

EVOLUTION'S ACHILLES' HEELS

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6. RADIOMETRIC DATING
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CATASTROPHISM VERSUS UNIFORMITARIANISM

The definition and history of the geologic record shaping

The geologic record recounts how the sedimentary layers / rock strata, and individual rocks were formed over time. This also includes small and large surface formations such as rivers, lakes, seas, oceans; and hills, mountains, valleys, canyons - even continents. The founder of modern geology, Nicolaus Steno (1638-1686) in his work, *Prodromus* (Prod´ro`mus), formulated a number of principles that are still used today. He also discovered that certain objects found within rocks, puzzling since ancient times, were the remains of animals that lived in the past. He along with Lazzaro Moro (1687-1764), one of the founders of 'vulcanism', the idea that volcanoes have played an important role, believed that the earth was created and then modified to its present configuration by the global flood.

William Smith (1769- 1839), who produced the first nationwide geological map, and many other geologists of that time held the theory of catastrophism, the earth's surface being shaped by cataclysms.

James Hutton (1726-1797) originated the theory of uniformitarianism, which seeks to explain earth's surface features by slow processes over geologic time. Charles Lyell (1797- 1875) picked up on Hutton's uniformitarian view of earth's history (along with life) as being vast, directionless, and very old.

Events in the last few decades however, have produced considerable geographic change in a matter of days or even hours. These include volcanoes rapidly forming huge sedimentary layers and multi channeled canyons, devastating hundreds of square miles, transporting hundreds of millions of tons of soil. Also sub-ocean mudslides, giant tsunamis due do mudslides and earthquakes, and earthquakes themselves doing catastrophic damage and killing hundreds of thousands. In view of these terrain-shaping events, geologists are again using catastrophism theory as an explanation of geological changes.

RECENT LOCALIZED CATASTROPHIC FLOOD

Mount St. Helens in Washington State, May 18, 1980

"The eruption of Mount St. Helens . . . involve[ed] one-half cubic mile of rock. As the summit and north slope slid off the volcano . . . super hot liquid water immediately flashed to steam . . . which toppled 150 square miles of forest in six minutes . . . an enormous water wave, initiated by one-eighth cubic mile of rockslide debris, stripped trees from slopes as high as 850 feet above the pre-eruption water level. The total energy output, on May 18, was . . . approximately 20,000 Hiroshima-size atomic bombs.

Geologists have believed . . . finely laminated sediments took a year for each pair of layers to form through uniformitarianism processes. Canyons can have hundreds of thousands of layers, which equates to hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years. However, the Mount St. Helens eruption showed that a sedimentary layer could be laid down in just a few minutes with the gradation of sediment sizes. . . .

A deposit accumulated in less than one day, on June 12, 1980, is 25 feet thick and contains many thin laminae. . . . Up to 400 feet thickness of strata have formed since 1980. . . . A mudflow on March 19, 1982, eroded a canyon system up to 140 feet deep [and 17 miles long].”¹

In the image, strata from the first day are from the bottom red line to the top of the soil. Finely laminated strata are visible between the red lines. The gulley was created later, gouged 12-15 feet below the original ground level (bottom red line). The devastation covered 230 square miles.



ANCIENT PAST HUGE CATASTROPHIC FLOODS

We see from the examples of geological catastrophism above, that events within our lifetimes can do major geological disruption. Let us now examine some events further back in history, changes on a much larger scale where scientists in general are in agreement that the cause was due to catastrophic flooding.

Channeled Scablands, Washington State

“Geologist J Harlen Bretz first recognized evidence of the catastrophic floods. . . . Bretz's view . . . ran against the prevailing view of uniformitarianism, . . . The Geological Society of Washington, D.C, invited the young Bretz to present his previously published research. . . . Another geologist at the meeting, J.T. Pardee, . . . had evidence of an ancient glacial lake that lent credence to Bretz's theories. Estimates place the flow at ten times the flow of all current rivers combined. . . .”³

The image to the right shows the Channeled Scabland area of 13,225 square miles taking up a major portion of Washington State. It is over six times larger in area than Grand Canyon.

“Much of the eroded sediment was carried, all the way to the Pacific. . . . Bretz - used the term ‘channeled scablands’ because he saw clear evidence that this strange landscape had been created by monster . . . Floods . . . [he] identified 150 distinct channelways and 180 rock basins in this area. The channels are 400 feet lower than the nearby buttes.”⁴

They are called the Great Spokane Flood, the Missoula Floods, the Ice Age Floods, and the Bretz Floods in his honor. However, the scientific community scorned Bretz for 40 years, his idea denigrated “too biblical” as it violated uniformitarianism.

Shown are images of two canyons. Do the formations appear similar or completely different? ‘Old earth’ geologists say they formed by very different processes. The top image is the Channeled Scablands, where accepted geology is that they were formed by catastrophic floods.

The bottom image is the Grand Canyon. Geologists claim that it however, was carved by the tiny, in comparison, Colorado River that comprises less than 1% of the area of the Grand Canyon. A global flood is needed for the 25 mil wide ridges and mile deep gorges.



The Bonneville Flood

“[The flood] undoubtedly represents discharge from a lake level above the Bonneville shoreline. . . . near Preston, [in southeast] Idaho. . . . The Snake River canyon . . . 105 miles below Twin Falls is a trench 500-600 feet deep made up of basins carved from soft deposits and of constricted segments cut into basalt. . . . the volume of water between the Bonneville shoreline and a spillway 100 feet higher would have been . . . about 380 cubic miles. . . . [N]ear Twin Falls . . . [the] canyon . . . ranges from 1,300 feet to a mile in width. . . . The King Hill basin is a broad valley 600-1,000 feet deep covering about 35 square miles. Thus, a continuous discharge . . . could have been maintained [to carve the landscape in only] 6 weeks. . . . [to] about a year.”²

The image shows Lake Bonneville in light blue and the Great Salt Lake in dark blue.



These sources (including the U.S. Geological Service for both the Scablands below and the Snake River Canyon) indicate geologists now concur that catastrophic floods shaped this topography. Note: Basalt is harder than granite, and that the deluged area calculated in the paper was 19,750 sq mi., over ten times larger than the Grand Canyon Park's 1,904 square miles!

GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC FLOOD – SPECIFIC DATA

Smaller events scale-up to huge catastrophisms

The above examples range from single eruption events that shaped hundreds of square miles, to huge catastrophisms that carved out tens of thousands of square miles of canyons up to a mile wide and 1,000 feet deep, left thousands of buttes, swept away hotel sized boulders, and transported hundreds of cubic miles of soil and rock almost a thousand miles to the Pacific Ocean..

What follows is a sample of the evidence of the mega-catastrophism that resulted in a worldwide flood that triggered tsunamis washing over the continents and leaving vast sedimentary layers.

Similarity of flood stories from around the world

There is very close similarity of more than 200 flood stories in the folklore of people groups worldwide. To globally have so many stories with such close comparison indicates this was an experienced event rather than a myth. The commonality of the stories is: the catastrophe was only a flood: 95%, the flood was global: 95%, there was a favored family: 88%, the geography was local: 82%, animals played any part: 73%, survival was due to a boat: 70%, animals were also saved: 67%, the people were forewarned: 66%, the flood was due to the wickedness of man: 66%, the survivors landed on a mountain: 57%.⁵

Unbroken sharply bent and folded strata

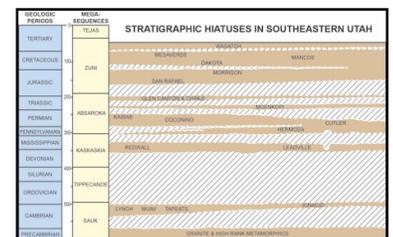
In the Tapeats Sandstone in Grand Canyon and in many other locations we find whole sequences of strata that were bent without fracturing, indicating that all the layers were rapidly deposited and folded while still wet and pliable before the rock hardened.⁶

These unbroken tightly folded formations are found in canyons all over the world. In some cases they even run vertically for an extended distance. Rock strata hardened for millions of years would fracture if sharply bent.



Sharp, flat, strata contacts that span miles

“Sharp, flat contacts exist between rock layers. The accompanying chart illustrates the various layers [brown] . . . and the strata that are assumed to be missing either through erosion or non-deposition [cross-hatched]. . . . The layers actually lie directly on top of each other, but they are drawn separated in [geologic] time. . . . For evolutionary geologists, the fact that layers are missing is the evidence for erosion. But obvious evidence for erosion is missing as well. Evolutionists assign the “time” between two layers as tens of millions of years, but the contacts are typically flat and featureless. Millions of years of erosion would produce irregular terrain, but there is none—no stream beds, valleys, or canyons.”⁷



A better explanation that doesn't require missing strata to force it to fit into the geological time scale is that these layers were laid down recently by the mega-tsunamis that resulted from the worldwide flood. On the chart the layer thickness is 2.2 miles and the horizontal distance is 3.1 miles.

Quartzite boulders transported great distances

“Billions of rounded quartzite boulders and cobbles are found widely scattered throughout the northwestern United States and western Canada. . . . The nearest source of quartzite rock is near the Continental Divide in Montana, Idaho and British Columbia (see map below). Yet quartzite boulders are found scattered eastward into Saskatchewan and North Dakota and westward . . . in Oregon and Washington. What could possibly have moved these rocks 500–1,000 km (300–600 miles) from their source over almost-level ground (slopes less than 0.1 degrees)? The geological processes that transported them are clearly not happening today!

The long distances . . . are a great mystery for evolutionary geologists. Several variations of ‘ancestral river’ or ‘paleotorrent’ theories have been proposed Dr Stephen Reidel . . . with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory . . . [said] ‘ancestral river’ systems distributed the quartzites . . . But this is wholly inadequate to explain [them] in the Puget Sound area near Seattle.

Portland State University geologist Dr J.E. Allen discovered quartzite boulders up to 1 m (3 ft) in diameter . . . in northeastern Oregon. He wrote, ‘no nearby source for the quartzites has been recognized’

Quartzite distributions are a powerful . . . signature of the recessive phases of the Genesis Flood [away from the continental divide].”⁸



Fossilization of soft-bodied animals

“The journal *Geology* carried the story . . . that hundreds of giant jellyfish once . . . were ‘stranded by a freakish tide storm’. . . Sand later buried them, forming fossils. . . at least seven flat-lying planar bed surfaces contain hundreds of medusae [jellyfish] impressions. . . . [Paleontologist Jerry] Hagadorn is reported to have said that the fossilized jellyfish were encased in about 12 vertical feet of rock representing a span of time up to 1 million years.” [Dr Hagadorn added] “Something is there we don’t understand.”⁹



Yes there is, how could seven ‘freakish tides’ fossilize jellyfish by stranding them? Jellyfish rot in hours or days. But mega-tsunamis from a catastrophic global flood would instantly, bury, kill, and preserve them.

Polystrate trees

Polystrate trees missing their roots are found globally growing through many geological layers. They could not have been buried over millions of years, as exposed tops would have decayed before the next layer was laid down. In contrast, at Mount St. Helen’s sheared trees are already floating vertically and imbedding into the sediment, with silicification already beginning after just 35 years.



GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC FLOOD – GEOLOGICAL CASE

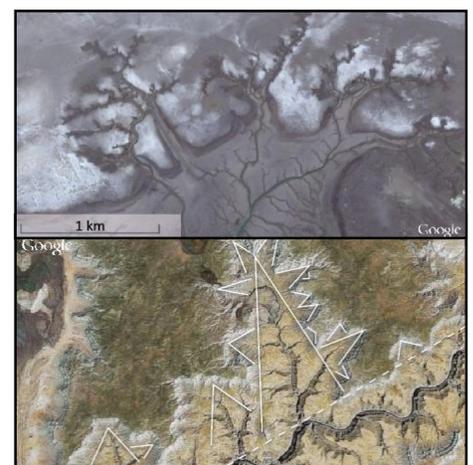
Formation of the Grand Canyon

“Uniformitarian geologists have studied the Grand Canyon for over a century and have failed to credibly explain its origin with any of their hypotheses. None of those ideas account for all of the field data, and none of them can even provide reasonable answers to the major enigmas surrounding the canyon. . . .

[But,] [a] global flood, especially one receding from the continents, would have supplied more than enough water for . . . channelized erosion of deep canyons. A rapidly sinking ocean bottom and the tectonic uplift of the continents would have added tremendous energy. . . . [Initial erosion] was caused by sheet flow [onto the continent] toward the east and northeast. The rise of the Rocky Mountains caused that flow to reverse and begin forming channels. . . . carved by channelized flow to the west”¹⁰

“The Receding Flood Scenario (RFS) is able to explain . . . that once the channel has achieved a certain length, it will start to branch out like a tree. . . . The side channels develop because, as the main channel grows in length, water on the plateau is then able to flow sideways into the channel. . . . carving out V-shapes.

Along the coast of Argentina we can also find beautiful examples of branching structures caused by receding tidal water. . . Note the similarity of the wide flat mud flats, cut by the narrow gully in the



middle, with the features of the GC. Also note the steeper 'cliffs' on the sides and the branching 'canyons' towards the lower-lying parts behind the cliffs.

[In the images above, the tidal Argentine shoreline (top), and the Grand Canyon (bottom), both show the V-shaped cuts, and the meandering pattern to be discussed below.]

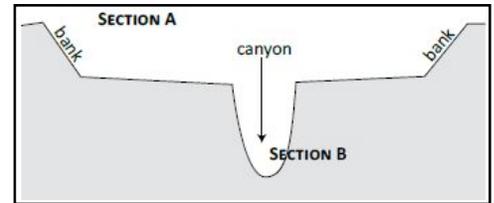
One prerequisite for a river to meander is that the sediments it flows across are soft, not hard. Meandering is caused by a combination of erosion and deposition of sediments. What could possibly explain the Colorado River, which is meandering in hard rock? The likely answer . . . such rock wasn't that hard when the Colorado River originally carved its first shape. . . .

The uniformitarian explanation for this feature is that the river first formed in deposited alluvium and than after uplift of the Colorado Plateau it continued eroding down through the hard rock. Nevertheless, at Marble Canyon there is no alluvium on the plateau, neither is there any trace of a previous alluvium. [Alluvium is clay, silt, sand, and gravel, left by flowing streams, typically producing fertile soil.]

"[T]he cross-section of the GC has two distinct shapes. The canyon of section A is broad and relatively shallow. The canyon of section B . . . much narrower, is carved much deeper and has steeper sides. . . . the broader section, A, could not have been eroded by a river with the same size and flow as the Colorado River. . . . [rather] by a river with an immensely larger volume of flow. We may conclude that this broad river represents the Flood drainage-river that carved the section-A portion of the GC."¹¹

Section A averages 25 miles wide, while the Colorado River at the bottom of Section B averages a mere 100 yards wide. The Colorado River could not have formed the Grand Canyon because:

- It would not have produced the meandering V-shaped branching structures as they are a characteristic of a receding body of water, and
- It is orders of magnitude too small to have eroded the 25-mile rim-to-rim girth.



Earth's magnetic field reversals

'Old earth' geologists believed it took thousands of years for magnetic reversals to occur. However, creation scientists deemed they happened during the catastrophic year of the global flood when strata were being laid down. With about 75 of these reversals in earth's history, they must have occurred only days or weeks apart. In 1989 Coe & Prevot investigated lava flows at Steens Mountain in Oregon and found the magnetic polarity transition recorded in the lava flow had to be made in less than two weeks. This verifies the creation science model of the reversals occurring during the year of the global flood.¹²

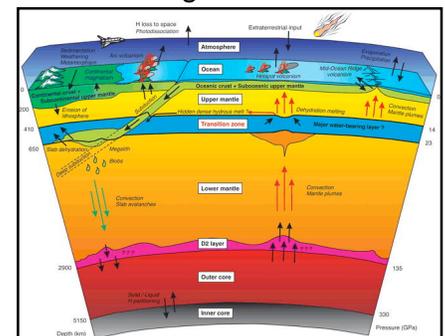
Catastrophic plate tectonics

The creation science model for the movement uses secular data. It also explains the source of the worldwide flood, the initial rapid breakup of Pangaea, and the formation of the continents during the flood.

Genesis 7:11 reads, "all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened." And Psalms 104: 6b, states, "the waters stood above the mountains." And verse 8a, "The mountains rose, the valleys sank down". This indicates a huge water source under the ocean, which broke through the crust in multiple places worldwide, creating the continental ridge boundaries. The release of this water, and the magma that followed, caused the ocean floor to sink relative to Pangaea continent.

Water reservoir in earth's mantle

"The water cycle involves more than . . . surface waters. It extends deep into Earth's interior as the oceanic crust subducts . . . into the mantle, carrying water with it. Schmandt et al. [using] seismological observations beneath North America conclude that the mantle transition zone - 410 to 660 km below Earth's surface - [in the image on the right] acts as a large reservoir of water."¹³



'Cold' (solid) subduction slabs deep in mantle

Seismic evidence favors continental drift beginning recently, which infers a rapid initial drift, rather than the uniformitarian rate we see today. The image below is the, "NASA tomographic image of the subducted Farallon Plate in the mantle beneath eastern North America."¹⁴

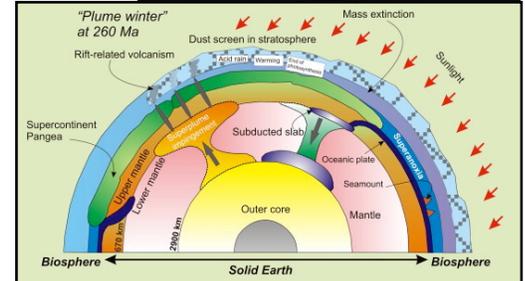
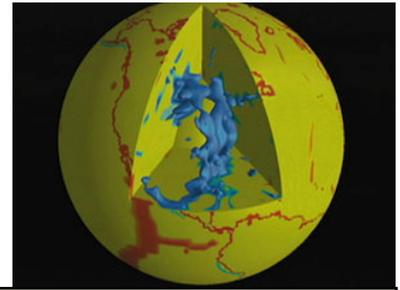
“During the amalgamation of continental fragments, the subducted oceanic lithosphere . . . either moves down to the deep mantle or gets horizontally flattened as stagnant slabs in the mantle transition zone. Blobs of these stagnant slabs sink down into the deep mantle and accumulate as slab graveyards at the core–mantle boundary.”¹⁵

“Continental lithosphere is typically ~200 km thick.”¹⁶ The image below shows it already subducted 260 million years ago (Ma), to the molten outer core, 2900 km (1800 miles) into the earth.

Also, a University of California, Santa Cruise research stated,

“The subducted slab is composed of essentially the same minerals as the surrounding mantle, but its temperature is about 700 degrees Celsius cooler . . .”¹⁷

It could only have subducted thousands of years ago as after 260 million years it would have reached thermal equilibrium.



SUMMARY

- ❖ More geologists are recognizing catastrophes, not uniform processes, do most geological work
- ❖ The 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption left ~15 ft finely layered sediment (25 ft total) in less than 1 day
- ❖ The Bonneville flood canyon is up to a mile wide, 1000 feet deep, and 10 times the Grand Canyon
- ❖ The scientific community scorned Harlen Bretz for 40 years, saying his flood idea of the Channeled Scablands was “too biblical” as it violated uniformitarianism. It is now named after him
- ❖ Global flood evidence: commonality of >200 flood stories, sharply bent un-cracked strata, sharp flat strata without erosion, quartzite carried 100’s of miles, soft body animal fossils, & polystrate trees
- ❖ The Grand Canyon branching V-cuts are like those due to receding water on the Argentine coast
- ❖ The Colorado River is orders of magnitude too small to have eroded the 25-mile rim-to-rim girth
- ❖ The creation science model of rapid magnetic reversals occurring during the global flood is verified
- ❖ The large reservoir of water in earth’s mantle confirms a source for the fountains of the deep
- ❖ Enormous slabs of ‘cold’ crust subducted to molten outer core confirm the creation plate tectonics model; a catastrophic worldwide flood thousands of years ago initiated rapid continental drift
- ❖ Catastrophic processes explain earth’s geology; uniformitarianism does not

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