

forms and structures that fit new environments. But as far as evidence for the appearance of animal life in the oceans, the transitional record is a complete and total blank. The lack of intermediate forms in the Cambrian explosion of marine life is the great "black hole" of mechanistic evolutionary theory.

### **MORE THAN HARMONY**

In Chapter 4 we learned how God created the waters and the sky. In this chapter we learned that God filled those spaces with abundant, beautiful, and harmonious life.

Animal life in the waters of the Earth began with the sudden appearance of almost all major forms of marine invertebrates 570 million years ago. This event is known as the Cambrian explosion. The waters literally teemed with swarms of living creatures. Jawless and armored fishes appeared shortly thereafter and the roster of marine vertebrates was complete with the arrival of the true fishes. Giant marine reptiles occupied the sea during the Age of the Dinosaurs and were later replaced by the marine mammals.

Flying insects appeared about 400 million years ago. They were followed by the flying reptiles during the Age of Dinosaurs. True birds appeared in the fossil record more than 100 million years ago. Their feathered wings and efficient flight have given them dominion in the skies of the Earth.

In a very real sense, the scientific record of life in the sea and in the air describes what took place when God said: "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens" (Gen. 1:20).

Science and Scripture are again in harmony. In fact, the scientific term *adaptive radiation* is an apt description of the response to God's command when He blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth" (Gen. 1:22).

There appears to be more than harmony here. Could Scripture be supplying the answer to causation so long sought after by evolutionary theorists? Quite possibly. In any event, the new theory of punctuated equilibrium brings the thinking of science remarkably closer to the biblical view. It is notable that the more evidence scientists discover (or fail to discover), the closer scientific theory moves toward the unchanging biblical pattern.