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THE MARVEL OF EARTH'S CANOPIES

A FASCINATING BOOK ON THE HARMONY OF TRUE SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

WRITTEN IN EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE BY PROF. C. THEO. SCHWARZE





THE MARVEL OF EARTH'S CANOPIES

*A Fascinating Book on the Harmony of True Science
and the Bible—written in Easy-to-Understand
Language by Professor C. Theodore Schwarze*

GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS
Westchester, Illinois



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Foreword and Author's Sketch

The material in this book was condensed from an original manuscript prepared by Prof. C. Theodore Schwarze shortly before his decease last June. Dr. Schwarze was a "Fellow" of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the highest honors which can come to a scientist and was listed in five different "Who's Who" publications.

Since the days of his professorship in Civil Engineering at New York University, he has been a champion of the Christian faith. In his writings and lectures he sought to present in a clear and intelligent way the evidence on the side of faith, so that the average individual could understand that a Christian has a rational reason for his faith.

Nearly thirty years ago Prof. Schwarze began an intensive research into both science and the actual language of the Scriptures, both Hebrew and Greek. He testified that all of his research established the accuracy of the Word of God more firmly than ever.

With this background Prof. Schwarze was able to silence scientists who did not believe in

the scientific accuracy of the Bible. When much of Dr. Schwarze's material was broadcast over the air from the years 1935 to 1939 it was carefully checked by opponents of the infallibility of the Word of God. None of these men could find one bit of error in the material which Prof. Schwarze so graphically presented.

Dr. Schwarze spent the last fourteen years of his life in writing and lecturing. He is the author of *The Harmony of Science and the Bible* and *The Program of Satan* as well as numerous scientific articles and magazine articles on the Christian faith in the light of science.

Until his decease Prof. Schwarze remained Professor Emeritus at New York University where he was recognized as an outstanding educator.

In these pages will be seen the unusual insight into the Word of God which Dr. Schwarze possessed, a gift which he readily acknowledged was from God to whom he sought always to give all the honor and glory.

The Marvel of Earth's Canopies

Explaining Earth's Earliest Years

Dr. George was looking over some notes in his cheery living room. He'd chosen this little house in the outskirts of the great, impatient city because it nestled some twenty feet back from the road, secluded by a tall, thickish barberry hedge. The deciding reason was the cozy living room. It exuded a warm invitation to indulge in such leisurely pursuits as befits scientific minds. Built-in bookshelves nearly covered three of its walls. These were delightfully filled with a motley array of bound and unbound volumes on all imaginary topics. Outsiders had difficulty in locating desired books. Not so Dr. George! He knew where each could be found. He loved each like a child and was exceedingly perturbed whenever feminine hands attempted

to dust or "arrange" them. It was the den of a scholar.

This evening the scientist's thoughts were not on his books, but of his friend Wilson from the great financial center. Though still young, Wilson possessed excellent business acumen—although business had now become but a part of his life.

He had a new, more vital interest. He was energetically acquiring as much knowledge as he could about the Bible. As his business life had been the big thing for him before his conversion, now the really important matters were his Lord and his Bible. In his search for deeper truths he had found Dr. George—to his boundless delight. He asked for a periodic evening for intensive Bible study with his new friend.

This was such an evening. The door opened upon a brightly smiling, tall young man.

"Good evening, financial wizard!" The scientist extended his hand. "Your time seems concisely organized."

"It must be to make headway in the 'Street,'" laughed Wilson. "The same way I want to redeem the time—systematically—to make headway in my Christian walk."

"Correct!" replied the other. "Here, take your usual chair. We can speak better when at ease. Shall we make the preliminaries short?"

"My wish, too, Doctor; I hesitated to be brusque."

"You would only be natural, not brusque," teased the other. "What have you on your mind tonight?"

"Your repeated reference to a 'canopy' intrigues me. If you're ready for that subject, could you tell me about its consistency and effects?"

"First, may I change your wording from 'a canopy' to 'the canopy theory'? As honest scholars we must have a clear understanding in this matter. The canopy we are to discuss is not only reasonable but explains things in the Bible which would not be clear otherwise. These too often are 'explained' without recourse to the original text! Thus we get fanciful interpretations by using our English *translations*. People with preconceived ideas often will not be convinced—no matter how good the evidence may be.

"Yet the canopy is the most reasonable explanation of physical conditions during man's earliest years, as given in the Bible, that I have yet found. However, we must consider it a canopy *theory* since there is no *direct* statement in the Scriptures about such a canopy. No matter how strongly I feel (and *you* may feel before the evening is over) that the canopy is

demonstrated truth, one must be honest and admit that it is hypothesis."

"In your scientific presence I shall agree to call it a theory, Dr. George. But may I call it what I feel is right when we finish our talk tonight?"

"Surely! We must not be dogmatic about such things.

"Suppose I describe the canopy as it apparently existed. Later we can see how the Word of God fits into the picture.

"May I warn you that you'll find nothing of a canopy in *secular* science. A canopy would be too much proof for the Biblical account to find acceptance by the world. Worldly scientists certainly would not propagate it! Only a Christian could advance such an idea and only Christians can accept it. Scientists—*generally*—are committed to the evolutionary theory. They couldn't possibly espouse the canopy because that would explain away any assumed basis to which they may still cling. However, it was a scientist—probably not a Christian—who first made the idea public about a century ago. Professor Isaac Newton Vail had the idea of floating 'blankets' or screens that might have been impenetrable to rays of the sun. He advanced the idea in two books, *The Earth's Annular System* and *The Deluge and its Cause*.

Later a scientist, Howard W. Kellogg—who was a Christian—wrote a small brochure on *The Canopied Earth* published by Science Research Bureau. Vail's idea was not a canopy of ice. He thought there were a number of *cloud* canopies caused by temperature and moisture differences in the atmosphere.

"Bible students formerly had felt that there must have been several layers of 'atmosphere' to account for a 'firmament' (or, *expanse*) to agree with the statement in Genesis 1:6, 7 about the waters *above* the firmament and those *below*. One layer appeared to be heavy with ozone, an activated form of oxygen, which holds heat. In 1940 Dr. Whipple of the Harvard Observatory thought he had found a very warm current of air in the upper reaches. Dense water vapor could form in such a layer and be held there. But—it would not help to account for the 'ice age' glacial deposit."

"From which I infer that the ice covering and a canopy are supposed to hang together. Also that sunlight was unknown for a spell. This is becoming involved for your audience, I fear. However, you would not consider it unless it had Christian significance."

"Not to speak of apparent Scriptural support," added Dr. George. "A canopy is not original with me. If it didn't so remarkably clear up

some difficulties in the Bible I wouldn't bother to mention it. Besides, it has definite scientific support which is not true of *any* doctrine of evolution!

"Our case is the stronger because the canopy theory agrees with and helps to explain the Bible's account of the early history of man. The canopy undoubtedly dates back to the days of Genesis 1:2. Apparently it resulted from a violent upheaval—very likely billions of years after the primal creation, most likely as the result of sin. Such an explosion, if violent enough, would send masses of material into the stratosphere—which would represent the limit of the first 'heaven' or firmament of the Bible. Any explosion will create heat. The heat of *this* blast was probably so intense as to vaporize elements of the earth's crust as they were shot into space."

"Someone was trying to explain an explosion to me the other day," said Wilson. "The reason particles flew out *from* the center of an explosion was the awful heat developed at that center. Heat expands the air, the expanded air loosens up materials and shoots their particles away. Is that what happens, Doctor?"

"You couldn't have had a better explanation. Apparently that is just what took place

in the gigantic cataclysm referred to in Genesis 1:2.

"Materials generally disintegrate under heat but rocks require *great* heat to make them melt. Rocks like limestone must be under 3,000° F. before they begin to fuse. Their point of vaporization is even higher. Such temperatures are easily reached in explosions of great magnitude. When super-novae stars explode, the temperature must run into the millions of degrees.

"The entire canopy theory is based upon the fact that some explosions create heat which is high enough to strip atoms. You may remember that fact from our discussion of the future explosion mentioned in II Peter 3:10. A literal translation of that would be, 'Shall come the day of the Lord as a thief in the night, in which the heavens, with rushing noise, shall be dissolved and earth, and the works in it, shall be consumed.'"

"I well remember our discussion about that!" exclaimed Wilson, "particularly when I read accounts of atom-smashing operations!"

Results of Cataclysmic Explosions

"Let's see what would happen were such an explosion to occur," continued the scientist.

"Water would be the first material to feel the heat since it vaporizes at 212° F. Scientists have unearthed evidence that (as I'll explain later) in antediluvian times there were no oceans or great seas on the earth—only small lakes. Most of the vast quantity of water now on the earth, had apparently been shot into the sky in the form of steam and vapor. It probably rose to the edge of our air layer where it froze into solid ice in the intense stratospheric cold. Because of the earth's rotation, the freezing water mass would have spread out like a sheet and assumed a shape not unlike a door knob. Where rotation reduces to zero at north and south poles, this ice sheet would undoubtedly be attached to the solid part of the earth. Thus, it would have formed a crystal-like canopy around the earth. It probably formed the waters (in the shape of ice!) which were *above* the firmament, Genesis 1:7. Clouds, you know, are *in* the firmament, not *above* it. Therefore clouds could not satisfy Genesis 1:7."

"This has puzzled me ever since our discussion of the 'second day' in Genesis, Dr. George. I wondered how the waters ever got there and how it was they *remained* there. I see how a mighty explosion could get the waters away from the earth. But what force would

keep that sheet of ice from collapsing back again?"

"Apparently you don't visualize the quantity of water we have on the earth. There are approximately 160 million square miles of sea surface on it, 60% of the entire area of the globe. Scientists tell us that probably some 8,000 years ago, the ocean level was at least 10,000 feet lower than it is today.

"At present because of the height of 'sea level,' much of the crust of the earth is saturated with water which gives subsurface reservoirs that can be tapped for well water. All this adds up to a large volume of water.

"Even if the ice sheet were as much as 200 miles above the earth's surface at the equator, the *surface* of the sheet would hardly be much more than that of the earth. Consider, also, that water increases nearly 20% in volume when it freezes. A rough estimate would indicate that the ice sheet would probably be not less than a mile thick at the equator and might be two or three miles thick at the poles. Don't you think that the arch action in such a canopy would hold it in place?"

"From such an array of figures I am convinced that it would—and did," said Wilson. "This would account for water. What about

other materials in the earth's crust? Wouldn't they also be up there in the stratosphere?"

"They would have been moving in that direction surely. Water, however, would not only be first to go but, because of relative lightness, go much farther than other materials—before being slowed up by gravitational attraction.

"Under pressure and heat, water is capable of exerting much energy, especially in the form of steam. You may remember how a sheet of steam which issued from the side of Mont Pelee on the Island of Martinique in May, 1902, destroyed about 30,000 human lives besides much animal life, and stopped clocks in St. Pierre. All of which happened in a fraction of a minute.

"Steam could travel more miles before cooling and solidifying than could heavier materials because it is relatively light. In an explosion that 'strips' elements, other matter would also be ejected with terrific force under pressure of intense heat. Such an explosion would tend to collect weightier elements into heavy, dense clouds. Among these would be ores of different kinds, clay materials, carbon, etc. As the earth cooled after the catastrophe these materials would drop down and form deposits in various

parts of the earth. These would later be discovered by man and recovered for his use in mining and other operations. Think of such places as Newcastle in England and Pennsylvania in our own land. Do they not suggest coal deposits?"

"Yes, Doctor. But here is something puzzling. You apparently associate coal deposits with the explosion of Genesis 1:2. Aren't coal deposits the result of buried primeval forests? At least, that's what I was taught in school."

"I know. It would be astonishing beyond expression if you had learned anything *contrary* to that idea in school. 'Idea' is all that has ever been. There is not the slightest *evidence* extant concerning a 'carboniferous age.' That fancy has been foisted upon mankind, especially children, by proponents of evolution and by no one else!

"I am personally convinced that there never was a carboniferous age and that we got our coal beds in quite a different way. If evolution's votaries were correct our heaviest coal deposits would be in the torrid zone near the equator. That's where the heaviest timber growth is to be found. In climates where there is cold as well as heat the timber is lighter because of the scraggly 'winter rings.' There are

also 'timber lines' in latitudes which are too cold the year round for *any* timber growth.

"Therefore, if there had been a carboniferous age in the earth's history our greatest, heaviest deposits of coal should be in the vicinity of the equator. Consider that carefully. Then harmonize it with the *fact* that all the great coal regions are in temperate and arctic zones."

"Dr. George, this is amazing! I'd never thought of comparing theory and fact that way. How easily these fellows can put one over on us! Really, I cannot think of a single coal field in the tropics while there are many in colder belts."

"Yes—and you may recall reading of plans to develop *Antarctica* largely because of extensive coal fields there," replied the scientist.

"Now that you speak of it, I do recall reading about that. But tell me, how do 'evolutionary' scientists harmonize such difficulties?"

"In the usual involved, labored, inconsistent way, Wilson. Whenever you find one who is trying to explain something 'away' you always find inconsistencies. In this case they explain the difference between where coal fields *should be* and where they really *are* by making a statement that a high school boy could riddle full of holes. It's sad that neither high school

pupils nor college students nor professors do enough thinking to answer back. But those who do think, feel there must be another explanation. Still, unless they're non-evolutionists, they make no effort to find another. For the carboniferous age is one of the main props of the only theory extant which opposes the Bible with any degree of success. They hope to rest their case on this statement: 'Millions of years ago' (during the supposed time of dense growth), they state, '*the poles were where the equator is now.*'"

"Wouldn't that have been possible?" asked Wilson.

"My dear young friend, you must have heard of the gyroscope. When they were a novelty some years ago gyroscopes were demonstrated in the streets. Vendors would start them spinning at queer angles. The gaping crowd saw how when it was spinning the gyroscope resisted every effort to change the position of its axis; it ever tended to remain in the initial position.

"The earth is a giant gyroscope in space. To keep ocean liners steady in a storm, gyroscopes are built into their hulls. The only force that would have any effect upon the *position* of the axis of the gyroscope upon which we live would be another heavenly body's gravi-

tational attraction. Even if such a body could come close enough to exert its attraction, the earth's axis would 'wobble' but a trifle!

"Will the learned gentlemen kindly explain the possible series of continuous forces that would have been necessary to have turned that axis through as much as 90° of angle? It is inconceivable that such a thing could have happened in billions of years, *if* it could happen at all.

"A very embarrassing question our high school boy could ask would be, 'The poles are only *points* while the equator is a *line* 25,000 miles long. How could a point take the place of a line?'

"If shifting the axis of a gyroscope through a right angle would be practically impossible in conceivable time, what about shifting it *continuously* through 360° and *in a totally different direction*?

"You see how utterly ridiculous this theory becomes? Also, during that shifting operation *all* parts of the globe would have been tropic at some time or other, and all this shifting would have had to be done during the carboniferous age, if this evolutionary theory is to be satisfied! Why, son, that would make coal available all over the earth's surface—wherever one would wish to dig for it.

"Then we have another poser for them. How can evolution's advocates account for earth's flattening at the poles? You can see how silly such an argument becomes, when one thinks it through."

"Yes, Dr. George, even *I* can see it. With such scientists, however, it is probably another case of permitting their hatred of the Bible to blind them."

"Precisely so. Especially when one knows that the great coal formations are *seams*, alternating with seams of limestone and shale only inches in width. The 'carboniferous age' predicates that enormous forests, growing for some thousands of years, were suddenly engulfed by ocean waters and became coal seams. Then, somewhat later, the ground would come up out of the water, dense forests would again grow for more thousands of years—to be deposited once more under water to form another coal seam. Now, how could even a *second* forest grow when there was nothing to grow upon—except a few inches of *stone* above the first seam? Just more silliness, isn't it?"

"Well," exclaimed Wilson, "it looks as though they were trusting evolution—something harder to believe than what the Bible so clearly states!"

"Isn't it a good deal easier to believe that

the various clouds of matter in the air settled back to earth in layers—or seams—of mineral deposit as the earth got cool after the blast? I believe that the precipitation was hastened by the word of the almighty Creator-God when He came to the disrupted earth and issued His first effective command, 'Light, break through,' Genesis 1:3. Verse 2 shows the earth was in *darkness*. What other celestial phenomenon would produce such darkness, other than heavy, widespread dust clouds in the air!

"Under ordinary cooling of the earth, precipitation would clear the air gradually. But the omnipotent God undoubtedly hastened the natural process just as, thousands of years later, He hastened another natural process when He turned water into wine—John 2:6-10. If precipitation had been permitted to take a natural course there would have been no point to the command of Genesis 1:3."

"I don't doubt such reasoning," said Wilson. "But one thing isn't completely settled in my mind. I'm not unbelieving as are the evolutionists. They cannot see things clearly because they blind themselves to the truth. But my difficulty is lack of learning. My questions are honest."

"Awhile ago you said water makes a firmer

arch when it freezes because it gets bigger. How is that?"

"In the wonderful wisdom of God water acts differently from any other substance when it freezes. That's why the arch action is perfect, Wilson."

"All other materials shrink in volume as they freeze and water does so to a certain point. All other minerals grow *inward* as they take solid form and continue to the solidifying point. Water, however, shrinks only until it cools to within a few degrees of the freezing point when it suddenly expands. So when it becomes solid it has actually gained about 20% of added volume. Also in atmospheric suspension, water solidifies in a way different from other minerals. Other substances form minute grains since each particle tends to keep separate from its neighbor when it shrinks. Dust is formed in this way. But water forms *expansion* particles. The light snow flakes are not formed by sudden cooling or when there isn't room for expansion in the vicinity. That is why snow flakes are independent *crystals*. The explosion of Genesis, however, drove the steam *far* out into the stratosphere to *sudden* cooling where there was no room for expansion. Does that explanation help?"

"Yes, it's clear now," replied the financier.

"I should have remembered that slow cooling tends to produce crystals in other materials while fast cooling produces a mass. My school teacher demonstrated this with sulphur. But —wouldn't this ice canopy interfere with seeing the sun and moon? It's hard to define objects through even small cakes of ice."

"Correct," agreed the doctor. "Also a canopy of very swiftly frozen ice wouldn't be uniformly thick nor have smooth surfaces. A careful reading of the Bible becomes reassuring on just this point. Painstaking research will often reveal things with which many Christians aren't familiar."

Atmospheric Conditions Before Flood

"Sunlight is not mentioned in the Bible until Genesis 15:12. That was *after* the Flood. Our canopy theory postulates that the canopy was in force until the Flood, when its collapse *caused* the unprecedented watery condition which then obtained. (More of this later.) Note that when Noah debarked and was offering sacrifice *after* the Flood, God gave him and

his successors a *sign* that such a calamity would not occur again. It was the rainbow which forms only when *light from the sun* is refracted through individual rain drops. When the sun shines upon moisture in the air there will be a rainbow—every time. If the sun's rays had been seen on the earth *before* the Flood, what point would there be in the rainbow as a *new sign*?

"Now, meeting your question, the earth would have *diffused light all around it, under a canopy* of ice. The moon probably contributed nothing to earth's illumination."

"Easy to see that, Dr. George! But I cannot see your other point that sunlight wasn't mentioned until Abraham's time. Isn't the sun mentioned in Genesis 1:15? Bible teachers have always said that the sun and moon were in view here. How do you reconcile that with the canopy?"

"It doesn't need reconciliation," said the scientist with a smile, "if we read the text as it is written. Sun and moon are not mentioned here; any inference that they are is only human suggestion."

"The English text speaks of a *greater* light to rule the day and a *lesser* light to rule the night. But the Hebrew word *ma-ohr*, which is rendered 'light,' really means *illumination*.

It is used in Exodus, chapters 27 and 35, as the illumination from *oil* in the sanctuary.

"Then, if 'lesser light' referred to the moon, the 'ruler of the night' could be only about 50% efficient at best. Moonshine is visible only for a small part of the month at night—then only if the sky is cloudless. With a cloudy sky there's no moonlight at all! Do you suppose God would have called such a ruling of the night 'good' in Genesis 1:18? I am afraid that the interpretations you speak of aren't carefully thought through.

"On the other hand, an ice canopy would *diffuse* light so that the side of the earth away from the direct sunshine would also be sharing the sun's light. It would give that part of the earth a steady, dimmer, light which would be present *every* night and really do some 'ruling.' That kind of lighting could really be called 'good' because it would be 100% efficient. The reflected light of the moon would **hardly** make any impression through an ice canopy. In other words, antediluvians had no moonlight and lovers had to be satisfied with the softened rays of sunlight."

"Hard on those early lovers!" smiled Wilson. "But I have another tough question. You may think I'm trying to 'stump' you, but I

have a garden at home which constantly needs water. We all need it. How did living creatures get water if it all went up into the sky?"

"Really I like your questions!

"Whatever I said about the water that was shot into the stratosphere should have been qualified to say that *most* of earth's water—not all—was thus hurled into space. That was what I had in mind.

"Only the upper layers of the earth's crust would have been affected by the blast. Water, you know, penetrates into all cavities of the crust. Much that was imprisoned in subterranean channels would not be caught by the explosion. After the catastrophe this imprisoned water would have produced many small bodies of water. These were surely extant since fishes and amphibians were created later.

"Answering the question about watering one's garden, may I point you to Genesis 2:6? This reads, 'But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.' The preceding verse states that there was *no rain*. Wilson, have you ever wondered why ancient Palestine was so fruitful, why it was the 'land of milk and honey'?"

"No, but it must be worth considering."

"It is, and the reason is very simple.

"It is estimated that daily six and one half million tons of water are emptied into the Dead Sea by the Jordan River. Yet the surface of the Dead Sea does not rise. There can be no outflow from this sea for its own level is 1,300 feet below earth's 'sea level.' What do you suppose becomes of this water? It is actually evaporated and the resulting mist spreads itself out over the surrounding country and thus waters the ground. Such watering keeps the soil at greatest fertility. Thus God Himself selected this spot as the land which would best nourish His people Israel. Without the disrupting action of winds, the spread of moisture would have been even more uniform under a canopy. Naturally there would also be water in the ground and in lakes for drinking purposes. Do you feel that this might solve your watering problem?"

"Indeed, yes," replied the younger man. "Also, it makes me feel that life in general would be easier under the uniformity of climate that a canopy would provide."

"That remark shows how Wall Street has sharpened your mind. Wilson, you have hit upon the only explanation for *long life* before the Flood! A uniformly warm, humid temperature would make the development of life slower and would prolong life.

"The age of Methusaleh is a pet joke of critics who are hide-bound in their hatred of the Scriptures. Yet his age could be attained in the absence of the sun's direct rays. A canopy also gives the best reason for the existence of great prehistoric monsters, huge animal specimens. You may be aware that a few fossil bones and foot prints of these enormous creatures have been found. If there be any truth in the theory of early men with greater bony frame than we know now, it wouldn't surprise me. Rather than being disturbed by such a thought, I should expect something like that to have been. Making a satisfactory, scientific estimate of any prehistoric creature is practically impossible because of the paucity of fossil bone remains. Yet that does not stop men from constructing creatures from imagination and parading them as being factual."

"That is what puzzles me," exclaimed Wilson, "—the few fossil bones. I've seen estimates that there must have been millions—if not billions—of people who lived before the Flood. If so, where are their bones? Why so few fossil remains of men and women, not to speak of animals, that perished in the Deluge?"

Relative Scarcity of Fossils

Dr. George laughed. "That volley of questions make one, 'Why so few fossil bones?' You are correct about the estimate of earth's population when Noah was building the ark. Where are their bones? Swept away, young man!

"This was not a flood as we know floods. The words rendered 'flood' in both the Hebrew and Greek signify a sudden catastrophe. Our floods certainly devastate. It is terrifying to see waters rise fifty feet higher than normal, then carry away life and property in wild fury. But what of the Flood that covered the highest mountains in Genesis 7:19, 20?

"Probably another explosion tore the canopy apart. This probably caused the canopy to melt suddenly at the equator so that the 'windows of heaven were opened,' Genesis 7:11. This phrase apparently signifies that the heaven of the sun and stars became visible.

"The Hebrew word rendered 'flood' in the English versions is *mabbul*—a sudden deluge. The Greek word for the same phenomenon in the New Testament is *kataklysmos* which literally means a *dashing down*. We get our English word *cataclysm* from it. With the sudden melting of an ice canopy that was

miles thick, one can hardly imagine the terrific swiftness and surging of waters racing toward the earth and gauging out basins to form our present oceans."

"It surely staggers the imagination! But when and how did *another* explosion take place?"

"Why the canopy should have collapsed at all puzzled me for a long time," replied the scientist. "Out in the stratosphere temperatures are down to absolute zero which would make the melting of ice an impossibility. Then one day I was looking over some notes taken under an astronomy professor of mine shortly after the turn of the century. Among them was a dissertation on the moon, earth's satellite.

"At that time the moon was still in measurable recession from the earth. This recession has now almost ceased because the gravitational attraction of both bodies is about balanced.

"From calculations made at that time, however, it was revealed that, at some time in the past, the moon had been a part of the earth but had been violently ejected. When this violent explosion—which blew that satellite into space—took place, it left a deep depression in the

earth's surface which is most probably our Pacific Ocean.

"This blast apparently took place about the time of the Flood. Now, according to the researches of a scientific writer of the present day, the depression (left by the ejected moon) later on caused an unbalance in the earth's crust which then developed a large 'crack' to form what is now our Atlantic Ocean. The famous 'Lost Atlantis,' first mentioned by Plato in his *Timaeus* about 350 B. C., spoke of land which 'disappeared' into the ocean at a time that seems to have been some years after the Flood. In Genesis 10:25 there is a record of something that occurred during the sixth generation *after* Noah, 'In his day' (Peleg's) 'was the earth divided.' This *may* refer to the forming of the Atlantic."

"This is astounding, Dr. George! But what would cause such an explosion on the earth at the time of the Flood?"

"Undoubtedly forces which are even now operating in the earth's interior. These are responsible for volcanic disturbances, for example. These forces are also felt in the tensions that exist in the earth's crust which cause the gradual reshaping of the earth's surface that is going on all the time, termed 'diastrophism.'

What were the immediate causes of the explosion that separated the moon from the earth is, of course, not known. However, such an explosion would certainly create sufficient heat to melt the canopy at the *equator*. The Pacific Ocean is centered on the equator. That part of the canopy that covered the arctic and part of the temperate zones would then *collapse to the earth as a sheet of ice!* That, my friend, is probably also the manner of formation of the so-called 'ice age' glaciation of evolutionary geology."

"What an interesting light on the cause of the Flood as well as the more satisfactory explanation of ice sheet traces in the latitude of New Jersey!" exclaimed Wilson. "Could the formation of the Atlantic possibly have some such verification?"

"Indeed it has—by such redoubtable authorities as our faithful archaeologists. For example, they have found the *same kind of artifacts* along the eastern part of Virginia and the Carolinas as were found along the western shores of Europe. In the 'Lost Atlantis' the spectators saw their neighbors sinking into the ocean with the land. They probably witnessed the common phenomenon of watching a ship go out to sea. Because of the curvature of the

earth the ship *seems* to be sinking into the waters."

"Wonderful! I have still another question. The Bible says nothing about such an explosion, does it?"

"On the contrary, Wilson, I believe it does. Genesis 7:11 mentions 'fountains of the great deep'—which has caused readers to feel that water came *up* (a most unlikely procedure) as well as *down*. However, the Hebrew word *mayan* does not say that *water* fountains are in view. The same word is rendered 'springs' in Psalm 87:7 where water is not even suggested, rather something coming up. The word is derived from *ayin* which means 'eye' and is so rendered about 500 times. Thus in Genesis 3:5, 'Your *eyes* will be opened.' Therefore 'fountains' of Genesis 7:11 probably mean something that is springing up. Here is the way Marlowe in his *Book of Beginnings* renders the latter verse, 'On this very day were all the fountains of the great abyss *suddenly torn open with a tremendous cleaving*.'

"This vividly describes something solid torn apart. There is nothing here of water gushing up nor, for that matter in the entire account, of water coming *up*. Water is everywhere mentioned as coming *down*. I cannot

imagine water fountains being torn open with tremendous 'cleavage'."

"Nor can I. The fullness of the forces of destruction that accompanied the Deluge are now understandable—particularly also, the frightful rush of waters down upon the earth in so short a time."

"Yes," said the scientist, "and it clears up such mysteries as the absence of fossil bones. Suddenly released from the sky, speeding with incredible swiftness toward the earth, the rushing waters surely carried with them nearly every vestige of antediluvian life and civilization into the deeps. The few exceptions to this are evidences found on high ground, such as the Gobi Desert and the mountains of Siberia where most of the fossils have been found."

"Practically all fossils have been found in the region of so-called 'glacial ice.' When the ice canopy disintegrated into rain near the equator the rest of it undoubtedly collapsed as *ice* in the frigid and temperate zones and remained so long afterward."

"The ice sheet that is now around the poles is getting thinner every year. Geology calls this the *remains* of an 'ice age.' I am convinced that it is the remains of the ice canopy. For many centuries after the Flood, human and animal

life—and civilization—apparently was centered in the more central zones or not far from them."

"If evolutionists would really like to have more fossil bones it seems that they would have to look for them at the bottom of the oceans, in Davy Jones' 'locker'!"

"You are probably correct in that surmise, Wilson. Also they would probably find evidence in those bones which would not be so much to their liking! They might have to suppress such evidence if evolution were to remain an issue. There is more evidence for the canopy and its collapse in regions once covered with ice. In northern Siberia and Alaska whole animals are being uncovered, of late years, as the ice sheet melts. The swiftly descending ice sheet of the canopy apparently caught these mammoths and undoubtedly killed them instantly. The ice then preserved them through the many millenia since the Flood. Natives and dogs actually eat the flesh when they find it.

"Yet these great animals were not accustomed to live in icy regions, but in warmer climes, like the modern elephant. Why do they appear in the Arctic circle? Evolutionary scientists try to explain that they were caught by 'glacial ice.' But that is ridiculous. Who ever heard of glacial ice moving swiftly enough to catch and engulf a living animal? Nothing short

of a cataclysmic ice deposit from a collapsing canopy could account for this phenomenon."

Man Under the Sun and Stars

"I heartily agree," said the listener. "You probably have more on this, but I'm wondering how Noah and his family got adjusted after the Flood."

"They surely had considerable adjusting to do!" remarked the other. "First they saw a starry, and sunny, heaven in which were clouds and a rainbow. Both were impossible under a canopy. Next, Noah's family discovered a change in energy consumption in man in the animal world. This affected their former vegetable diet.

"A vegetable food regimen had been prescribed for man and the animals *before* the Flood, Genesis 1:29, 30. Under a canopy—under a uniform, mild climate—this was eminently sufficient. When the occupants of the ark came out into the direct sunlight after their year's sojourn in a floating home, however, they needed *stronger* food. Therefore we find the first com-

mand on record to eat *flesh*, Genesis 9:3, 4. Also Noah made the embarrassing discovery that certain foods would ferment when exposed to the direct rays of the sun! (Genesis 9:20, 21.)"

"You mean," exclaimed Wilson, "that what even great preachers refer to as Noah's great sin, getting drunk, can be explained by the canopy's collapse?"

"Yes. Fruit juices could not ferment (or, *decay*) under the canopy. It cut off the sun's radiant energy. After the Flood, when earthly things came under the direct actinic rays of the sun, the phenomenon of chemical change (often illustrated by rapid deterioration) set in.

"Noah before the Flood had probably been accustomed to have a jar full of fruit juices handy for his refreshment while at work. Such a jar may well have been standing for a few days before refilling. When there was direct sunlight, however, the situation changed. Extracted grape juice is most unstable. It ferments rapidly, something Noah learned the hard way. Please note that *God* did not call it a sin! Noah was *not* reprov'd for his drunkenness; no man should dare to reprove when God forebore to do so.

"The commercial grape juice of our day which does not ferment was apparently not

known to man until Welsh discovered a process, about a hundred years ago, whereby fermentation could be arrested. However, this can be done only by the addition of a number of chemicals."

"Dr. George, I am beginning to feel that your canopy theory is something more than mere *theory*. The evidence for it is overwhelming; yet I can appreciate the reserve of a true scientist who will not claim as science anything that lacks direct proof. Still, I *do* feel there must be real evidence in different parts of the world which these scientists could find. If that be so, have any of them expressed an opinion, and what have they done about it?"

"Precisely what they have done with any evidence that tends to prove, or which actually proves, the truth of the Scriptures, Wilson. They try to *explain* it so that it will fit in with evolutionary preconceptions.

"Let me assure you that you are correct in your surmise that scientists have discovered such evidence. They really couldn't help find it. But since they do not accept the Bible's account of a great watery cataclysm, they are completely at sea when confronted with their evidence.

"The evidence mainly reveals that there were no great bodies of water at one time in earth's history—which must have been the time

of the Flood. Two scientists reported this finding in a paper at a joint meeting of two national bodies, the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences, held in April, 1936. Newspaper abstracts of these were illuminating. We quote in part, 'Ample evidence is available to geologists that once the oceans disappeared—or, at any rate, shrank to such small proportions that the seven seas were really a collection of mud holes smaller than the Mediterranean or the Great Lakes.' How do you like that, Wilson?"

"That seems to fit. What did they say about it?"

"The evidence is found in 'continental shelves' and the great deeps of the oceans," replied Dr. George. "You probably know the oceans' great deeps are only at or near their centers; there depths are in miles.

"The deeps are not near shore, as a rule. Notable exceptions to this rule are the east coast of Japan and the west coast of our own country where the land slopes directly down to a depth of from four to seven miles. This may be due to the moon's violent departure from that area! One can also see a big reason why there are such sharp, frequent earthquakes in Japan and California—because of this condition.

"In other places the land slopes very gently from the shore to some hundreds of miles out before it begins to slope more sharply. This forms a comparatively shallow ocean depth for miles off shore; it is known as the 'continental shelf.'

"Evidence that this was formerly dry land lies in the great, deep canyons which have been cut into the shelves. These canyons are mostly continuations of present river valleys, such as that of the Hudson River. The slashes into this shelf are so enormous that the Grand Canyon of Arizona would seem like a slight crack in the surface by comparison. These canyons may well have been caused by a mighty, sudden flow of water resulting from a melting of a canopy!"

"I rather believe that such *was* the case!" exclaimed Wilson.

"And while these canyons were being formed what a spectacle of waterfalls there must have been! Niagara must seem puny by comparison. Now, according to reasoning of scientists themselves, the *depth* of these canyons indicates the level at which the waters of earth stood in the days before the Flood. Their deductions are that 'sea level' must have been at least 10,000 feet lower than at present. It must really have been lower for, when these masses of water

began to fall from the sky, they would have fallen directly into the real valley depths. This would have raised the water level considerably before the down-coming torrents could gouge out the canyons.

"There is no mention of ships or ship-building before the Flood. The ark was not a ship, it was a huge rectangular box! What a marvelous testimony of faith was Noah's during the hundred or more years in which he built it—when there was no water in sight from which to flee. See Genesis 5:32, 6:10-17, 7:6, Hebrews 11:7.

"The Hebrew of Genesis 6:17 could better be rendered, 'I, even I, do bring a cataclysmic deluge of waters upon the earth.' Marlowe, again in his *Book of Beginnings*, translates Genesis 7:11, 12 in these words, 'The sluices of the skies were opened, pouring forth cataracts. And a body of dense, heavy torrents rushed down upon the earth forty days and forty nights.' I need to add nothing more to that, Wilson."

Canopy Theory Relative to Ice Age

"Dr. George, that is a wonderful verification of the canopy theory, all by itself. The

swiftly melting canopy certainly explains where the water masses came from to form this cataclysmic downpour. The entire Flood and its results become clear. It can easily be seen that all traces of human and animal life must have been swept away to the great ocean depths, and shows why there are so few fossil bones extant."

"Now, note how evolutionary scientists 'explain' this. For the phenomenon of non-existent oceans some six or eight thousand years ago they wanted some explanation agreeable to evolution.

"Part of the problem had to be faced by evolution-ridden geology some years ago. They faced those undeniable evidences of an ice sheet that covered continents in the temperate and frigid zones. To explain this they invented an 'ice age.' We haven't time to discuss all this. But one absurdity can be shown.

"According to the 'ice age' theory an ice glacier spread itself over the continents. They never explained two points about this idea: (a) how the ice originally formed around the poles and (b) how it happened that the glacier moved against gravity. Geologists have never been able to show how mountainous masses of ice formed at the poles except to say that it is rather cold there."

"But the remnant of an ice canopy, collaps-

ing after its center had melted, surely gives us a reason for that glacier, doesn't it?"

"Precisely." The scientist was selecting a book from the shelves. "No amount of wishful thinking could raise a mountain of ice at the poles when centrifugal forces which operate toward the equator are in action. We need consider that silly idea no longer.

"The second idea is of real importance! Apparently the ice was not acting according to rule! Just listen to what one of the proponents of the ice age, G. F. Wright, has to say about this particular ice flow. He says in this book, *Ice Age in North America*, page 166: 'The highest point of Mount Desert Island, on the coast of Maine, was completely covered by the glacier. He says on another page: 'At the very margin of the ocean the ice must have been considerably more than 1,500 feet deep.' He tells us, later on, that even Mount Washington must have been well-nigh covered with this ice, and at best, only a few hundred feet of its tip could have projected above the glacier. He tells us (still later on) that the glacier moving from the Hudson Bay region, pushed *up* on the Rocky Mountains to a height of some 4,000 feet above sea level

"Now, have you ever seen ice flowing up hill? We are gravely told that this is what hap-

pened—that the ice flowed from sea level at Hudson Bay to 4,000 feet up on the Rockies! I wish I knew the formula by which a strange inherent force in the ice caused it to climb mountains!"

"That *does* need some explaining," laughed Wilson.

"I doubt whether even a kind-hearted scientist would venture to elucidate upon *that*! I merely mentioned this subject so that you would know something about the evolutionary ice age theory in which there was a strangely piled-up mass of ice as a functioning power. It was really the only way in which they could account for the presence of an ice sheet. But their idea is certainly clumsy as well as impossible.

"With this, and another peculiar idea, they try to account for the disappearance of the oceans, or part of them. They claim that ice piling up in that strange, unscientific fashion, at the poles of a revolving earth, used up enough water to account for the upper 3,000 feet of the present ocean level!

"What still bothers them is the more than 7,000 feet of ocean depth that remains to be accounted for, of the alleged 10,000 feet. Where could *that* vast amount of water have been when the oceans were nothing but 'mud holes'? The

sad part of this, Wilson, is that otherwise brilliant reasoners must build upon such an original absurdity as *evolution*. The result of their silliness will inevitably have a greater or less amount of silliness in it."

"Like that piled-up ice at the poles when the water surface at the equator was more than 10,000 feet below its proper level! Why, each time I come here I learn of some weakness in man's reasoning when it is apart from the Word of God. The Bible I have learned to love gets more and more glory from each exhibition of man's folly."

"Man has really become unreasonable in his efforts to get away from God and His Word at all costs. Evolutionary scientists certainly haven't agreed upon a thesis that would account for the remainder of ocean water in this ocean disappearance. There have been attempts to reason it out but the conditions predicated have been so strange that a solution has been definitely impossible.

"For example, it has been proposed that this water might have been in the form of a very dense vapor. Yet even the densest vapor our atmosphere will support could not begin to make an impression on 7,000 feet of ocean depth. They are still looking for 'light.

"What they say about ice of great depth over the land in temperate and frigid zones we can cheerfully accept. It agrees with the canopy theory. What any right-thinking scientist can *not* accept is the idea that ice somehow arbitrarily piled itself up at the poles, then pushed itself out, then *up* on mountain climbing expeditions."

"Even so unscientific a man as I am could not accept such a thesis. But, proceeding back to our subject, it seems to me that a life of great tranquility would be possible under the shelter of a canopy."

"Indeed," replied Dr. George, "and I am further of the opinion that this world will once again have a canopy over it."

"Another canopy! Is there anything in the Word which points to that?"

"Perhaps the Scriptures I have in mind will also appeal to you, Wilson. But I would like a final word about the Flood before we think of the future.

"When waters dash down on something there is always a wild surging that leads to erosion. For example, Niagara Falls has a visible fall of nearly 170 feet. Do you remember seeing the mighty surging of its waters at the foot of the falls? This surge has gouged out a great

cavity in the *rock* beneath the falls. This cavity is about twice the depth of the visible fall.

"For the gouging out of the great ocean canyons scientists assign a period of millions of years. I am of the opinion that it really took place in comparatively short time, for the surge of the Flood waters must have been terrible beyond imagining. Genesis 7:24 tells us that the waters of the Flood 'prevailed' for 150 days—about five months. The Hebrew word for 'prevailed' is *gabar* and literally means to act discourteously or ruthlessly. Think of it! Five months were required for the fearful, violent billows of these enormous masses of catastrophic waters to complete their action. Another seven months elapsed before the waters actually subsided and the ground dried out so that Noah and his family could debark. They were a full year and 17 days in the ark!"

"How like human nature to try to see things the hard way when phenomena are so simple. Some scientists appear to be like that. Actually, Doctor, their stumbling block is the Bible, isn't it?"

"Wilson, a schoolboy could work out the problem if he had the facts. But simplicity does not appeal to evolutionary scientists. They like to have things involved.

Return of Canopied Earth

"Now let us turn to some passages of Scripture that speak of the millennial kingdom and see how the idea of earth's return to a canopy fits into them.

"Wicked men and women who lived before the Flood were unworthy of God's provision for comfortable living. When the Lord returns *with* His saints to set up His reign of righteousness, I believe that God will restore conditions for that kind of life. All prophecies point to leisureful, comfortable life during those years. This will be true especially for poor Israel. See Jeremiah 23:5, 6 and 33:15, 16. Another of the outstanding words of eschatology in the Old Testament is to be found in the 14th of Zechariah.

"Let me read verse 6 and 7 of this chapter to you, about as a free translation would sound. I begin with the latter part of verse 5: 'Jehovah my God shall come and the associated holy ones. And it shall come to pass that the light (in the earth) shall not be bright in one place and lacking in another. But the day shall be one, known to Jehovah, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.'

"That this condition definitely refers to the millennial kingdom is evident from verse 9,

'And Jehovah shall be king over all the earth.' Doesn't that fit in perfectly with the expression in Genesis, 'evening and morning, one day'? How could this be, except under a canopied earth?"

"That description certainly fits in with the canopy."

"Let us look at another verse, in Isaiah 60. In this chapter Israel has the promise of being a blessing to the world, which condition cannot obtain until the Millennium. Behold how that blessing is to manifest itself in a remarkable *lighting* arrangement. Look at verse 19, 'The sun shall be *no more* the light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee.' This is *diffused light*, if language means anything."

"The diffused light of the canopy!" exclaimed Wilson. "But how are people to get any sleep with such continuous light? I can't sleep until it gets dark."

"You forget that life will be leisurely under such conditions and that sleep will not be so vital. Also there will be no Wall Street to keep nerves on a keen edge until a sharp let-down occurs at the closing of the Exchange!

"There will also be no sharp seasonal changes. Distinction between summer and winter will be practically unknown. Winter and

summer, cold and heat, are not mentioned in Genesis until *after* the Flood. Therefore energy will not be intensively used up in either freezing weather or under a blistering sun. It will be nearly the same all over, a uniform, equable climate."

"You surely have evidence of a future canopy's existence, Dr. George. But how will that canopy be re-formed?"

"In precisely the same manner as was the original canopy, Wilson. There will be an explosion. If there was a violent eruption when God's patience was exhausted with Satan and his cohorts at the time of their sin, it is reasonable to suppose that there will be another one like it when His longsuffering ends with sinful men. However, we are not left to conjecture. In the third chapter of Peter's second epistle we have something definite on this point. The entire chapter, which reveals man's perfidy, should be read. But we have time for only a few verses.

"Verse 9 tells us that God's patience with man has not yet been exhausted and that He is holding judgment in abeyance so that none need perish. But verse 10 reveals that a time is coming when God's longsuffering *will* end and swift judgment is to come upon rebellious sin-

ners. Notice how that judgment will be manifested.

"The starry heavens will disappear because of a great *explosion*. That explosion ('great noise') will be so enormous that 'the elements shall melt with fervent heat.' The Greek has the meaning of an explosion so terrible that elements (atoms) will be shattered."

"Which would just about duplicate Genesis 1:2, Dr. George. But would there also be a restoration such as there was before Adam's advent?"

"The earth would hardly be fit for Christ's kingdom without a restoration, would it? However, this same chapter also answers *that* question. 'We, *according to His promise*, look for new heavens and a new earth,' says verse 13. The last phrase of that quotation is misleading because of the translation of the adjective. The Greek word is *kainos* and literally means to *renew*. We are therefore to look for a *renewed* earth, not a 'new' one.

"The same almighty Word who spoke in Genesis 1:3 will again speak when He comes back with His 'Church' to reign. What causes darkness in the explosion just noted will certainly be allayed at His Word. But the water which solidified once before will have again

re-formed a canopy. This is as it appears to me. You know that there will be darkness on the earth before the Lord returns."

"I am aware that there will be darkness on the earth at that time. I remember that something will happen to the sun and moon. Am I right?"

"Correct," said the scientist. "As I give you a number of statements on that point, note that they are also used in connection with Israel's return to their land of blessing. Before that return can be effected there will come a terrible judgment known as the 'day of the Lord,' as the 'day of Jacob's trouble' or as the 'great tribulation.'"

"In the prophet Joel are two passages of note. The sun will be darkened *before* the great and 'terrible day of the LORD come' (2:31). In 3:15 is a prophecy that both sun and moon will be darkened and the stars will be blacked out. Our Lord also had something to say about this darkness. It was while He was discoursing on the great tribulation with the Jews and His disciples. The record is in both Matthew 24 and Mark 13. Let's look at the latter."

"How wonderfully clear it all becomes!" interjected Wilson.

"It does," replied his host. "This statement

in Mark is really remarkable, verse 24. Our Lord says, 'In those days, *after* (literally, 'at the end of') that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.'

"The very next verse contains something which has caused some mockery: 'The stars of heaven shall *fall*, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.' Critics laugh at stars 'falling.' They call it a reversion to the ancient superstition about meteors. But we merely have a faulty translation here. The Greek word is *pipto* and really means to *fail*, not fall. The same word is also used in Luke 16:17 where its meaning is certainly not that of *falling*. It is noteworthy that Peter uses the Lord's words in his great sermon to the Jewish people at the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:20.

"The last verification we shall consider is Revelation 6:12. Here we are told that the sun will be darkened because of a great earthquake. You see, Wilson, God found it necessary to have a violent convulsion come upon earth in the days before Adam in order to break Satan's tenancy. There must be another such upheaval to smash wicked man's misrule, and thereby clear the way for earth's rightful King to take over."

"Dr. George," said Wilson, "in the presence of such wonderful things I feel like a small boy

asking 'why' all the time. May I ask, is there a special reason for the occurrence of these two explosions?"

Comparison of Satan's Sin and Man's

"Yes—the same in both cases," replied the scientist. "That reason is to be found in the working out of that hideous thing, *sin*. There can be little doubt in the minds of careful Bible exegetes that the explosion of Genesis 1:2 was the result of the sin of Satan. The explosion of II Peter 3:10 will be caused by the outworking of the sin of godless men of *our* day. There are very few who really know how sin can cause such violent, frightful catastrophes. Therefore, to arrive at a reason for the first blast it will be necessary for us to know the *nature* of Satan's sin.

"The explosion was probably atomic. In Ezekiel 28, from verse 11 on, we have a description of a mighty being who is labeled 'King of Tyre.' The human ruler of Tyre never had any title other than 'prince' and you will note that the first ten verses of this chapter apply to him.

But the *king* is also called the 'anointed cherub that covereth' in verse 14. We read in verse 17 that his heart was 'lifted up because of . . . beauty.' It was Satan, as God had created him. The description of this wonderful angelic being is amazing to read. Yet it gives us an insight into his personal brilliance, even in his present fallen estate. Thus, he can be blasphemed. The words 'railing accusation' in Jude 9 literally mean to blaspheme."

"Does that mean, Doctor, that the cartooning of the devil is all wrong? One trembles over that possibility. Yet his sin must have been grievous."

"We are not left to conjecture as to its nature," replied the other. "We are told, in the chapter before us that he fell because of his beauty. The Hebrew word for beauty has, in its derivation, the significance of brilliance. His great, brilliant mind probably led to his fall."

"His actual act of sinning is given in Isaiah 14:12-14. There we are informed that he said in his heart that he would be 'like the Most High.' In brief, he felt that he was qualified to be on the same plane with God Himself. Notice that he got man to fall by the same formula, Genesis 3:5, 'Ye shall be *like God*.' (The Hebrew word is *Elohim* here, therefore not as 'gods.') But he had the limitations of the crea-

ture and to be like the Most High, he would have to know the secret of *life*. This could be had only by diligent research.

"He confessed, in Job 1:6, that he was 'running to and fro.' The Hebrew word for 'fro' is *shuwt* and literally means to *diligently investigate*. Therefore, in his diligently investigating to discover the secret of life, he undoubtedly toyed with the atom and brought on the disaster of Genesis 1:2. We have assurance as to this because the very same business is going on today and will surely bring on the explosion of II Peter 3:10."

"Dr. George, this is almost incredible. Yet, there is God's marvelous Word and we do not have to guess. But—how are men doing the same thing today?"

"Well, you must listen patiently. That Bible of yours is acquiring a look as though it were being *used*. Suppose you turn to Daniel 12:4.

"Here Daniel is told to 'shut up the words and seal the Book—to the time of the end.' Among Bible students there is no question but that we are now in this 'time of the end.' Now see what the Spirit says through the prophet, 'Many shall run to and fro, and *knowledge shall be increased*.'

"Did you notice that little word 'fro'? It's the same as 'fro' in Job 1:6. Now, Wilson, you surely know *about* Einstein's theory of relativity even if you may not understand it perfectly. The theory predicates, in brief, that there must be smaller particles in every atom, and these particles are in a state of activity. All scientists of note opposed and even ridiculed the theory after it was propounded. Then, to answer a challenge, Einstein predicted a certain happening to a star which was about to be occulted by the planet Mercury. This prediction was so perfectly fulfilled that it practically demonstrated the truth of the theory and its celebrated equation."

"Then, I suppose they all accepted it?"

"They did. It started up intense experimentation which produced the shattered atom. It was my special interest to follow this development and, some years before the A-bomb was exploded in Japan, to write about it. My suggestion was that this nuclear power would most likely find application in warfare and eventually lead to the explosion of II Peter 3:10.

"Scientists became much interested in the activity they discovered in the nucleus. The impetus to intensive research became almost feverish—because of the hope that they might discover the *secret of life!*

"While much knowledge has come of it, the experiments haven't been at all successful. They have met with insurmountable difficulties and discouragements everywhere.

" 'Knowledge' has certainly been *increased*, and that by leaps and bounds. But the knowledge they've been seeking has evaded them at every turn—and will continue to evade them. They have tried to push God and His Word aside and have even hinted that man is really God and that man could, and would, solve the riddle of life. It is Satan's sin all over again and, as isn't difficult to see, is fast leading to another world-wide disaster.

"Scientists themselves are frightened. They confidently expect that the coming explosion will definitely wipe out mankind as well as most of the animal world. Man's philosophy will surely fail and God's Word be triumphantly shown to be truth."

"I'm convinced of that, Dr. George. Are there any prophecies which mention conditions during the kingdom age and harmonize with a coming canopy?"

"Yes, there are several. A canopy will bring a uniformly warm climate, conducive to slowly-developing, long life. Here is an unusually vivid description of life during the beneficent

reign of the Messiah on earth, Isaiah 65. A free rendering of verse 20 would be, 'There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man who hath not filled his days: for the *child* shall die a hundred years old: but the *sinner* shall be accursed who dies at a hundred years old.' The word 'child' in Hebrew really means a youth. Age one hundred will apparently correspond to something less than twenty, as we know it now. The 'three score and ten' of our present span of life has often been characterized as mere existence, not *living*.

"In the kingdom age people will again learn to live a long life, under a canopy. The absence of direct solar rays will keep men's angry passions from shortening their lives as they do now. Then, in Isaiah 60:18 we have, "Violence will no longer be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders.'"

"Would it be correct to say that there will be no meat diet then?"

"Isaiah 11:6-9 tells us about that. Everything will again be on a vegetable diet. Imagine a wolf and a lamb lying down together in the present! The lamb would surely be on the inside. The lion will eat grain used as fodder, as is stated in Isaiah 65:25. In the 11th chapter note that an unweaned baby will play safely with *snakes—asps*, at that! Creation will be re-

deemed from carnal savagery, Romans 8:19-22.

"There will be no harmful bugs destroying vegetation—nothing will be destroyed. Only fruits will be used. Note, from Isaiah 35:1, 'The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them' (fulfilled prophecies); 'and the desert shall rejoice, and *blossom as the rose*.'

"What a wonderful time that will be, no winds to gouge out the fertile soil and leave dust storm desolation. Crime will not flourish under a canopy. The words of Psalm 101:8 will then apply, 'From morning to morning I will destroy all the wicked out of the land.' Then will the last part of Isaiah 35 be fulfilled, 'They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.' Israel will be a happy nation."

"My many questions have been answered," said Wilson with a smile. "Thank you for your patience."

"I enjoy questions when the audience is so interested. That's really the best way to learn. Have you something in mind for our next evening?"

"Only vaguely. You have aroused my interest tonight in the wonders of life that so puzzle our scientists today. Might we consider life processes as touched on in God's Word?"

"That would make an interesting evening.

If only folks who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour could turn to seek that eternal life that is only in Him and enjoy these wonderful things the Bible brings us!"

"A 'good night' thought would be for us to so testify to the world with our lives that they would long to enjoy these matters with us," said Wilson.

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