preceded by לְ of the idea of animals being "after their kind," i.e., of animals which have come after and are similar to their parents. The entire thrust of the expression is the inclusion, within a given category of animals not to be eaten, of all the various kinds of that category. Thus we translate the expression in the Hebrew, "according to its kind," or "according to its kinds."

"In Ezekiel 47:10 we have the only usage of *min* outside of the Pentateuch. This is also the only instance out of 31 uses in which the preposition לְ is translated "according to" in the Authorized Version. The passage, speaking of the great river which flows from beneath the Millennial Temple, states:

And it shall come to pass, that fishermen shall stand upon it, from Engedi even to Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread out nets; their fish shall be according to its kind, as the fish of the great sea, exceedingly many.

"This passage would appear to be speaking of the many varied kinds of fish which shall inhabit the great river of the Millennial Temple, and the Authorized Version translates it in exactly this fashion.

"This brings us to the disputed uses in Genesis 1. The word *min* with the preposition לְ occurs ten times in the first chapter of Genesis. Three of these instances are associated with the Immediate Creation of plants, one instance is connected with the Immediate Creation of aquatic animals, one instance is concerned with the Immediate Creation of birds, and the remaining five instances relate to the Immediate Creation of terrestrial animals.

"One point, which may at first appear to be a truism but must nevertheless be made, is that these plants and animals which God created did not exist before God created them. There are many who are quick to give assent to this proposition, but who reject its clear implication. The clear implication of this proposition is that, in the Genesis account of Creation, we are not dealing with reproduction, but with the original creation of all living things. Genesis 1 is not speaking of plants reproducing other plants; it is speaking of God creating plants. Again, Genesis 1 is not speaking of animals reproducing animals; it is speaking of God creating animals. With this clarification firmly in mind, let us proceed to an examination of *min* in the first chapter of Genesis.

"In the following translations I have translated *min* with the preposition in the same fashion as in all the instances already noted. I have done this for at least three reasons: