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October 4, 1966

Mr. James S. Coulter
1108 South Oak Street
Frankfort, Indiana 46041

Dear Mr. Coulter:

Thank you for your good letter of September 23. I was happy indeed to hear from you. It is always a pleasure to do the best I can to answer intelligent questions such as you asked. Let me take them up in order.

As to the first, there is no human way of proving anything about events as far back as when Adam and Eve lived. Incidentally, we do not know how long ago that was, for the Bible does not give us a full chronology. There are evolutionists who believe that different individual human beings came into existence by evolution at about the same time. From any scientific viewpoint this would seem to me to be extremely difficult. That a human being would be developed by pure chance would be one chance in a hundred billion. That several would be then accidentally developed at the same time would seem beyond the bounds of belief. Those who refuse to accept the story of Adam and Eve have to make guesses that seem to me to be far less credible than the idea that God created a single pair. This is a subject on which man has no way of gaining access to factual knowledge except by being told by someone who was there. The only person now living who was there is God Himself. What He says in His Word is the only dependable source of knowledge about any facts at that period.

You ask whether it is possible to be saved and not believe in the virgin birth of Christ. I would very definitely say "Yes." We have no way of knowing how much actual knowledge is necessary for salvation. The one thing that is necessary is to put our trust in Christ and be ready to follow as He leads. Many persons have been saved who knew very little Christian truth. If a person is really saved he will want to follow on to know the Lord better. He will desire to take whatever God says in His Word, and make it real in his life and in his relations to others. Therefore if a person who claims that he is saved through Christ spends his time denying any Biblical doctrine it raises great questions in my mind as to whether he ever was actually saved. Only God can know the heart. God knows which people are truly saved. God knows which are saved but so clouded in their thinking that the works they produce are quite contrary to His will, and will amount to wood, hay and stubble, which will be burned up at the judgment seat of Christ. He also knows which people are hypocrites, pretending to be Christian, but actually being servants of Satan. We can go only by their works. I do not know who is saved. I do know who is acting in such a way as to advance the cause of Christ, and who is acting in such a way as to tear it down. The Lord says, "By their fruits ye shall know them."