

science has to tell us about conditions that may have existed prior to the birth of the Universe. Following this introduction or stage setting, Genesis then presents eight creation commands grouped into six basic time periods or days of creation. Let us follow the flow of scientific history using the format of the biblical account of God's creation.

## **FIRST DAY OR ERA OF CREATION**

Let there be light (Gen. 1:3).

The Universe began in an explosion of dazzling brilliance termed the Big Bang. The Universe was filled with light. All energy, matter, natural forces, and natural laws were created at this time. Energy was transformed into matter and then into galaxies, stars, and planets including Earth.

The Universe came into being about 15 billion years ago, and its creation ceased to dominate events from our perspective about 4.6 billion years ago when the Earth was formed. The *Age of Universe Creation* can be thought of as dominating history from about 15 billion to 4.6 billion years ago. Following its initial solidification, the Earth emerged as a naked body of rock which looked like the moon. The planet lacked both air and water.

## **SECOND DAY OR ERA OF CREATION**

Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters (Gen. 1:6).

The Earth outgassed through volcanic processes a dense atmosphere of water vapor and noxious gases. The crust of the Earth cooled and most of the water vapor condensed to form a shallow sea blanketing the Earth. The shallow sea composed of liquid water was separated by the expanse in the lower sky from the remaining atmospheric clouds of water vapor and gases.

The *Age of Water Formation* occupied the time period from 4.2 to 3.5 billion years ago. Although minor additions may occur from time to time, the Earth's supply of water was essentially formed during this period. At the end of this time, oceans covered the entire globe with the possible exception of a few volcanic peaks or islands piercing the surface of the waters.