

"But now, having ascertained the Biblical usage of *min*, we must ask the question: "To what level in the scientific classification of plants and animals does *min* correspond? Is it the equivalent to a biological species? Can it sometimes refer to a genus, or a family, or an order, or a class, or a phylum?"

"An analysis of the level of the classification of the Biblical "kinds" uncovers a rather remarkable fact. The word *min* is associated with categories of plants and animals which range from the level of sub-species to the level of phylum, and which include all levels between! From this information we may learn a very important truth: the word *min* does not denote one specific level in scientific classification (such as species, for example). Another truth which we may learn from this study is that, in Genesis 1, where we read of God's original Creation, the categories of plants and animals range from family up to phylum, and therefore we may not say that the Bible says that God created all plants and animals on the level of our present species. In the case of some living things, God may have created on the level of our present orders, in some cases on the level of our present families, in some case on the level of our present genera, and in some cases on the level of our present species. Perhaps the paleontologic record could be of help in learning on what present classification level or levels God created the various "kinds" of plants and animals.

"Another truth which we learn from this study is that the Bible does not say that the development of new species is an impossibility. As a matter of fact, if God originally created some living things on the present level of family (for example), then all of the members of the family have since developed, which means that new genera as well as new species have developed. The Bible simply does not teach the dogma of "the fixity of species." As a matter of fact, this dogma grew out of a mistranslation of *min* with the preposition coupled with a mistaken identification of the Biblical word *min* with the scientific concept "species."

"But further, the Bible does not even say that God created all of the original "kinds" of plants and animals in such a way that no new "kinds" could develop from the original "kinds." I realize that in saying this I am desecrating the "sacred cow" of many who believe that the limits of variability established by the phrase "after their kind" is the last bulwark of Creationism against the flood-tides of Evolutionism. However, not finding this translation "after their kind" is Biblically correct, I do not find it theologically correct! And therefore I do not find it a crucial support for Creationism, nor a great bulwark against Evolutionism."

TRANSLATION OF BIBLICAL PASSAGES IN WHICH THE BIBLICAL "KIND APPEARS (ALL CASES)

Gen. 1:11 -- "And God said, Let the earth cause vegetation to sprout forth; the herb yielding seed, the fruit tree producing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind upon the earth. And it was so."

Gen. 1:12 -- "And the earth produced vegetation, the herb yielding seed according to its kinds and the tree producing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kinds and God saw that it was good."