

Whether one holds the theory that the continents are presently where they always have been, or the theory that whole land masses have drifted to form our present continents is not crucial to the essential interpretation of the Genesis account. However, it is interesting to note that twice in these verses (verses 9 and 10) we read of the gathering together of the waters into one place. Is this significant?

This form of expression could be thought to suggest the idea that only one land mass existed in the distant past; and that later the single land mass broke up to form our present continents. This is called the Theory of Continental Drift, a theory which has practically swept the field of geology in the last few years. This is a possible interpretation of verses 9 and 10. Of course, these statements could also mean simply that God gathered the waters into their own places ('place" taken collectively), so that the dry land could appear in its own places.

EVENT #7 (recorded in Genesis 1:11-13) -- The beginning of God's immediate Creation of various "kinds" of land plants.

Here in these verses we have the first mention of the creation of living things. It is instructive to note that Moses makes no mention of Monerans and Protistans -- two whole kingdoms of very simple microscopic living creatures. Nor does he mention the thousands and thousands of species of marine plants. He speaks only of plants which grew on the land. Of course, it should be pointed out that if Moses, by means of a Special Revelation, had spoken in the inspired Scriptures of these microscopic creatures, no one reading his words at any time during the next 3000 years would have had the slightest notion of what he meant.

in verses 11-12 three general categories of plants are mentioned: "vegetation," "herbs which produce seeds," and "fruit trees which produce seed-containing fruit." The word "vegetation" and the word "herb" are quite general terms, and would appear to have a considerably wide range of applicability.

It is fascinating to note the fact that the creation of plants is mentioned before the creation of animals. Is this a mistake on Moses' part? Or is it merely a coincidence?

in reply to these questions, we must point out that they are capable of manufacturing their own food, by means of photosynthesis. Green plants, which contain chlorophyll, take carbon dioxide and water and, using the energy from sunlight, break down those substances and synthesize their constituent elements into energy-rich sugar and oxygen and water. Some animals eat these energy-rich plants, and thus obtain the energy needed to carry on life functions. Some animals eat other animals, which in turn have eaten energy-rich plants. And man eats both energy-rich plants, and animals which (either directly or indirectly) have eaten energy-rich plants. Thus we discover that, as far as utilizable energy for the carrying on of life functions is concerned, animals and men are dependent upon plants. It is therefore no mistake nor coincidence that Moses mentions plants as having been created before animals and man.