

Epigraphs in *Science and Religion: Reconciling the Conflicts*.

The following quotations are used as epigraphs at the beginning of each chapter. They tend to set the theme of the chapter.

PREFACE

If . . . I seem to express myself dogmatically, it is only because I find it very boring to qualify every phrase with an “I think” or “to my mind”. Everything I say is merely an opinion of my own. The reader can take it or leave it. If he has the patience to read what follows he will see that there is only one thing about which I am certain, and this is that there is very little about which one can be certain.

—W. Somerset Maugham, *The Summing Up*. 1938

INTRODUCTION

What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish.

—Austin Farrer, *Light on C. S. Lewis*

CHAPTER 1. FACT OR THEORY?

Facts, as usual, are very stubborn things—overruling all theory.

—Jules Verne, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*

CHAPTER 2. WHY THE CONFLICTS?

The necessity of reconciling the constantly accumulating facts . . . with a basic error has produced a multiplicity of theories which are, in fact, a veritable cloud castle of conjectures, without substance.

—Charles Hapgood, 1958

CHAPTER 3. CARBON DATING

Radiocarbon dating is not employed to test theories, but to support them . . . radiocarbon always gives a scattered set of dates.

The theorists then pick the ones they believe to be correct.

—Charles Ginenthal, 1997

CHAPTER 4. OTHER SCIENTIFIC AGE ESTIMATIONS

When the experts went about dating the recently discovered Dead Sea Scrolls, the specialists in each field . . . all came up with different answers, sometimes many centuries apart.

—Hugh Nibley, 1964

CHAPTER 5. COMETS, ASTEROIDS, AND METEORITES

Cosmic catastrophism has hardly been out of the news recently: since Comet Shoemaker Levy 9’s collision with Jupiter . . .

[it] is now firmly on the scientific agenda.

—Alasdair Beal, 1997

CHAPTER 6. CONTINENTAL DRIFT OR SHIFT?

The “Moho” line . . . shows evidence of viscosity which, under extreme stress, could permit or assist the crust, either wholly or as large blocks, to slide considerable distances.

—J. B. Delair, 1997

CHAPTER 7. THE FLOOD: A RADICAL NEW THEORY, AGE-OLD HISTORY, OR MYTH?

The grand fact of an universal deluge . . . is proved on grounds so decisive and incontrovertible, that had we never heard of such an event from Scripture or any other authority, Geology of itself must have called in the assistance of some such catastrophe.

—William Buckland, 1819

CHAPTER 8. GEOLOGY: ROCK-SOLID OR THEORY?

One of the challenges in reading Earth’s history, as it is recorded in the rocks, is that the record is incomplete. It’s a little like trying to make sense of a novel after someone has ripped out every third page, or even occasionally large sections.

—Bart J. Kowallis, 2006

CHAPTER 9. HISTORY OR MYTH

We have no right to treat “history” as the true and accurate image of things. Like science and religion, history must argue its case on evidence.

—Hugh Nibley, *The Temple and the Cosmos*

CHAPTER 10. EVOLUTION AND CREATION

Evolution is a flexible word. It can be used by one person to mean something as simple as change over time, or by another person to mean the descent of all life forms from a common ancestor. . . . In its . . . biological sense, however, evolution means a process whereby life arose from non-living matter and subsequently developed entirely by natural means. That is the sense that Darwin gave to the word.

—Michael J. Behe, *Darwin’s Black Box*, 1996

CHAPTER 11. ASTRONOMY AND COSMOLOGICAL CURIOSITIES

Mathematics may be compared to a mill of exquisite workmanship, which grinds you stuff of any degree of fineness; but, nevertheless, what you get out depends on what you put in; and as the grandest mill in the world will not extract wheat-flour from peascods, so pages of formulae will not get a definite result out of loose data.

— T. H. Huxley, 1869

CHAPTER 12. WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

We don’t know a millionth of 1% about anything.

—Thomas Edison