



dominance by animals was coming to an end. It was time for the Age of Man.

SOME THOUGHTS TO SHARE ON SCRIPTURE AND EVOLUTION

In Chapter 8 we used the fossil evidence from the Cambrian explosion of life in the sea to test the Darwinian theory of evolution. We found that major changes in life forms -- *macro*-evolution -- were not documented in the fossil record. Darwin's theory of gradual change was unsupported by 400 million years of sedimentary deposits, which contain not one transitional form.

In this chapter we have examined the amphibians, the reptiles, and the mammals and found that there are some possible transitional forms in the fossil record. Scientists claim that the fossil record contains a well-documented transition from the lobe-finned fish to the amphibian. Amphibians exhibit a lifestyle that is transitional between water and land. This leads to the conclusion that the amphibian itself might be considered a transitional form. Also there are strong indications of transitional forms from the reptiles to very primitive mammals. In contrast, the hypothetical transition from amphibian to reptile is not well documented.

The question arises as to whether evolutionary theory can account for these major transformations in life forms. How really "natural" are these transformations? It is one thing to invoke "natural selection" operating on "genetic variability" to explain how a peppered moth changes from light to dark in color. It is quite another matter to explain how an amphibian changes into a reptile and then into a

FIGURE 9.16.

The fossil jawbone of the Jurassic mammal, *Dryolestes vorax*, measures approximately 2.5 centimeters. (Courtesy Smithsonian Institution.)