

Book Review

By Rev. G. I. Williamson

In Six Days God Created, by Paulin Bédard. Published by Xulon Press, 2013. Paperback, 252 pages, list price \$16.49. (Kindle Edition \$8.99) Reviewed by pastor G.I. Williamson.

I am encouraged by this book. Rev. Bédard is a pastor of a French language church in Canada, but this book clearly shows that his experience has been very much like mine. I refer to a constantly increasing awareness of the consequences of uncertainty about the doctrine of creation. Did God really create the universe in six days, as God's word says (in Genesis 1 - 3), or must we now in this modern age reject such fundamentalist thinking?

When I was a student at Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary I asked for a special course of study, and it was granted. I wanted to get to know first-hand what the neo-orthodox theologians were saying. So I spent hours reading the writings of men such as Emil Brunner and Karl Barth. And I often had headaches. The reason was that I simply could not make sense of what these men were saying. For example, I never had any clear idea of what they meant when they spoke of the 'supra-historical.'

I mention this because I have had the same headaches trying to understand some of the novel explanations of the Genesis account of creation. What am I to understand by the "Framework Hypothesis?" Or what exactly is the "Analogical Interpretation?" or the "Day - Age Theory". I've read a lot about these non-literal views and I'm still unable to say that I even clearly understand them. And I am very sure that they are of no use to me in the pulpit — not when I am dealing with what the Bible says about the creation of the world, and of man and woman, or the relationship of this to other doctrines.

Rev. Bédard has read widely and studied carefully. The result is a book that seeks to show, first, that the literal interpretation is satisfactory; second, that the framework interpretation is problematic; and finally, that the framework interpretation is dangerous. This last point may sound extreme, but Rev. Bédard gives some weighty arguments to support it. And of one thing I am convinced out of my own experience as a pastor; it has done nothing to help the rank and file of the believing church to understand the doctrine of creation. This book gives much solid information that helps explain this sad fact. I hope that many of God's people will read this book, and find their faith strengthened through it.