

was so. And God created the living animal of the earth, *according to its kind*, and the cattle, *according to its kind*, and every creeping animal of the ground *according to its kind*; and God saw that it was good.

Here there is absolutely no thought whatever of terrestrial animals "reproducing after their kind"; the thought is simply that of God's calling forth from the earth all the varied kinds of living being: cattle, creeping animal, and living animal of the earth. Verse 25 should be understood to mean that God immediately created different kinds of the specified categories of land animals. And there is nothing more in the combination of *min* with the preposition $\bar{\text{v}}$ than this!

But now, having ascertained the Biblical usage of *min*, we must ask the question: "To what level in the scientific classification of plants and animals does *min* correspond? Is it the equivalent to a biological *species*? Can it sometimes refer to a genus, or a family, or an order, or a class, or a phylum?"

An analysis of the level of the classification of the Biblical "kinds" uncovers a rather remarkable fact. The word *min* is associated with categories of plants and animals which range from the level of sub-species to the level of phylum, and which include all levels between! From this information we may learn a very important truth: the word *min* does not denote one specific level in scientific classification (such as species, for example). Another truth which we may learn from this study is that, in Genesis 1, where we read of God's original Creation, the categories of plants and animals range from family up to phylum, and therefore we may not say that the Bible says that God created all plants and animals on the level of our present species. In the case of some living things, God may have created on the level of our present orders, in some cases on the level of our present families, in some case on the level of our present genera, and in some cases on the level of our present species. Perhaps the paleontologic record could be of help in learning on what present classification level or levels God created the various "kinds" of plants and animals.