

"Thus we can understand how it has come to pass that man and all other vertebrate animals have been constructed on the same general model, why they pass through the same early stages of development, and why they retain certain rudiments in common. Consequently we ought frankly to admit their community of descent; to take any other view, is to admit that our own structure, and that of all the animals around us, is a mere snare laid to entrap our judgment. This conclusion is greatly strengthened, if we look to the members of the whole animal series, and consider the evidence derived from their affinities or classification, their geographical distribution and geological succession. It is only our natural prejudice, and that arrogance which made our forefathers declare that they were descended from demi-gods, which leads us to demur to this conclusion. But the time will before long come, when it will be thought wonderful that naturalists, who were well acquainted with the comparative structure and development of man, and other mammals, should have believed that each was the work of a separate act of creation."

-- Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, Chapter I, concluding paragraphs.

6. Evaluation of the Fossils, in general

"The fossils are genuine evidences of animals which were formerly in existence." "Here we have actual proof of what living things were like in the past." "There are people who explain. . .by saying that God might have created the earth with these fossils already formed in place. There is no doubt at all that He could have done this, but there is no evidence to support any other view than that they were formed in the usual way."

The above statements can, we believe, be accepted by Christians at face value.

7. Evaluation of the Geologic Time Scale

It does not seem either wise or seemly to deny the stratigraphic arrangement and correlation of rock strata which can, in general outline, be seen with one's own eyes! (e.g., in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the Appalachian Highlands, and the Northwest Highlands of Scotland.) The arrangement of the strata, based upon the law of superposition, would appear to be on solid footing.

8. Evaluation of the Chronology of Geologic Time

a. Geological Considerations

The methods of the degree of salinity of the oceans, the rate of deposition of sedimentation, the rate of erosion of rocks, etc. are recognized by men in the field to involve definite limitations. In addition, there are assumptions in each of these