



GRAND CANYON and MOUNT ST. HELENS

Part 1

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Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

Grand Canyon

- www.AnswersinGenesis.org for the book Grand Canyon.
- **What caused the Grand Canyon? (WATER)**
- 5 miles deep, 277 miles long, and 18 miles wide, located on the Colorado Plateau
- Nowhere on earth is so much geology exposed and accessible to study, and nowhere else is there such compelling evidence of a young earth that was inundated by a global flood.
- Testimony to God's creation but also God's judgment of the world.
- Early in the history of geology, the biblical flood was typically recognized as a catastrophic global event.
- Charles Lyell (1797-1875) a lawyer turned geologist impacted geology with his Principles of Geology (gradual processes over millions of years). Old earth theology.

- However, during the 19th century Noah's flood began to play an increasingly less important role due to theories of gradualism and uniformitarianism (present is the key to the past) gained popularity. However, during the end of the 20th century, many geologists began to realize that gradual processes could not produce the features observed in many rock layers. This resulted in numerous proposed explanations for catastrophic processes such as storms, floods, explosive eruptions, and meteorite and/or asteroid impacts.

VIEWPOINTS

- **Evolutionary theory** postulates that rock layers were laid down a particle at a time over hundreds of millions of years. Then, a little bit of water eroded the canyon over a long period of time (70 million years) thru hard rock.
- **Creationism** says a lot of water over a relatively short period of time cut the canyon through the "still soft" rock layers that were laid down by the global flood.
- Biggest difference is the **amount of time** and **water**.

EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

- Over 70 million years the river carved through solid rock to form the Grand Canyon. Prior to the Glen Canyon Dam, the river transported 500,000 tons of sediment per day (5 tons per second). Over 70 million years, the river should have eroded a layer more than five miles thick off the top of the entire drainage area of the Colorado River. This material is nowhere to be found.
- Dating by radiometric methods are not consistent and are highly inaccurate;
 - Cardenas Basalt lavas 1,070 million years old by rubidium-strontium dating.
 - Cardenas Basalt lavas 516 million years old by potassium-argon dating.
- The Colorado River starts about 12,000' in the Rocky Mountains of western Colorado. By the time it gets to the head of the Grand Canyon, it is at an elevation of 3,000'. However, the Grand Canyon is not a lowland valley. The north rim is over 8,000'.

CREATIONIST PERSPECTIVE

- Receding of the flood took with it much of the sediment that was initially laid down. As the waters receded, some large land-locked lakes were left just north and east of the Canyon behind natural dams from the Kaibab Upwarp. When they breached, they caused a flood that created the Canyon in soft rock.
- Inland waters rushing down to newly deepened ocean basins rapidly excavating the Grand Canyon (Psalms 104:8 “*as the mountains rose up and the valleys went down to the place you appointed for them, You set up a boundary for them that they could not cross so that they would not cover the earth again.*”
- Nine sedimentary layers are seen throughout the Canyon which clearly illustrate classic flood-plain geology.
- The flood event can be divided into two stages - - Inundatory (flood waters rising onto the land) and Recessive stages (flood waters flowing off the land).
- Cross bedding in sandstone/limestone is strong testimony for *high energy water* and sand transport of these sediments which continue across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas and covers more than 200,000 square miles. It is obvious that the sand came from the North.
- Folding (horizontal rocks bent upwards without breaking) is indicative of the rock layers being wet and pliable prior to being bent upwards.
- Fossils in the canyon walls indicate a quick burial. The mass destruction of animals and plants testify to global-scale catastrophic processes (nautiloids, etc).
- The existence of sharp knife-edged contact between different rock layers argues against the passage of long periods of time between their depositions.
- RATE team discovered that C-14 appears to be present in material representing fossil life through the entire geological record.

Mount St. Helens

- www.icr.org for the book Mt. St. Helens, Footprints in The Ash
- Mount St. Helens erupted May 18, 1980 with startling observations and results:
 - Studied for decades and specifically 6 weeks prior to the eruption.
 - *Observed* results similar to past results of processes that were *not observed*.

- Compared to other volcanic eruptions, Mt. St. Helens was small to average. As an example, the last one at Yellowstone was 2,000 times bigger. The initial blast was the equivalent of 20 million tons of TNT, and the total energy output was the equivalent of 30,000 Hiroshima atom bombs.
- Affected an area of 230 square miles.
- God used volcanic and tectonic processes to bring about the global flood (deep refers to the ocean, great deep refers to the deep ocean).
- Mt. St. Helens was incomparable as a teaching tool to earth sciences as we can more accurately infer the nature of the processes involved in the global flood.
- Much of the devastation of the global flood was volcanic and tectonic in nature, pointing right back to Mt. St. Helens.
- Interestingly, many of the large animals on the North side migrated away from the path of the coming blast.

PERSPECTIVES

- Much of the damage from Mt. St. Helens was water related (melting glaciers, mudflows, etc). The melt removed trees, boulders, animals, and eroded canyons and uprooted the forest (reached speeds of over 150 mph).
- One followed another until pancake-like layers of mud and rock were deposited in the lowlands and heights up to 600-feet of stratified layers!
- The lake on the North flank was clogged by over 1 million floating trees that in one month decayed and formed a peat on the bottom of the lake.
- When the debris avalanche reached Spirit Lake, it formed a gigantic water wave that reached a height of over 860-feet on the opposing side of the lake.
- The blast cloud reached speeds of over 650 mph and 500-degrees F.
- The sequence of events at Mt. St. Helens produced three significant types of stratification in a relatively short period of time:
 - Horizontal laminations.
 - Cross-bedding.
 - Graded massive beds.
- Rapid sedimentation in several months instead of millions of years.

- Rapid hardening of sediments instead of millions of years.
- Dating of the Lava dome using potassium-argon yielded a date of 2.4 million years old. All minerals combined yielded a date of 350,000 years old.
- Rapid erosion of a canyon through solid rock in days instead of millions of years.
- On March 19, 1980, a catastrophic mudflow in a single day produced a new canyon that today is known as “The Little Grand Canyon.”
- Rapid re-vegetation in several years instead of long period of time.



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Part II

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DATING

There are three primary methods used by secular science;

- Carbon 14
- Radiometric
- Index fossils
- Two use 4 assumptions, and one uses circular reasoning

Carbon 14

- Most recognized of the dating methods
- Ratio between C-12 and C-14
- C-12 and N-14 are **stable** elements in the atmosphere
- When N-14 is bombarded by cosmic rays from outer space, it forms C-14 which is an unstable element (half life of 5,730 years)
- Living things (plants, animals, and man) naturally ingest C-12 and C-14

- When they die, the C-12 remains but the C-14 reverts back to N-14
- Can only be used on past living things and up to about 60,000 years

Radiometric (Radioisotope)

- Normally limited to dating rocks ((1) granite, (2) lava, but **not (3) sedimentary**)
- Uses **parent** and **daughter** elements
- Parent radioactive elements decay into daughter elements (uranium lead - - uranium 238 decays into lead 206)
- Half life is 4.5 billion years
- Also potassium argon, rubidium strontium, and so on

C-14 and Radiometric use 4 assumptions:

- Decay rate has been constant
- No contamination (water)
- Original amount of parent material is known
- No world restructuring catastrophic global flood

Index fossils

- Standard Geologic Column (assumed to represent the history of rocks and fossils). Developed by Charles Lyell in the 1800's.
- Oldest layers at the bottom, simplest life forms at the bottom, and progress upward to more complex, and depicted life forms are assumed to have evolved over 100 million years.
- C-14 used for past living things, radioisotope used for rocks, index fossils used for fossils in sedimentary rock layers.
- Uses circular reasoning to date fossils.

FOSSILIZATION

- Latin word that means to be dug up
- Evolutionary viewpoint (based on **time**) Cannot be formed by a slow sedimentary process.
- Creationist viewpoint (based on rapid burial in sedimentary deposits, by **catastrophic flood**)

- Vast fossil graveyards in the sedimentary crust all around the world:
 - Scotland, New York California, Wyoming (fish)
 - New Mexico, Alberta, Tanzania, Belgium (dinosaurs)
 - Siberia and Alaska (Mammoths)
 - Vast coal beds around the world (plants)
- *“The presence of so many fossils, often preserved in exquisite detail, throughout the geologic record on every continent are testimony to the rapid burial of countless animals and plants during the catastrophic sedimentation of these strata.” Dr. Andrew Snelling, Geologist*

ONE (Super) CONTINENT

- Then god said, “Let the **waters** under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry **land** appear,” and it was so. God called the dry
- Rodinia land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

CONTINENTAL DRIFT

- *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.” Genesis 7:11*
- Begins with the breaking up of the fountains of the great deep. Breaking up in Hebrew refers to cleaving open and shattering of the earth’s crust.
- Vivid description of catastrophic geologic activity.
- Great deep refers to both oceanic and subterranean waters.
- Refers to deep fracturing of the earth’s crust, dramatic earth movements, devastating earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- Catastrophic cracking and movement of the earth’s crust surrounding springs on the pre-flood ocean floor and possibly also the land surface.
- Implies that the entire pre-flood ocean floor and much of the sea floor must have been recycled into the earth’s interior in a very rapid manner.

- Tectonics refers to the development and relationship of the larger structural and deformational features of the broad architecture of the outer part of the earth.
- There is ample evidence that on the continents they have moved across the earth's surface relative to one another:
 - Continents on either side of the Atlantic Ocean have complementary shapes, and as they drifted apart, the Atlantic ocean basin was formed.
 - Many geological features that can be matched across the continents on either side of the Atlantic Ocean but are not found on the ocean floor (identical rock strata, fossils, directions of sediment transport, mountain fold belts, and mineral deposits. This applies to Antarctica and Australia, Antarctica and India.
- All the high mountain ranges in the world, including the Himalayas, Alps, Andes, and Rockies rose at an extremely high rate as a result of continental drift.
- The waters prevailed meaning they overwhelmed the earth.
- Rain for 40 days, and fountains of the great deep stopped after 150 days
- When the debris avalanche reached Spirit Lake, it formed a gigantic water wave that reached a height of over 860-feet on the opposing side of the lake.
- The blast cloud reached speeds of over 650 mph and 500-degrees F.
- The sequence of events at Mt. St. Helens produced three significant types of stratification in a relatively short period of time:
 - Horizontal laminations.
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