

Man was made out of the dust of the earth, not out of any pre-existing life. Gen. does not permit that?

What about the animals and what about the plants? The Genesis == Does Genesis permit that they all developed from one simple beginning? You read over and over in ch. 1 in v. 11 -- "Let the earth bring forth grass, the earth yielding seed and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind. . . and the earth yielding seed after its kind, and it was so. . . and the animals . . . after their kind.

Genesis teaches that there are kinds. How ~~many~~ big are these kinds? Genesis does not say. About 200 yrs. ago there was a devout Swedish scientist named Leneaus who studied animals and plants. Lineaus was the first one to work out a good system of classification. He divided everything into kingdoms -- the animal kingdom, the plant kingdom, the mineral kingdom. Then the kingdoms he divided into a certain number of phylums, and each phylum had a certain number of classes, and each class had a certain number of orders in it, and each order had a certain number of families in it, and each family ~~was~~ was made up of a number of groupings each of which he called a genus. A genus was made up of what he called a number of species. Then there might be sub-species. But Linneaus tried to arrange it so that a species would be anything that would interbreed.

When he got a genus, they would be similar but they could not interbreed. That was the basis on which he tried to make his division. He believed that what he called a species was created by God. Every one of these hundreds of thousands of species God created, he believed, as a separate kind.

Today there is some difficulty in certain cases in knowing exactly what is a species, and there are a few cases where it is plain that you can see a development from one species to another. They are mighty few. I don't know of any case where you can claim there is real evidence of development from one genus to another. But if there are they are extremely few. I don't know of any cases where you can claim there is evidence of development from one family to another. If there are they are very very few cases where anyone would even make the claim that there is real evidence.

Certainly nobody would say we have any proof we have any development from one order to another order. God said, they would reproduce after their kind. Does kind mean a species? Does kind mean a genus? A family? An order? I don't think there is any proof it doesn't mean species. But I don't think we are required to say it does! All the Bible says is that there are distinct kinds that God created and within these kinds there may be development.

I have a friend who used to be a professor of botony at a great university. Later on he became a botonist for a big rose company. They set him to workdoing research making imporved improved varieties of roses and other plants, and he tells me that he would take some kind of plant and he would use selective breeding and cross-breeding. Carefully selection, very careful.