

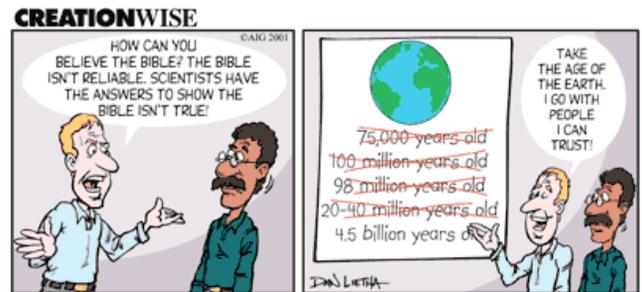
RAPID GEOLOGIC PROCESSES

PART 2

Editors note: This is the second of two parts of this article by Dr. Dan Reynolds. The first part was published in the April 2003 TASC newsletter at <http://members.aol.com/dwr51055/tasc/news/april.pdf>

Finally there is strong evidence for rapid successive sedimentary layer deposition from analysis of polonium radiohalos found in coal samples from Triassic, Jurassic, and Eocene deposits allegedly laid down between 230-60 Mys ago.¹ The polonium 210 (half-life = 138.4 days) halos found in coal from the three "periods" have many similar characteristics which strongly suggest one rapid deposition event. Many of these polonium 210 halos are actually double halos sharing the same radiocenter but where one halo is oval shaped while the other is circular. The best explanation for the double halos follows. Vast forests and were buried under water. While the wood was waterlogged and still in a gel like state, water-containing uranium penetrated the wood. As the uranium decayed, lead 210 formed and migrated through the wood until it concentrated at various sites called inclusions. The lead 210 decayed (beta) into polonium 210. The polonium 210 began its alpha decay and caused formation of a radiohalo. In about one year, the wood was compressed squashing the polonium 210 radiohalos into oval shapes. The compression event was probably caused by deposition of vast amounts of sediments brought on by a flood. The remaining polonium 210 continued to decay until another circular radiohalo was formed thereby completing the double halo. Hence the polonium 210 double halos suggest that the time between penetration of radioactivity and compression of the wood was less than one year. In addition, the ratios of various radioactive isotopes and daughter products were the same in these deposits, also suggesting these samples were penetrated at the same time with the same uranium solution. The high uranium to lead ratios, embryonic uranium halos, and high lead 210 concentrations in polonium 210 halo radiocenters suggest recent (<10 Ky) penetration of radioactive solution into the wood. These results suggest the three "periods" allegedly spanning 170 Mys were actually one rapid event consistent with Noah's Flood, not millions of years of layer formation.

The millions of logs left in Spirit Lake by the eruption at Mt. Saint Helens has provided clues to rapid coal and petrified forest formation.^{3,4} The logs on the lake were without branches, bark, or roots. These parts of the trees were torn from the logs during the transportation of the forest to the lake and have been found on the lake bottom by scuba divers. The thick layer of vegetation on the lake bottom demonstrates that peat, a precursor to coal, can be formed rapidly. All that is required to complete the process is heat (the nearby volcano may provide this) and a catalyst (supplied by volcanic ash). Indeed, coal seams often have volcanic ash in them.



At Specimen Ridge in Yellowstone National Park is found the Petrified Forest. The forest was allegedly made from 27 distinct forests over many thousands of years. Presumably, a forest would grow and then be covered by water and sediments in which it would petrify. Later, the sea or lake would recede again leaving dry land in which another forest would grow and the process would then be repeated—27 times! Investigations at Mt. Saint Helens have provided a more probable mechanism for formation of a petrified forest. Scuba divers not only found peat but upright logs, root ball down first, buried at different depths in the sediment on the bottom of Spirit Lake. Apparently, the water soaked logs sank with the denser root ball pointing down and were buried at various depths as the mud slides poured into the lake. Interestingly, studies at Specimen Ridge have revealed that the trees there also lack bark, branches, or evidence of extensive roots; only the log and root ball remain. Also interesting is the fact that the ring patterns seen in trees from different layers at Specimen Ridge were the same, providing evidence that the trees were from the same original forest, not succes-

sive forests separated by vast amounts of time. Hence, the evidence suggests that the Petrified Forest at Specimen Ridge was caused by a rapid catastrophic event in which a forest was uprooted, transported by water, and then buried in sediments of various depths.

The Grand Canyon is a marvel all should see at least once. The North Rim has an elevation of about 9,000 feet while the South Rim rises to about 7,000 feet. At the deepest point, the Colorado River runs through the canyon about a mile below the surface. In 1994, creation geologists advanced a "breached dam theory" for the catastrophic formation of Grand Canyon.⁵ This theory says that once vast bodies of water existed to the east of the present canyon, probably huge lakes left from the Flood. The sedimentary layers through which the canyon would be cut had been recently laid down by the Flood. A natural dam separated the huge lakes from the land that would become the canyon. The dam was breached by some geologic event, possibly an earthquake, resulting in vast amounts of rapidly moving water that carved the Grand Canyon through the relatively soft and uplifted sediments. The remnant of that vast body of water that cut the canyon is the Colorado River today. Interestingly, neo-catastrophist old earth geologists are beginning to be like-minded as the following quote⁶ made in 2002 reveals:

Dams of volcanic rock laid across the Grand Canyon have burst repeatedly and catastrophically over the past million years—most recently about 165,000 years ago—carrying enormous onrushing floods and carving out much of the great landmark in the blink of a geologic eye, new research by U.S. Geological Survey and University of Utah geologists suggests.

More evidence of catastrophe comes from vast fossil graveyards found worldwide.⁷ These graveyards can contain millions of fossil fish, dinosaurs, birds, reptiles, insects, and plants. Obviously, these graveyards must have been formed rapidly by the quick transportation and burial of the living creatures by moving water.

Finally, there is evidence that stalagmites and stalactites, those beautiful formations in caves thought to require tens of thousands of years to form, can form in only a few years. For example, there is a flowstone in which a bat has been trapped.⁸ There were stalactites in a 55-year-old lead mine in Australia that were several feet long.⁹ There are stalactites several feet long in rooms under the Lincoln Memorial which was built in 1922. Apparently, all that is needed is moving water containing the right minerals.

In summary, there is now abundant evidence that many geologic processes can operate rapidly. This is, of course,

what Bible believing scientists have been saying for generations. It is becoming clear that the actions of water and volcanoes can account for the rapid formation of canyons, successive sedimentary layers with fine sorting, stalagmites and stalactites, and vast fossil graveyards containing millions of fossils. There is strong evidence for rapid coal formation and mechanisms to account for the same. Many evolutionary geologists now acknowledge rapid geologic processes but insist that these episodes are separated by vast periods of relative calm. However, the evidence for the vast calm periods is rapidly disappearing.

O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him. Psalm 34:8 (KJV) ❧

Dan Reynolds, PhD

¹ Gentry, Robert V. *Creation's Tiny Mystery*, 3rd Edition (ESA, 1992); on the web at www.halos.com

² Vardiman, Larry. "RATE Group Confirms Fast Diffusion of Helium in Rocks". *Acts and Facts* 2001, 30(10); Vardiman, Larry; Snelling, Andrew A.; Chaffin, Eugene F. (eds.) *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth* (RATE) (Institute of Creation Research and the Creation Research Society, 2000).

³ Video: *Mount Saint Helens: Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe* (ICR)

⁴ Morris, John D. *The Young Earth* (Master Books, 1994)

⁵ Austin, Steven A. *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe* (ICR, 1994) (book and video).

⁶ From the UPI wire service dated Saturday July 20, 2002. HEADLINE: Catastrophic floods built Grand Canyon; DATELINE: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz., July 20

⁷ Whitcomb, J.C.; Morris, H.M. *The Genesis Flood* (Baker, 1961).

⁸ *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1953, p. 442.

⁹ *Creation Magazine*, March-May, 1998 p. 27

DARWIN'S SPIRITUAL ENIGMA

There have been conflicting accounts regarding Darwin's spiritual beliefs. We know his wife was a very devout Christian, and we know he studied for the ministry at Cambridge University, but chose not to be ordained.

For over fifty years claims have been made that he accepted Christianity toward the end of his life. One account which was circulated under the title "Darwin's Last Hours" quoted an English evangelist, "Lady Hope," as claiming that he asked her to speak to his servants and some neighbors about "Christ Jesus — and His Salvation." However, in a book edited by Emmett L. Williams, researched carefully and written by Professor Wilbert H. Rusch and John W. Klotz, evidence is cited

completely denying the authenticity of this report. In letters Darwin characterized himself as an agnostic. It would appear that Darwin's spiritual belief was caught in the snare of his own theory, a continuing danger for those who accept the teachings of evolution as truth. He was chronically ill in his latter years with abdominal complaints suggestive of psychological distress, and as a doctor I am not surprised. ☞

Isaac Manly, MD

EVIDENCES FOR CREATION OVER EVOLUTION

Editor's Note: The following is arguments No. 9-12 of 21 arguments compiled by various persons who believe that true science and biblical Christianity go hand in hand. Earlier parts in this series covered arguments 1-8.

This was produced jointly by the Creation Research Society, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Skilton House Ministries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Editors: Paul G. Humber and Glen W. Wolfrom. Contributors: Harry Akers, Robert Gentet, Ed Garrett, Lane Lester, Ron Pass, Dave Sack, Curt Sewell, Helen Setterfield, Doug Sharp, and Laurence Tisdall.

9. There is strong evidence being brought forward that some things presumed as being millions of years old by evolutionists are not that old. One good example is dinosaur bones. Some of them show strong evidence of not being very old at all, for they have not degenerated enough to be millions of years old (http://www.answersingenesis.org/Home/Area/Magazines/docs/v14n3_dino.asp).

10. Many life forms, once thought extinct by evolutionists, have been found alive and healthy today—and unchanged. Coelacanths, for example, were thought to have become extinct 60 million years ago, but they live today! Another example is the Wollemi pines in Australia, which appear to be genetic clones of each other. Evolutionists scramble quickly to invent new explanations. Under the guise of “science always corrects itself,” they have to resort to ever more inventive explanations to keep evolution alive despite the mounting evidence against it. So what we end up with is the explanation that while some populations of Coelacanth survived unchanged, others, in other environments, changed drastically and evolved into other forms of life. The lack of genetic changes in the Wollemi pines, which are supposed to be millions of years old as a species, has yet to find an evolutionary explanation, however.

11. It is a general observation that all non-living things tend to degenerate (see #8), but this is also true of living systems. At best, they fulfill the potential of the code passed down to them from their ancestors and then age or succumb to attack, accident, disease, or accumulated injuries. This supports the concept that everything is on

a general path of degeneration—from a higher state of organization provided by an act of intelligent creation. Degeneration and evolutionary advances are opposing concepts.

12. The Neanderthal is often presented as a “pre-human” creature. However, there is also mounting evidence that the Neanderthal human was just as human and we are. They were simply a variation of human being in the same way that the Pygmy or Zulu is. Their brains were as large, or larger, than ours, and the evidence of their lives being intelligent is showing up in a variety of places. It might also be pointed out that the book of Job describes humans who lived in very difficult circumstances and dwelt in caves at least part of the time (Job 24:2-12 and Job 30:1-8). The evidence of “cave men” in the Bible is quite clear, but the reason for their mode of living is one of degeneration—not evolution.

NEWS

Mark Stephens and his wife, Janice, will be going on the Institute for Creation Research's Galapagos Islands Creation Tour on May 13-20. You will recall that Charles Darwin visited these islands in 1835 and recorded a series of observations on the flora and fauna that would later be used to support his theory of evolution. Creation scientists from major universities around the country will attend and provide their scientific observations and evidences that support creation in contrast to naturalistic evolution. Mark will later share with TASC his experiences and some of the creation science presented on the tour.

WANTED: LAPTOP COMPUTER AND PROJECTOR

TASC would like to equip its speakers with a lap-top computer and LCD projector to assist in their presentations. We don't need the newest and fastest equipment; we just need something that will get the job done. If you would be able to donate any equipment—used is just fine—or if you would like to contribute to the purchase of this equipment, please contact us at tasc@earthlink.net or call Fred Johnson at 919-362-4912.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh.

Jeff Gift, PhD will speak on cosmic microwave background radiation and the recent "baby pictures" of the universe taken by the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP).

Thursday, June 12, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

Dan Reynolds, PhD. Topic to be announced.

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