

THE GEOLOGICAL COLUMN

ERA	PERIOD	ROCKS	DOMINANT LIFE	
CENOZOIC	Tertiary			Mammals
	Cretaceous			Reptiles - Ammonites
MESOZOIC	Jurassic			Reptiles - Ammonites
	Triassic			Reptiles - Ammonites
	Permian			Amphibians
PALAEOZOIC	Carboniferous			Amphibians
	Devonian			Fish Corral
	Silurian			Invertebrates
	Ordovician			Invertebrates
	Cambrian			Invertebrates
				Invertebrates

Figure 66:

The "Geological Column" is a textbook chart found in most books dealing with the subject of Biology and Geology. It proposes to show the development of living creatures in the layers of the earth in an order from simple to complex.

GEOLOGY AND THE GEOLOGICAL COLUMN

In the previous section of this book, we looked at some of the major ideas that the evolutionary theory is founded upon. As we could see, each principle of the evolution model was based on speculative assumption and not on sound observable factual information.

Another important principle of the theory of evolution is based on the science of geology. Geology deals with the study of the earth and the rocks from which it is composed, the changes which the earth has undergone, and the changes it is undergoing. Historically, the study of geology began with the understanding that the earth's physical features had been shaped by sudden global catastrophic events such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. This idea was replaced by the theory of uniformitarianism, which suggested the geological features of the earth could be explained by very gradual environmental forces taking place over long periods of time.

Many scientists consider geology is the strongest proof for the evolution theory. Evolutionary textbooks written on the subject of the origin and history of the earth almost always have an illustration of the geological column included in them. (Figure 66) The concept has become so well accepted by geologists, that it is no longer considered a theory but a fact.

The foundational principle for the geological column is based on the assumption the earth is billions of years old. As we have previously mentioned, the idea that the earth's geological features were formed as a result of gradual processes taking place over long periods of time rather than by a mechanism of catastrophe was first proposed by men who were attempting to discredit the authenticity of the Bible.

The geological column is an attempt made by the evolutionist to provide a model to explain the numerous layers or

“strata” found in the crust of the earth. Evolution teaches that the layers of the earth were deposited over millions and millions of years of time by gradual uniform processes. (Figure 67) In essence, the theory of uniformitarianism states that the processes of erosion, sedimentation, and volcanic activity took place in the past at the same rate it occurs today.

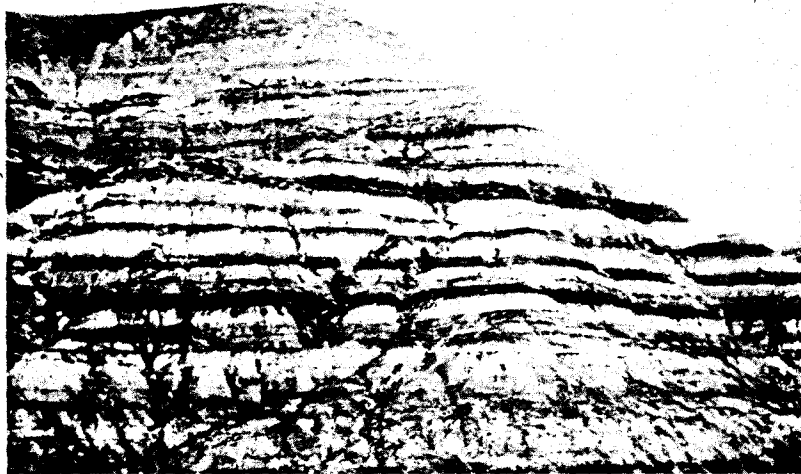


Figure 67:

The earth's surface is made up of layers called strata. A layer may range in thickness from a few inches to thousands of feet. Evolution theory accepts that deposition of these layers took place by uniform gradual processes over extremely long periods of time.

Typical textbook illustrations of the geological column usually depict the layers or strata of the earth on the left side of the chart arranged in an orderly sequence with the oldest layers at the bottom and the youngest layers at the top. Each strata is given a designated name and assigned an age.

Associated with this concept of gradual deposition of the layers of the earth over long periods of time is the belief that living things were evolving upon the earth at the same time as the layers were being formed. According to the theory of evolution, there was a continual progression and development of life taking place in the direction from simple to complex. Non-living building blocks randomly formed single celled organisms which randomly developed into multicellular plants or multicellular animals. Animals without backbones randomly developed into fish; fish became four-legged amphibians; then amphibians eventually developed into reptiles. Reptiles with scales developed into birds or fur-bearing mammals. Mammals eventually walked upright and developed into apes, and finally the human kind.

The evolution theory further deduces that a record of the organisms that lived in the past should be found preserved in the layers of the earth in a sequential record of increasing complexity. Simpler forms of life should be found in older layers deeper in the earth's crust, while more advanced forms should be found in younger layers closer to the earth's surface.

Serious Problems In Using The Geological Column

In order to better understand the significance of the geological column and how it is used, let us examine it in more detail. If the geological column can be classified as an acceptable scientific model, then it should be able to stand the test of being verified by the observable evidence.

It is important to realize that the ages assigned to the various strata making up the column were determined over 150 years ago, and were based on nothing more than pure assumption

and speculation. No one can prove scientifically how long a period of time was required for a particular layer to be laid down in the past. Any amount of time chosen for the formation of such a layer has to be based on an assumption that can not be tested.

Another observation which causes one to question the hypothetical geological column, is the precise and well defined boundaries that always exist between strata. If the theory of uniformitarianism is correct, certainly one would expect a gradual blending of one layer into the next.

Another important reason for questioning the validity of the geological column, is the fact that the proposed sequence of geological layers laid down in an order from the oldest to the youngest, can not be found anywhere in the real world. No geologist has been able to find a single location on earth where there is a complete sequence of the strata which have been laid down in the same order as depicted by the text book charts.

Using The Geological Column To Date Fossils

A farmer who did not have access to a scale wanted to determine the weight of a pig. In order to do so, he constructed a balancing device using a plank and a saw-horse. (*Figure 68*) On one end of the plank he secured the pig. Then he located a large stone just the right weight that would exactly balance the pig. He then estimated the weight of the rock. Because the farmer believed the estimation of the weight of the rock was accurate, he then determined the weight of the pig. Confident that he had arrived at an accurate weight for the pig, he further assumed he had arrived at an accurate weight for the rock.

It does not take a great scientific mind to see the error that the farmer made as he attempted to determine the weight of his pig. It is obvious that it is impossible to set up an accurate system of measuring weight based on an assumption dependent on something which is unknown. Evolutionists who have thought through this simple illustration of circular reasoning

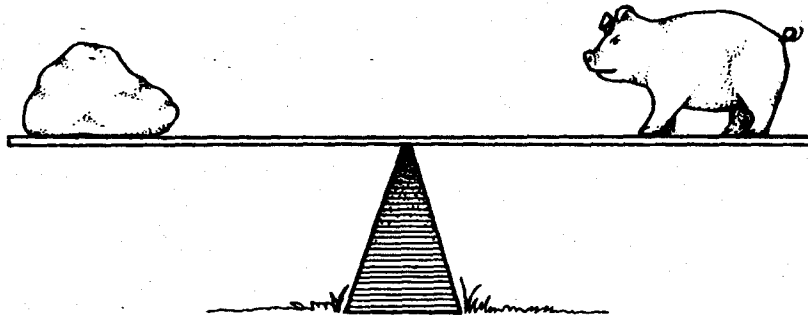


Figure 68:

The above illustration shows how a farmer incorrectly weighed a pig. If the weight of the rock on the left was determined by an assumption, the weight of the pig can not be determined with any degree of accuracy.

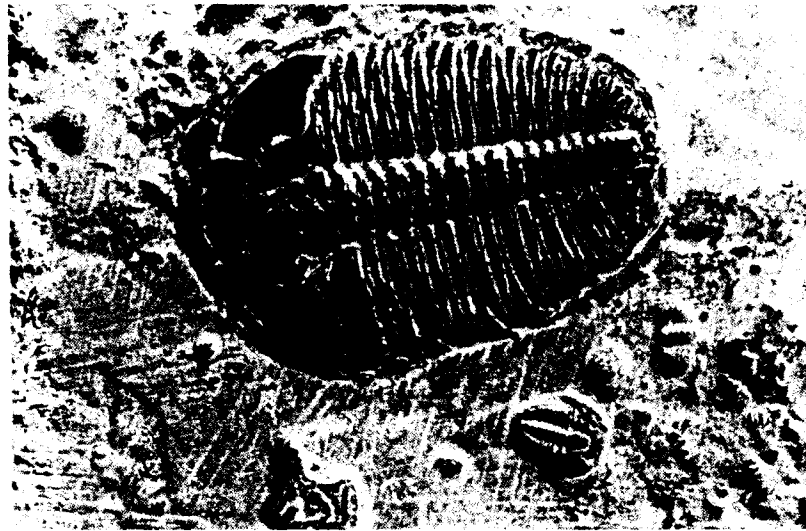


Figure 69:

A trilobite is an extinct form of life found in the fossil record. Even though this organism has complex eyes, evolutionists have chosen the trilobite as a primitive form of multicellular life, thus placing it at the bottom of the geological chart.

find it extremely humorous, and of course very unscientific. And yet the method in which the geological time scale was constructed and the way that it is used for dating fossils and the layers of the earth, follows the same pattern of unreliable assumptions used by the farmer who attempted to weigh his pig.

To the average person who has a trust and respect for the science of geology, dating procedures are accepted without questioning, as absolute and true. The acceptance of the geological column over the past several decades by geologists has established a method for dating the layers of the earth and the fossils. Very few have actually investigated the history behind the formation of the geological column, nor have they considered how the column is used to establish the proposed ages of various fossil finds.

Nearly everyone is aware of fossil discoveries found in certain areas and reported by the media. Very often the ages of the fossils are published immediately after they have been found, long before it would have been possible to use radioactive dating techniques to determine an age. Most people accept these dates for the age of the fossil as being very accurate and reliable, without even questioning how they were determined.

In order to better understand how the geological column is used to date fossils, let us consider the following example. Suppose that one day while you were on a fossil hunting expedition you came across a well preserved specimen of a trilobite embedded in a layer of rock. (*Figure 69*) In an attempt to determine the age of the fossil, you chiseled the trilobite out of the rock and took it to a geologist for examination. The geologist, without knowing anything more about the fossil or the layer of rock in which it was found, and without using a radiometric dating technique, would be able to immediately tell you the age of the trilobite. How would this be possible? (*Figure 70*)

In order for a geologist to make an assessment of the age of any fossil, he must totally rely on the assumptions that were

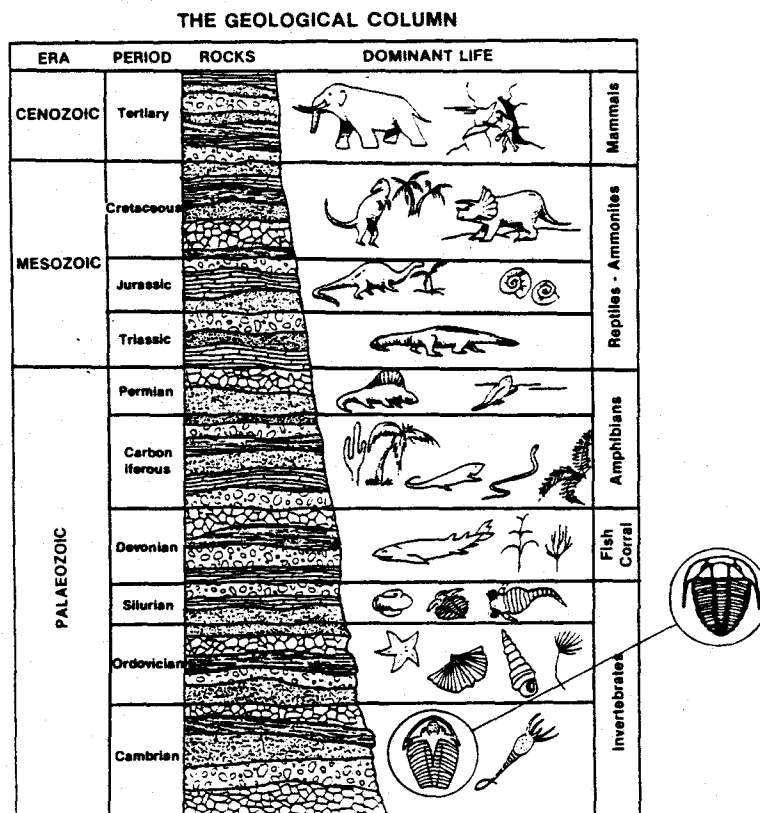


Figure 70:

The geological chart is often used by evolutionists to determine the age of a fossil. In the above example, the age of a trilobite fossil is established by simply using the theoretical dates that were assigned to the geological column when it was first proposed over 150 years ago.

proposed in the formation of the geological column. As was previously mentioned, the age of the fossils preserved in the numerous layers of the earth's crust, and the proposed sequence of evolutionary development, was assumed by the proponents of the theory of evolution, approximately one hundred and fifty years ago. Those dates are still used and accepted as absolute scientific fact to this present day. The following statement taken from Science Year Book 1980, page 200, clarifies this point:

"Scientists before Darwin also knew that rocks from different time periods in the geological past contained different kinds of fossils, and they had worked out the basic sequence of life remarkably well. In fact geologists still use the time scale that was established, years before Darwin wrote, dividing the earth into eras, periods, and epochs that lasted millions of years. These time periods were defined by the kinds of fossils found in each period"

Thus, given the assumption that the various time periods and their associated fossils are accurate, a geologist feels he is capable of assessing the age of any fossil with confidence. In the case of a trilobite fossil, a geologist would immediately suggest this organism lived in a period of time between 600 and 230 million years ago. Once you have placed your trust in the time scale for the various eras of the geological column, any other fossil can be dated as well.

The geological column can not only be used to date fossils, but it can also be used to assess the age of the various layers of the earth. Suppose you have discovered a layer of the earth and you were interested in finding out how many years ago the layer was formed. Once again, the geological column would be used to determine the age of the layer. A geologist would be able to estimate the approximate age of the layer by examining the layer and determining what kind of fossils were present.

For example, suppose a thick layer of volcanic ash material was exposed by a ravine which cut through the top soil by a flash flood. In order for a geologist to assess how long ago the volcanic ash layer had been deposited, it would be necessary to dig through the layer until some kind of fossil remains were found. In this particular situation, the excavation revealed the fossil fragments of a dinosaur. A geologist would immediately have the information required to date the layer. According to the geological chart, it is assumed the dinosaur era existed between 200 to 65 million years ago, thus making the layer in question of that same approximate age.

As we have looked at these two examples showing how the geological chart can be used to date fossils and layers, it is apparent there is a conflict that can not be resolved. In the first case we saw that the chart was used to date a fossil according to the assumed age of the particular layer it was found in. In the second example, we saw that the age of a particular layer was established by assigning a date based on the assumed age of the fossil found in the layer. These two examples illustrate the circular reasoning which occurs in the dating process as related to the geological chart.

In the first place we must recognize that all of the ages and time periods given on the chart are based on an assumption. Secondly, fossils are dated by the assumed age of the layers in which they are found, and conversely, layers are dated by the assumed age of the fossils contained in the layers. This process of circular reasoning is exactly the same kind of reasoning that the farmer used to weigh his pig.

If one is truly honest with the evidence, it is obvious that circular reasoning does not belong in the realm of science. And yet this method is used as if it were an absolute scientific fact over and over again. Scientists who refute the validity of the geological column and its use for assessing the age of fossils and layers are looked upon by the secular world as heretics and religious fools. Certainly, it is time the evolutionary concept of the geological column was challenged and re-examined with an open mind.

GEOLOGY AND THE OBSERVABLE EVIDENCE

Throughout this book we have been constantly looking at the claims made by the two opposing models for the origin and history of the earth - evolution and creation. After examining these claims we have then turned to the observable evidence to see which of the two models appears to be the most credible.

The Creation Model section of this book dealt with an area which gave an overview of what the Bible states the original earth was like. We mentioned how the original earth was much different from the earth as we know it today. Subtropical life flourished under a green house environment from pole to pole. Varieties of life were not only larger and more vigorous, but there were many more kinds of life than exist today.

According to the scriptures, the original earth experienced a cataclysmic event of global proportions at the time of the Noahic flood. Mass extinctions occurred as a result of catastrophic events which affected the entire planet. Volcanic eruptions, cosmic fallout, massive deposition of water and ice, tidal wave activity, and geological upheavals rapidly destroyed life. The Biblical premise predicts that life should be found in the various stratas of the earth revealing the evidence of catastrophic deposition. According to the Creation model, life should be found scrambled together, in no specific order, often mixed with volcanic debris, and laid down in flood deposited horizontal layers:

If these events have occurred in the past as the Bible states they have, then there must certainly be evidence to be observed. Examination of the observable evidence from around the world will help us to evaluate whether or not the Bible Model is true. Once again we will see that what the Bible states has taken place in the past can be born out by the geological layers and the fossils they contain.

The Burgess Shale Fossil Bed

The Burgess Shale fossil bed near Field, British Columbia, Canada has been described as one of the richest fossil bearing locations in the world. The Burgess Shale site is particularly rich in trilobite fossils, a form of life that was supposed to have flourished during the so-called Cambrian period of time, alleged to have occurred a half a billion years ago.

Along with the trilobites found in this location are numerous other strange looking animals and plants which have been described as creatures looking like something out of science fiction. An article written in the Vancouver Sun, October 9, 1980, called The Way We Were Written In Stone, describes the amazing structural complexity of the fossilized remains of some of the creatures found in this location. Many of the organisms found there are so bizarre in their appearance that paleontologists have not even attempted to connect them to any family of modern animals.

The sudden profusion of so many highly advanced forms of life that appear suddenly in the fossil record, has caused some scientists to reconsider their views on how evolution has occurred. The article states the opinion of Harry Whittington of Cambridge University in England, who has done extensive studies of the Burgess fossils:

The textbook evolutionary tree, with everything traced back to a few common ancestors, is inaccurate. Instead, evolution is a thicket, with a rich diversity of species in the remote past, many of them ultimately unsuccessful.

Not only is the sudden appearance of so many complex forms of life a mystery, but the very reason for their preservation in such minute detail in a tropical-like environment of the past, needs to be explained as well. Jim Aitken of the Canadian Geological Survey in Calgary, Alberta, is a geologist who has collected specimens from the Burgess location. He explains

in this same article how evolutionists believe the Burgess fossils were formed.

"Back in the so-called middle Cambrian period, the earth spun about an axis that had the north pole in the Pacific Ocean, and Field, in tropical or subtropical latitudes. There was no trace of British Columbia's present mountains. A warm ocean lapped the western border of Saskatchewan. Near Field there was an offshore reef that brushed the surface of the sea, then abruptly dropped 150 meters to the seabed. Fine mud collected in the sloping beds against the bottom of the reef, where the creatures of the Burgess Shale thrived.

But from time to time disaster struck this marine community. The mud slopes were unstable. A small underwater avalanche of mud would occur, sweeping up plants and animals and burying them lower down. Normally, scavengers and decay would quickly destroy the buried bodies, leaving only a few stems and shells to be preserved in the fossil record. But some of the avalanches occurred in a region where the water was low in oxygen. Scavengers could not live there and decay was arrested. With time, the bodies were flattened and the minerals infiltrated the tissues because of the fineness of the mud and the smallest details were preserved."

The conventional explanation for the Burgess Shale fossil bed is based upon the premise that living organisms are the product of the process of evolution occurring over long periods of time. The many different kinds of life forms, and the incredible design and complexity revealed by the fossils preserved there, has caused evolutionists themselves to question some of their long held cherished ideas about how evolution has supposed to have taken place.

The presence of the trilobite which has always been classified as the most primitive form of multicellular life along with the presence of many other complex forms of multicellular life, challenges the idea of the existence of an orderly sequence of life as proposed by the geological column. In other words the common text book chart showing the evolution of life as a tree, with all present life forms traced back to a few common ancestors, does not agree with the evidence. (Figure 71) The Burgess Shale reveals the appearance of multiplied forms of complex life along with the trilobite. This evidence agrees completely with the Biblical premise.

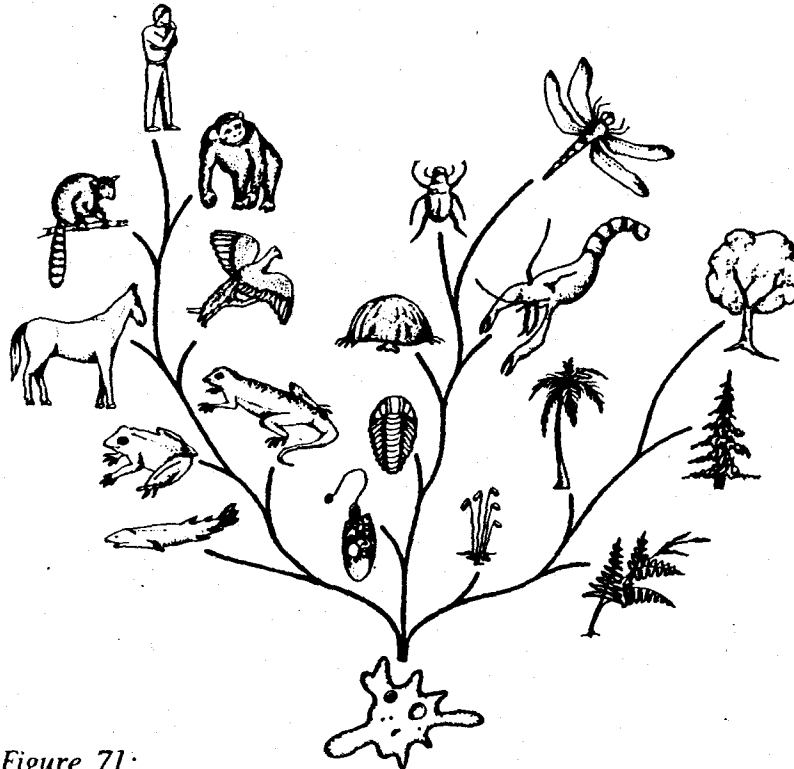


Figure 71:

One of the major assumptions of the evolutionary model is that all forms of life can be traced back to a few common ancestors. The observable evidence reveals that multiplied forms of complex life appear on the scene at the same time.

The other interesting aspect of the fossil bed at Field, British Columbia, is the apparent relationship of a tropical type environment which existed at the time fossilization took place. Evolutionists have attempted to explain the change that took place in the climate from the remote past to the present day, by stating the earth's geographic poles have shifted position. However, as we have already pointed out by looking at fossil evidence of many different kinds of life from all over the world, tropical or subtropical environments occurred on a global basis. Once again it would appear that the Biblical concept of an original canopied earth would adequately explain the reason for the climatic difference from the past to the present.

The mechanism for fossilization of life on a localized basis, explained by the reasoning from the uniformitarian model, can also be questioned in light of the Biblical model for the origin and history of the earth. The Bible suggests that all kinds of perfected life which existed in a tropical like environment were destroyed by a global cataclysmic event involving flood waters covering the entire earth. The fossil evidence indicates that rapid deposition and burial of life forms of all kinds appears to be the general rule rather than the exception.

The Love Bone Bed

The Love Bone Bed, located 12 miles west of Gainesville, Florida, has become known as one of the richest sites for fossil exploration in North America. Excavation at this location which took place between the years 1974 to 1981 has revealed over 100 species of vertebrates embedded in the earth's surface.

Scientists working at this site have excavated an area measuring 120 feet long by 60 feet wide and approximately 15 feet deep. In this area, which is equivalent to the size of an average gymnasium, over a million fossils have been uncovered. In some places of the excavation the fossilized remains are so tightly packed together, bone makes up over 50% of the

deposit.

Many different kinds of animals from both marine and land habitats are represented. The remains of extinct sharks, whales and manatees show the site was close to salt water, but fresh water fish and animals such as gar, alligators and turtles indicate the presence of fresh water. Land animals that have been found there include snakes, rodents of various kinds, two species of racoon, four species of wolves, a sabre-tooth cat, an elephant, a tapir, two species of rhinoceroses, seven kinds of horses, a llama, and three species of camels.

In order to understand the scrambling together of the many kinds of life from both land and water habitats, paleontologists offer the following explanation. Nine million years ago the sea level surrounding Florida was higher than it is today, creating a salt water marsh extending inland for 60 miles more than it is today. A fresh water stream flowed lazily into the salt water marsh. Around the bank of the stream was a forest interspersed with fresh water marshes. The Love Bone bed was supposedly a bend in the stream where fossils accumulated in the still water.

Science And Mechanics - Special Edition 1981 page 108 and 109 has an article about the Love Bone Bed location called "Digging Up Florida's Past". In this article an interview is made with Dr. David Webb, a paleontologist with the Florida State Museum. Webb, who has directed the excavation makes the following statement:

"It's almost impossible to find 100 species of living vertebrates in any one place today. To find that many fossils is incredible. The concentration of bones is unbelievable, and that says that life must have been rich and productive around here ... The climate looks to have been even more tropical and lush than Florida today. There are many unique species here, even a number of genera not known to scientists from anywhere else. Many of the animals are like those out of the American tropics."

The mass burial of so many varieties of life in such a concentrated area fits exactly with what one would expect if an event such as a global flood had occurred. The environmental tropical conditions present at the time the fossils were formed also agrees with the Biblical model of a canopied earth. Once again, the physical observable evidence agrees with the Word of God.

Kenya, Africa

A well known fossil of a human-like skull called "Skull 1470" was found by Richard Leakey east of Lake Rudolf in Kenya, Africa in August of 1972. The discovery of "Skull 1470" triggered off a great deal of controversy amongst paleontologists, scientists who attempt to trace the lineage of man back to the ape. The National Geographic of June 1973, in an article called "Skull 1470 - New Clue To Earliest Man" on page 819, quotes Richard Leakey regarding the significance of the fossil:

"Either we toss out this skull or we toss out our theories of early man. It simply fits no previous models of human beginnings. It leaves in ruins the notion that all early fossils can be arranged in an orderly sequence of evolutionary change."

The reason that "Skull 1470" was controversial, was because of its classification as belonging to the genus *Homo*, the same genus as modern human beings. Prior to the discovery of this particular skull, the earliest previous suggestion of the genus *Homo* had been a proposed 1.8 million year old creature called *Homo habilis*, found by Lewis Leakey in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. Potassium argon dating of volcanic tuft in the layer surrounding Skull 1470 gave an age of approximately 2.8 million years to the fossil. Thus Richard Leakey's discovery pushed back many anthropologists' estimates about the beginning date of human evolution by approximately


another million years.

Another interesting thing about the find of Skull 1470 is the description of the environment present at the time the fossilization process took place. In this same article from the National Geographic, Leakey describes the area as once being near a large fresh water lake fed by tropical streams. Leakey mentions that the wealth of other fossils found there indicated "a picture of a vast green expanse teaming with game". He also suggests that the reason for the region's multilayered geological record is because of periods of "frequent flooding and widespread volcanic activity". Once again, we see that the Biblical premise of a destruction of a tropical type environment by volcanic destruction and flood activity can be supported by the evidence.

Other revealing evidence associated with the find of "Skull 1470" causes the honest observer to question the credibility of the evolutionary interpretation of the origin of modern man. On page 88, of the book, Origins written by Richard Leakey, mention is made of the discovery of a leg bone in the same area that 'Skull 1470' was found. The following statement is made:

"Not long after the few scraps of bones were spotted that gave us 1470, John Harris, a paleontologist in the team was examining the fossilized remains of an elephant being eroded from the ground, when, in the middle of the shattered pieces, he noticed sections of an almost complete thigh bone (femur) and the top and bottom parts of the lower leg (tibia and fibula) of a remarkably advanced hominid. When they were examined closely, there was practically no difference from modern human leg bones."

Is it just possible that the leg bone and the fossil fragments called "Skull 1470" could have belonged to a individual as human as we are today? Although the cranial capacity of the skull is only 800 cubic centimeters as compared to the average



modern human cranium of approximately 1400 cubic centimeters, there is no way of knowing if the fossil skull was an adult at time of death.

The age of 2.8 million years assigned to the skull was determined by radiometric dating of volcanic material located in the surrounding area. Earlier in this book we looked at the reliability of the radiometric dating methods and found they were based upon some questionable assumptions. Can the evolutionist accept the age for "Skull 1470" as one hundred percent accurate or is it possible this skull may have been buried in recent historical times. Once again, the Biblical premise of the destruction of many kinds of life along with the human kind in the recent past, fits well with the evidence that is seen in Kenya, Africa.

The Asphalt Pit Of La Brea

The La Brea asphalt pits, located in the midst of Los Angeles, California, are another example of the abundant preservation of many forms of life in the fossil record. The tar pits of La Brea are an outcropping of beds of petroleum shale that originate in northern California and extend for a distance of over 450 miles to Los Angeles and beyond.

The deposit containing the fossils consists of alluvium, a type of sedimentary material of sand and mud, formed by the action of flowing water. Mixed together with the alluvial deposition is coarse sand, gravel and asphalt. Since the La Brea asphalt pits were discovered, over a million well preserved fossils have been dug out of the layers of oil and tar. The animal remains, crowded together in an unbelievable agglomeration, include bears, sabretoothed tigers, giant wolves, llamas, camels, horses, giant ground sloths, bison and birds.

In order to explain the presence of so many kinds of life found in the mud and asphalt, a theory has been proposed that the animals became entrapped in the tar when they came to this location for a drink, sank in it, and were permanently embedded when the tar hardened. It is suggested that as the

animals were dying, their helpless cries were heard by other animals in the area, attracting them to the site, and the same fate.

Immanuel Velikovsky, in his book Earth In Upheaval, page 61, tells about the presence of human skeletal remains at this location.

"Separate bones of a human skeleton were also discovered in the asphalt of La Brea. The skull belonged to an Indian of the Ice Age, it is assumed. However, it does not show any deviation from the normal skull of Indians. The human bones were found in the asphalt, under the bones of a vulture of an extinct species. These finds suggest that the time when the human body was buried preceded the extinction of that species of vulture or at least coincided with it."

The explanation for the presence of so many life forms might seem reasonable if the state of the bones in the tar pits did not reveal the ensnarement by violent circumstances. The majority of the skeletons are not found connected together, but are broken, mashed, contorted and scrambled together, such as could have never happened gradually as the theory suggests. It would seem more logical to accept that animals along with humans were buried in a mass grave which was the result of a catastrophic deposition involving flood activity and bitumenous material falling from the heavens. Such a catastrophe is in keeping with the Biblical model.

The Siwalik Hills

The Siwalik Hills are located at the southern base of the Himalaya mountain range. The Himalayas, noted for being the highest mountain range in the world, rise like a fifteen hundred-mile wall at the northern border of India. Many of the peaks of the Himalayas tower over 20,000 feet. Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, is located in this range.

During the nineteenth century, scientists who climbed the slopes of the Himalaya Mountains, were dismayed to find the evidence of many forms of marine organisms such as fish and clams in a fossilized condition. According to the common geological assumption, it is believed the great mountain range is the result of the uplift of an ancient sea bed, millions of years ago in the past.

The Siwalik Hills are better known as the foothills of the Himalayas. Situated north of Delhi, India, they extend for several hundred miles and are three thousand to four thousand feet in height. The extremely rich fossil beds found there have drawn attention from scientists from all over the world. Animal bones of numerous species of animals both living and extinct are found in amazing profusion. In the book, Earth In Upheaval, written by Immanuel Velikovsky, the following statement is made:

"The Siwalik Hills are stocked with animals of so many and such varied species that the animal world of today seems impoverished by comparison. It looks as though all these animals invaded the world at one time."

Other scientists who have observed the numerous kinds of life scrambled together in this massive burial ground have had difficulty in trying to find an explanation. D. N. Wadia, on page 268 of his book, Geology of India, states:

"The sudden bursting on the stage of such a varied population of herbivores [plant eaters], carnivores [meat eaters], rodents, and of primates, the highest order of mammals, must be regarded as a most remarkable instance of rapid evolution of species."

The tremendous accumulation of numerous kinds of fossils located in the Siwalik Hills is not just a localized phenomenon. Thirteen hundred miles further east in central Burma, a layer

estimated at over 10,000 feet thick, contains hundreds of different kinds of fossilized life. Two fossil rich zones are separated by approximately 4000 feet of sand. The upper fossil bed, similar to the Siwalik deposits, is jammed full of animals including the mastadon, hippopotamus, and ox. Other sedimentary layers found beneath, are loaded with large quantities of fossilized wood. In places, hundreds of thousands of entire tree trunks and logs embedded in the sandstone, suggest that heavily forested areas were quickly stripped from their natural habitat and buried under catastrophic conditions.

What was the agent that caused the burial and preservation of so many forms of life? Certainly nothing like this can be observed occurring in the world today. Is it reasonable to hold firm to the theory that uniform gradual processes were the cause? Once again, the Biblical model for the catastrophic history of the earth, can be confirmed by the observable evidence.



Figure 72:

Fossils show what life was like in the past.

FOSSILIZATION

One of the major areas of discussion revealing the extreme contrast existing between the creation and evolution models and the history of the earth, is the question of how the process of fossilization has occurred. Were fossils formed by gradual events that occurred over long periods of time or were they formed as the result of a catastrophic deposition that occurred by sudden global events?

Fossils are the record or the remains of plants and animals living in the past. (*Figure 72*)

Fossils are found throughout the world in the various layers of the earth showing the structure of many forms of life. Fossils may be whole organisms frozen in ice, a bone or tooth hardened by minerals, an insect encased in amber, or the form of a footprint or the impression of a leaf. Usually, it is only the harder parts of the organism such as the skeleton that is preserved, but occasionally softer tissues are fossilized as well.

The process of fossilization is often described as a mystery. No one has been able to duplicate the mineralization process in the laboratory. Most explanations proposed by evolutionists are based upon gradual deposition of life over long periods of time by sedimentary processes. The common explanation which usually appears in geology textbooks is as follows. The mineralization process takes place as water saturated in minerals gradually migrates through the tissues dissolving the organic material and replacing it with the inorganic silica-based molecules from the water. Prints of thin objects, such as leaves and feathers, are said to have been formed by impressions made in soft mud which later hardened into stone. Animals that have been found fully preserved in a frozen condition are said to have occurred by an isolated accidental situation, with no mention of sudden change in climatic or environmental conditions.

In order to better understand the process that may have

occurred to preserve a record of fossilized life in the past, let's look at several possibilities. One obvious observation to be made is that living things which die today, decompose rather than change from organic into stone. For example, today when a fish dies in the water it soon floats to the surface and begins to decompose bit by bit, eventually falling apart before any trace of its structure is left permanently recorded. Animals which die on the land are either eaten by predators or quickly broken down by the process of decomposition. Plants, leaves, stems and even entire trees, when they die, are broken down and decomposed in short periods of time. How did the process of fossilization occur in the past?

The most obvious explanation for the cause behind the preservation of fossil evidence, is that life must have been rapidly buried under vast volumes of catastrophic deposition. Extremely high temperatures and pressures would have been important factors in the fossilization process. Sedimentary layers would not have been formed over millions of years by gradual deposition, but could have resulted from sudden burial by tidal activity, massive rearrangement of the land, and volcanic activity all occurring on a global basis.

The fossil record is loaded with examples confirming a catastrophic event of global proportions has taken place in the past. As we have already pointed out throughout this book, fossil beds all over the world indicate that living organisms of every kind of life appear in the layers of the earth as if they were suddenly caught and destroyed while they were alive. They have not died natural deaths and then gradually been buried. In order to develop this point, let's look at some further examples.

Fossilization of Fish

The skeletal remains of thousands of different varieties of fish are found preserved in the fossil record in every part of the world. In order to explain the existence of water dwelling organisms in regions where water does not exist today,

geologists have proposed the idea, that over millions of years of time, great land masses have gradually sunken below sea level and allowed the sea to flood the land. Then following this process, again over millions of years of time, land masses are said to have risen above the sea level. Left behind is the evidence of fossilized marine organisms that have died. Evolutionary geologists would claim these have been gradually covered over by the natural process of sedimentation.

This explanation for the process of fossilization leaves a number of questions which need to be answered. The delicate and intricate structures that many of these fossilized marine organisms reveal, further substantiates the idea that preservation of such detail must have been associated with short periods of time. In fact, countless fossils of fish all over the world, reveal that death occurred as the creature was caught suddenly in a position of terror, and in a split second of time.

One such example, clearly illustrates massive quantities of marine organisms have suffered the fate of violent death. Evidence can be found in a location known as The Red Sandstone, an area comprising half the country of Scotland. This region has been described by observers as an aquatic graveyard with thousands of different localities disclosing the same scene of destruction. The red sandstone deposit, which covers an area of approximately ten thousand square miles and over 150 feet in thickness, screams with the evidence of wide-scale catastrophe. Fossilized fish are found there contorted into abnormal shapes, the tail in many instances bent around to the head, and spines sticking straight out as if the fish had died in a convulsion.

The identical picture can be found in northern Italy. Evidence there would indicate vast quantities of fish perished suddenly. Fossilized skeletons of fish are found by the thousands in the strata of calcareous slate. In most cases the skeletons are complete and tightly packed together. Many fossils have been preserved with traces of the color of their skin impregnated into the surrounding material, indicating that

deposition had occurred before decomposition of the softer tissues could occur.

Rapid Burial of Clams

Another good example of the rapid burial of marine organisms can be illustrated by the numerous clams all over the world that are found fossilized with their valves shut. It is common knowledge that when a clam dies, it is a matter of only a few hours before the two halves of the shell begin to open or separate. Clams found with their valves shut would certainly indicate burial while in a living condition. One of the best examples of clams found in this condition are fossil clams we have observed near Halkirk, Alberta, Canada. (Figure 73)



Figure 73:
Numerous fossilized clams are found near Halkirk, Alberta embedded in ironstone material. The valves of the clams are closed, indicating the process of fossilization must have occurred in a very short period of time.

Many of these clams are encased in sheets of ironstone, which appears to have flowed over the clams at their time of death, in a molten condition.

In other locations marine-dwelling creatures are found by the millions caught alive in hot molten rock which has poured out upon the ocean floor. The Biblical account of the Noahic Flood explains why this has occurred. When the "fountains of the deep" broke up, volcanic eruptions occurred all over the surface of the earth, land masses and ocean beds included.

Fossil Sharks

One final example of the rapid burial of marine organisms by catastrophic deposition can be illustrated by fossil sharks found in the rock layers of Ohio. Here, in strata hundreds of feet thick, are found sharks of many different sizes. The remains of these creatures which died in the past, indicate they have died in a natural swimming position with the belly down. The weight of the mud piled on top of them has squashed them to the thickness of a quarter of an inch or less. How could such an event have taken place by gradual uniform processes over long periods of time? Only an event like the global flood account in the Bible, can properly give us a model suitable for analyzing the observable evidence.

Fossilized Land Living Plants And Animals

Today, when a plant or animal dies, it is only a matter of a short period of time before the tissues of the organism begin to decompose, are removed by predators, or broken down by microbial action. As previously mentioned, the evolutionary concept is that fossils are the remains of organisms which have died in the distant past under natural conditions and have been covered over by a gradual process of sedimentation. However, when the observable evidence is examined, countless fossils representing land-dwelling organisms which have lived in the past, indicate this explanation for the mechanism of

fossilization needs to be seriously challenged.

The fossil record is loaded with examples which indicate living organisms were buried alive in massive burial grounds, and that the fossilization process took place almost immediately. If the uniformitarian premise, that the present is the key to understanding the past is valid, then we should be able to point to processes occurring today to explain the vast extinctions of life which have occurred in the past. Let's examine examples of fossilized life from several locations around the world, attempting to evaluate whether the fossilization process occurred gradually or if it was sudden and catastrophic.

Petrified Wood and Leaf Impressions

Pieces of wood that have been turned from organic material into stone, commonly called petrified wood, are one of the most common features of the fossil record. Close examination of petrified wood often reveals detailed structure such as annual growth rings. The petrification process is often described as a mystery by most geologists as it is not understood what caused the process to occur in the past nor is it understood why it is not occurring today. What is even more mysterious, is the presence of fossilized remains of softer plant tissues like leaves. The fossil record is loaded with examples of leaves which reveal minute structures of leaf venation and cellular detail.

One example of an area where an abundance of fossils can be found revealing the preservation of soft tissues of plants and animals is, Drumheller, Alberta, Canada. The Drumheller badlands are made up of layers of volcanic ash and mud intermingled with coal seams that have been laid down in the past. Evolutionists believe the layers represent deposition which occurred over millions of years of time. This area has become famous world over for the remains of fossilized dinosaurs.

Interspersed throughout the numerous layers of deposition at Drumheller, are petrified trees, fossilized marine organisms,

clams and oysters, and pieces of petrified wood. Chunks of ironstone material are found throughout the layers, which almost always contain some form of fossilized life. (Figure 74)

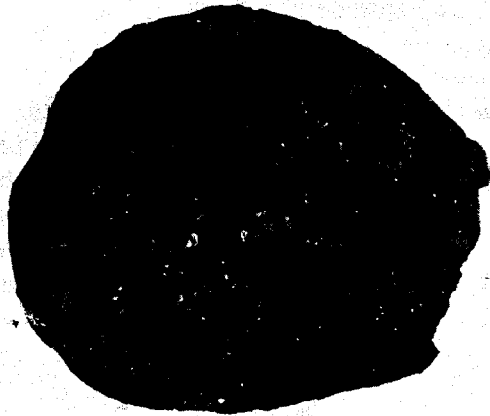


Figure 74:

Chunks of ironstone material are commonly found throughout the volcanic layers at Drumheller, Alberta. Conventional geological theory suggests the ironstone chunks were formed over long periods of time by the gradual migration of minute iron particles.



Figure 75:

Ironstone material found in the ash layers at Drumheller often contains the fossilized remains of plants and animals.



Figure 76:

Examination of the ironstone material by researchers has shown that heat was definitely involved in the formation process of these rocks.

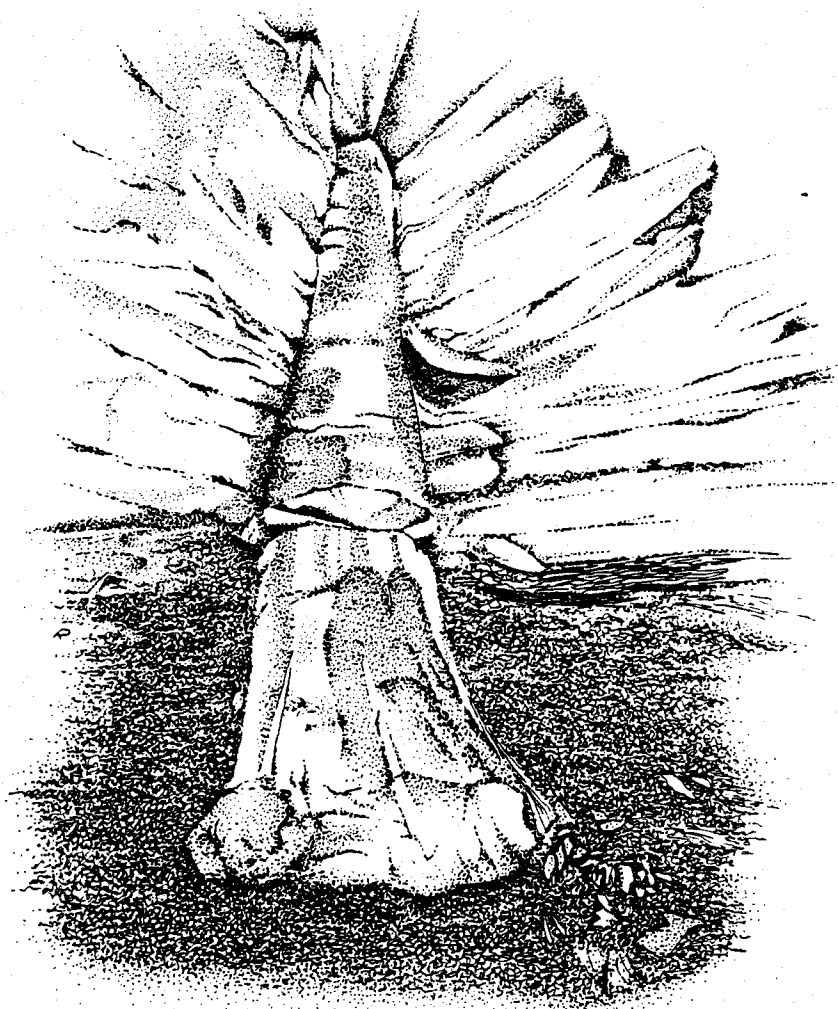


Figure 79:
*The drawing illustrates a petrified tree found in Tennessee.
The bottom part of the tree is embedded in a layer of coal.
The upper part of the tree is embedded in limestone.*

Destruction of Dinosaurs

There are many examples of animal fossils which glaringly reveal a sudden catastrophic event was responsible for their demise. For example, it is not uncommon to find dinosaur fossils in positions that suggest sudden, violent death. Some have been uncovered in flood deposits, with neck and tail broken, their bodies oriented with the flow of the water which laid them down. Duck-billed dinosaurs have been excavated in swimming positions buried in layers of volcanic ash and mud. (Figure 80)



Figure 80:

The fossilized remains of entire dinosaur skeletons are often discovered in the layers of volcanic ash near Drumheller, Alberta. It seems reasonable to suggest that the burial of these huge reptiles must have been sudden and catastrophic.

Evolutionists have had to devise elaborate theories, in order to explain why animals that are not aquatic, should have died violently in water. Far too many specimens of this nature have been found to attribute such a phenomenon to small-scale catastrophies. Not only have dinosaurs been found in flood-deposited layers, they have also been found encased in large masses of ironstone material that appears to have fallen from the heavens.


An article called "Dinosaur Bones Lifted From Rocks", taken from the Saskatoon Star, August 26, 1981, tells about a dinosaur found near Huxley, Alberta, Canada, that was covered in 80 tons of ironstone. The article states:

"In addition to the fossil bones, scientists found fossilized imprints of the dinosaur's skin, giving them an idea of the beasts outer appearance. They also discovered and removed a set of fossil footprints, the final tracks that the carnivore left as it died."

How can the theory of uniformitarianism possibly explain the presence of skin and foot prints in the ironstone material. Such evidence can only be logically explained by a sudden destruction and rapid fossilization.

Over the years, numerous theories for the extinction of the dinosaur have been suggested by scientists, attempting to explain their demise by some gradual process. Some believe the reason they died out was because of a gradual change in climatic conditions. Others think that factors like disease and diet could have been the reason.

The most recent theory of dinosaur extinction, proposed by a scientist by the name of Luis Alvarez, suggests that dinosaurs and many other kinds of life, were catastrophically destroyed by a cosmic collision of an asteroid or comet with the earth. Since evolutionary geologists have assumed that dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago in the past, Alvarez has arrived at a similar date for the cataclysm. The theory of a



sudden destruction of the dinosaur kind is based on the discovery of an element of cosmic origin called iridium found in association with dinosaur fossils.

The new theory for the destruction of the dinosaur kind has opened the door for a revision to the evolutionary premise of uniformitarianism. Scientists who are willing to examine some of their preconcieved ideas and look at the evidence with an open mind, are coming to the conclusion that our earth has been devastated by global detructions of cosmic origin. This agrees completely with what the Bible claims has taken place in the past.

Frozen Fossils

One of the most astonishing features of the fossil record which confirms life has been destroyed catastrophically in a moment of time, are the vast quantities of plants and animals found in a frozen condition. One area where an unbelievable number of plants and animals are found frozen in ice and muck is the Fairbanks region in Alaska. Gold mining operations in this area during the 1940's opened up mile-long cuts in the frozen muck, which revealed the sudden destruction of hundreds of life forms. On page 151, of the book called Early Man In The New World, the author K. Macgowen makes the following comment about observations of frozen animals at this location:

"Their numbers are appalling. They lie frozen in tangled masses, interspersed with uprooted trees. They seem to have been torn apart and dismembered and then consolidated under catastrophic conditions. Skin, ligament, hair, flesh can still be seen."

Along the coastline of Northern Siberia and into Alaska are buried the remains of millions of mammoths. In some places the mammoth bones are so thickly packed together, they make up much of the substance of the soil. In some places the

mammoths are entombed in the ice; in other places they are frozen into sedimentary strata. (Figure 81)



Figure 81:

Hundreds of thousands of mammoths have been found frozen in the ice fields of Siberia and Alaska. Early explorers to these regions, used the frozen meat from the carcasses of the mammoths to feed their dogs.

Examination of the carcasses of these great animals reveals they must have been frozen instantly. Food is preserved in their stomachs before the potent digestive juices have had a chance to break it down. Summer vegetation such as grass, bluebells, and buttercups have been found in their mouths. Many of these great beasts have been found torn and ripped apart, frozen in the ice. Camels, sheep, rhinos, bison, horses and lions have also been embedded in ice in Siberia and Alaska. The overwhelming evidence clearly confirms a scene of catastrophic death involving millions of animals.

No process going on anywhere in the world today is comparable to the events which have entombed countless varieties of life in the past. No process is occurring today which preserves life in a fossilized condition, as it certainly has done in the past. The earth's layers reveal millions upon millions of plant and animal remains, often grouped together in what appear to be massive graveyards. Evolutionists are not able to explain these things, for evolution theory rests upon the concept of uniformitarianism. However, the evidence confirms the Biblical premise of catastrophic destruction of life on a global basis. What God's Word states has taken place in the past, can be backed up and supported by the evidence clearly observed in the world around us.