

THE SPIRIT AND  
THE COSMOS

PART SEVEN

THE SPIRIT OF GOD  
IN THE KINGDOM  
OF NATURE

## 1. The First Phase of the Chreation

Let us first turn to the Scriptures and ascertain what they have to tell us about the work of the Spirit of God in the first phase of the Creation or Creative Process; that is, the first phase of God's Cosmic Plan.

By the expression, "first phase of the Creative Process," is meant here the Kingdom of Nature—what is commonly designated the old ("physical" or "natural") Creation. In deference to popular usage, I shall use the terms "physical" or "natural" Creation through this section, for purposes of simplicity and clarity.

According to our thesis, as stated in our first volume, the second phase of the Creative Process embraces the divine operations in the Kingdom of Grace, as included under the terms "regeneration" and "sanctification"; and the third and final phase of the Creative Process embraces the divine operations in the Kingdom of Glory, as included under the general term "immortalization." Immortalization includes the two processes of resurrection and glorification.

The Greek *kosmos*, the English *cosmos*, means "order." *Cosmology*, then, is that branch of human knowledge which deals with the order that is found to prevail in the different areas of the physical world. This word *cosmology* must not be confused with the word *cosmogony*. A *cosmogony* is an account or narrative of the Creation. The Hebrew Cosmogony is given us in Gen. 1:1-2:3. This account is a compact and complete literary and doctrinal *whole*, and must be considered as such.

## 2. The Biblical Cosmogony

The Biblical book of *Genesis* is as its name indicates, the book of the *Beginnings*. In Gen. 1:1-2:3, we have an over-all panoramic presentation of the creation of the whole Cosmos and its various forms of being. In Gen. 2:4 and following, we have a supplementary account of the Beginnings, with special reference to man, his origin, nature, and original moral state. In this same chapter, we read about the beginning of *liberty* ("of every tree of the garden thou mayest *freely* eat," v. 16), but of liberty under *law* ("but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," v. 17); the beginning of language