

CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

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

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The Great Proofs of Evolution "The Fossil Record" Part I

By Tom Willis

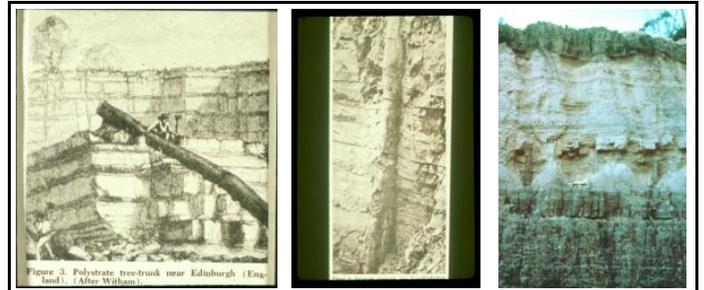
Earth Science by Namowitz & Spalding is a typical high school text. It presents layers of rock and their fossils as offering a record of earth history including the evolution of living things on the earth. It presents the notions that fossils represent "relative time" and radiometric dating represents "absolute time" as facts. Differences in fossils, according to this "science", indicates evolution. While evolutionists promote many ideas, we will focus on two key themes that dominate evolutionist thought. 1. That rocks containing fossils represent about 500 million years of earth history. 2. That fossils themselves are a record of the evolution of life through those millions of years.

Together, these ideas, with a few others beyond the scope of this essay, are called "Uniformitarian Geology." Lyell claimed he hated the notion of geology based on Moses. Lyell hoped to prove that no forces (including God?) had acted in history other than the ones we see operating today. The slogan was "**The present is the key to the past.**"

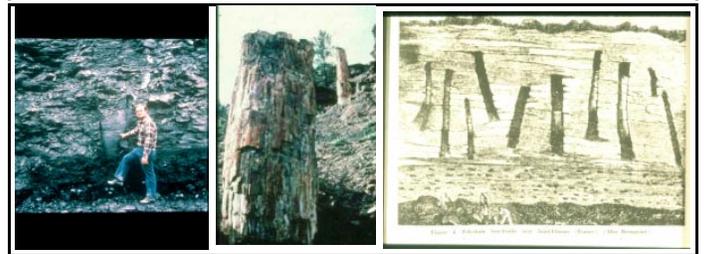
It is my conviction that all such anti-bible arguments exhibit common properties of which we'll cover two. They are internally irrational and always excellent evidence for Biblical Creation. By "internally" irrational, I simply mean that the evidence for irrationality is largely within the argument. Refutation does not require much, if any, outside knowledge. Consider first the claim that the fossils, and sedimentary rocks containing, them took 500 million years to happen. Supposedly, for example, the entire 500 million years is present in the 5000 foot Grand Canyon (with 200+ million "missing"). Simple arithmetic leads one to the conclusion that 300 million years/5000feet = 60,000 years/foot = 5000 years/inch. Whenever you do the arithmetic, you come up with this sort of figure, or even bigger. For example, if one does not concede the "missing strata" then it becomes 500 million yrs/5000ft = 100,000 years/ft = 8333 years/inch. Strangely, the textbooks typically talk about 1000 years per inch. Fossil fish from the Green River in Wyoming used to come with a story that it took 25,000 years to deposit 50,000 layers about 18 inches thick, 25,000/18 = 1388 years/inch. To examine the rationality of this, consider a fish that dies. Will it sink to the bottom and remain in perfect condition a few thousand years. The billion, or so, fossil fish at the Green River had to do just that.. Almost perfectly preserved, in this story, a 2-inch thick fish would lie on the bottom 2600 years to be barely covered.

8300 years waiting to be fully buried? The fern on the right is flat, but like many others, it is perfectly preserved, yet, if you believe the story of millions of years, it would require 800 years to be slightly buried.

On every continent, trees are found, well preserved, typically with no roots or limbs, protruding through as many as 20 or 30 feet. These "polystrate" (many strata) trees would have to stand erect without limbs or roots for 30' x 12" x 8333 yrs/inch = 3 million years! But, in the field, it is much worse than this. Trees have been discovered which protrude through half or more of the entire fossil-bearing portion of the so-called "geologic column," **up to 275 million years!** (That I know of, there are probably known cases much worse.)



L to R, Top: Edinburgh, UK; Germany; New Castle, Au. Bottom: Kentucky, USA; Yellowstone, USA; St. Etienne, Fr. For pop-science history to be true, each of these trees stood erect without roots or limbs for at least 900,000 to 3 million evolvo-years!



The irrational nature of this story is exemplified by the simple fact that preservation of living organisms like ferns and trees is extremely difficult to accomplish and the time available to do it is extremely short, for they decompose rapidly. Yet billions of fossils, including the ferns in Kansas and the trees at Yellowstone are so perfectly preserved that their species are easily discerned. The meaning of this fact is as plain as the nose on your face, they were buried **and** mineralized in less time than it takes ferns and trees to rot. While evolutionists can plead for special preservation conditions, no known condition can produce these results. So, to believe evolutionism, one must believe that, throughout history, the entire earth experienced conditions that are never observed today. But, the only believable scenario is instantaneous burial of the ferns, and no more than a few months for the trees. Mineralization probably occurred within weeks. In addition to ferns and tree trunks, leaves, soft tissue, jellyfish, billions of fish, skin, dung, ripple marks in sand and soil, mud cracks and countless other highly perishable items are routinely

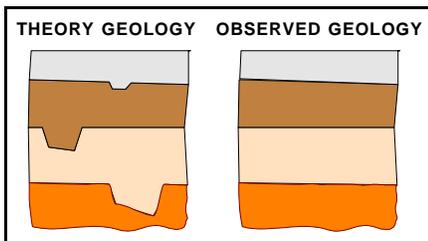


Or, look closely at the leftmost fern fossil found near Ottawa, Ks (where there are thousands). It may not be obvious, but the leaves extend upward through almost an inch of rock. Did it lie there

found. In every case, burial and mineralization must have occurred thousands of times as fast as pop science requires.

Now think about this! The average deposition rate in pop science, calculated from the data discussed above, is a thousandth to a ten thousandth of an inch per year! Therefore, since few fossils are as thin as a thousandth of an inch, **all fossils are polystrate fossils**. Even a one inch thick fossil took one to eight thousand years to bury (and burial alone will not fossilize). There are thousands of fossil graveyards, each with vertically overlapping fossils like the trees at St. Etienne, France. Each fossil graveyard literally screams that there could be virtually no time involved in deposition of the grave. **Since these occur at all levels throughout the world, there can be no time in the entire geologic column!**

For 150 years after Lyell and Darwin, many people calling themselves "scientists" have attacked anyone who proposed any idea that might imply rapid geologic activity. More recently, confronted with these obvious facts, many evolutionists have turned to "catastrophism". They accept sporadic, major, rapid events, but, insist on great time spans between events. The idea has deceit value, but no scientific merit.



In addition to every fossil being polystrate, long ages between events should have left other obvious evidence which is almost universally missing. When you drive through highway cuts, if there had been much time between strata, anyone should be able to see it. Consider the conceptual drawings above. If there had been grand amounts of time between major deposition events, say after the lowest unit in the drawing, then there should be erosion, soil horizon, root penetration, organic etching, and many other evidences of time. But, consider only one, erosion. Millions of various-sized rills, gullies and streams should be filled with sediments from a later time period, as illustrated under "Theory Geology" on the left. But, look out the window while you drive. You observe basically three rock faces: 1. Parallel strata, with no erosion between layers, as illustrated on the right, 2. Erosion through **all** of the strata, and 3. **All** of the strata tilted, bent or broken **after deposition**. Thus, if the pop science of millions of years was true, you should observe countless examples of the illustration on the left. But, what you do observe, illustrated on the right, is consistent only with the general idea that most of the sedimentary rocks and the fossils were deposited in an extremely short period of time.

Also, two thirds of the earth's surface is covered, often to enormous depths, with water-deposited fossils and "sedimentary" rocks. **Many of the geologic units extend laterally for hundreds, even thousands of miles!** The millions of well preserved, overlapping, "polystrate" fossils make it more obvious there is no time between deposition events. Thus, the evidence speaks loudly for a single large water event, or at least, a rapid succession of deposition events. It literally screams against either millions of years of slow deposition, or millions of years of sporadic major events. Rather, fossils and the sedimentary rocks testify that whatever caused them was probably an extremely large water event which did not take very long, but



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undoubtedly took longer than a few days or weeks. There is evidence of much interesting activity during and after this event.

Unwilling to concede the accuracy of Biblical testimony has caused a 200 year detour in "earth science." Ironically, today "catastrophism", like rock music, is again popular, and some have even proposed global floods, global asteroid impacts, etc. Clinging tenaciously to their religious myth of evolutionism, they still insist on millions of years between catastrophes. But, as we say in the vernacular, "Sorry Charlie, millions of years simply ain't in the rocks, or the fossils." "Catastrophism" is as irrational as "Uniformitarianism."

One might ask, "Why would "science" vehemently reject catastrophe for almost 200 years, then rush pell mell to accept "theories" calling for countless catastrophes, including even global ones? If I were still an unbeliever, I would probably resort to the stock answer, "Well, we now know that catastrophes are part of the present and the past. Science is self-correcting you know." To the wise, this is worse than weak. As Derek Ager and many other unbelieving geologists have said, the world has never been short on evidence for catastrophe, but the "science" fraternity has for over 150 years treated anyone who said so as an ignorant, fundamentalist, dangerous scum bag.

I now realize that the world needs millions of years to explain the Bible out of history. Their behavior in this and many other ways makes it obvious they will embrace anything to keep God out of history. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." They pretend to admire Jesus, but a Jesus they invented, not the Jesus of the Bible. Him, and his people, they hate. Fortunately, God is Love!

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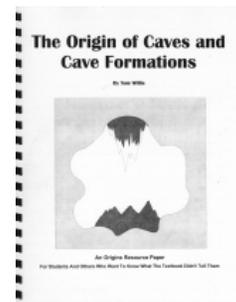
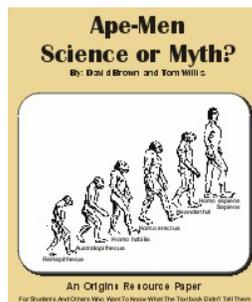
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John Mackay & four University Professors

We have had many requests to see a debate, but no evolutionists willing to debate. Here is one comment on this debate: *"It is strongly recommended that this lively Debate between John Mackay from Creation Research and four evolutionist professors from the University of Saskatchewan, be viewed more than once, notebook in hand. John is a wiley experienced debater, always up-to-date and marshalls his evidence in impressive style to make an array of academics look lame and petulant by comparison. This raises serious issues for tertiary education. It is sad to note that three professors from a notable university were shown to be wanting in current research in their own fields by John."* See more comments in June meeting announcement, in the next column.

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John Mackay vs Four Evolutionists**

John Mackay & four University Professors

Second hour of this informative and entertaining debate. Further comments: *"... I showed the Saskatchewan "Education Debate Video" in our Department on a Wednesday afternoon. The Debate video created quite a stir." Dr Roy Elliot, Geologist, Oxford U.K.* *"I recently had the pleasure of hearing John Mackay speak at Central Qld. University (Rockhampton) and saw the video **The Education Debate**. Thank you so much for the opportunity to hear Creation Research and to obtain such an excellent video for evangelising."* **Stephen Speering, Rockhampton**

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