

like the biochemistry of the first life, will probably remain a highly interesting area of investigation for science.

IN SUMMARY

The energy source for the first life on Earth was probably ultraviolet radiation from the Sun. However, before the Earth could be inhabited by higher forms of life, the Sun's ultraviolet rays had to be screened out by the creation of an ozone layer in the upper atmosphere. In addition, the primordial atmosphere of carbon dioxide and other smog-like gases had to be purified.

The first known plant life was blue-green algae. Endowed with the remarkable capability for photosynthesis, this algae slowly built the ozone screen and provided the air with an increasing supply of oxygen. Light from the Sun was transformed by the first primitive plants into a beneficial energy source for advanced plant life. This advanced plant life continued to create additional oxygen and food, paving the way for animal life in the oceans and later for life on the land.

There are mysteries enough to be sure, such as how the process of photosynthesis came into being. While there are suggested pathways for this development, the present answer is that we simply do not know how biologic photosynthesis originated. We do know that without this process in operation, animals would have nothing to eat. Further, sunlight would be a lethal killer rather than a beneficial source of energy to all life exposed to its rays.

Is the transformation of light from the Sun into a beneficial energy source what Genesis is addressing when it says "and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so" (Gen. 1:15)? While we can't be certain of this, I would like to suggest this interpretation as a likely possibility. We do know that scientific history places the appearance of sunlight beneficial to advanced life in the same sequential order as this fourth creation command in Genesis. This event had to occur after the appearance of the first plant life, blue-green algae, and before animal life in the sea and on the land. Science, once again, appears to be in harmony with Scripture.