

God planned this universe, not only as an exhibition of His power, but specifically as a place on which man could live. He established the earth in such a way that it would be suited to the needs of such a creature as man. Around our planet is an atmosphere which contains a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen. A constant supply of oxygen is necessary for human life, or in fact for any type of life. If the air were entirely made up of oxygen, there would be constant danger of explosion and it would not be at all suitable for satisfactory human existence. In our atmosphere the oxygen is mixed with other gases in such a way as to be properly fitted for human needs. Men and animals breathe in oxygen, utilize it, and then breathe it out in the form of carbon dioxide. Yet even millions of years of life would not exhaust the available oxygen, for God has provided a means of keeping it always available. Green foliage, under the influence of light, utilizes the carbon dioxide that exists in the air in minute quantities, in such a way as to produce substances that are urgently needed for human life, and, in addition, to release some of the oxygen from the carbon and thus make it again available for respiration. Thus, nature, as God has made it, has a balance that makes it possible for animals and plants to continue existing without exhausting the oxygen from the air.

The wonderful provision that God has made for man's life is shown in the way in which he has arranged it so that fresh water is available in most parts of the world. The water flows through streams and is purified. It comes up in springs and is made available for man's use.

A special sign of God's provision for mankind is found in His remarkable arrangements about the freezing of water. Ordinarily substances of every type contract as they become colder and expand as they become warmer. When a liquid cools off enough to be changed into a solid state, it usually contracts a good deal. Among the rare exceptions to this rule is found one of the commonest substances in the world:-- water. Although water ordinarily contracts as it becomes colder and expands as it becomes warmer, when it freezes it does not contract, but expands, so that the ice occupies more space than the water did before it froze. This is different from almost every other substance. It is a wonderful provision by which God has made it possible for human life to continue upon the earth. Without it men and animals would long ago have died out everywhere except in tropical regions.

If it were not for this provision, when a stream begins to freeze the water would contract as it becomes ice, so that the ice would be heavier than the water around it, and would consequently drop to the bottom of the stream. Therefore, all streams would freeze from the bottom up, and would become solidly frozen. No water would flow in winter, and life of all sorts would be impossible, except in tropical regions. However, God has made ice a great exception to the usual rule. It expands, when it is made. As a result, streams and lakes freeze at the top instead of at the bottom, thus forming an insulating barrier between the cold air above and the water below. The water underneath continues to flow, unfrozen, and is available for human beings and animals. We must recognize in this a marvelous sign of God's wonderful provision of the earth as a place where man should live.

Mr. Steele:-- Dr. MacRae, you have said quite a bit about Science, but we often hear people talking about "the conflict between science and religion." What about such an attitude?

Dr. MacRae:-- Well, Mr. Steele, the God who inspired the writers of the Bible is