

CHAPTER 12

AGES AND DAYS

*For a thousand years in Thy sight
Are like yesterday when it passes by,
Or as a watch in the night.*

Psalm 90:4

One of the most difficult matters to deal with in understanding the relationship between science and Scripture is the matter of time. Many people have felt that the scientific evidence of cosmic and geologic time is in conflict with a literal understanding of what the Bible says about the time involved in creation. Once again, however, if we approach the scientific evidence and what Scripture says with an open mind and fresh insights, we can begin a resolution of this problem. Scientific evidence does not contradict Scripture.

A PERSPECTIVE ON TIME

Millions and billions of years of time are difficult to comprehend when our current life spans are less than one hundred years long. Many people have trouble grasping the enormous periods of time involved in the history of the Universe and the planet Earth.

Sometimes Christians opt for a quite recently created Earth and Universe, a so-called "young earth." However, astronomers have discovered galaxies of stars that are two, three, four *billion* light years away! That by itself should indicate the kinds of time periods involved. Moreover, since God is eternal, a 15- or 20-billion-year-old creation is no more far-fetched than a four-thousand-year-old one.

To place key events and ages into a time frame we can more easily comprehend, let 5 billion years represent one year in discussing the history of the Universe and Earth. The history of the Universe would then be three years in length.