

INTRODUCTION

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

This book is intended to present the big picture -- the major events in the history of the Cosmos, the planet Earth, and life upon it. It presents the latest scientific evidence as to how the Universe came into being and how the Earth came to possess its waters and its lands. It studies how life started and traces the fossil record of major life forms in the seas, in the air, and on the land. It deals extensively with the controversial origins of mankind. It is intended to enable the reader to compare the major events in cosmic, geologic, and biologic history with the biblical account of creation. Its major focus is on the vast panorama of history from the beginning of time to the advent of human life.

To be honest, I have written in a personal quest for truth. I am a recent convert to Christianity, having been led to Christ through the prayers and example of my faithful and loving wife. My conversion did not come easily. I was a materialist at heart and a practicing hedonist. My ego was fed by success in school, in business, and by attractive women. Who needed God? He

might be necessary for others, but not for me.

I was an agnostic in religious matters. My scientific and worldly education had left me with an anti-religious bias. I regarded the Bible as an interesting collection of myths and legends with no real basis in history.

But I began to read. I was astonished to find that the claims of the New Testament rested on historical fact, not on myth or legend. The witness of the twelve apostles was particularly impressive to me. Twelve men simply do not expose themselves to daily ridicule, vilification, and death because of a myth.

On Friday of the crucifixion they were disillusioned men, they were cringing cowards. When they became convinced of the resurrection they turned into courageous giants among men. The real miracle was not their sudden change in character. It was their constant witness in the face of years of persecution and ridicule. One by one, most all of the apostles met a violent death. They could have been spared if only they had