has the patience to look into the facts and make comparisons. New words are constantly being coined; new modes of expressing relations are ever coming into use; new dialects are continually being developed that tend to become mutually unintelligible when long separated geographically or politically. A little examination shows that all existing languages are reducible to a few families and that even these have sufficient in common to warrant the conclusion of their like derivation from one primeval tongue which has contributed something to them all. There is nowhere any break in the scientific record, nothing to indicate that at any given point in the world's history there was a sudden formation of new tongues without relation to each other. Sometimes the growth of new languages has been more rapid than at others, owing to favorable conditions. But from the very nature of the case no language could ever be formed suddenly, or could be used if it were formed, inasmuch as many people must know it if it is to be a real means of communication. Not only is there no scientific evidence for such a sudden eruption of wholly new languages as that which is commonly supposed to be contained in the Bible account, but what evidence there is points all the other way. Nor is it easy to see how that evidence can be disregarded without upsetting the foundations of all our scientific knowledge.

It by no means follows, however, that the Bible story must be set aside as erroneous because we accept the truth of modern science. Some, indeed, have been constrained to discard it or relegate it to the region of myths. But there is no need to do either the one or the other if it be properly understood. The whole matter is one of correct interpretation, and if the principles which have been laid down in previous papers are adopted the way out of the difficulty is comparatively easy.

In the first place it has to be remembered here as everywhere else that the sacred writer makes no pretence of giving a scientific account of the origin of languages. He really had no interest in that question and would have been in no position