

CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men" Psalm 118:8

Volume 11(5) Nov/Dec, 1994

A New Perspective on Stratigraphy

By Guy Berthault

Translated from the French by Peter Wilders

Rock strata appear as layers of rocks, one layer upon another, like several carpets spread out on top of each other. If the layers were really built up in this manner, then the top layer would be much younger than the bottom layer. Stratification joints were [typically] attributed to the hardening of the upper layer during a period of time when the supply of sediment was interrupted. The fossils embedded in the rock layers were generally found to be of deep-sea creatures at the bottom, then fish, followed by reptiles. This appeared to confirm the idea that layers represented periods of time, and the progression of fossils reflected the progress of biological evolution. Only the complete absence of any intermediate forms marred this convincing interpretation of the layers of strata, or as it is known, the geological column.

If this picture is right, and layers really are laid down one upon another, then how long does it take for each new carpet of sediment to be laid down on the sea floor? Basing his estimates on the principle that present-day very low rates have always been in effect, the lawyer Charles Lyell in 1830 produced a geological time scale of eras, periods and stages representing the passage of hundreds of millions of years. This interpretation displaced the Flood geology of earlier scholars, and paved the way for Darwin's ideas of evolution over vast eons of time. For example, the Kimmeridgian stage, (a black marl found in Kimmeridge on the south coast of England) is said to be part of the Jurassic period (named after the Jura mountains on the Franco-Swiss border) which is claimed to be part of the Mesozoic era (purporting to be in the middle of the evolution of life). Kimmeridge sediments are dated from 151 to 146 million years BP (before the present). Many fossils are found in the range of "periods". For instance, the ammonite is found anywhere from the Permian to the Cretaceous. The variations of this shell fish are [generally] found at particular levels as though they succeed each other in time by an evolutionary progression.

New Evidence

Is this evolutionary interpretation of stratigraphy the right one? Of course, nobody was there to record what actually happened on the sea bed. What we can assert is that these sedimentary layers are world-wide and that they were laid down under water. Can we experiment with models to see how rapidly and in what manner the strata are constructed? We will draw evidence from the laboratory flume tanks, from the sea floor core samples, and from observation of the result of a recent local flood. This experimental evidence has become available only within the last few years. It renders obsolete the nineteenth century theoretical model of Lyell, thus collapsing the geological time-scale. Evolution theory is orphaned.

Bijou Creek flood

The Bijou Creek flood occurred in Colorado, USA, in 1965. Following 48 hours of rain, flood waters brought down a slurry which deposited sediment up to twelve feet in thickness. After the waters had receded, sedimentologists McKee, Crosby and

Berryhill studied the site. They dug trenches in the flood deposit in order to examine the structure and texture. Over 90% of the sediment consisted of horizontal, laminated strata. [emphasis added, ed]. Where the deposit had dried out, horizontal fissures had appeared resembling joints of stratification in rocks. The joints were caused by desiccation, and since the whole deposit was laid within the space of two days, there was no question of a time gap for hardening of the surface, followed by more deposition. The field evidence casts doubt upon the conventional interpretation of stratigraphy in two areas; the laminated layers had occurred rapidly, and the fissures had not involved a time gap.

Glomar Challenger

Since 1975, the Deep Sea Drilling Project survey vessel, Glomar Challenger has been drilling and coring for ocean sediments all round the globe. The DSDP is managed for the USA National Science Foundation by the University of California at San Diego. The first of a new generation of heavy drilling ships, Glomar Challenger is capable of conducting drilling operations in open ocean, using dynamic positioning to maintain position over the bore-hole. She can change drill bits during a drilling operation and reenter the same bore-hole in the deep ocean. One discovery pertinent to the present discussion, and arising out of the availability of today's technology, is that undersea core samples from the survey ship show that sediments down to depth of a thousand feet are unconsolidated. They have not hardened off. This means that the theory of the formation of stratification joints is incorrect, since it has been shown that underwater surfaces do not become hardened. Coupled with the Bijou Creek observations, it would seem that stratification joints in sedimentary rocks form after a flood as the mass of sediment dries out. A further observation from the sea floor survey, using seismic profiles, is that stratification is always formed parallel to the slope of the sea floor, rather than just in horizontal layers. The earlier interpretation of sloping parallel strata was that they had been laid down on the level but subsequent upthrust or subsidence had created the slope. These sloping parallel layers tend to support the idea that the various strata are all laid down together, rather than one carpet upon another in succession. We shall return to the implication of rapid rates of sedimentation after considering some recent laboratory experiments.

Laboratory research

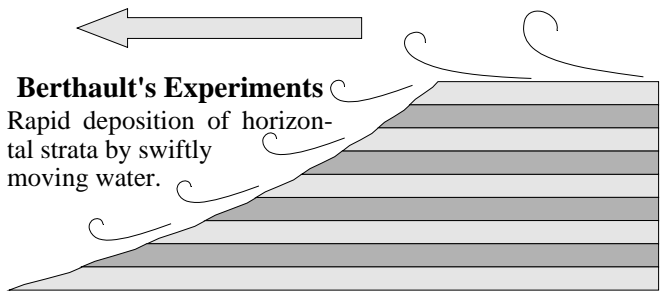
During the latter half of the 1980's, the present author [Guy Berthault] carried out laboratory tests on sedimentation in both static and moving water. If Charles Lyell had been able to do these trials rather than hypothesizing about the present being key to the past, he would have been forced to abandon his hundreds of millions of years on which evolution theory relies so completely. The results of our experiments provide empirical scientific refutation of the vast ages of time applied by Lyell to the geologic column. A first program of research by the writer was followed by a second conducted by hydraulic engineers at the Institute de Mecanique des Fluides at Marseilles, France. The project was completed by a period of intensive experimentation at the State University of Colorado from 1988 to 1990. The object of the experiments was to study lamination and internal structure of strata in continuous

sedimentation both in still water and in water subject to a current. Up until this time lamination had been interpreted as a superposition, layer by layer of strata, over time periods. Samples of laminated rock were crumbled to reduce them to the original particles of varying size that constituted the rock. The particles were sorted by sieving and the largest particles were then colored to make them more visible. All the particles were then mixed together again and allowed to flow into a flask, first in a dry state then into water. These simple experiments showed that the laminations reformed in the settled sediments, giving the sediments the appearance of the original rock from which it had been made. The strata were reproduced, not by deposition of a succession of layers as formerly thought, but due to the effect of the segregation of the larger (colored) particles from the finer particles during continuous flow. A similar segregation had already been observed in heterogranular powders in motion, and the effect of separation of different grain sizes may also be observed by the reader on sandy tidal beaches. Lamination, horizontal or parallel to a slope, was found to have a thickness independent of the speed of sedimentation. It follows that no deduction of the duration of sedimentation can be made by simple observation of rock laminae. In practice, lamination took place instantaneously as the grains were poured into the flask. These results were published by the French Academy of Sciences (Berthault 1986, 1988).

A new program of experiments took place in collaboration with the State University of Colorado [USA] from December 1988 to April 1990, in the large channels of the hydraulics laboratory of their Engineering Center. The object of the research was to reproduce an effect like the Bijou Creek flood in a channel with transparent sides and adjustable slope, in which a continuous current of water would circulate. A mixture of coarse black and fine white sands was used. The causes of the lamination formation at Bijou Creek, as well as the stratification fissures, could then be studied under laboratory conditions with control over all the variable factors. As the water with its burden of coarse and fine sand progressed along the laboratory channel, laminated layers began to be built up. The drop in fluid velocity immediately ahead of the advancing deposit caused the coarser material to drop out first, then overlaid by finer sand. Thus laminae built up and progressed along the channel in the direction of flow. The laminations were shown to be caused by variations in the current speed. The layer on the bottom was not laid down first and then followed by the next highest layer, and so on, as required by the evolutionary interpretation of the geological column. On the contrary, the higher laminated layers were forming upstream slightly earlier than the lowest layers downstream. When the slope of the channel was varied, the stratification was found to form parallel to the slope. This had already been observed on sloping sea beds such as the Bay of Naples. There is no need to interpret sloping parallel sedimentary layers as due to subsidence or mountain upthrust. Further, the drying out of the sediments in the laboratory channels produced fissures parallel to the stratification between the coarse and the fine layers. The standard explanation of these fissures in the past 150 years has been that the top of the lower layer hardened during a period when no sediment was being deposited, then a further layer was laid down above this. Our empirical findings show this is not the case. Layers form simultaneously and not intermittently. Fissures then open up after desiccation as the flood waters recede.

The Colorado research has currently (March 1992) been submitted for publication in a geological journal. The work was also reported at the 3rd National Congress of

Sedimentologists at Brest, France, in November 1991. It was loudly applauded by the 350 sedimentologists present, with no adverse criticism. One remarked on how refreshing it was, having listened to interpretations all week, to hear of real experimental evidence.



Berthault's Experiments
Rapid deposition of horizontal strata by swiftly moving water.

These experiments simulate nicely the latest research by creation scientists which indicates beginning and ending stages of the flood involved enormous tidal waves which transgressed, and retreated from, the continents many times. Each advance could lay down an entire unit of strata (several layers). Ed

At a stroke, these experiments refute the idea of the slow build up of one layer followed by another, and the chronological hiatus associated with fissures. The time scale is reduced from hundreds of millions of years to one or more cataclysms producing almost instantaneous laminae. The conclusions based upon this laboratory work are also reinforced by field studies at Mt. St. Helens in Washington, USA, where rapid formation of laminated sediments in a lake followed the 1980 eruption. But what of the succession of fossils in such a rapidly formed geological column? As the sediments are suddenly deposited, they engulf creatures at the level at which they were living. So the succession represents the different ecospheres, from deep sea trilobites up through fish to land based creatures, entombed at virtually the same time in a massive worldwide flood.

REFERENCES

- McKee, E. 1967. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*. Vol.37, p.329.
Berthault, G. 1986. *Comptes-Rendus Academy de Sciences Paris*. Vol.303, Series 2, p.1569 and 1988, Vol.306, Series 2, p.717.

[Reprinted with permission from the Creation Science Association of Ontario. While there is much more available, this research stands alone as extremely powerful refutation of "uniformitarian geology." You may need to read it more than once to grasp its significance. Drawing added by the editor]

Are You Utilizing CSA Resources?

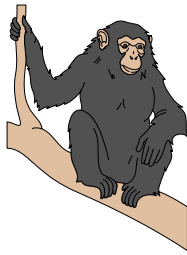
CSA Seminars: Community-wide, Church, School, Sunday School, Home Study Group, etc. CSA conducts seminars from 1 or 2 hours to 13 weeks.

Lending Library: Free Lending Library of Video and Audio materials. Materials available for 1st Grade to professional scientist.

Reference Library: Students writing papers may wish to do research in the CSA reference library which contains a growing number of "Politically Incorrect" books, as well as some early works by Darwin, Lyell, et al.

Another 'Missing Link'?

Nature, dutifully followed by *The New York Times*, *The Kansas City Star*, et al, recently trumpeted another "discovery" of our apelike ancestors. "The discovery of these fossils and their context signals a major step in our understanding of human origins," says the author of the *Nature* article, Tim D. White, University of California-Berkeley. "The most exciting thing about this discovery is the ecological context," said Owen Lovejoy, Kent State paleontologist. *The Times* said "The name assigned to the new species, *Australopithecus ramidus*... [means] humanity's root," They also confessed "As yet, there is only indirect evidence that these creatures, which were about the size of chimpanzees, were able to walk upright. Most of the fossils are of teeth, jaws, a cranial base and some arm bones... One of the objectives of the next excavations is to search for pelvic, knee and foot bones that should be more revealing of the species walking abilities."



Some Thoughts for CSA NEWS Readers

Once again we have a "human ancestor" who "walked upright" based on a few teeth and jaw bones. It doesn't surprise me that Tim White calls this evidence. With Donald Johanson, he has earned his living peddling human ancestors all his adult life. He "believes" in the same way as any other snake oil peddler. His income depends entirely upon someone believing it.

The "indirect evidence" of upright walking must have been awesome. None was reported in these glowing articles. But great faith was expressed that some feet and pelvic bones might be discovered. Even if they are discovered, faith, not science, will also tell whether they walked upright.

The "context" in which the fossils were found tells you nothing about "where they evolved" much less if they evolved. It only tells you what materials are buried with the bones. The materials and the bones could have come from many miles away. Even if they are buried in situ, they could have been passing through.

Australopithecus ramidus does not mean "humanity's root." If it means anything, it means "Southern ape root" as written by someone who feels that if you put "us" on the end of words it makes them more scientific. The reason so many of these apes are called *Australopithecus* is that Darwin said we descended from southern apes. "If Darwin said it, I believe it, and that settles it."

In my judgment the fact that some folks accept this discovery as evidence of human evolution is clear evidence of the truth of the Bible. "Professing themselves wise, they became fools," (Rom 1:22) and "...they received not the love of the truth... for

this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." Tom Willis, Editor

Lost Video Announcement

The following videos have been loaned out and not returned. They are marked with a **CSA Lending Library** Label.

Distinctively Human, Crossroads Creation Series #1, World of Living Fossils by John MacKay, Understanding the Times, #22, "Challenge to Christians in the '90's" by Dr. David Nobel

Audio/Video Tape of the Month:

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

by: *Larry Rink*

Atheists say the heavens declare the glory of hydrogen, old-earth "Christians" say they declare the glory of the Big Bang, but the Bible says "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God." Who is right? Once again, the evidence says the same thing, the Bible is right, its detractors and pseudo-supporters are wrong.

Special: Nov/Dec 1994 Price: Audio Tape #110: \$4.00, VHS Video #V0110: * \$12.00 (includes postage)

Book of the Month:

Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophy

Edited by: *Steve Austin, Ph.D.*

Steve Austin claims to have only edited this excellent new book, but he wrote the key portions, and his many years of research and commitment are undoubtedly the chief cause of it coming to fruition. And a monumental work it is. Even though the book deals only with Grand Canyon, I simply do not see how any sane person can read this book and remain a "uniformitarian geologist." It is simply devastating to their cause.

The book is beautifully illustrated with many color photographs. The geology discussion is clearly explained with many drawings and explanations of geologic terms. The book is a fine course in geology and a calm but firm blow to millions of years of geologic mythology. A must for every thinking man's library. Every high school graduate should be required to read it before attending any "institution of higher learning."

Regular Price: \$20.00

Special: Nov/Dec 1994 Price: \$18.50 (includes postage)

Why Not Join and Support CSA?

For many useful and encouraging evidences for the truth of Biblical Creation, subscribe immediately to **CSA News**, by writing to: **CSA, 22509 S. State Line Road, Cleveland, MO 64734**. Subscriptions to **CSA News** are free for the asking. Please consider supporting our work by becoming a **CSA** member or simply making a tax-deductible contribution.

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CSA Meeting Tuesday, Nov 1, 1994

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

The Origin of Kinds

The Great Proofs of Evolution Examined

by: Tom Willis

The 10 most commonly presented "proofs" of evolution are shown to be internally irrational, the worst possible interpretation of the data, never include any accepted method of proof, willfully deceptive, and invariably use data that makes a cogent case for creation. If you understand this material you should win every debate with evolutionists.

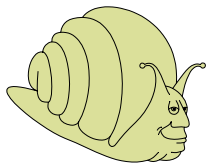
The Advanced Institute in Creation Science

Detachment Faults in SW States

A Video from the International Conference on Creation

by: Scott Rugg

Darwin and his disciples base all their claims on the case for millions of years purportedly made by Lyell and Hutton. But this case has been completely dismantled. This video presents one more illustration of the demise of uniformitarian geology.



Creation Safaris

Oct 14,15 - Ozark Cave Outing - Overnite in rustic cabins, campfire, Smores, worship, hymns, hiking, visit two caves... great family outing.

Oct 28 (Nov 4) - 7:00PM - Astronomy Outing, emphasis: Saturn

November 12 - Squaw Creek Game Refuge - Migration, Bald Eagles, Geese, Ducks, Deer, Hiking, Picnic, Devotion, Seminar

December 13 - 7:00PM - Astronomy Outing, Gemenid Meteor Showers

Important Safari Note: CSA does not charge for safaris. However, some of the places we visit do have entrance fees, and we do request that you make safari reservations so we can plan properly. To make reservations, call (816) 658-3610. To find out safari details, request a copy of the brochure: "1994 Detailed Safari Information," which will give you costs, meeting place, time of departure and return, what to bring, safari registration information, etc.

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Subscription rates: No Charge to those requesting.
Gift subscriptions: \$10 per year.

CSA Meeting Tuesday, Dec 6, 1994

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

Geologic and Fossil Evidence For the Genesis Flood

by: Bob Farwell

Fossils and rocks are one of Bob's first loves. Since he rejected evolution, the Raytown school system barred him from classes involving biology and geology, so he practices his love at CSA meetings and safaris. His presentations are always entertaining, informative and easy to understand. And, for the flood, he brings along enough evidence to fill several tables.

The Advanced Institute in Creation Science

Evidence of a Worldwide Flood From a Study of Dinosaurs

A Video from the International Conference on Creation

by: Mace Baker

Continuing our study of "Uniformitarian Geology" versus the facts of geology, this paper introduces rapid plate movement as a major force in rock formation. Much more evidence will come out in subsequent sessions.

CSA Institute/Meeting Location: Westbrooke Church

9898 West 95th, Overland Park, KS

Refreshments: 6:15PM - Meeting: 7:00PM

Nursery Provided (Reservations required): \$2.50 per child

Two blocks East of 69 Highway (or Switzer) on North side of 95th Street. Call (816) 658-3610 for nursery or for more information.

Did you know... CSA meetings are free, entertaining,
educational, and useful in evangelism?

If you haven't been coming, you should be.

Quotable Quote

"If we embrace the popular assumption of radioisotope dating for Grand Canyon rocks, we can make a case for the youngest rocks being deeply buried within the Precambrian strata and the oldest rocks being on the surface... The evidence for billion-year-old rocks in the Grand Canyon remains very tenuous." Grand Canyon - Monument to Catastrophy, pg 129. [see Book of the Month]

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