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## Creation Answers

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### Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. Using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at [w.spencer@attbi.com](mailto:w.spencer@attbi.com).

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **DFW Creation Net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://pws.prserv.net/creation/creation.htm>

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### A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

I would like to apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. This issue would normally go out around the end of March. It has been delayed because of various pressing issues demanding my time, especially moving. My ministry address will not change but my e-mail address and phone number have changed, please make note of that. The new e-mail address is also updated on my web site.

I have been occupied recently with some exciting ministry opportunities. February 18 I spoke at a creation conference at Metropolitan Bible Church in Dallas. The conference was well attended. I'd like to welcome all of those who signed up for this newsletter at that conference. Alpha Omega Institute from Colorado also provided speaker Richard Stepanek and did a children's program. Then the evening of March 5 I spoke to the Christian Home Educators Association of Dallas (H.E.A.D.) at Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland. I very much enjoyed talking to the parents at this meeting. If you have a home school group that would like a speaker to share how to give your children a Christian world view in teaching them science, do contact me. I may be available or I may be able to recommend someone.

In upcoming months I will be busy doing research and writing for two papers for the International Conference on Creationism in 2003. I'll be saying more about these papers later, but I would appreciate your prayers for this effort.

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

## *Evidence for a Global Flood*

The story of Noah's Flood from Genesis has been very controversial. I operate on the assumption that Genesis is historically and scientifically accurate so long as it is properly interpreted. There are two main classes of criticisms of creationists regarding Noah's Flood. One type of criticism I would say involves various misconceptions about what the Bible actually says about the Flood. I will leave that for another article. Another class of criticisms brings challenges from geology. In this article we will look at some indications in rocks and fossils of large scale catastrophic flooding that suggest an event like a global Flood. Note that neither creationists nor evolutionists have all the answers in answering all the questions about how the Earth came to be as it is. But, in some ways there are exciting confirmations of the Biblical account of the Flood. It is not that the scientific evidence proves the Flood. But there are facts about Earth's features that strongly suggests a large scale catastrophe like a global Flood.

Geology is a very important branch of the natural sciences. Geologists have important work in helping us make use of our natural resources as well as assisting architects in designing stable man-made structures. Historical geology is the study of how our Earth came to be as it is. Where did all the rock layers come from? How did fossils form? How long did it take for Earth's features to form? This last question regarding the time for geologic structures to form is one of the key differences between a young-earth creationist view and the traditional evolutionary view from modern science.

Earth science and geology classes in public schools and colleges generally assume natural processes seen and known of in the present are adequate to explain geologic events that happened in the past. This is the principle known as *uniformitarianism*. This assumption has traditionally led to a gradual approach to explaining Earth's features.

Thus rock layers would form slowly as water or wind erosion gradually causes sediment or dust to be deposited in a certain place. Rivers and temporary inland seas are sometimes believed to have caused the deposition of sediment slowly over time. Then in time as the layers of mud or sediment are buried by other layers it eventually hardens into solid rock.

Today, this would be considered an oversimplification by many geologists, at least in some cases. Today geologists would often point out that storms and local events such as volcanic eruptions or local floods can form rock layers and other formations quickly. The approach to geology that emphasizes natural disasters and various unusual events that form geologic structures in a short time is usually called *catastrophism*. Young-Earth Creationists believe the Earth to be less than 10,000 years in age. They generally see the global Noahic Flood, described in Genesis 6-9, as the key to Earth's geology in many ways. The young-age creation approach then argues that Noah's Flood had a radical effect on Earth's surface and caused major changes in the Earth in many respects. Though some rock layers could have formed both before and after the Flood, most of Earth's sedimentary rocks (and the fossils in them) are believed to have come from Noah's Flood.

One of the best indications from geology for a global Flood are sedimentary rock layers, especially those that cover vast areas of the continents. Sedimentary rock generally forms from mud or sand that hardens into rock. Some sedimentary rock only forms under water by chemical processes, such as limestone. There are certain sedimentary rock layers that cover extremely large areas, even reaching across continents and covering parts of several states. Sometimes the same rock layer will have different names in different parts of the country, though it is known that it really is the same rock unit. Thus vast amounts of sand or sediment may have been laid down at the same time. Young-Earth creationists have documented examples of this for which

traditional explanations from evolutionary geology do not fit the facts. A global Flood often explains the characteristics of these large rock layers better than evolutionary concepts.

There are good examples of this in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Grand Canyon is not only very beautiful but is very significant for understanding Earth's history. The Coconino Sandstone in the Grand Canyon has traditionally been viewed as having formed from many years of sand deposits as in desert sand dunes. But recent research makes very large-scale flooding a plausible explanation. Below is a picture from Geologist Steve Austin at the Institute for Creation Research. This is a picture of cross-bedded sandstone from the Navaho Sandstone at Zion National Park in Utah. It is similar to the Coconino Sandstone in the Grand Canyon.

Geologists with an evolutionary perspective have traditionally seen cross-bedded sandstone like this as having come from desert sand dunes. In this approach, winds deposited sand in sand dunes and over time the changing winds and conditions



caused sand to build up with this unique type of layering. There is now evidence suggesting that these type of layers can form by underwater currents.

The Coconino sandstone in the Grand Canyon is known for fossil footprints it contains of some type of small animal. These footprints, which are very clear with claw marks, have often been interpreted as being from a small reptile or amphibian that was

running up sand dunes. But the direction of the claw marks in these prints do not line up with the direction of the whole trackway. This and other evidence indicates the animal was walking in sand but was in water and was being carried along by a water current at the time. Also the footprints would not be so well preserved and detailed as they are if they were made in dry sand as in a desert. There are also studies of similar small animals running in wet sand, dry sand, and in sand under water. These footprints in the Coconino sandstone are most like those of animals running in water.

#### Marine Fossils on the Continents

One of the obvious things about fossils is that many of them are of marine creatures. I grew up in Kansas. In Kansas, in the middle of the continental United States, I have seen fossil shark teeth, a fossil of what may be a Manta Ray tooth, and fossilized coral. These are all living things from the ocean and yet they are found in the middle of the continent. There are also fossils of many ocean marine creatures found on many mountains. How did all these marine fossils get all over the continents? Evolutionists believe that over many years the ocean temporarily came up over sections of the continents as sea level changed in relation to the continents. This made shoreline type features from the ocean in various locations in North America, for instance.

However, consider what a global Flood would do in forming marine fossils. Marine creatures are generally more numerous than land animals and thus a global Flood would certainly cause the formation of vast numbers of marine fossils. Many marine fossils show how fish and other creatures were very rapidly and catastrophically buried. This is indicated by the many examples of things like a fish fossilized with another fish in its mouth, or a whale fossilized such that it was giving birth when it was buried. Then after burial the minerals in the sediment replaced the bone and other parts of the organism, leaving the fossil. Marine fossils are not just found

around the margins of the continents, as if near the ocean shoreline, but are found all over the continents. This does not prove a global Flood in itself, but it is at least consistent with a global Flood. Combined with other facts it becomes an important part of evidence suggesting an event such as the Bible describes.

Returning to the Grand Canyon, there are also fossils of creatures called nautiloids, which were essentially a squid with a long cigar shaped shell. The shells of nautiloids are found fossilized in Nautiloid Canyon, in the Grand Canyon, in strata known as the Redwall Limestone. The traditional evolutionary view of how limestone forms is that organic material and particles from the shells of marine creatures would slowly and gradually build up on the ocean floor over millions of years in a calm sea, and eventually harden into limestone. Limestone does form under water but may not necessarily require long periods of time, during catastrophic conditions. For more information on limestone formation see the following article: <http://www.icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-210.htm>. The nautiloid fossils in the Grand Canyon are not found to be randomly oriented, as if they were in a calm sea and just happened to die at different times. Rather, they are found to be often oriented in the same direction as if by water currents and they appear to have been buried at the same time in a sudden event.

#### Sandstones over Wide Areas

Widespread continuous rock layers tends to argue strongly for very large scale Flooding, such as would be expected from a global event. One formation in the Grand Canyon is called the Upper Supai sandstone. This layer can be traced 200 miles across Arizona. Evolutionary scientists propose that such layers formed over long periods of time around river floodplains or as part of a large river delta. Yet this sandstone does not have many characteristics of river floodplains or river deltas. How then did such a widespread layer form? The Navaho Sandstone pictured above is a layer that extends over parts of

seven states in the United States. It's volume is estimated at 10,000 cubic miles. Another example is the Tapeats Sandstone which is also in the Grand Canyon. This strata is part of a sandstone unit that reaches from northern and western Texas to Quebec and also even to Greenland. If these huge layers formed over long periods of time due to a variety of separate events and processes, they would not be smooth continuous layers as they are found to be. It just is not plausible that all these large sandstones formed over long periods by wind deposits of sand or from river deposits. Processes observed to happen today are inadequate considering the scale of the thick and wide sedimentary rock layers that formed in the past.

There is other evidence that these sandstones formed as a result of strong ocean currents. The angle of the cross-bedding for the Coconino sandstone is like that formed where sand is moved by strong underwater currents, not like what forms in desert sand dunes. The sizes of the sand grains in the Coconino sandstone of the Grand Canyon point to what are called sand wave deposits, from strong underwater currents. They are not the right size range to be wind deposited sand grains. Some sandstones in the Grand Canyon indicate that these water currents would have had velocities of 3 to 5 feet per second. Moreover, these currents must have existed in deep water over what is now Arizona. These current velocities would not be unusual today if near the coast, where the geography of the region combined with tides might produce some strong currents. But in the middle of the continent, far from the ocean shoreline such high velocity deep water currents point to a large scale event like a global flood.

Another relevant question regarding these sandstones in the Grand Canyon is, where did all the sand come from? The traditional evolutionary view would say the sand grains were eroded from other rock in the Canyon area over long periods of time, along rivers or at river delta areas. But this

approach cannot provide an adequate source for so much sand. Evolutionary geologists have acknowledged this problem. The evidence suggests that the sand came from great distance. For instance, one unit called the Supai sandstone in Grand Canyon some geologists have suggested had rock in Utah or Wyoming that served as the source of the sand. So, long distance transport of sediment can point to a global Flood. Some of the rock strata in Grand Canyon contains very large boulders that would have required very large scale flooding in order to be moved. The transport of sediment and broken rock would be very dramatic from an event like Noah's Flood.

#### Layering and Time

One other type of indication of a global Flood is found in the flatness of certain layers in the Grand Canyon and the boundaries between certain layers. There is a certain boundary between rock strata in the Grand Canyon known as the Great Unconformity. This lies between a formation known as the Dox formation and the Tapeats Sandstone. According to the evolutionary time scale the Dox strata is over one billion years in age but the Tapeats Sandstone immediately on top of it would be about 500 million years in age. This would imply there is a gap of 500 million years or more between the two. By the evolutionary time scale, there should be evidence of chemical erosion of the Dox and Tapeats rock layers. Chemical erosion (or weathering) alters minerals by decomposition, due to exposure to water or air. But these layers do not show evidence of chemical erosion, judging from the type of minerals present. Thus, the smooth line of contact between them implies there was only a very brief period of time between the deposition of the two layers. There are many other examples where there are gaps in the rock record in terms of the type of rock layers and their evolutionary age. But extremely thick layers of sedimentary material could have been deposited in a short time one shortly after the other in an event like Noah's Flood.

Anyone visiting Grand Canyon will notice how the top of the Canyon rim is very flat and that many of the rock layers in it are very horizontal as well. There were apparently other sedimentary layers present above what is now the rim of Grand Canyon. But these upper layers were eroded away. The smooth horizontal flat surface of the top of the Canyon, as well as other evidence from the western United States suggest a phenomena called sheet erosion on a nearly continental scale. If the North American continent uplifted at the end of a global Flood, waters would rush off the continent in a short time. If this were not too long after the sediments in the western United States were deposited then the sediments might still have been soft and not completely hardened to rock in some cases. Thus with large amounts of water rushing off the continent in short time, with soft sediments, this could explain many things about surface formations in the western United States. It may also help explain how the Grand Canyon could have been eroded in the period shortly after the Flood.

These are just a few facts that argue for a global Flood like the Noachic Flood in the Bible. This evidence does not conclusively prove there was a global Flood, but it does constitute persuasive circumstantial evidence of such a Flood in my opinion. Evolutionists might think that they have conclusively proven their view, but they really cannot do that. It is never possible to conclusively prove origins scenarios about events of the past, scientifically. No one can repeat the events in a laboratory or go back in time to make a film of what happened. When all the evidence is considered, the concept of a global Flood (as in Genesis) that really happened and changed the Earth is scientifically reasonable.

Much of the information in this article has been taken from the book Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe by Steve Austin and the video "The Grand Canyon: Monument to the Flood." Both of these are produced by the Institute for Creation Research.

**“Life in the Great Ice Age” - children’s book**

Michael Oard is known in the creation movement for his excellent book “An Ice Age Caused by the Genesis Flood.” This is a technical book on how Noah’s Flood could cause one Ice Age period for several hundred years after the Flood. Mike Oard and myself are working on coauthoring a research paper on an impact crater in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. Mike and his wife Beverly have prepared a delightful children’s book called Life in the Great Ice Age (1993). This book tells a realistic fictional account of how people would have lived a few hundred years after the Flood, during the climate changes of the later part of the Ice Age. The Ice Age Oard estimates would have begun soon after the Flood and continued for about 700 years, with the peak of the ice at around 500 years after the Flood.

Much has been learned from science and archeological studies about how and where people lived during the Ice Age. But evolutionary theories have significant problems explaining many things about the science of the Ice Age. This is a wonderful children’s book that combines a story of an Ice Age tribal family with realistic scientific and Biblical information. The book is also well illustrated. Part I of the book tells the story and Part II gives additional information about some of the science behind the story. The story and other information in the book answers many common questions about Neanderthal people or “cave men,” presenting these people as intelligent resourceful human beings who survived the tough conditions of that time in history. The Biblical story of the Flood and the Tower of Babel are also presented as part of the story. This book would be excellent for helping young people learn a Biblical view of world history.

**Creation Multimedia CD ROM from Answers in Genesis**

I would like to recommend a product available from Answers in Genesis (AIG). It was produced specifically to answer programs on the Discovery channel in recent months about evolution. It is a software cd rom that includes many articles in the form of Adobe Acrobat files. It also includes audio from various AIG radio programs and some video segments from videos produced by AIG. It is a fantastic collection of materials. To make use of all the material on this cd, you’ll need a multimedia-capable computer with sound. It can run on either Windows or Apple Macintosh computers.

There are many articles on a wide range of topics provided on this cd rom. These articles are written by a number of different authors. From the main menu, there are six topic areas: evolution rebuttal, why does it matter, how old is the Earth, supposed evidence, design and purpose, and voices for creation. There are articles on Biblical issues as well as scientific issues and articles about scientists who believe creation. For anyone with a computer able to use it, I cannot think of a better collection of materials that answers common questions about evolution and creation. I am making these available for \$3.00 each to readers of this newsletter. Call or e-mail me with your address and I will send you one of the discs. Then payment can be mailed to the Creation Education Materials P.O. Box address on page 1. The phone number to call is (817) 461-2064. This is a new phone number.