

whom they addressed doubtless understood that the days and weeks mentioned were prophetic and not natural periods; and again a certain degree of obscurity was absolutely requisite in their case, as otherwise the prophecies might have been said to procure their own fulfilment; and thus one of their great objects—the proof of the Divine prescience—have been defeated. Evidently then, their position and that of Moses in his account of Creation, were not at all parallel. His theme was *history*, his object to impress the Jews, and thence mankind at large, with a deep sense of the Divine Majesty, power and goodness, and the high original motive for the institution of the Sabbath; here there was no call for obscurity; on the contrary, the plainer the details the more likely was the object aimed at to be gained; and hence, as we see, the language could not be simpler; nor could there be a more complete absence of anything to intimate that the terms day and week were not used in their natural sense.

And further, notwithstanding all the efforts used to reconcile the employment of an indefinite geological period in the present organization of things with the motive assigned by the Most High for setting apart the seventh day and making it a day of holy rest, I must think them a signal failure. To my moral perceptions there is something very painfully repugnant, in supposing, that the Eternal, after being an incalculable number of ages in bringing creation to perfection, should then, in the *first pause* of His operations, represent to us that He had been only thus engaged six natural days, and make that the ground of demanding that the seventh day should be set apart as a day of holy rest, so long as time should last, in commemoration of that *supposed* six days of creative energy. There is, however, no such objection to the idea that our globe itself, and, if you will, the countless systems by which it is surrounded, had been in existence innumerable ages, and that after returning, perhaps repeatedly, to chaos, whatever that may be, they were once more called into joyous existence during the