

have not taken each other's data in their integrity. But if we believe that truth is a unity, and that God's revelation in nature and His revelation in Scripture are true, then we must conclude that such a synthesis can be made and ought to be made!

Toward this end, therefore, I should like to present a proposed synthesis of the Creation Days and the creative events of Genesis 1-2, and the records of geology and paleontology. The conceptual structure which I propose is that of a series of creative-aspect periods, some of which partially overlap in time, and all of which are marked by a beginning stage, a stage of essential fulfillment, and a completion stage. In all of these creative-aspect periods (except the first), the stage of essential fulfillment falls upon a particular literal day, which is numbered. In the total configuration, the seven Days of Genesis 1-2 are arranged in numerical order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (See diagram of One Possible Structuring of the Creation Days and the Creative Events of Genesis 1-2.)

The arrangement of the fourteen creative events which we enumerated in our second lecture is thus as follows. The Ex Nihilo Creation of primal matter (1), the Mediate Creation of the structured universe (2), and the Mediate Creation of our Milky Way Galaxy (3), all fall into a Pre-Day 1 creative-aspect period. The Mediate Creation of our solar system (4) falls into a second creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day 1. The Mediate Creation of our atmosphere (5) falls within a third creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day 2. The Mediate Creation of day land (6) and the Immediate Creation of land plants (7) fall into a fourth creative-aspect period, which reaches its stage of essential fulfillment in Day 3, but continues through Day 6. The Mediate Creation of the appearance, from the earth, of sun, moon and stars (8) falls into the fifth creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day 4. The Immediate Creation of aquatic animals and of birds (9) falls into the sixth creative-aspect period, which attains its stage of essential fulfillment in Day 5, but continues through Day 6. The Immediate Creation of terrestrial animals (10), the Immediate Creation of the Garden of Eden (11), and the Ex Nihilo Creations of Adam's and Eve's souls, together with the Immediate Creations of their bodies (12 and 13) all fall within the seventh creative-aspect period, which culminates in Day 6. Day 7 then initiates the period of the cessation of Ex Nihilo and Immediate Creation (14).

But how does this conceptual structure correlate with the combined