

the earth after the destruction of organic life also varied; thus the Gerbonites, a sect of philosophers who lived some centuries B.C., held that after every period of 36,400 years there were produced a pair of every species of animal, both male and female, from whom other animals might be propagated and inhabit this lower world, but when a circulation of the heavenly orbs was completed, which was supposed to be finished in that time, other genera and species were propagated, as also plants and other things, the first order was destroyed, and so on forever.

The theory of Strabo to account for the phenomena of submergence and upheaval is worthy of much attention, and shows that even many hundreds of years ago considerable thought had been bestowed upon some of the most puzzling problems of science. "Thus," he says, "it is not because the lands covered by the seas were originally at different altitudes that the waters have risen or subsided or receded from some parts and inundated others, but that the same land is sometimes raised up and sometimes depressed, and that the sea is simultaneously raised and depressed, so that it either overflows or returns into its own place again. We must therefore ascribe the cause to the ground, either to that which is beneath the sea or to that which becomes flooded by it, but rather to that which is beneath the sea for this is more movable, and on account of its humidity can be altered with greater celerity. It is proper, he observes, to derive our explanations from things which are obvious and in some measure of daily occurrence, such as deluges, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and sudden swellings of the land beneath the sea, for the last raise up the sea also, and when the same lands subside again they occasion the sea to be let down, and these affect not merely the small but the large islands and even the continents, which can be lifted up together with the seas."

The cosmogony stated in the Koran is brief but of interest. Thus: "The Prophet declares that the earth was created in two days, and the mountains were then placed upon it, and during these and two additional days the inhabitants of the earth were formed, and in two more the Seven Heavens. Concerning the deluge the waters were supposed to be poured out of an oven, and all men were drowned save Noah and