

25. We regret that Penn, or Gisborne, or any other of our Scriptural geologists, should have entered upon this controversy without a sufficient preparation of natural science; and laid as much stress too on the argument which they employed, as if the whole truth and authority of revelation depended on it. It is thus that the cause of truth has often suffered from the misguided zeal of its advocates, anxiously struggling for every one position about which a question may have been raised; and so landing themselves at times in a situation of most humiliating exposure to the argument or ridicule of their adversaries. They

to be in construction with the prefix ל 'for,' is generally employed to express the direction or determination of a thing to an end, and not the production of the thing—for example, Numbers x. 31; Zechariah viii. 19, and in many other places."

He further argues thus—"But the difference between the singular יָהִי and the plural יִהְיוּ in the 14th verse, demands a corresponding difference in the interpretation; and, therefore, if we would make that difference literally apparent we must thus literally interpret—'Fiat, luminaria in firmamento cœli ad dividendum inter diem et noctem, ut sint, in signa, et tempora, et in dies, et in annos, et sint ad illuminandum super terram.' That is 'Fiat ut luminaria sint in signa &c. et ad illuminandum &c.' The particle ו signifies 'ut' in three hundred passages, and יִהְיוּ signifies 'ut sint' in several of them. This interpretation therefore yields this literal sense in our language—'Let it be, that the lights in the firmament of heaven, for dividing between the day and the night, be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.'—that is finally—'Let the lights in the firmament of heaven, for dividing between the day and night, be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so:' so that Rosenmuller's induction from the construction of this passage is 'de determinatione astrorum ad certos quosdam usus orbi terrarum præstandis, esse sermonem—non de productione'—or that the narrative in these verses respects the determination of the heavenly bodies to the performance of some certain uses to the earth—not to the production of these bodies."