

### *Where Were We at the Time of Creation?*

**T**HE BIBLE is the story of every man—of you, and of me! It is the narrative of our spiritual development from the moment of creation in Genesis to the final chapters in Revelation, where we are described as the Holy City whose measurement is that of an angel. This is the destiny of every man.

The Bible is the most widely read book in existence. It can be read in virtually every known language. We can evaluate its place in man's thinking when we consider who reads the Bible—Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Jews, Mormons, Christian Scientists, Presbyterians, Quakers, agnostics, even atheists—all read it in the light of their understanding and find inspiration and spiritual guidance within its pages. It has survived centuries of criticism, condemnation, and rejection. What then, is the key?

Man innately has a longing for truth—for understanding. Age after age he has searched for answers to why he is here, where he has come from, and where he is going. New Age Bible Interpretation\* presents a logical and reasonable answer that could be called Spiritual Science. It gives a key which we are going to apply to man and his spiritual development as outlined in the Bible. The first key is that all characters and their experiences described in the Old and New Testaments represent the problems and achievements of every man.

Genesis opens with the words: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; and the*

*earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

This opening statement tells us of a Divine Intelligence who existed before creation; obviously, a Being with no beginning or end. He elected to create a solar system; and so He set aside a certain portion of space in which to develop His creation. He moved within it—filled it with Himself. His Spirit was on the face of the deep. So, there is no place within our solar system where God is not. His Spirit fills and maintains every atom, making the expression, "closer than hands and feet" an actual fact. Seven days or aeons were consumed in the formation of our solar system. The Greek translation of the Bible (Septuagint) uses *aeon* (a period of indeterminate length) instead of *day*.

At first the heavens and earth had no form. This tells us there were two states of consciousness—a heavenly or divine state and an earthly state focussed in form. Creation was taking place in the higher worlds. The Infinite was becoming finite. Earth consciousness is our immediate need, and the rest of the first chapter of Genesis is concerned with earth as it acquired material form.

The first edict was: "Let there be light; and there was Light." These words do not refer to the Sun, Moon and stars—the zodiac. They were created long after. The fourteenth verse tells of their creation. So the first edict was a prediction, a prophecy, that Light was to be the agent that would help to fulfill creation's purpose; and it relates to a type of consciousness.

What is light? Our definition of Light is *Instant Presence*. What does this mean? It is instant recognition of the Divine Presence of God. Where there had originally been darkness in consciousness, *let*

\*The author, Gene Sande, has written a series of studies available from the New Age Bible Center—founded by Corinne Heline, who Max Heindel asked to write the New Age Bible—under the title *The Bible: Man's Book of Realization*.

*there be Light* indicates the instant recognition of the Divine Presence within and without. This is the destiny for all life.

We were there with that first release! How could this be? The earth is the sum total of life that exists within its bounds—mineral, plant, animal, man, and the spiritual substance of those heavenly beings who were involved in its creation. Mineral substance is simply formed mass—inorganic matter. It provides the residence or body for the newest life wave to become part of the earth, whose living (spirit, egoic) being is in the World of Thought. On the other hand, plants have vitality—a vital body. They can grow and propagate themselves. This leads us to conclude that plants have a longer history behind them. Animals not only have vitality, a vital body, but they can move around and express emotions such as fear, anger, friendliness. Certain animals are learning to think, such as seeing-eye dogs; so animals have a longer earthly history than minerals or plants. Man has a yet longer record of development behind him. He not only has vitality (a vital body), but he can move about in space and express emotions (generated in an emotional body), and he can put thoughts into words and communicate his ideas to other individuals. From this we can conclude that man has been on Earth longer than his younger brothers. His was the first life wave to be released at the beginning of this septenary cycle of creation. Thereafter, a life wave was released with each succeeding day or aeon.

In the beginning we were in a spiritual state— not yet individualized. What were we doing during that creative period? We were endowed with two divine powers, namely, will and imagination: will to initiate action, and imagination to receive intuitions and then to work out details for earthly forms, including bodies in which to gain experience. Our goal at that time was to realize consciously—individually—our own divinity and immortality. During those creative days, an idea for bodies was first impressed upon us by those assisting in the Plan. With each succeeding day or aeon, we developed a finer body and incorporated our lower bodies into it. We built a dense body, an energy system or vital body, an emotional body, and then a mind.

As creation progressed, something very impor-

tant happened on the fourth day. The fourteenth verse in Chapter One tells of the formation of a solar system: “*Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons, for days and years.*”

This passage refers to the twelve constellations of the zodiac and the seven planets. They were the cosmic pattern which was going to be reflected in all form. “That which is above is like unto that which is below,” were the words on the Emerald Tablet of Hermes. We might add, “As within, so without.” Creation is all one in God, the Creator; and the plan of the twelve and the seven was going to develop through all the seven creative days.

The Great Beings who assisted in the creation of our Solar System were originally twelve in number (including humanity). Later, the number of hierarchies was reduced to seven, denominated in the Bible as Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. Each had certain qualities to contribute to the creative plan. The clue to these Beings is found in the words “Let us make man in our image and likeness.” Man was not only made *by* but *like*, in the image of, celestial beings of superlative wisdom, power, and glory!

At last, man (male-female) was ready to develop a mind; and he was given the power of choice. Seven times in the first chapter of Genesis these words are repeated: “And God saw that it was good.”

God blessed man and said: “*Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...and have dominion...over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. I have given you every herb bearing seed, every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed. To you it shall be for meat.*”

The vital essence, the life-giving vitality, of herbs and fruit was to be used for nourishment.

On the seventh day God rested and hallowed His creation. In the mind of God, the archetypal pattern of creation was complete. In the development of divine consciousness in man, creation had to progress through many cycles. Man was to learn to make wise decisions and exercise his dominion over physical form. We are still working on that assignment, and we are just beginning to see the guidance originally given in regard to diet. □