

(10,000 years ago) is considered to be the first human being. The present archeological evidence indicates that all critical cultural events (from the first signs of ritual burial 60,000 years ago to the beginnings of agriculture 10,000 years ago) occurred in the same geographical area the Bible identifies as the birthplace of mankind.

THE HARMONY OF GENESIS AND SCIENTIFIC HISTORY

Three rather startling yet obvious facts emerge from the foregoing comparison.

1. ***The order of events in Genesis 1 and the scientific record are in substantially the same sequence.*** Books on historical geology are generally written around a chronological sequence of events. However, they often diverge from a chronological order to a topical order. Topics such as the development of the Earth's water, air, land, and major life forms are most often written in complete chapters. It is truly remarkable that Genesis 1 is written in virtually the same chronological order as geology textbooks which address the history of the Earth.

There are two places in Genesis where topics are carried through to completion after their origin and most dominant effects have been introduced. The topic of vegetation appears in the biblical account of events where science also says it begins. However, the Bible rapidly carries the topic of vegetation through to more recent times. Scripture also tells of God's creation of the birds in the same verse as life in the sea. This may be a topical rather than chronological treatment. God is filling the spaces, the water and the air, which He had created earlier. Life in the air (winged insects and birds) is grouped with life in the sea.

It also might be argued that the Sun is out of sequence in Genesis compared with scientific history. There is no disagreement among cosmologists that the Sun came into existence at the same time as the Earth. However, there is also no disagreement among scientists that the first vegetative life existed for more than 2 billion years before the light from the Sun became beneficial to animal life. The first vegetative life had to be created before the Sun's energy could be beneficial.

The history of the Universe, the planet Earth, and life upon the Earth is presented graphically in figure 12.1. As mentioned earlier there are eight creation commands in Genesis grouped into six basic