of the heavens and the earth (1:1), animal life in the sea (1:21), and man (1:27). The implications of the special use of *bara'* (create) will be further explored in Chapter 9. For now it is important to note that with respect to the specific process by which God created vegetative life, Genesis reads: "Then God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation . . . .' And the earth brought forth vegetation . . ." (Gen. 1:11-12).

It appears to me that such language does not negate the use by God of inorganic compounds contained in dust, clay, water, etc., for use in the formation and assembly of vegetative life. In fact, I would like to suggest that the words used, "Let the earth sprout ... And the earth brought forth," give us meaningful insight into His creation process. Scripture appears to be saying that God actually did use materials from the Earth or earthy materials (i.e., inorganic compounds) in His creation of vegetative life.

The scientist and the student of science who are also Christians are therefore on solid scriptural grounds when exploring prebiotic chemical synthesis. What the Christian cannot accept is the no-creator presupposition that the process happened *spontaneously*, i.e., by random chance or fortuitous accident. In fact, many who apparently hold the no-creator philosophy find this particular area a troublesome point in their chosen belief system because there is simply no concrete evidence to support the remarkable occurrence of the origin of life by random chance. Unfortunately, it is the no-creator presupposition or system of belief in random chance that is being taught in the public schools.

In this chapter we have traced the fossil record of plant life through its beginnings in the microscopic blue-green algae of the oceans to the present diverse landscape of flowering trees, shrubs, and grasses. Plants are the base of the pyramid of life, the necessary beginning of the food chain upon which all animal life ultimately depends. The appearance of animal life had to be preceded by suitable plant life.

However, before animal life could be supported, a dramatic change had to occur in the atmospheric blanket surrounding the Earth. Animals need oxygen to breathe, and the rays from the Sun had to be transformed from lethal killers into a beneficial energy source. We shall see in the next chapter how the blue-green algae, the first plant life, were involved in this remarkable transformation.