

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 Age of the Earth - The Longest Myth

Part IV by Tom Willis

Highlights of Part I, II, III

We learned in Parts I & II that Hutton and Lyell did not produce a science. They developed a strategy called "Uniformitarian Geology" for marketing the idea that causing and shaping Earth's rocks took millions of years, when universal experience clearly teaches that both can happen virtually instantly, and internal evidence virtually forces the conclusion that these processes were very rapid. In Part III we looked briefly at neocatastrophism and punctuated equilibrium. We saw that there is much evidence for catastrophe, but none for time between. While we dealt only briefly with punctuated equilibrium, hopefully you realize that it is simply a Marxist view of life history with no evidence for the huge amounts of time other than belief.

"Scientific Dating" Using Radioisotopes Does it Really Save Unbelief?

We must acknowledge that old-earthers do have other *proofs* of an old earth that have been addressed by many authors (e.g., see Real Scientists Just Say NO! ad in this newsletter), but, we will not be able to address all of them here. Herein, we will discuss the "dating method" that is marketed as "scientific," claimed to yield "absolute ages" and appears to be reliably based on radioactive decay. What are the key facts and claims about this "method?"

❖ Properties of Radioactive Materials That Seem Useful

- 1. Radioactive substances have unstable atoms that tend to disintegrate, a process called "decay."
- They disintegrate by giving off a variety of subatomic particles, typically including protons, neutrons and electrons (though these are often given other names, and may actually be somewhat different).
- Losing these atomic particles changes atomic structure. The "Parent" substance changes into a "Daughter" substance, e.g., some forms of Uranium "decay" into Lead.
- 4. Measurements of this decay rate the last century gave comfort to many that it is constant (for each substance).

♦ Their Claims and Our Position About Radiometric Decay

It is claimed that measurements on present day rocks, e.g., the ratio of Uranium to Lead, are reliable clocks to measure rock age. While there is some validity to the first four claims, to be of any value, at a minimum, a "clock" must have...

- A known initial setting
- A constant, or at least well known, tickrate
- No outside influence, e.g., no changes in setting or tick-rate

A clock that is initially set 3 to 8 hours off, or that dramatically varies tick-rate with the weather, or that gets reset to random values at random times, may be an interesting thing to set in your house, but only a fool would insist we use it as a clock.

❖ Some Real-World Problems With The Claims

These, and similar methods are very convenient to some, due to a very slow decay rate (4.5 billion year half-life for Uranium 238). Any lead at all "means millions of years." But, they are



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fatally flawed in other ways. They can and do give you almost any date possible. Why? Well, one easy-to-understand reason is that Uranium is virtually always found in a salt form. Water dissolves it quite easily and moves it out of the rock. The "clock" will be reset each time it gets wet, and you have no way of knowing it! Example: A PhD thesis was done with rocks in a field that contained a horizontal wet seep. The "age" of the Uranium rocks increased one million years every 12 months. Since the water was moving horizontally, the rocks in the "downstream" position got progressively "younger" each year, though not a million years per annum because the dissolved Uranium did not all end up in the downstream rocks. You see, even if the rate were constant, these "clocks" are very easily reset without your knowledge.

A radio-dating method that was very popular when the "Geologic Column" was being "dated" is based on the decay of an isotope of Potassium to Argon. Potassium is also found as a salt and is easily dissolved by water. It is widely taught in textbooks that, as a gas, Argon would **all** be driven out by the volcanic heat that produced the rocks. Heat may drive the Argon out, but cooling of any object typically produces a reduction in the size of the materials, particularly as they change from gas to liquid or liquid to solid. This change produces a vacuum, which sucks gasses and liquids from outside. Years ago the Geophysics Institute of Hawaii dated volcanic rocks from the 1800's using Potassium/Argon. They obtained dates of millions of years for rocks known to be about 150 years old. Clearly, Argon had been trapped and Potassium lost, in varying amounts. Randomly reset clocks are worth little!

The US Geological Survey at Penn State dated living mollusks using C¹⁴ at 22 million years dead. S.R. Hart, Carnegie Tech, in the Journal of Geology, dated a single rock as follows: 80.6 Million Years, 435 MY, 516 MY and 1,118 MY. G.A.Kerkut, a committed evolutionist, published dates on one rock from 380 MY to 800 MY using three different Uranium isotopes. Changes in decay rate or "resets" due to steam, water, heat, cooling, etc. are likely causes.

The Age of the Earth - The Longest Myth - Part IV (From pg 1)

Even the very closed scientific fraternity, where dates "believed to be wrong" are seldom published, has published many dates demonstrating the magnitude of the flaws in these methods. For example, many objects found in the so-called "Pennsylvanian Period," about "three hundred million years ago," have been "dated" by Carbon 14 in the thousands of years. Even more telling is that virtually none are "too old to date" by C¹⁴ which has an upper limit of less than 100 thousand years. If the Geologic Column has any validity, every object in these "older eras" should be "too old to date" by C⁴!! There should be **no** C¹⁴!

Diamonds (virtually impenetrable, thus sort of difficult to "contaminate") from Geologic Column strata "known" to be over 500 million years old **always** "Radiocarbon date" to much less than 100 thousand years. I am not expressing a conviction that the Carbon dates are right and the others wrong. Rather, I am convinced that all these claimed *scientific* and widely used "dating" methods yield results that clearly show they are meaningless, and people who pretend to use them are selective about which results they use!

Evidence for Accelerated Nuclear Decay

It has been long known that certain things can alter the "constant" decay rates, but it was never mentioned in the vast majority of classrooms and minimized in others. In the last 30 years or so, evidence has accumulated that enormous changes in decay rates have occurred in Earth history. Following are two examples.

Large Amounts of Helium in Rocks - Accelerated Decay

A striking evidence for historical accelerated decay is the existence of many times too much Helium in volcanic rock crystals called Zircons. If you are new to this, it will take some concentration, but the science is as follows: Uranium is found in rocks formed by magma (melted rock) from the earth's mantle. This Uranium is radioactive. When it decays, the ejected particles leave streaks in the rock, called "fission tracks." Of course, it also leaves daughter product. There are many of these "fission tracks" which unbelievers excitedly proclaim as evidence for much decay, therefore a very old earth. However, tracks are not the only product of decay in the rocks, each decay also results in the formation of a Helium atom. Of course, initially the Helium atoms are trapped in the rock crystals where they formed.

But, these rock crystals are not perfect vessels, they leak Helium. The world's foremost authority on this process measured and produced a graph of the leak rate at various temperatures the rocks may have experienced. Remember, they could not have ever re-melted, else the fission tracks and other evidence would not be there. By counting the fission tracks, we know about how much Helium formed. By calculating the likely Helium leakage from the rocks, we know how much Helium should have leaked out. If we believe ages based on radiometric dating, so much time has elapsed that there should be virtually no Helium left. But, there is much Helium in all these crystals that contain evidence of much decay. Thus "Helium presence" has become another "Radiometric Dating Method." But, unbelievers hate it, because it shows vastly accelerated decay, at least once, providing another explanation of why mainline radiometric dates vary so much that they are meaningless. Their tick-rate changes wildly.

Oklo Natural Reactor, Africa - Accelerated Decay

You have heard of "Nuclear Reactors," but did you know that they can occur in "nature?" A "reactor" is any place where the

process of nuclear decay (fission) takes place fast enough or in radioactive materials that are concentrated enough that there is high probability that the fission particles will strike another atom hard enough to trigger another fission event. If materials are concentrated enough, or the decay rate fast enough, then, like a nuclear power plant, there will be a "chain reaction," producing much more nuclear decay than normal, or even a bomb. Whether accelerated fission occurs and how much occurs is well understood by nuclear engineers, else, all the nuclear power plants in the world would either not work or blow up.

In the Uranium mine near Oklo, there is considerable evidence that, in one small vein, a "Natural Reactor" has occurred. However, any nuclear engineer can take the measurements and calculate that a "Natural Reactor" could not have been possible here, the vein is too small... unless, of course the decay rate was accelerated. The reactor products are there, but the proper concentration is not. The only scientific conclusion: decay was much faster, at least once. The tick-rate changed, dramatically.

Can We Learn Something of Value at This Point?

Unbelievers are not inherently stupid. Many of these problems have been recognized and schemes have been devised to attempt to avoid them. A great variety of dating methods have been devised. New calculation techniques using the same materials have been invented. We can not possibly review this history here. But we can make some interesting points:

- 1. Virtually every dating method has been hailed as a savior of unbelief and results have been widely published and used to determine the age of rocks.
- 2. Many absurdly conflicting dates are obtained like "less than 50,000 years" for objects "known to be 300 to 500 million years old!"
- 3. Even diamonds "known to be over 500 million years old" are routinely dated in the thousands of years.
- 4. Evidence for one or more episodes of accelerated decay, in Earth history, is very compelling. Sensible people realize that clocks with wildly changing tick-rates are useless!
- 5. Very old dates are virtually useless (and unused) in any technology to achieve any worthwhile, usable, technological objectives. In short, belief in old ages has not resulted in a single new car, computer, etc. They are largely used in a huge fellowship of unbelievers to *certify* what they already believe "If there is a God, He certainly didn't get his history right."
- 6. Creation Scientists have reviewed the theory and practice of every one of these radiometric dating methods, including running their own tests (above). None of these methods have proven to be worth even a dollar investment, much less betting eternity on them. There are some who still cling to Carbon dating as a possibility, but huge adjustments must be made for known flaws.

I have developed a slogan you may find useful in remembering what you have learned herein:

Claim: The ratio of Uranium to Lead in a rock enables us to know the age of the rock.

Fact: Measuring the ratio of Uranium to Lead in a rock truly helps you know the ratio of Uranium to Lead in the rock.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24-15

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The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

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CSA Meeting - Tuesday, Jan 2, 2007

Dinosaurs & Feathered Dinosaurs - I

By: Tom Willis, BS, MA



In every museum, all mainstream media, nearly all textbooks, simply everywhere you look, we are indoctrinated that a living man never saw a living dinosaur, that dinosaurs became extinct

65 million years ago, and one reason they went extinct is that they evolved into birds (though this last claim is resisted by a minority of the unbelief coalition. They believe dinosaurs evolved from another source). In these two talks we will examine four types of evidence that refute the extinction claims, their dates of extinction, and their claims that men never coexisted with dinosaurs.

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CSA Meeting - Tuesday, Feb 6, 2007

Dinosaurs & Feathered Dinosaurs - II

By: Tom Willis, BS, MA



In Part II we will wrap up the four classes of evidence that man undoubtedly coexisted with dinosaurs, **a very short time ago**, and we will close by presenting a reasonably thorough refutation of the equally absurd claim that "When you see a goose fly by, you are seeing a T-Rex." The reason I say

"reasonably thorough" is that, if someone claims Andromeda is made of glowing green cheese, it may be difficult for man, who will never go there, to **prove** otherwise. But, one can analyze the evidence and logic used to support the claim... If there is any.

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