

(2) Theories which hold that the geological strata are relatively old:

- (a) Gap or Restitution Theory -- the strata were laid down in a pre-Adamic world. Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 this world was Judged, became 'waste and void,' and remained in this condition for a vast time period. Thus the creative "days" of Genesis 1 are days of recreation or restitution.
- (b) Local Creation Theory -- the Genesis account describes a remodeling of only a portion of the Near East. The strata everywhere else (and the lower strata here) are thus very old.
- (c) Non-Judgment Gap Theory -- the strata were laid down in the vast time gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 (or between 1:2 and 1:3).
- (d) Day-Age or Divine Day Theory -- the strata were laid down during the creative days, which were vast periods of time.
- (e) Literal Day with Gaps Theory -- the strata were laid down during the vast creative ages bounded by literal days.
- (f) Literal Days within Creative-Aspect Periods Theory -- the strata were laid down during vast creative-aspect periods, which were marked by literal days of essential fulfillment of God's creative fiats.
- (g) Pictorial Day Theory -- the six "days" of Genesis 1 are six days during which the writer of Genesis received the revelation of God's creative activity. Thus Genesis says nothing about the time duration of creation.
- (h) Moderate Concordism -- the Genesis narrative is not arranged chronologically, but topically and logically. (This view is combined with various views of the six "days.") Thus nothing is said about the time duration of creation.
- (i) Mythological or Symbolical Theory -- the Genesis account is not history, but myth or symbol (similar to Christ's parables). Thus nothing would be revealed about chronology.
- (j) Framework-Hypothesis -- the Genesis account of creation in six days is a literary framework. The framework is composed of two triads in parallel -- the first three days parallel to the second three days. The days do not represent time periods.

**Creation with the Appearance of Age** -- If the question be asked, "What can God do?" It must immediately be answered that God can do all things (i.e. all things consistent with his attributes). And if it be asked, "Could God have created the earth with its strata and fossils in place to look old even though it is not old?" (in the sense of measured duration of time), it must be answered, "Yes, God could have done this." But the question which is really at issue is, "Has He in fact, done this?"