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Prefaces (Volume 1:I and Volume 1:II)

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PREFACE

These Proceedings represent the written text of the First International Conference on Creationism. What is unfortunately not contained between the covers of this book is the spirit and excitement of being a part of this historic event.

The idea for this conference originated one night over three years ago at a board meeting of the Creation Science Fellowship (CSF). From that meeting came the desire and vision to see a quality scientific conference that would bring together the most prominent creationists of our time for fellowship and the scientific exchange of ideas. The idea changed in scope and goals several times, but out of it came a comprehensive conference that had something for everyone.

To give the conference this broad appeal the CSF leadership had to design it for a diversity of interests, depth of material, time availability, and finances of the attendants. The result was a conference with four tracks. They included:

1. A convenient evening track for the general public at no charge that wrestled with the topic of "Creationism and You", and which directed its focus to answering the question of why creation science is important to the individual.
2. A track on basic creation science material which presented the most well-developed aspects of the Creation scenario from a scientific perspective. The goal of this track was to provide an entry-level set of topics for both the average lay person and the most scientifically minded.
3. A track on the educational perspective of teaching and propagating the creation model of origins.
4. A track on technical topics in creation science that dealt with present state-of-the-art scientific research. This track had the theme of "The Age of the Earth" and allowed for rebuttals and discussions of the presented papers, both of which are included in Volume II of these Proceedings.

The general perspective of the authors for this conference was that of a young created earth. However, for the material presented in the Technical Track, an important provision was made for verbal and written rebuttals and discussions of alternative views. These responses are included in Volume II with the respective papers on which they comment. This was done to foster true scientific inquiry and discussion. In some cases the submitted material was shown to be thorough and distinctive, and in other cases it indicated that more thought and research was required. That is the path of science.

These Proceedings and the Conference itself barely scratch the surface of the material that is available on creation science. It is the hope of CSF that what is found here will encourage and strengthen each reader:

First,

in the fact that science of the past and present is open to question in many areas and should be honestly tested;

Second,

in the fact that science is not in opposition to the Bible, but reemphasizes many of the truths of the Bible;

Third,

and perhaps most important, to implant truthful knowledge in the listener or reader, bringing a personal challenge to him to dig deeper into the subjects covered at this conference.

Only with good science will we be truly honored as Proverbs 25:2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter." We must all remember that science is only a sports-field; when once entered there are certain rules that control the drama of the game. As creationists, our perspective is one of discovering the "rules" of God's Great Creation and how He has used them to formulate the universe as we see it today. Our theories will develop and change and improve. Some parts of the Creation scenario will withstand the weather of challenges over time, while others will pass away from lack of substance.

We are on an exciting journey led by the Bible and fought by those men and women who are willing to stand against a tide of evolutionary dogma. Unfortunately, there are those, who have the evolutionary mindset, that are strapped to a life of vested interests in research funding and personal recognition on evolutionary topics. Such a mindset has brought

nothing new to science but the continued rehashing of old ideas and panic leaps of conjecture on models requiring far more faith than any Creation model. But, as time has shown mankind, self-centered and self-serving interests do not lead to better science, but personal gain. They will vanish with their preponderances in the face of truth as truth pushes itself forward to be discovered and accepted.

To God Be The Glory!

The ICC Executive Committee
June 1986

PREFACE

These Proceedings represent the written text of the First International Conference on Creationism (ICC), sponsored by the Creation Science Fellowship of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The spirit and excitement of being a part of this historic event can only be intimated through the contents of these books. This second volume contains the papers presented in the Technical Symposium Sessions and several additional topics.

The format for the Technical Symposium papers in this volume differs from the rest of the material in these Proceedings, in that each Symposium paper is followed by a discussion and a closure. These discussions were written by individuals who were selected by the ICC Review Committee as knowledgeable on each paper's topic. Several unsolicited critiques were also received. These discussions varied from simple questions to extended comments both pro and con about a particular author's work. A closure is the author's final response to the points made in the discussion. Some authors went beyond responding to the discussion and brought up additional significant material. The only exception to this sequence was Dr. Cook's work, where there is only one discussion and closure covering both of his papers. The ICC believes that through this process of review the reader's understanding of the author's work will be enriched, and creation science will be advanced.

Each paper presented something special related to the theme of the Technical Symposium, "The Age of the Earth". Two papers were judged by the participating authors as the most outstanding of the Conference. These papers were, "Tight Folds and Clastic Dikes as Evidence for Rapid Deposition and Deformation of Two Very Thick Stratigraphic Sequences" by Dr. Steven Austin and Dr. John Morris, and "Reversals of the Earth's Magnetic Field During the Genesis Flood" by Dr. Russell Humphreys. These authors received special recognition at the evening plenary meeting on the last day of the Conference.

The "Additional Topics" section in this volume includes: some papers that missed the printing date for Volume I; two transcripts of two evening speakers, one by Dr. D. James Kennedy, and the other by Robert Gentry; a new proposed Periodic Chart; and a special tribute to Byron Nelson.

We offer the following comments:

In May 1713, Roger Cotes, Fellow of Trinity College and Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at Cambridge, wrote the Preface to the second edition of Newton's Principia. In that Preface, he argued:

Without all doubt this world, so diversified with that variety of forms and motions we find in it, could arise from nothing but the perfectly free will of God directing and presiding over all. From this fountain it is that those laws, which we call the laws of Nature, have flowed, in which there appear many traces indeed of the most wise contrivance, but not the least shadow of necessity. These therefore we must not seek from uncertain conjectures, but learn them from observations and experiments. ... All sound and true philosophy is founded on the appearances of things; and if these phenomena inevitably draw us, against our wills, to such principles as most clearly manifest to us the most excellent counsel and supreme dominion of the All-wise and Almighty Being, they are not therefore to be laid aside because some men may perhaps dislike them. These men may call them miracles or occult qualities, but names maliciously given ought not to be a disadvantage to the things themselves, unless these men will say at last that all philosophy ought to be founded in atheism. Philosophy must not be corrupted in compliance with these men, for the order of things will not be changed.

By "philosophy", Cotes meant what we now call natural science--the investigation of the structure of the world. "Philosophy", that is, natural science, does not rest on atheism, Cotes argued, but rather must be open to the possibility of creation--"if these phenomena inevitably draw us" to such a conclusion, then we must follow, for any "sound and true" natural science cannot exclude the empirical possibility of creation. Cotes's words ring with a conviction long absent from natural science. In our day, the bitter winds of atheistic naturalism and positivism have driven the possibility of creation out of science--yet those winds are turning, and as they diminish, new voices

are heard, voices which Cotes would recognize, which say clearly, "This world speaks of creation".

Some of those voices speak in these volumes. These scientists do not claim absolute truth or certainty for their theories, but ask only to be heard, and judged fairly. Science has nothing to fear from creation, or creationists--indeed, Western science began with men who believed in creation--but science has much to fear if it unjustly excludes the possibility of creation. The natural world serves no philosophy, but simply is, and if science has no higher purpose than to seek the truth about the world, then it too must serve no philosophy. Any philosophy of science which excludes a possible empirical truth is contrary to the spirit of knowledge. Theories of creation must not be "laid aside because some men may perhaps dislike them".

In the hope of free and open investigation, we offer these volumes. They represent the permanent record of the International Conference on Creationism, held August 4-9, 1986, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

To God Be The Glory!

The ICC Executive Committee of the
The Creation Science Fellowship
April 1987