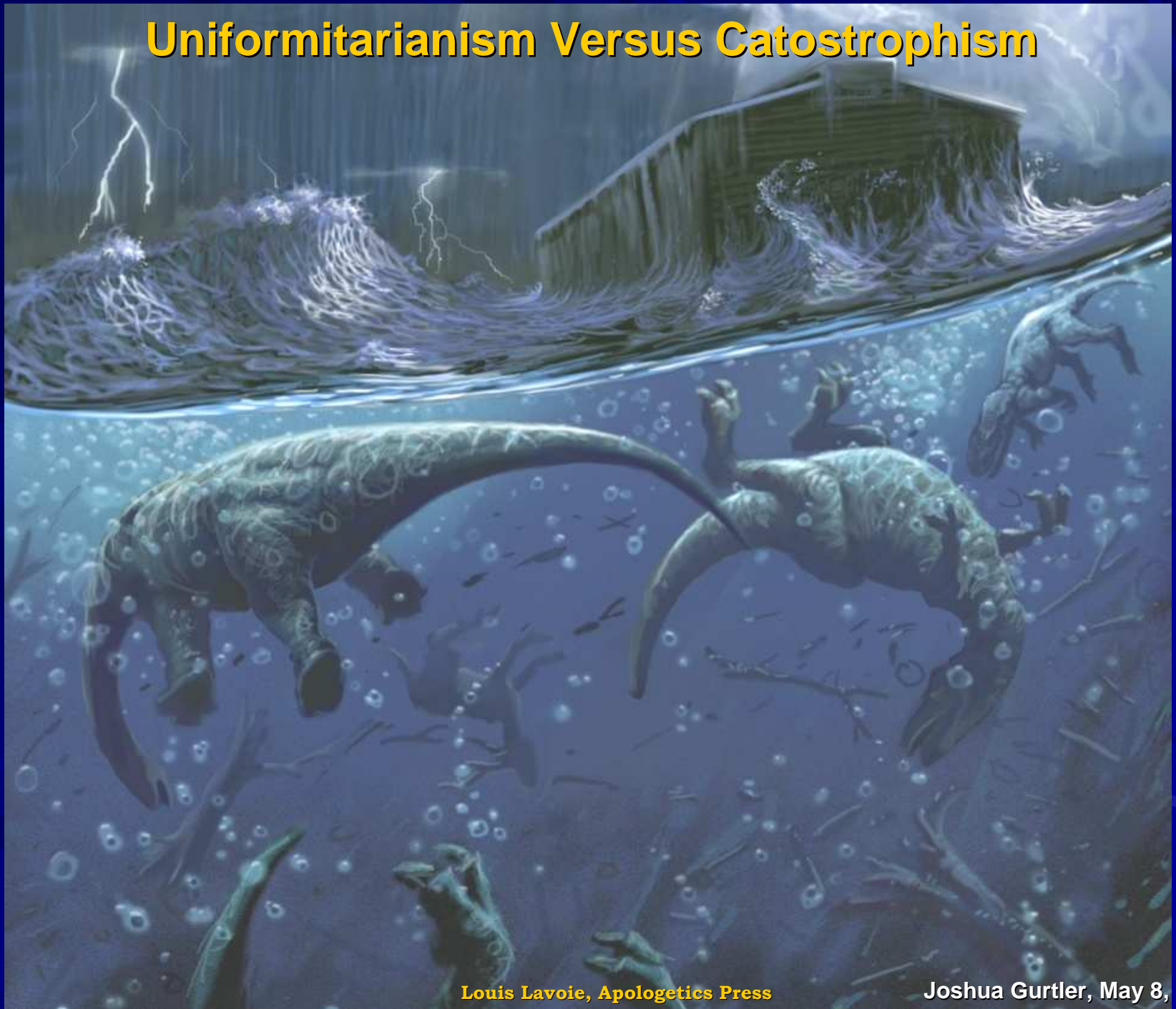


Uniformitarianism Versus Catastrophism



Louis Lavoie, Apologetics Press

Joshua Gurtler, May 8, 2011

What We Will Learn in This Lesson

I. Until ~1800, all geological formations were interpreted in light of catastrophic processes in western universities such as *Yale, Harvard, Oxford, and Cambridge* .

II. Around 1800, the doctrine of “Uniformitarianism” was used to teach that the geological column could have only been formed by “slow and gradual” modern day processes.

III. For 200 years, creationist geologists denied uniformitarianism and interpreted the geological strata as being formed by worldwide catastrophic processes.

IV. Conventional modern geology (in the 1980's) finally came to the conclusion that uniformitarianism was wrong and that the majority of the geological column was formed by catastrophic processes.

V. Instead of admitting they were wrong and that the creationist geologists had been right for the past 200 years in rejecting uniformitarianism, conventional geology simply changed the definition of uniformitarianism so as not to credit creationists (documented by their own admission).

VI. Variability of the speed of light, radiometric dating and variability in the rate of sediment formation are also examined.

Definitions












1. Geology- The study of the history of the earth preserved in the record of the rocks



<http://alaska.usgs.gov/images/sidepane/geologist.jpg>

Definitions

2. Geologic Column- The sum total of sedimentary layers in the earth's crust

THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN		Millions of Years Ago	Typical fossils
Eras	Periods		
CENOZOIC	QUATERNARY	2	
	TERTIARY	65	
MESOZOIC	CRETACEOUS	130	
	JURASSIC	180	
	TRIASSIC	225	
PALAEOZOIC	PERMIAN	275	
	CARBONIFEROUS	345	
	DEVONIAN	405	
	SILURIAN	435	
	ORDOVICIAN	480	
	CAMBRIAN	600	
	PRE-CAMBRIAN		

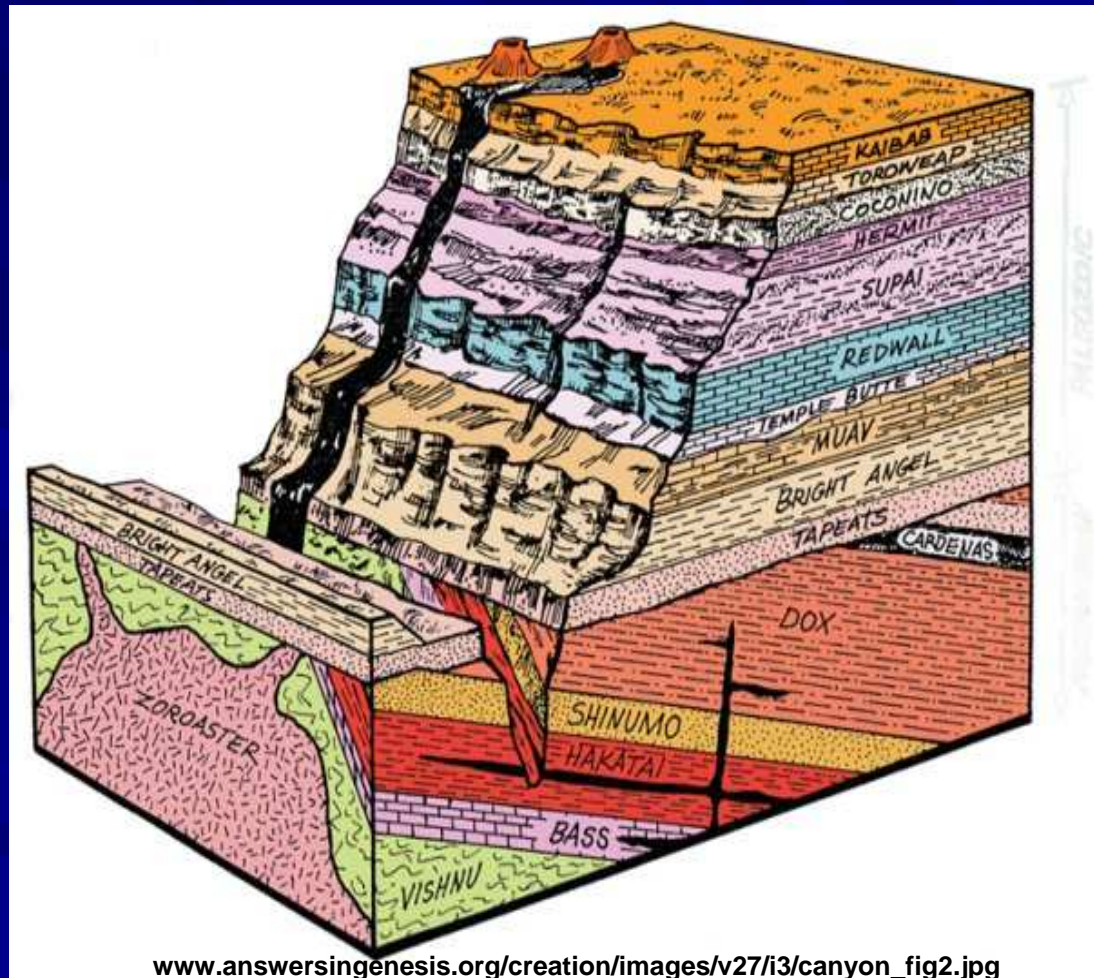
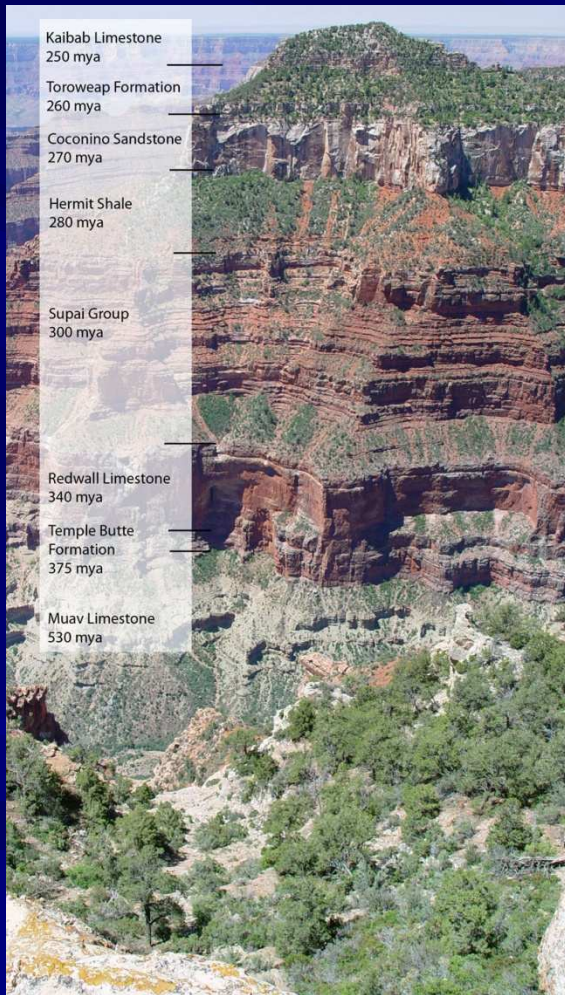
www.ukapologetics.net/08/geologiccolumn.htm



www.jwoolfden.com/jpg/geocol2.jpg

Definitions

3. Strata- Parallel layers of rock deposited in superposition in the geologic column



www.answersingenesis.org/creation/images/v27/i3/canyon_fig2.jpg

www.astronomynotes.com/nature/images/grndcnyn-geolayersb-labels.jpg

4. Stratigraphy- A branch of geology that classifies, interprets, and dates strata found in the geologic column



www.idahogeology.org/FieldWorkshops/MtStHelens92/images/Stratagraphic%20mudflow.jpg



<http://condor.depaul.edu/sbucking/stratigraphy.jpg>

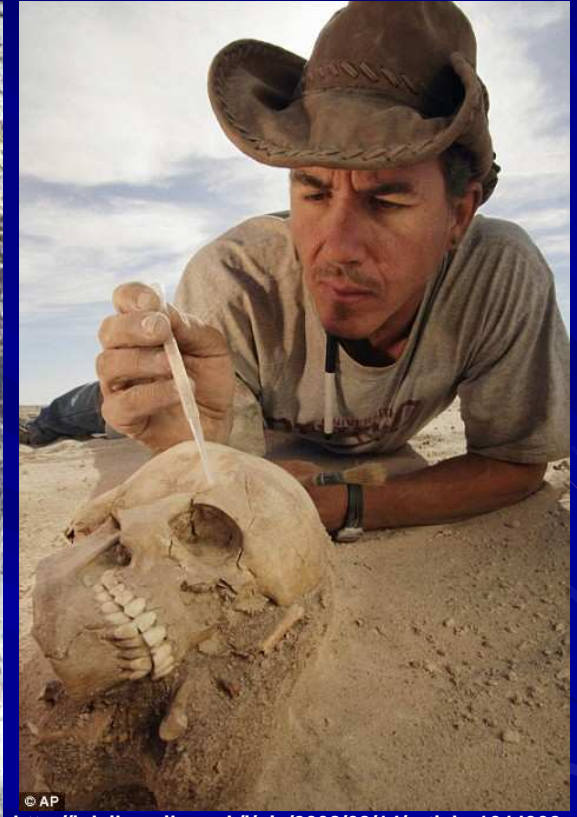
5. Paleontology- Study of the history of life preserved in the fossils of the geologic column



www-news.uchicago.edu/releases/photos/expedition/excavation.jpg



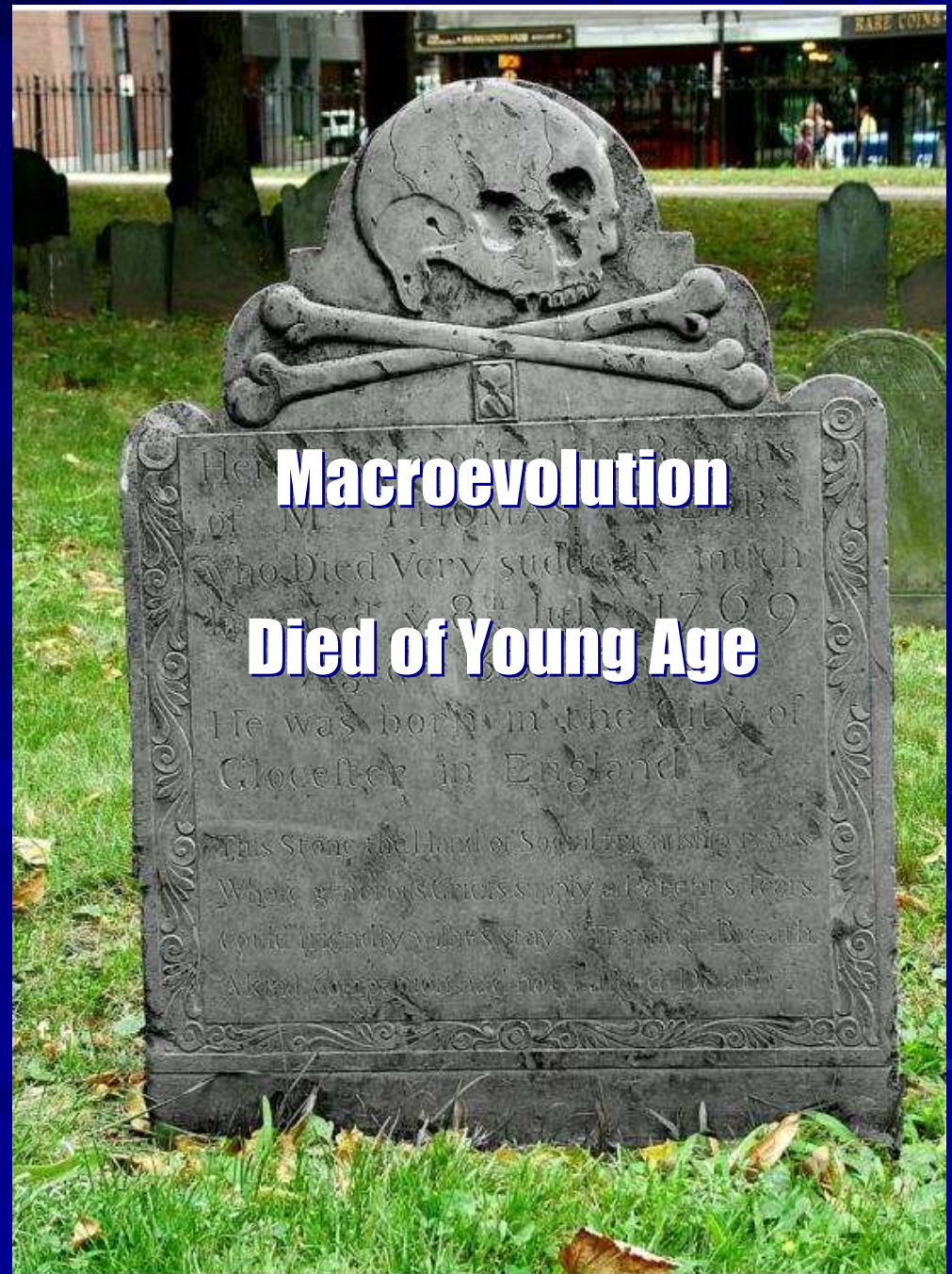
www.detectingdesign.com/fossilrecord.html



© AP
http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2008/08/14/article-1044992-0247CCCA00000578-430_468x688.jpg

Macroevolution Requires BILLIONS of Years

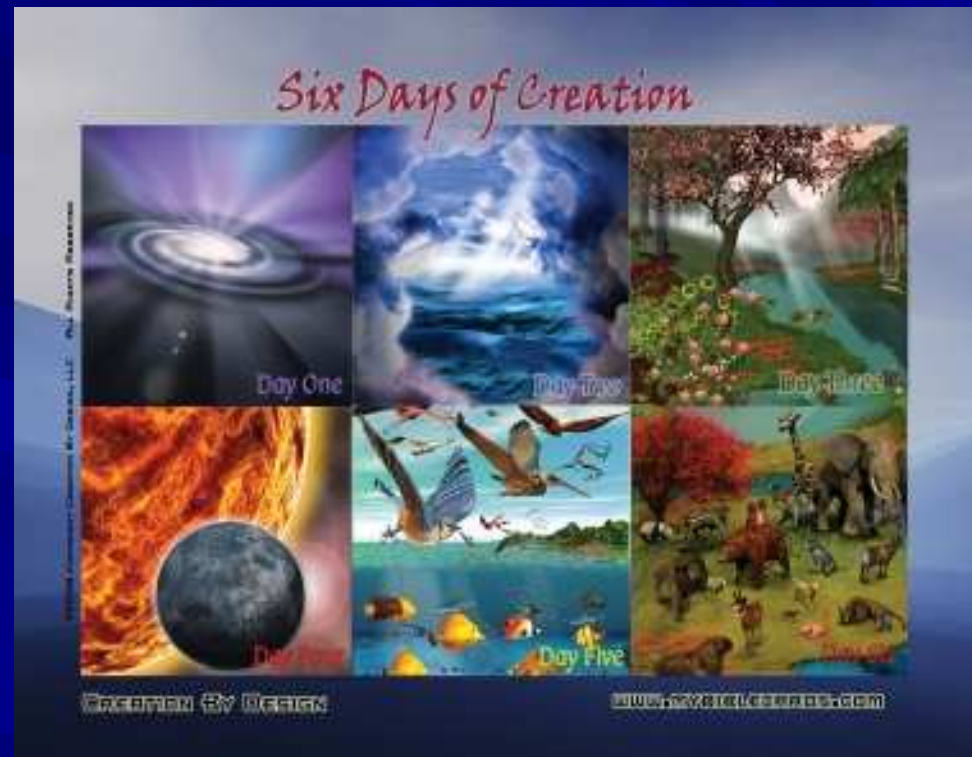
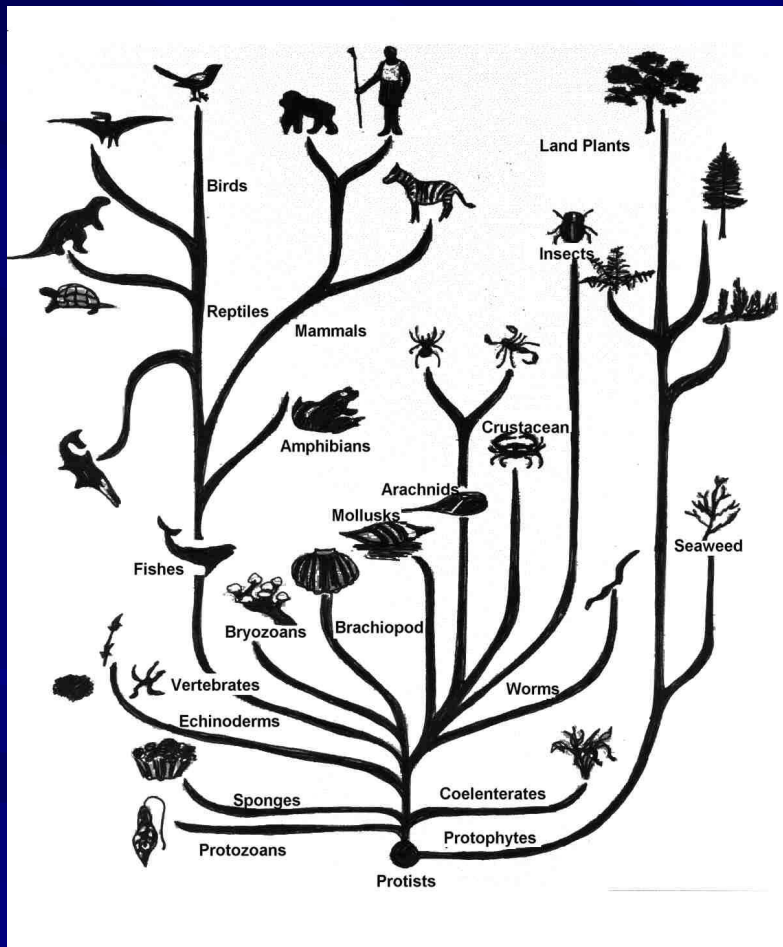
If the Earth could be
shown to be less than
4.55 billion years old (if it
is even 1 Billion or less)
then macroevolution
dies a natural death.



Model Comparison

Darwinian Gradualistic Model
(Microbe to Man Evolution)

Creation/Catastrophic Model
(Sudden Appearance of Life on Earth)



<https://heartsathomestore.com>

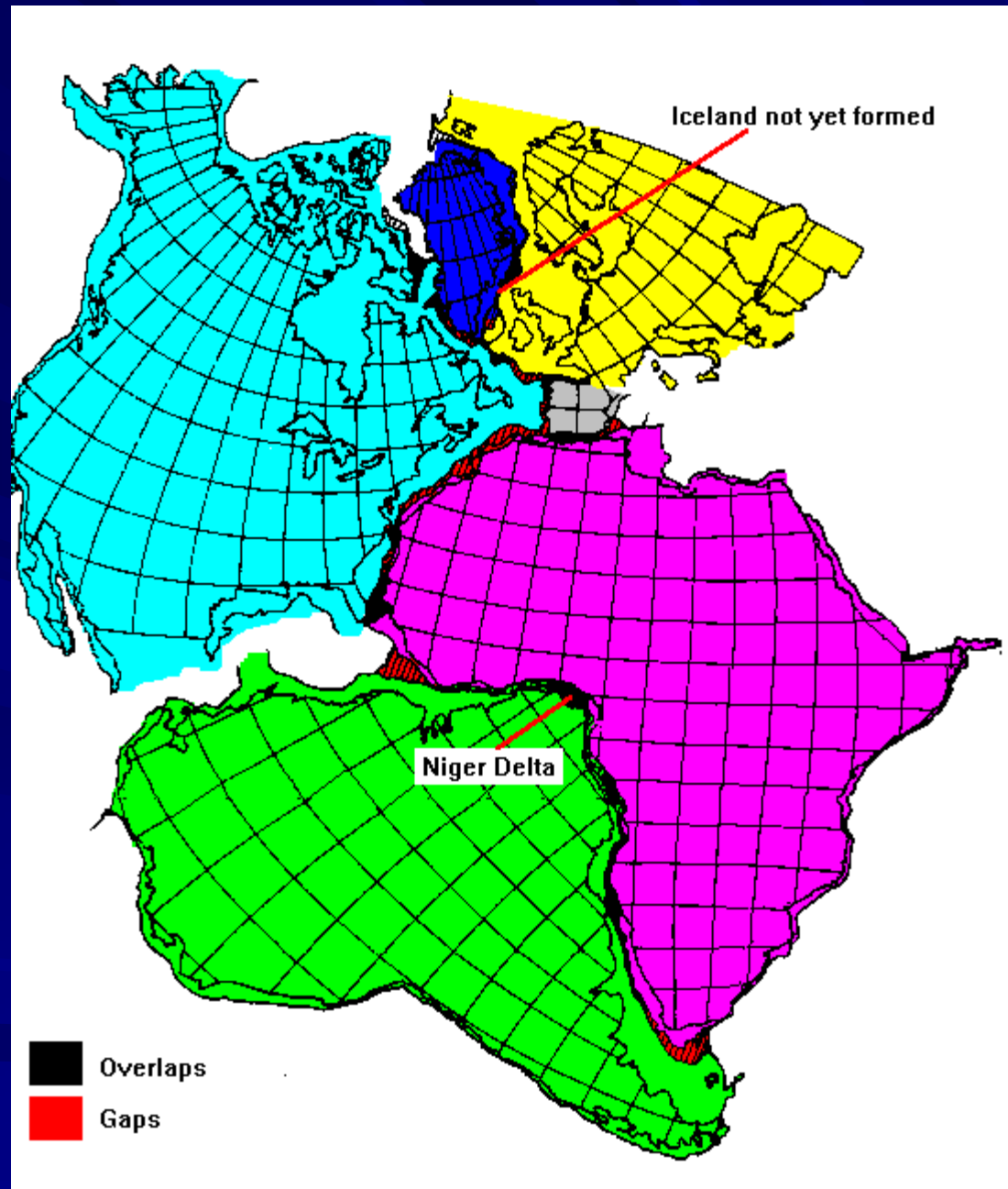
Library.thinkquest.org

The Biblical Model: Event #1, Creation

*“Then God said, ‘let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus **God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. . . Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear;’ and it was so”***

-Gen. 1:6-9





The Biblical Model: Event #2, The Flood

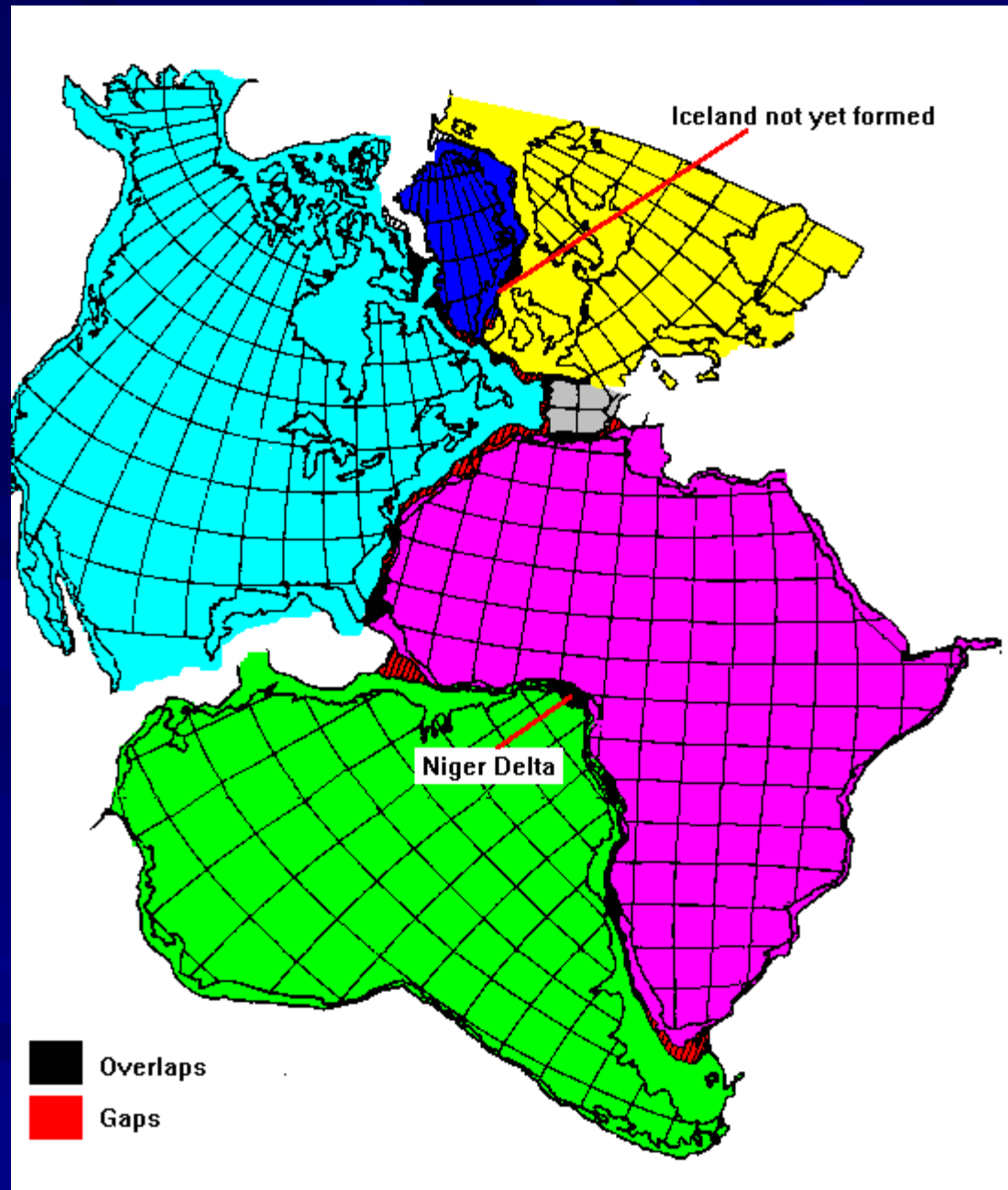
“all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. . . All the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered”
Gen. 7:11, 19

“Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains. . . The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which Thou didst establish for them.”

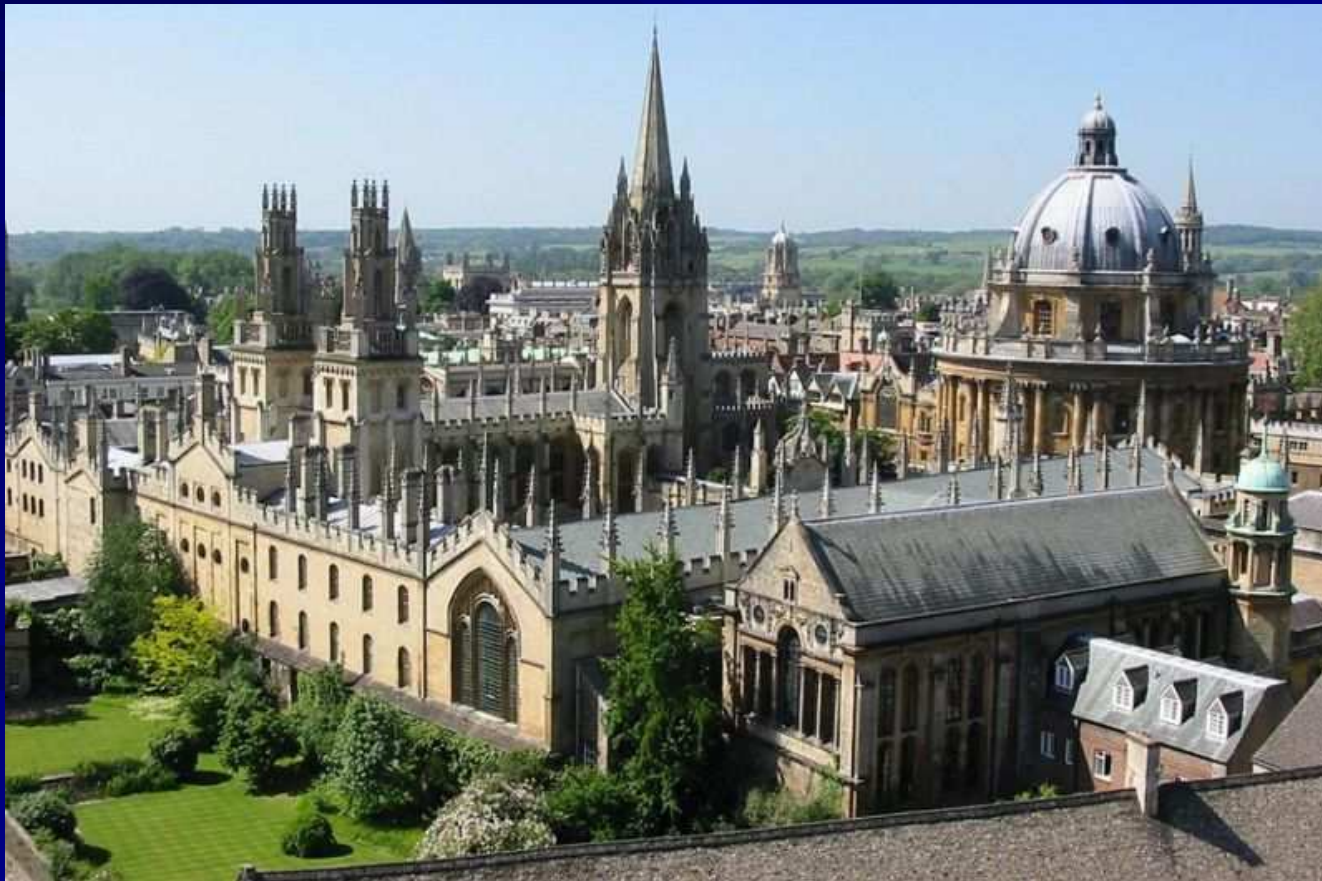
Ps. 104:6, 8



Louis Lavoie, Apologetics Press



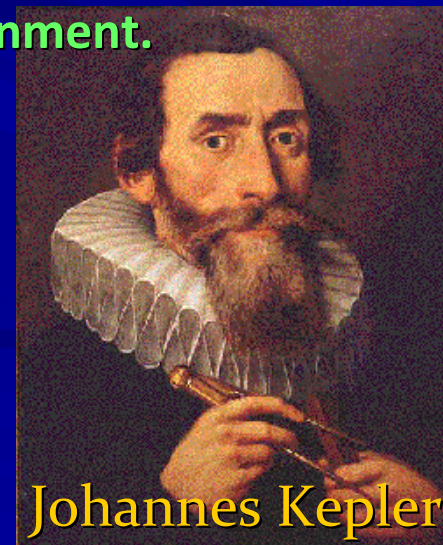
Until ~1800, all geological formations were interpreted in light of the global flood and catastrophic activities in western universities such as Yale, Harvard, Oxford, and Cambridge



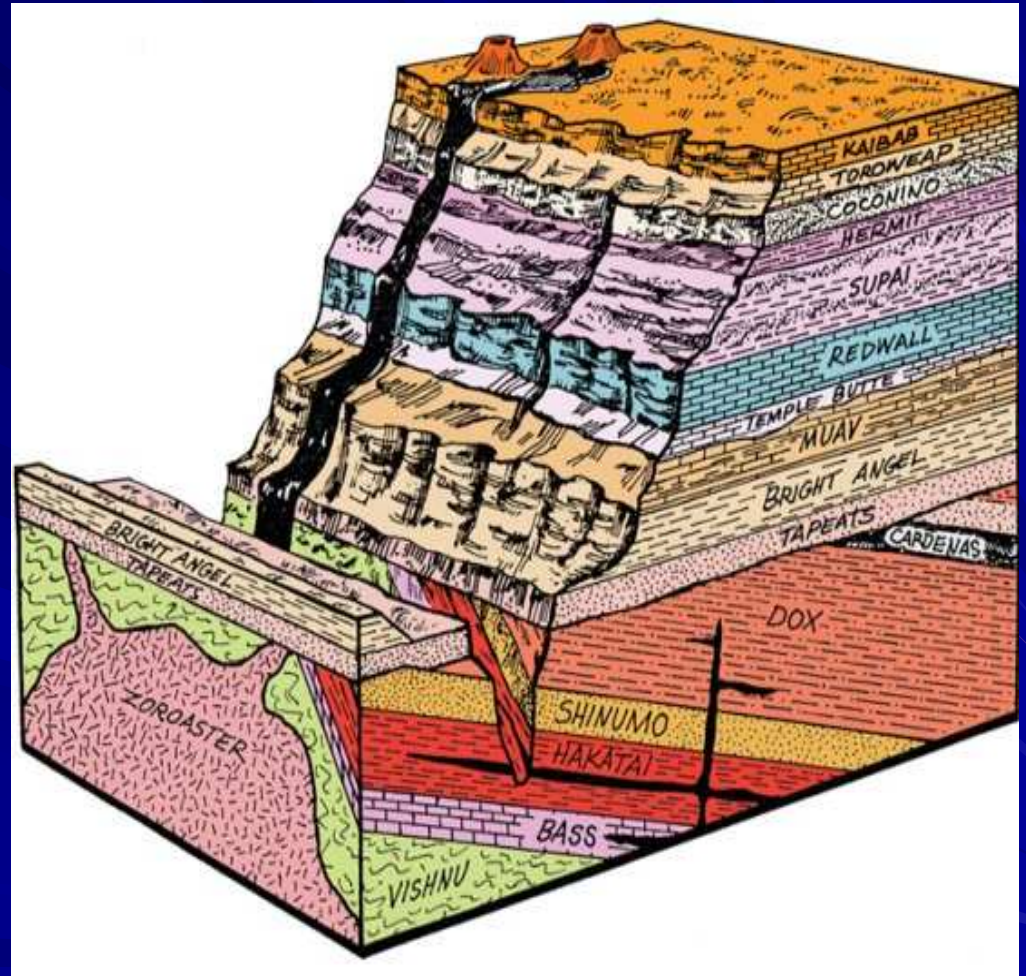
When Did the Change Occur?

Science in the Western World (1600 – 1800)

- Science meant “Knowledge”
- Western Universities (e.g., Oxford and Cambridge) were grounded in a “Biblical” or “christian-” belief system.
- Scientific method founded on understanding God’s creation.
- Western universities began incorporating the “natural sciences” (aka “natural philosophy”) to complement the queen of all sciences – “Biblical Theology,” which all students were required to study.
- A gradual shift to placing greater faith in natural science than in Biblical science. The result? Replaced theism with scientism. . . Where we are today.
- Culminated in the anti-christian, French enlightenment.



The Advent of Modern Geology



The Advent of Modern Geology

Two Major Players

James Hutton



- 1795 wrote *Theory of the Earth*
- Scottish physician, turned lay-geologist (father of modern geology).
- Rejected Biblical accuracy.
- Rejected Noahic flood.
- Interpreted geology only by “*present day processes*” and “*the present is the key to the past.*” (i.e., “gradualism”).
- “*The past history of our globe must be explained by what we can see happening now.*”
- “*No powers are to be employed that are not natural to the globe, no action to be admitted except those of which we know the principle.*”
- Ideas largely rejected as antibiblical until 1830.

35 year Later... Enter...

Charles Lyell

- English attorney.
- Set out to undermine Biblical catastrophism by teaching Hutton's "gradualism."
- Popularized Hutton's ideas in *Principles of Geology* (1830), "the present is the key to the past."
- Coined the term "uniformitarianism" "... All theories are rejected which involve the assumption of sudden and violent catastrophes and revolutions of the whole earth, and its inhabitants."
- Shaped geological interpretations for the next 150 years.
- Destroyed the faith in a literal interpretation of the word of God for tens of thousands of people.



Charles Lyell's Private Motives

“I trust I shall make my sketch of the progress of geology popular. Old [pastor] Fleming is frightened and thinks the age will not stand my anti-Mosaical conclusions and at least that the subject will for a time become unpopular and awkward for the clergy, but I am not afraid. I shall out with the whole but in as conciliatory a manner as possible.”

- Letter to Rodrick Murchison, *from: J. Brooke, “The Natural Theology of the Geologists: Some Theological Strata”, in Jordanova, L. and Porter, R., Images of the Earth (British Society for the History of Science, Monograph 1, 1979), p. 45.*



Charles Lyell's Private Motives



I am sure you may get into Q.R. [Quarterly Review] what will free the science from Moses, for if treated seriously, the [church] party are quite prepared for it. A bishop, Buckland ascertained (we suppose [Bishop] Sumner), gave Ure a dressing in the British Critic and Theological Review. They see at last the mischief and scandal brought on them by Mosaic systems."

Letter to George Poulett Scrope. From: Katherine Lyell (Charles Lyell's sister-in-law), Life, Letters and Journals of Sir Charles Lyell, Bart. (London: Murray, 1881), I:p. 268–271.

Upon Entering the H.M.S. Beagle in 1831, Charles Darwin Recorded that He Had No Disagreement with the “Apostles Creed”

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen. (Church of England, 1662)

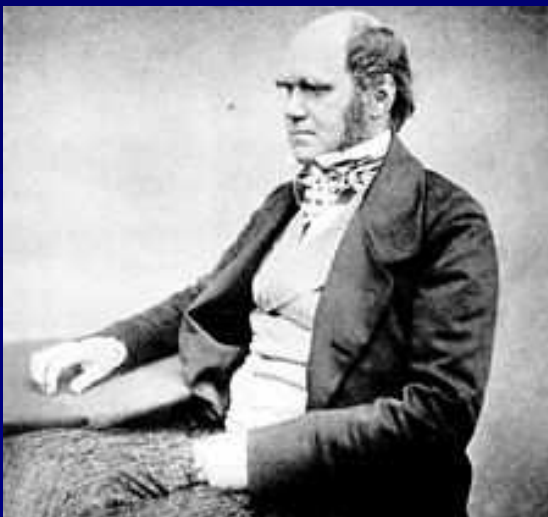


The Death of Charles Darwin's Faith

"I liked the thought of being a country clergyman. Accordingly I read with care Pearson on the Creed and a few other books on divinity; and as I did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible."

- Seaman on the Beagle thought it amusing that Darwin quoted the Bible in defense of his moral convictions.
- Darwin requested the chaplain administer the Lord's Supper to him before departing the Beagle to explore in Argentina.
- Began reading Charles Lyell's "Principles of Geology in 1831" and by the time the voyage of the Beagle ended in 1836, he admitted:

"I had gradually come by this time, to see that the Old Testament was no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindoos or the beliefs of any barbarian."



What Is Uniformitarianism?

Think: “Gradualism”

1. “The present is the key to understanding the past.”
2. *“Natural events transpiring today occurred just like this in the past in the creation of the geological strata.”*
3. “All geological formations from the mountains, to the thousands of feet of rock beneath your feet, to the coal and oil deposits in the ground were all created slowly over millions of years of gradual sedimentary deposition.”

“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water”

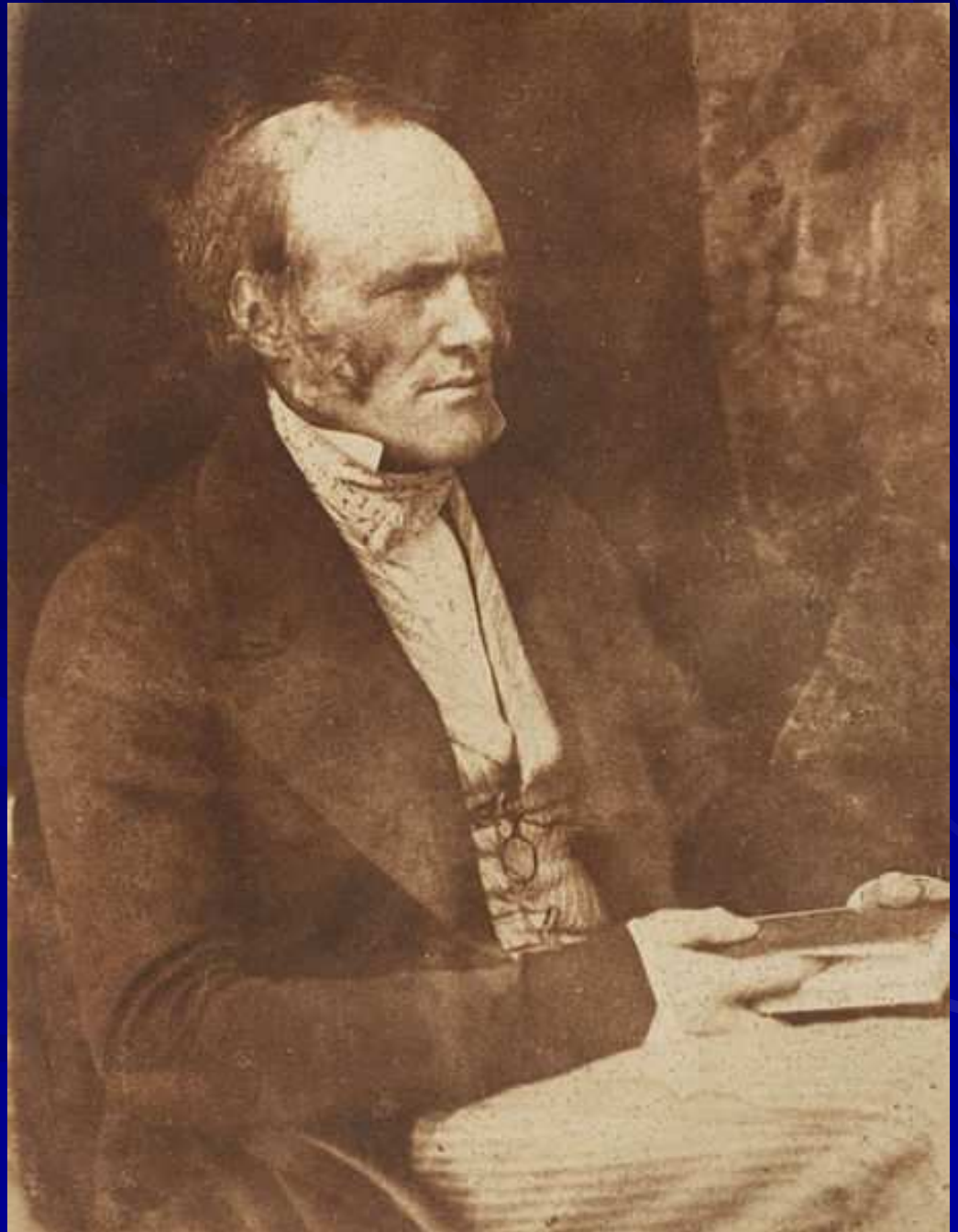
- II Pet. 3:3-6

**Lyell Succeeded in Selling
Uniformitarianism
(Gradualism) on the Whole
of Modern Geology**

**No Longer was the Geologic
Column Interpreted as Rapid
Sedimentation Based on a
Worldwide Flood**

**It was now assumed to have
formed by gradualism over
Eons of Time**

**Enter: The Millions of Years
in the Geologic Column**



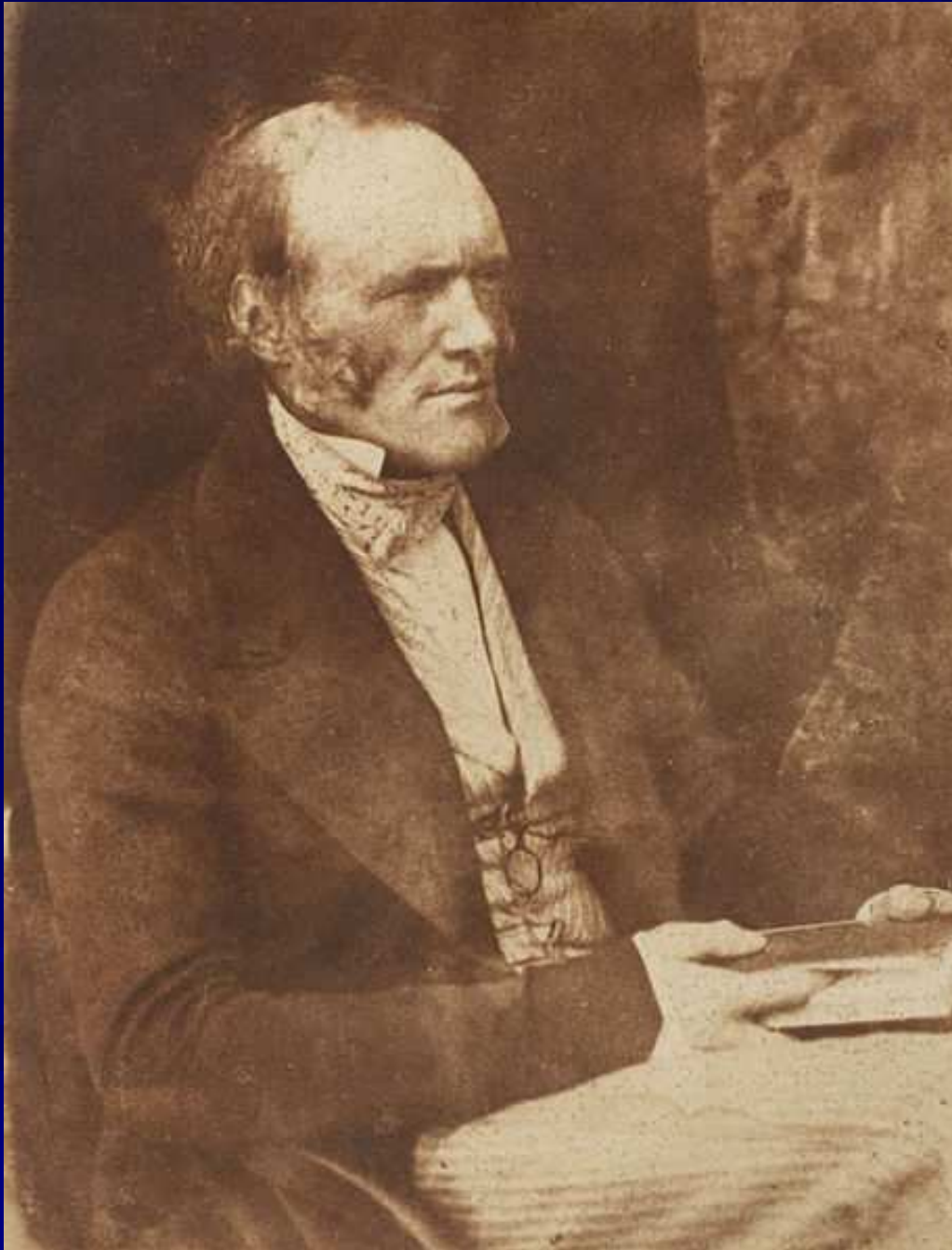
But, Was Lyell Right? (Was The Geologic Column Formed by Gradualism?)

For the Past 180 Years, Young Earth Creationists Have Been Saying, “*Uniformitarianism [gradualism] is wrong. The geologic column represents catastrophic sedimentation.*”

This Battle has Raged Furiously between creation geologists and anti-creation geologists for the past 220 years, and continues till the present.

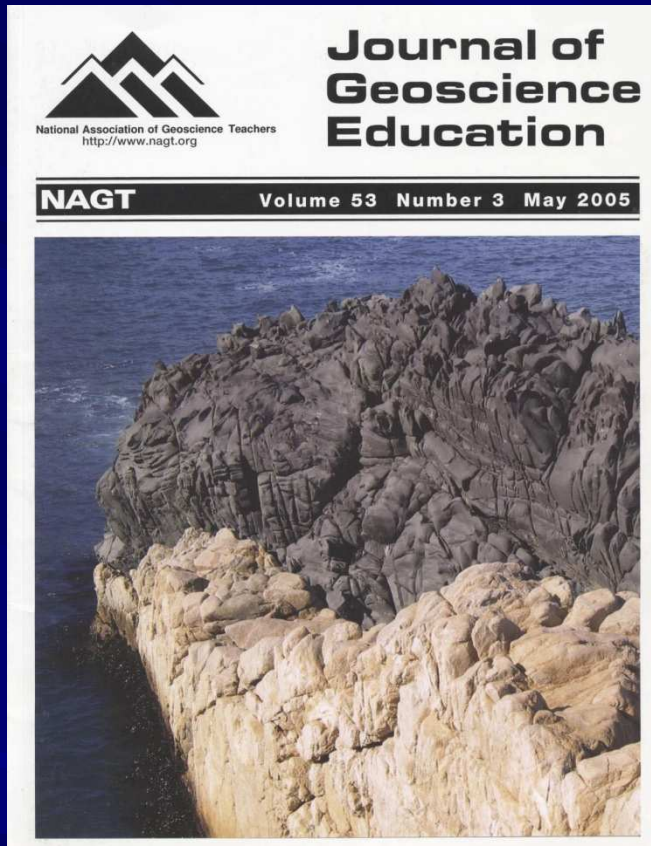
What The Geologic Record Really Shows?
“Billions of Bones Buried in Flood Deposits All Over the Globe”





Was Lyell Right?

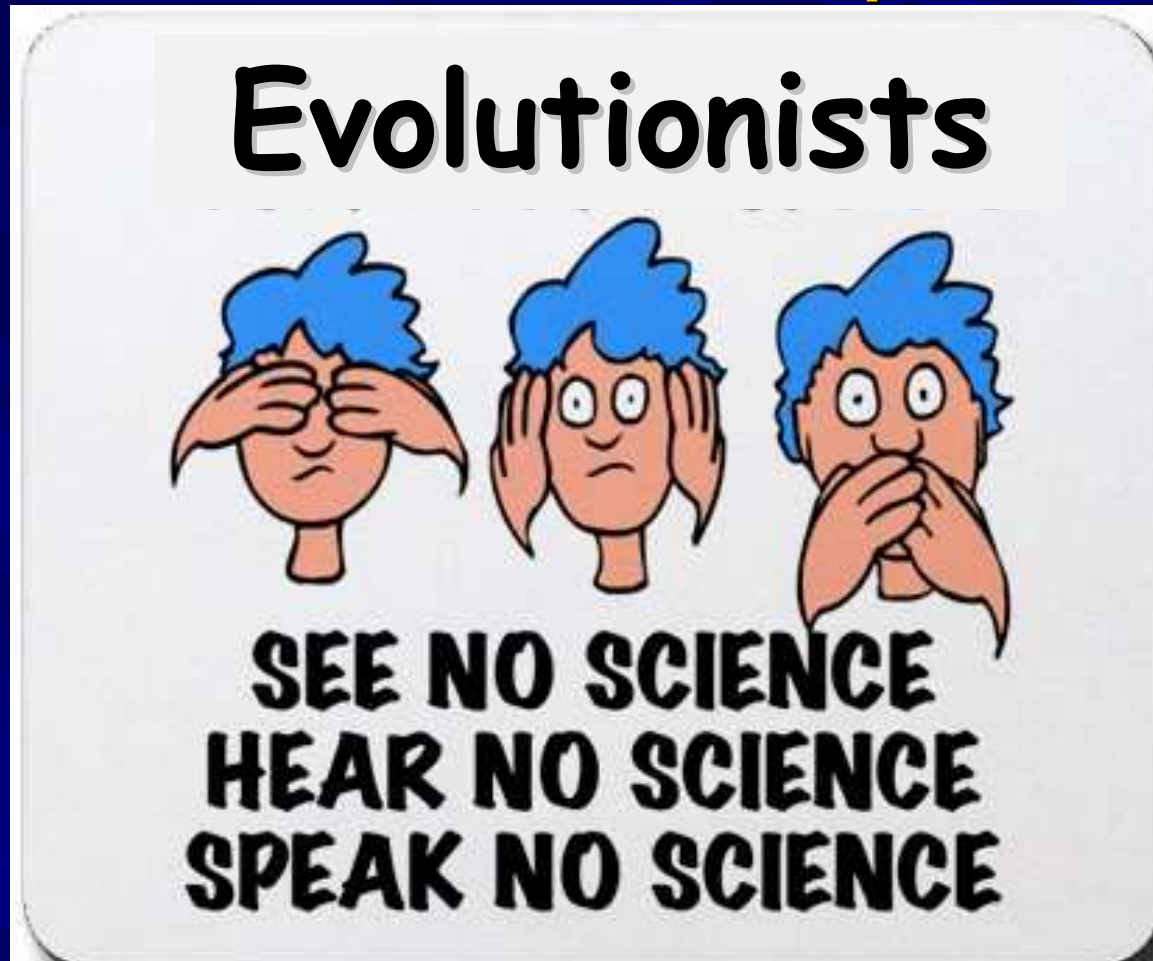
(Was the Geologic
Column Really
formed by
Uniformitarian
Gradualism?)



“If the creationists could mount a successful attack on the validity of uniformitarianism, they would succeed in their effort to discredit modern geology.”

- James H. Shea, “Creationism, Uniformitarianism, Geology and Science,” *Journal of Geological Education*, 31[2]:105-110, 1983 (Became *J. Geosci. Edu.* in 1995)

Update: Creationists Have Finally Won the Battle Over Catastrophism



Lyell and Uniformitarianism Have Been Proven Wrong

“Lyell also sold geology some snake oil. He convinced geologists that because physical laws are constant in time and space and current processes should be consulted before resorting to unseen processes, it necessarily follows that all past processes acted at essentially their current rates (that is, those observed in historical time). This extreme gradualism has led to numerous unfortunate consequences, including the rejection of sudden or catastrophic events in the face of positive evidence for them, for no reason other than that they were not gradual.”

**- Warren D. Allmon. “Post Gradualism.” *Science* 262:122–123, October 1, 1993.
Warren Allmon, Director of the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, NY, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University**



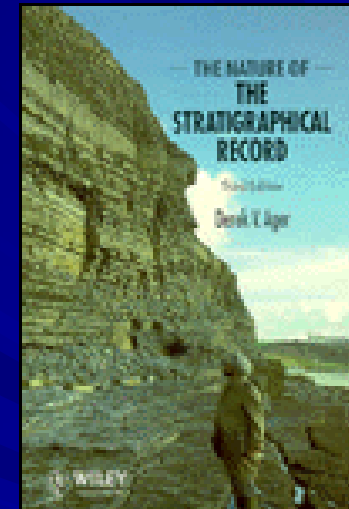
“Finally, it even means that catastrophism, in the sense of not straining the intensities of processes, was a better premise than Lyell’s uniformitarianism (Baker, 1998)!” (Emphasis in the original, JBG).

- R.H. Dott, Jr., 1998. “What is unique about geological reasoning?, *GSA Today*, 8(10):15-18. The reference he cites is V.R. Baker, 1998, Catastrophism and uniformitarianism: Logical roots and current relevance in geology, in *Lyell: the Past is the Key to the Present*, A.C. Scott and D. Blundell, ed., Geological Society of London Special Publication 143.

“Palaeontologists cannot live by uniformitarianism alone. This may be termed the Phenomenon of the Fallibility of the Fossil Record.”

“The periodic catastrophic event may have more effect than vast periods of gradual evolution. This may be called the Phenomenon of Quantum Sedimentation.”

- Derek V. Ager. 1993. The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record. London: MacMillan.



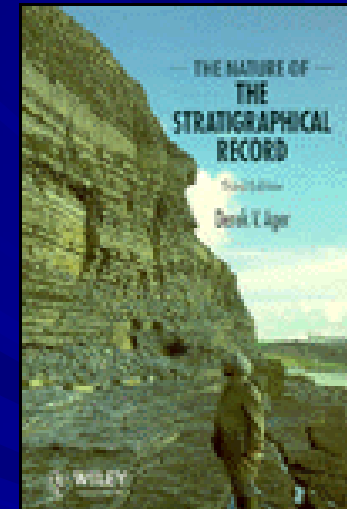
“Catastrophism is enjoying a renaissance in geology. For the last 180 years, geologists have applied consistently a uniformitarian approach to their studies that has stressed slow gradual changes as defined by Lamarck, Lyell, and Darwin. Now, many of us are accepting that unusual catastrophic events have occurred repeatedly during the course of Earth’s history.”

- Kenneth J. Hsu and Judith A. McKenzie, “Rare Events in Geology Discussed at Meeting,” *Geotimes*, vol. 31:11-12, 1986



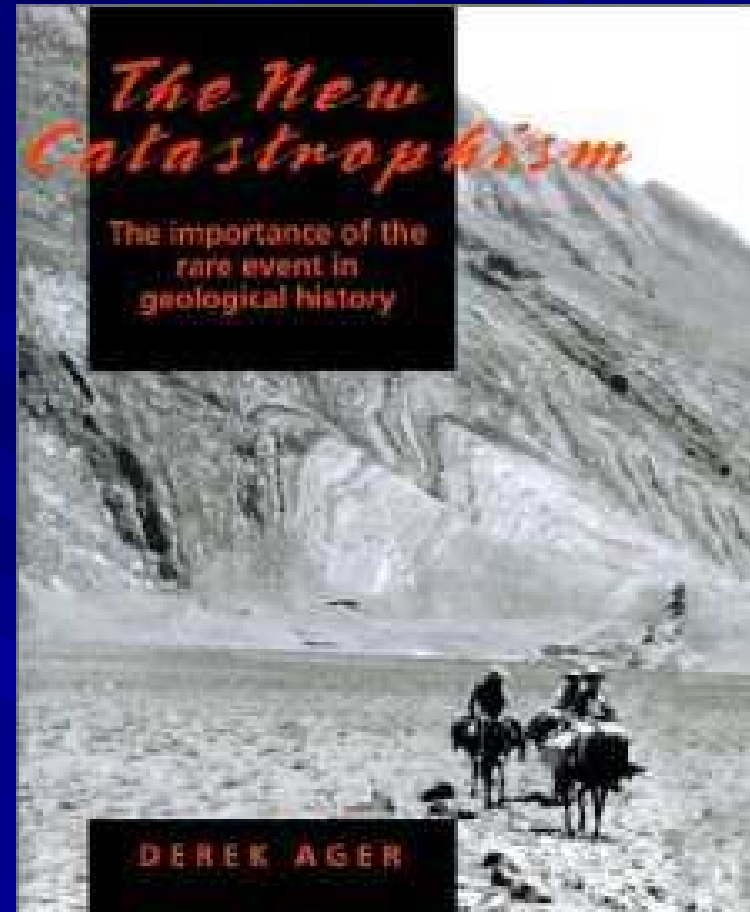
“The hurricane, the flood or the tsunami may do more in an hour or a day than the ordinary processes of nature have achieved in a thousand years. Given all the millennia we have to play with in the stratigraphical record, we can expect our periodic catastrophes to do all the work we want of them.”

- Derek V Ager, The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1993), pp. 68, 69, Dr. Ager was Professor and Head of the Department of Geology and Oceanography, University College of Swansea. He had also served as president of the British Geological Association.



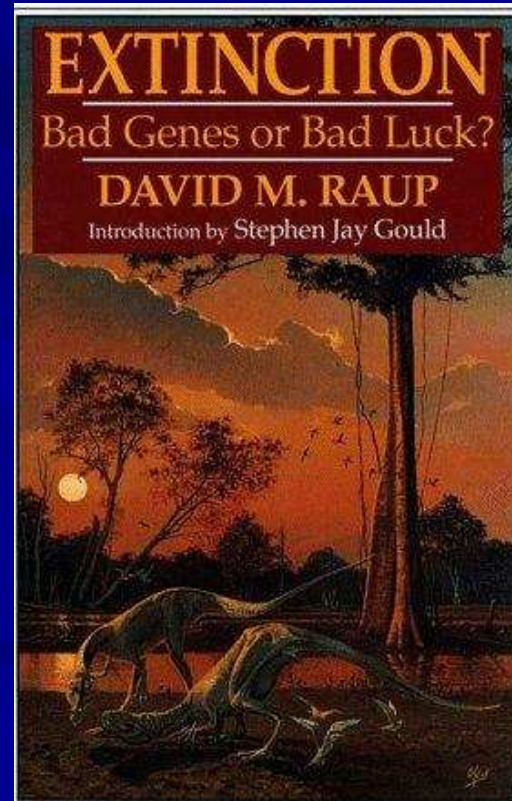
“To me, the whole record is catastrophic, not in the old-fashioned apocalyptic sense . . . but in the sense that only the episodic events—the occasional ones—are preserved for us.”

- Derek V. Ager, “The Stratigraphic Code and What It Implies,” in Catastrophes and Earth History, p. 93, 1984



“A great deal has changed, however, and contemporary geologists and paleontologists now generally accept catastrophe as a ‘way of life’ although they may avoid the word catastrophe.”

- David M. Raup, “Geology and Creationism,” *Bulletin, Field Museum of Natural History*, vol. 54:16-25, 1983

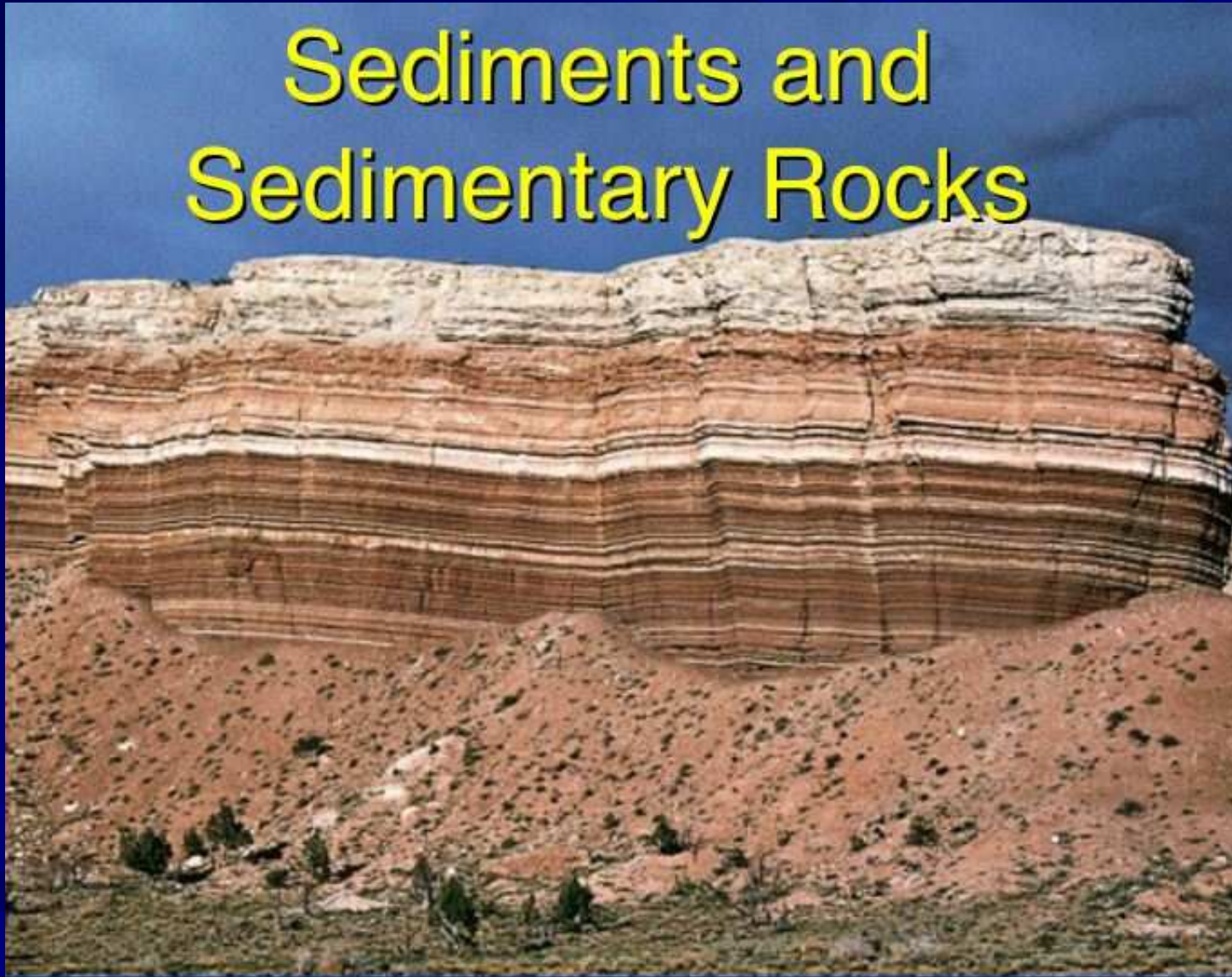


“I hope I have convinced you that the sedimentary record is largely a record of episodic events rather than being uniformly continuous. My message is that episodicity is the rule, not the exception.

“What do I mean by ‘episodic sedimentation?’ Episodic was chosen carefully over other possible terms. ‘Catastrophic’ has become popular recently because of its dramatic effect, but it should be purged from our vocabulary because it feeds the neo-catastrophist-creation cause.”

- Robert H. Dott, “Episodic View Now Replacing Catastrophism,” *Geotimes*, vol. 27:16-17, 1982), Report of Presidential Address to Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (June 1982).

Sediments and Sedimentary Rocks



rst.gsfc.nasa.gov

A Response to Gurtler's (my) 2010 Indianapolis "Uniformitarianism vs. Catastrophism" Lecture

"Uniformitarianism says nothing about rates of deposition or erosion. This might be a poor representation of something Lyell advocated during the 19th Century, but the meaning of uniformity changed long ago. Perhaps diluvialists should spend time finding evidence for their Noah's Flood rather than make false appeals."

Consider what is being said here. . .

"**[Today]** Uniformitarianism says nothing about rates of deposition or erosion. This might be a poor representation of something Lyell advocated during the 19th Century, but the meaning of uniformity changed long ago. Perhaps diluvialists should spend time finding evidence for their Noah's Flood rather than make false appeals."

Can You See What Has Happened?

1. Materialists finally discovered Uniformitarianism was wrong.
2. Instead of admitting that the creationsists had been correct about catastrophism for the last 220 years and that Uniformitarianism was false. . . . They simply **REDEFINED THE WORD**

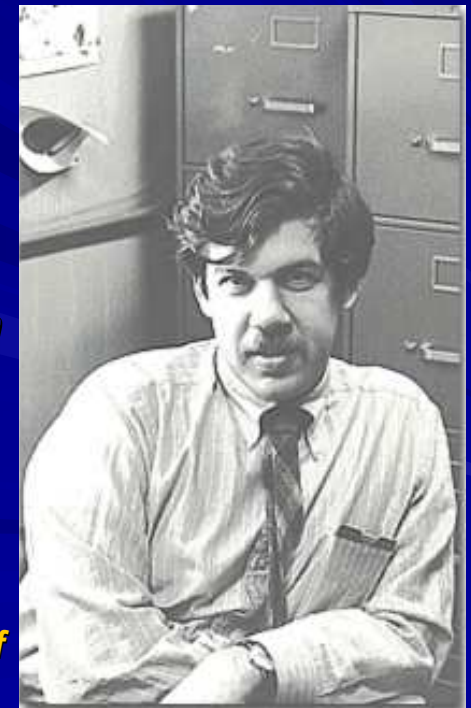
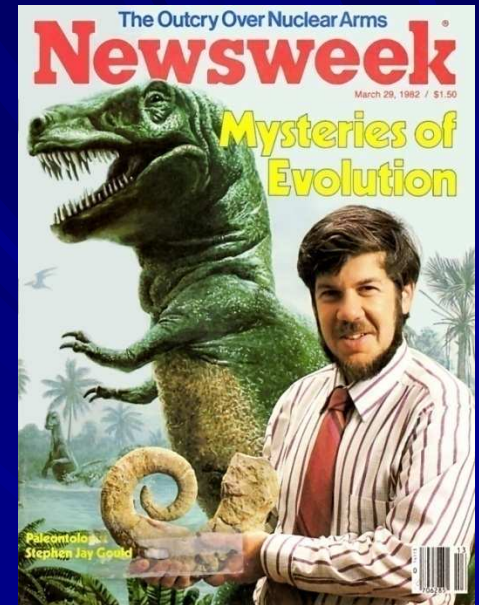


“Uniformitarianism is a dual concept. Substantive uniformitarianism (a testable theory of geologic change postulating uniformity of rates of material conditions) is false and stifling to hypothesis formation. Methodological uniformitarianism (a procedural principle asserting spatial and temporal invariance of natural laws) belongs to the definition of science and is not unique to geology.”

“Substantive uniformitarianism as a descriptive theory has not withstood the test of new data and can no longer be maintained in any strict manner.”

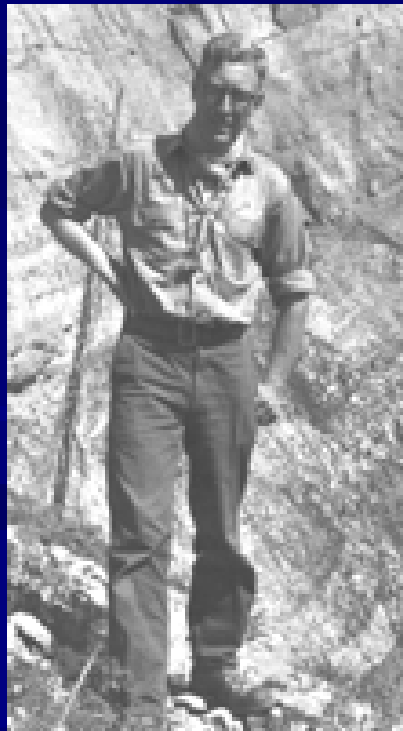
As a special term, methodological uniformitarianism was useful only when science was debating the status of the supernatural in its realm; for if God intervenes, then laws are not invariant and induction becomes invalid. . . The term today is an anachronism: for we need no longer take special pains to affirm the scientific nature of our discipline.”

- Stephen J. Gould. “Is Uniformitarianism Necessary?” *American Journal of Science*. 263:223-228, 1965.



“A new uniformitarianism has moved to embrace at least a modified form of catastrophism.”

**- Digby J. McLaren. “Bolides and Biostratigraphy.”
Presidential Address, Bulletin, *Geological Society of America*. 94:314. 1987**



*“But to regard the **cataclysmic geologic** effects of bolide impacts as uniformitarian is an exercise in “**new speak**,” whereby we would impose a 1980’s usage on an 1830’s term, which since the time it was coined, has donated the exact opposite of cataclysmic.”*

*“Rather than to invert the definition of the venerable word, it is time to recognize that bolide impact **is a geologic process of major importance, which by its very nature demolishes uniformitarianism itself as the basic principle of geology.**”*

– U.B. Marvin. 1990. “Impact and its revolutionary implications for geology, In: Global Catastrophes in Earth History: an Interdisciplinary Conference on Impacts, Volcanism and Mass Mortality, V.L. Sharpton and D. Ward, ed., Geological Society of America Special Paper. 247:147-154.

What Has Happened?

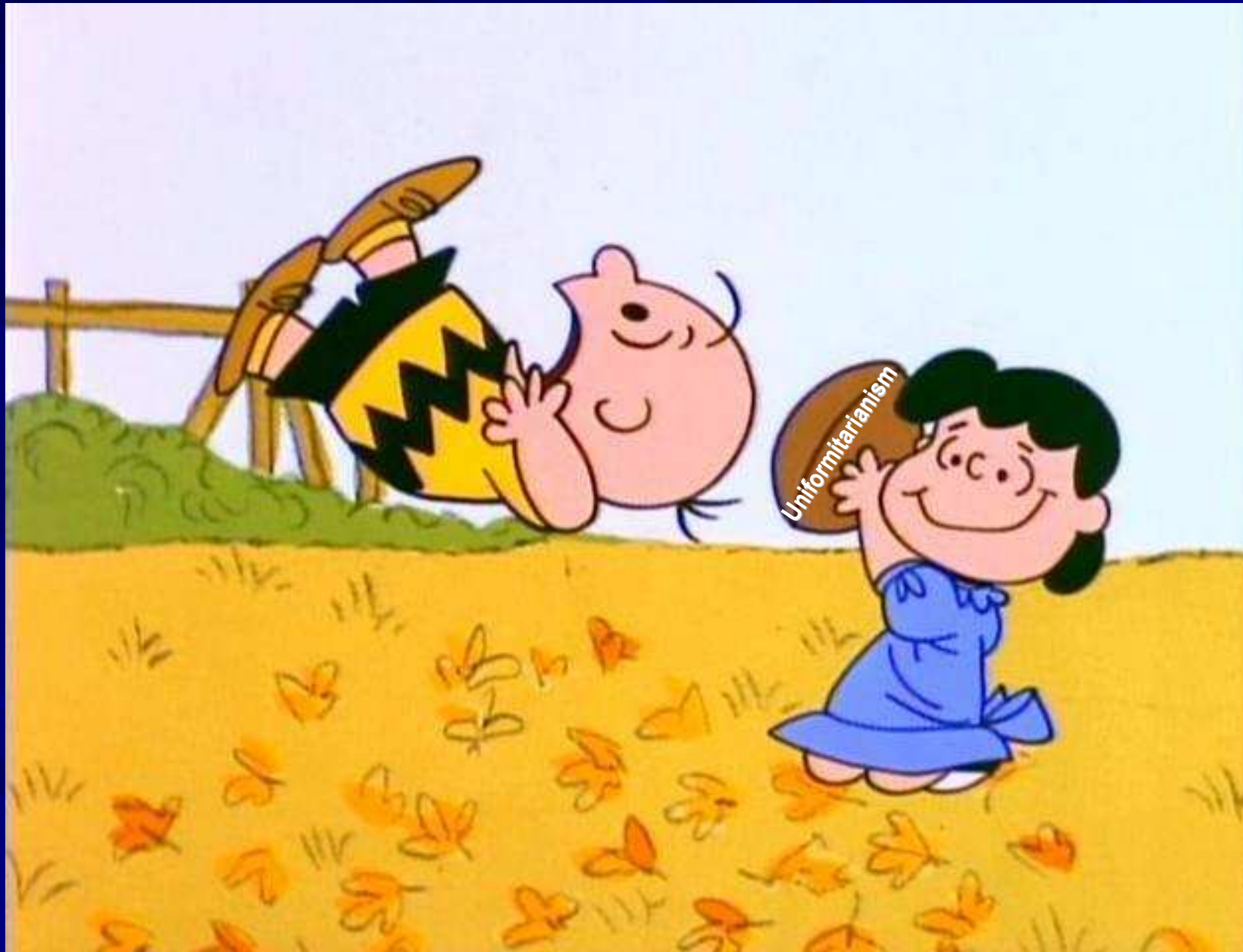
1. Materialists finally discovered Uniformitarianism was wrong.
2. Instead of admitting that the creationists had been correct about catastrophism for the last 220 years and that Uniformitarianism was false. . . . They simply **REDEFINED THE WORD**
3. They have committed a classic logical fallacy called the *Fallacy of Equivocation*, within the general category of, “*The Fallacies of Equivocation*,” where the meaning of a word is shifted during the course of an argument.”

Example: “Richard Dawkins teaches from the bully pulpit.”

“Pulpits are where evangelists of Jesus christ teach.”

“Therefore, Richard Dawkins must be an evangelist of Jesus christ.”

“Bait and Switch”



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Uniformitarianism “Bait and Switch”

(An Unscientific, “Jury-Rigged” Affair)

No One Believes
Substantive
Uniformitarianism
anymore.



“Methodological
Uniformitarianism”
is now the rage.



www.visualphotos.com

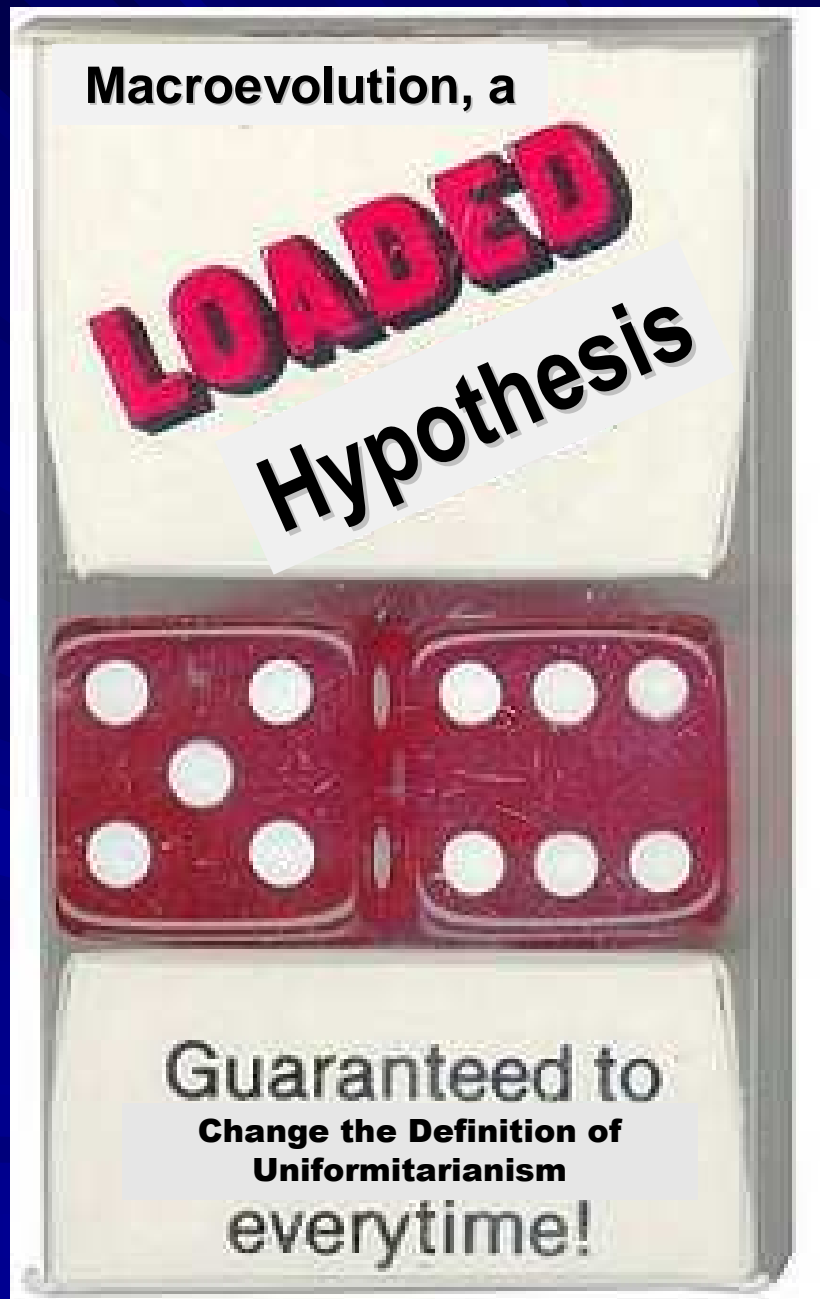
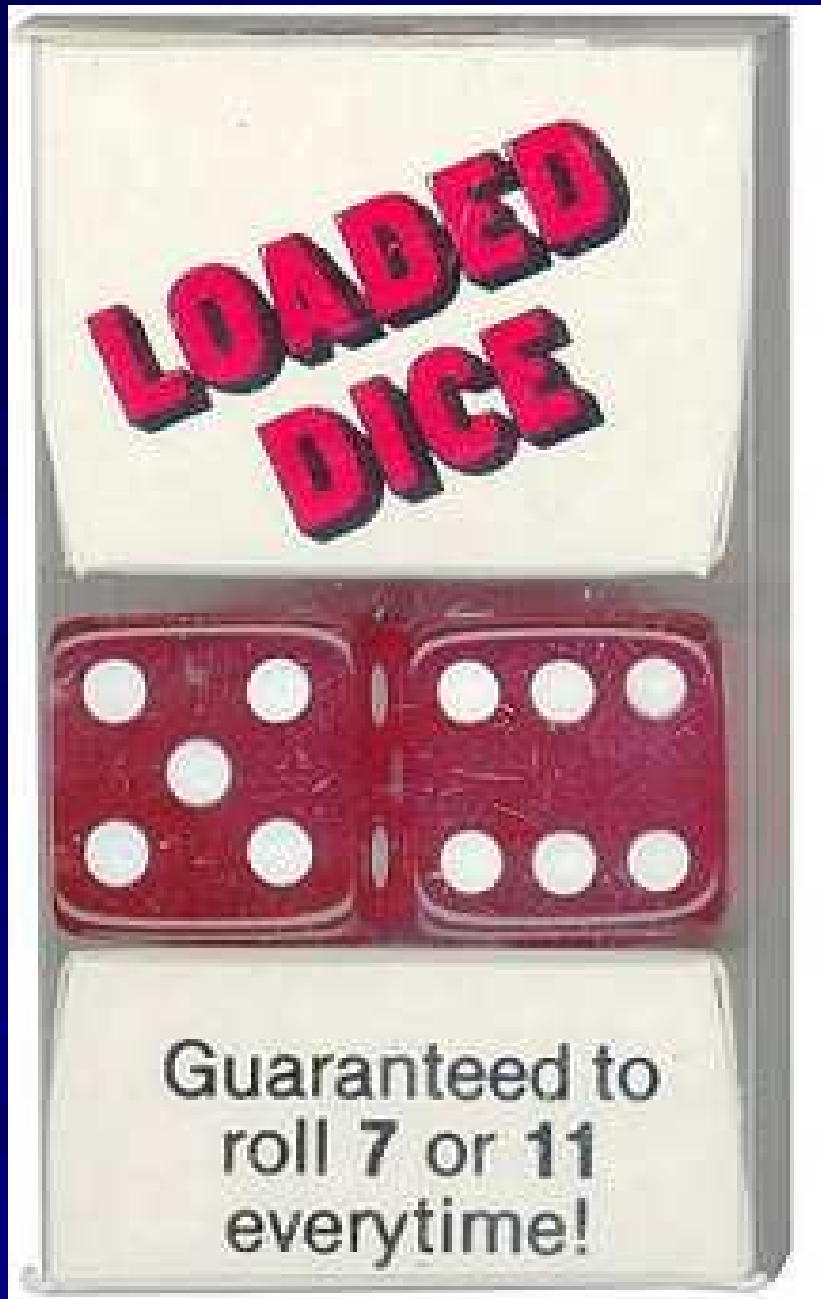
A Rigged Game

- “Head I Win, Tails You Lose
- Stacked Deck
- Marked Cards
- Loaded Dice
- Corked Bat
- Fixed Race
- Palming trick
- Shot-Filled Frog
- Vasoline, or emory board in glove
- Two headed coin
- Shell Game



Uniformitarianism Card Not Working? Just Keep A Different Definition of Uniformitarianism Card Hidden Up Your Sleeve





**Two Headed Coin Will Never Land on Tails
Because the Game is Fixed**



**Evolutionists Will Never Admit Uniformitarianism
is Wrong, Because the Game is Fixed**

Is Your Old Uniformitarianism Bat Not Doing the Trick?



**Don't Worry. . . Just Cork a New Bat with A Different
Definition of Uniformitarianism and "Play Ball!"**

**Guaranteed to Knock 'em into the Refereed
Scientific Journals Every Time**

Is Your Old Uniformitarianism Baseball Not Winning Games?

Never Mind That, Just Hide a Different Definition of
“Uniformitarianism Emory Board” in your Glove and Try Again



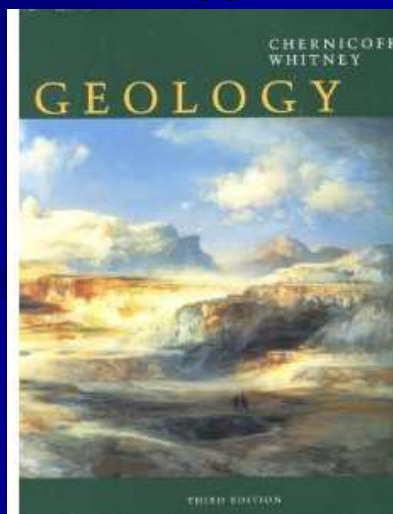
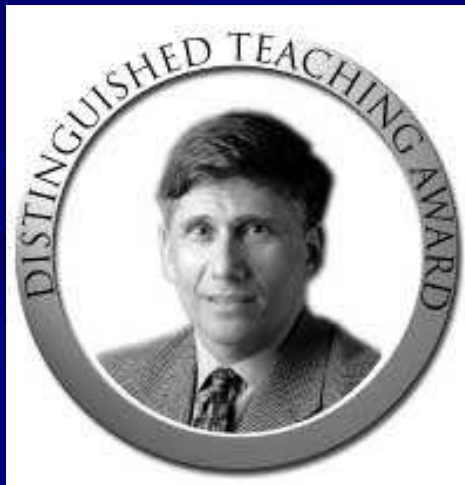
**If Substantive
Uniformitarianism Has Been
Disproven. . . Then Why are Its
Principles (“Slow and gradual,
slow and gradual”) Still
Taught in Public Schools?**

Why are Uniformitarian Principles Still Taught in Text Books?

“Over so vast a period of time, even processes that operate at imperceptibly slow rates have changed the earth's appearance dramatically. Fossil evidence of ancient marine creatures in some rocks of the Grand Canyon, for example, show that these rocks, today near the top of a hot, dry plateau 2300 meters (7500 feet) above sea level, once lay at the bottom of an ocean. Over millions of years, the mud at the bottom of this ocean – still containing the remains of sea creatures that died there – gradually solidified into rock, was uplifted to its present elevation, and was cut through and exposed by the Colorado River. As James Hutton knew, rocks, if we study them closely, can bear witness to an unimaginably long history.” p. 14 **HOWEVER, Chernicoff goes on to say:**

“There is no prescribed sequence to the rock cycle. A given rock's evolution may be altered at any time by a change in the geological conditions around it.” p. 15

-Stanley Chernicoff. *Geology: An Introduction to Physical Geology*, Second Edition. Houghton Mifflin: Boston, MA. 1999. 596 pp.



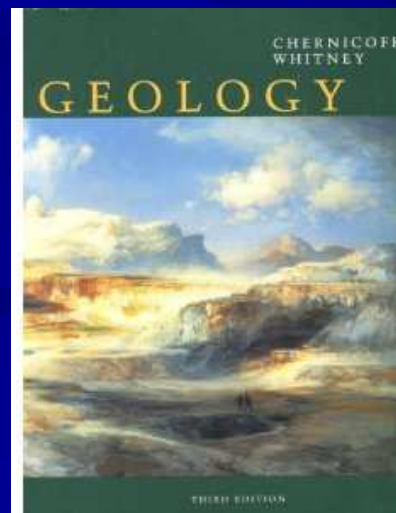
Chernicoff Still Uses an Incorrect Definition of Uniformitarianism

“The principle of uniformitarianism states that modern geological processes resemble those that operated in the past.” p. 235

But he admits that is **WRONG** twenty-six pages earlier in saying:

“We must temper our acceptance of the principle of uniformitarianism, however, by realizing that the Earth has not always been the way we see it today. Early in its history, the Earth [1] lacked a well-developed atmosphere; the atmosphere it did have differed dramatically in composition, too. [2] The surface lacked its present-day vast ocean cover, [3] volcanic processes may have been more intense (the Earth’s interior was probably hotter), and [4] the planet rotated considerably faster (300 million years ago, for example, our Earth spun more quickly and our days were shorter, with 440 days in a year). Thus the rates of geological processes may have differed significantly, even though the basic forces that control those processes—such as gravity and heat flow—were essentially the same.” p. 209, 210

Modern Geologic processes DO NOT resemble those that operated in the past.



“Of late there has been a **serious** rejuvenation of catastrophism in geologic thought. This defies logic; there is no science of singularities. If catastrophe is not a uniform process, there is no rational basis for understanding the past.”

– Bahngrell W. Brown. “Induction, Deduction, and Irrationality in Geologic reasoning.” *Geology* 2(9):456. 1974.



If The Rates of Natural Processes (which Chernicoff admits were Different in the past) Are The Very Standards Used to Prove the Age of the Earth (e.g., rate of sediment deposition, rate of radioisotope decay, rate of light travel), Then Materialists Fallaciously Assume That Which They Claim to Prove:

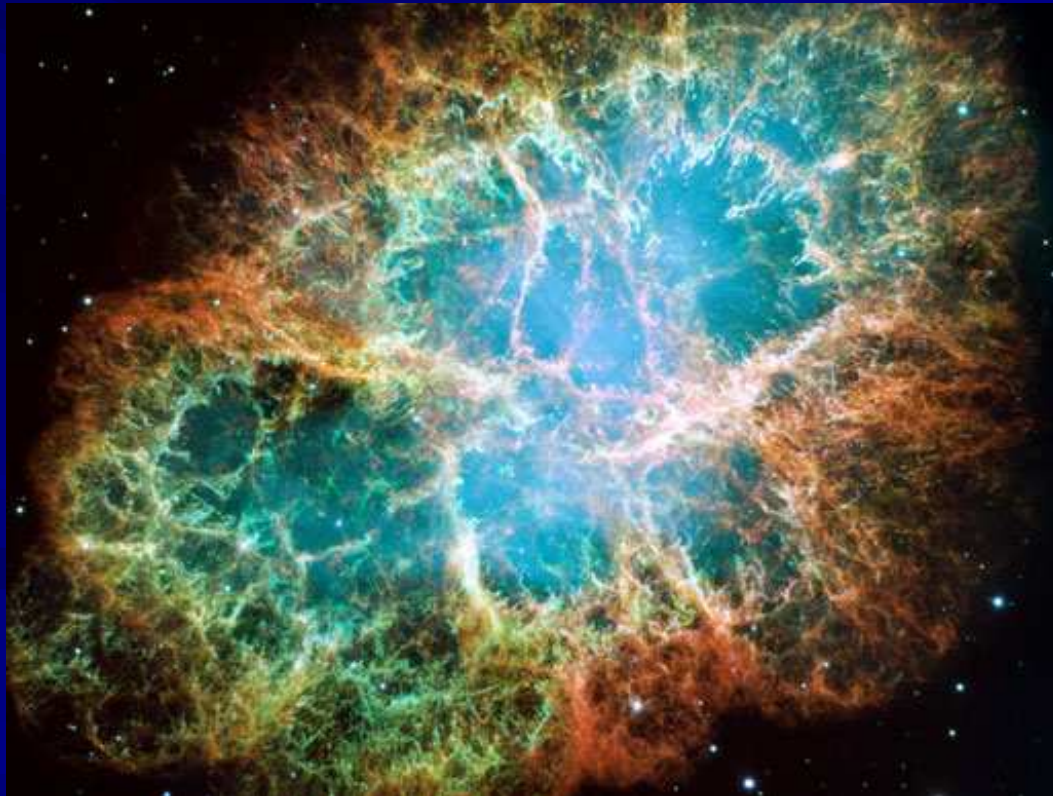
Namely, they say: “We know the earth is old based on the PRESENT rates of geologic sedimentation, radiometric decay, and the speed of light, which we assume must have been the SAME in the past.”

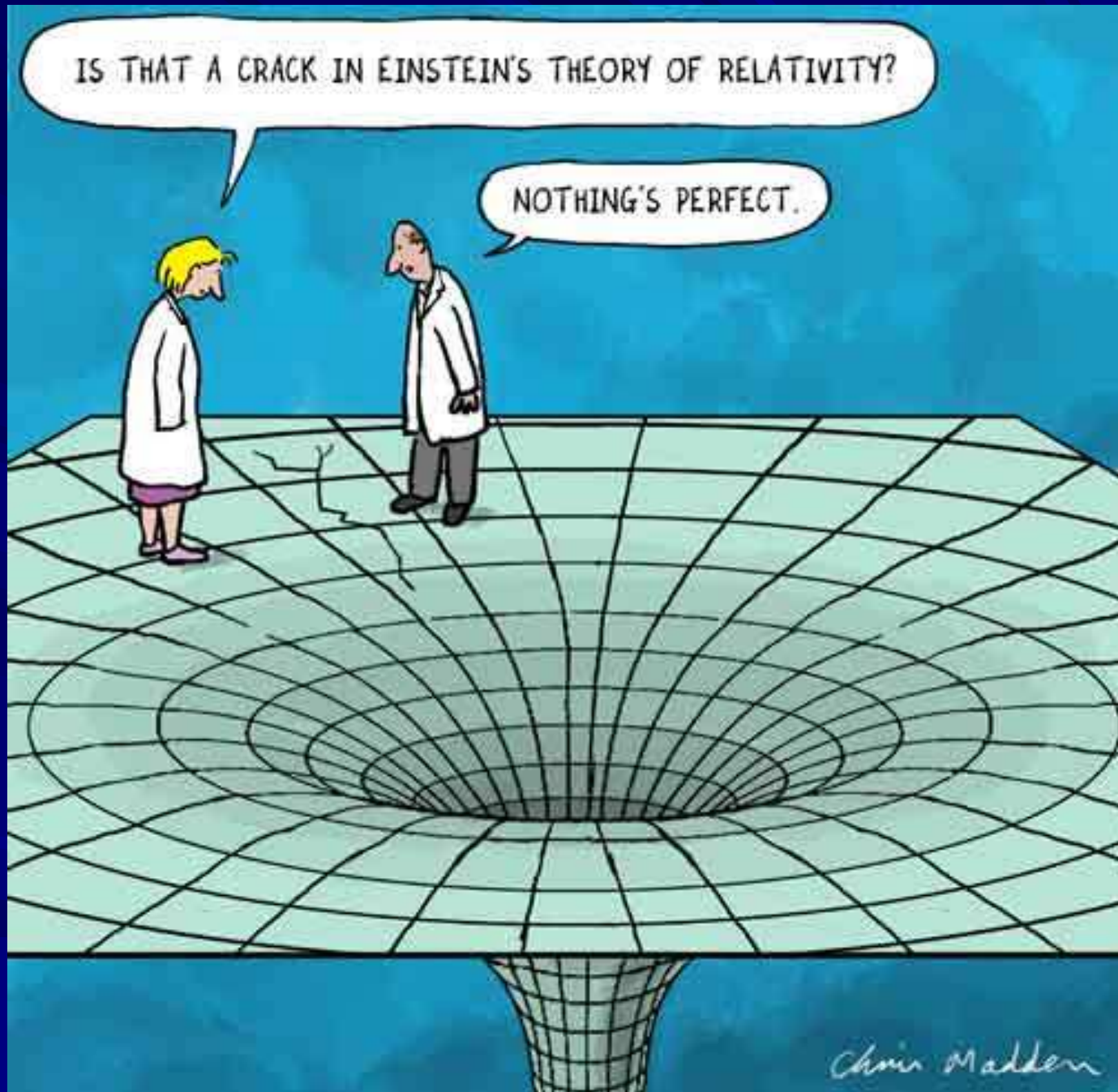


Exhibit 1: Variability in the Speed of Light

Due to unexplained problem's with “Big Bang” mathematical calculations and the “horizon problem”, (1) Jean-Pierre Petit, (2) the Albrecht-Magueijo team, and (3) John Moffat (i.e., “Moffat’s Law”) have all independently proposed variable speed of light (VSL) cosmology which says light moved faster at the origin of the universe.

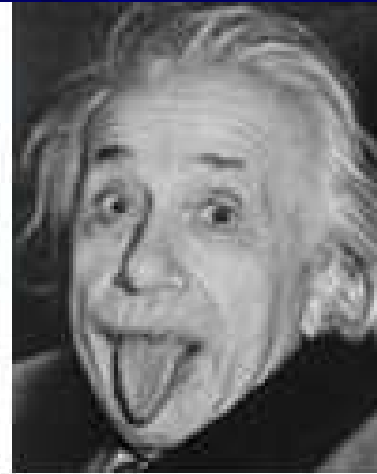
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variable_speed_of_light



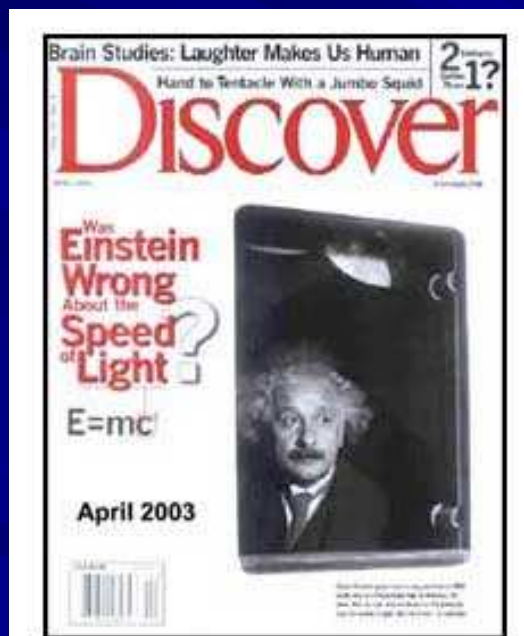
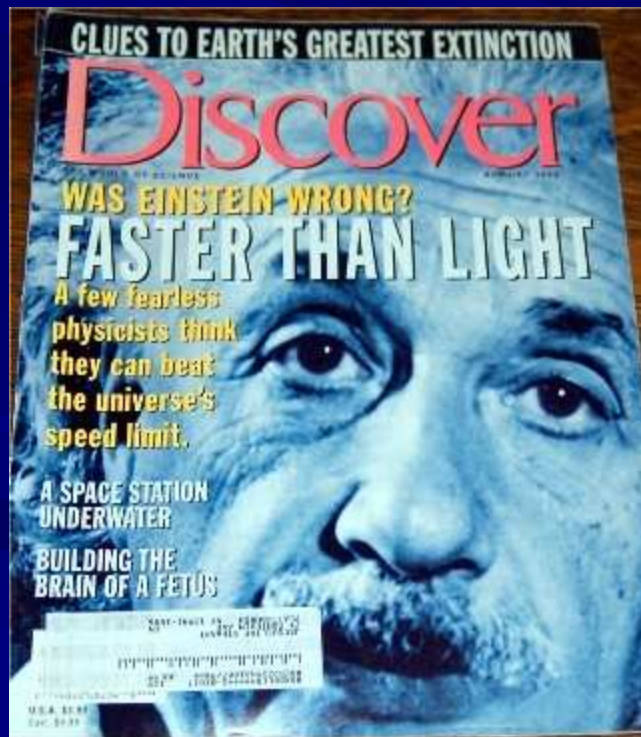


Scientists Breach Einstein's Theory

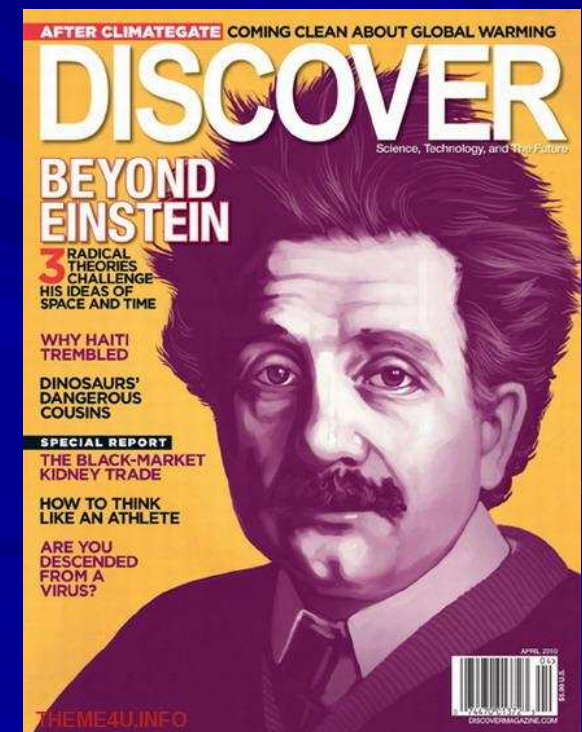
Photons traveled faster
than light, say Germans



Aug 16, 2007 11:40 PM CDT



Discover Magazine April 2003



PAYMASTER



Baloo

"Blast it, Einstein — Why can't you ever fill your time card out right?"

Exhibit 2: Variable Radioisotopic Decay (Radiometric Dating)

Due to highly variable conditions in the earth's past (e.g., atmospheric conditions, redox potential, temperature, pressure, earth's magnetic field [which has diminished by 50% in only the last 1,200 years], change in the earth's polarity [which has supposedly “flipped” multiple times]) rates of radioisotopic decay have not been uniform.

Verified in an 11-year study which began in the year 2000, documented in a 2-volume, 1,450 page report.

However, studies proving variation in radioactive decay were actually reported in the 1970's!



Variable Radioisotopic Decay

“The observed variations in the decay rates (changes in the half life) were produced by changes in pressure, temperature, chemical state, electrical potential, stress of monomolecular layers, etc.”

“The decay ‘constant’ is now considered to be a variable. The value is dependent of the energy state of the entire atom as the basic unit system, not just on the energy state of the atomic nucleus.”

“Radioactivity is thus shown experimentally not to be, as described by Millikan, ‘an unalterable property of the atom.’ Half lives are NOT constant.” (Emphasis in the original).

- H.C. Dudley, Ph.D., “Is There an Ether?” *Industrial Research*. November 15, 1974, pp. 41-46

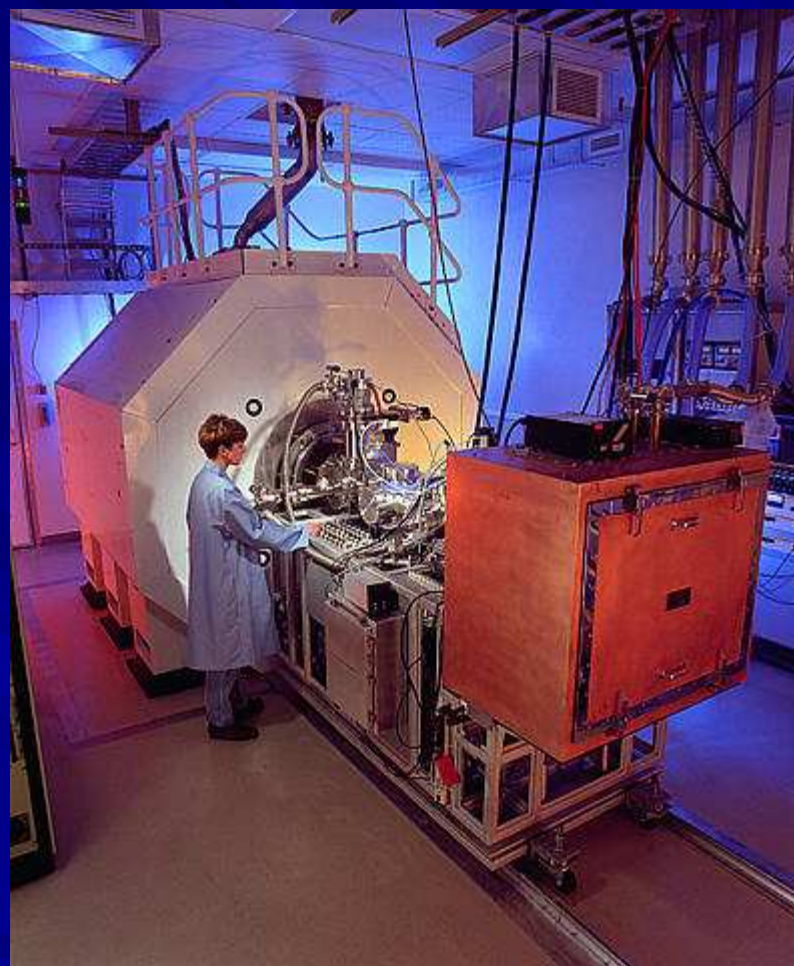
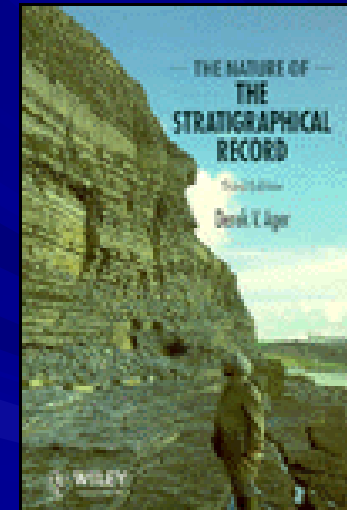


Exhibit 3: The Variable Rate of Sedimentation

If the whole geologic column is the result of catastrophic events, then the amount of sedimentation in the rocks says *nothing* about millions of years of time.

Remember Derek Ager?

“To me, the whole record is catastrophic, not in the old-fashioned apocalyptic sense . . . but in the sense that only the episodic events—the occasional ones—are preserved for us.”



- Derek V. Ager, “The Stratigraphic Code and What It Implies,” in Catastrophes and Earth History, p. 93, 1984

**If Substantive
Uniformitarianism Has Been
Disproven, Then Why are Its
Principles (“Slow and gradual,
slow and gradual”) Still
Taught in Public Schools?**

**South Carolina Department of Education Recommends
Public School Teachers Use the following Website For
Teaching Evolution to Students:**

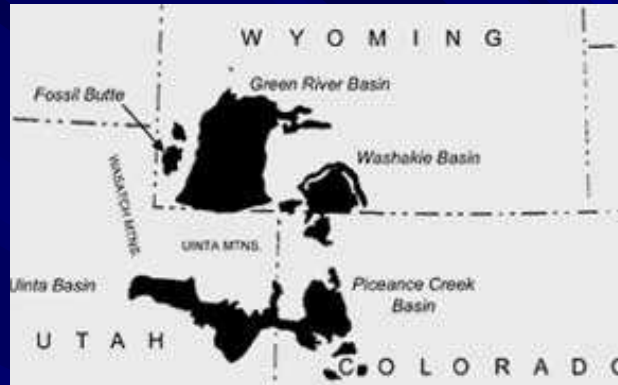
**Evolution and the Nature of Science Institutes
(Funded with Federal Tax Dollars)**

<http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/home.html>



**Dr. Jean Beard, ENSI
Faculty, Founder and co-
director. San Jose State
University**

ENSI “VARVE DATING: Dating Sedimentary Strata”



“VARVE DATING: Dating Sedimentary Strata”

Created by John Banister-Marx

<http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/lessons/varve.dat.10.pdf>

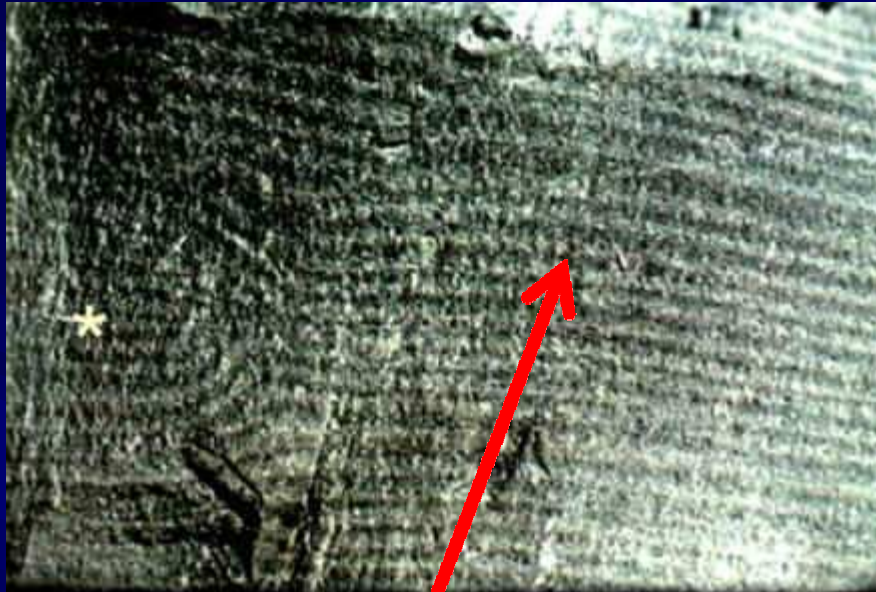
“Students count the number of varves (annual layers of sediment) in shale billets, taken from the Green River Formation in Wyoming, formed during the Eocene. The count is then extended to reflect the entire 260 meters of sediments where the billets originated, a period of nearly 2 million years during which the annual lake sediments (varves) were laid down. This provides a vivid tangible experience to see real data first hand showing the passage of at least nearly 2 million years for the existence of a large lake, in contrast to a traditional view that the entire Earth is only about 6-10 thousand years!”

“It averages about 5.6 varves per mm, but this can vary quite a bit.”

Note: The principles of substantive uniformitarianism are still being applied.



VARVES LAID DOWN RAPIDLY



Notice the lack of burrowing, which proves that these varves do not represent normal pond sediment. The folded over area (*) also indicates rapid formation.



A leaf extending through multiple "annual" varves and bent over by slippage vertical to the stratum plane - Edinger Collection

www.detectingdesign.com, Dr. Sean D. Pitman, M.D.

**Would these 32 varves
in 7 mm of rock really
remain undisturbed
for hundreds of years
while the rock solidified?!**

“VARVE DATING: Dating Sedimentary Strata”

Created by John Banister-Marx

<http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/lessons/varve.dat.10.pdf>

“To help students to grasp the vastness of Deep Time - to get a sense that relates to something familiar, take a look at our Patterns in Time, where students can take a scale where 1mm = 10 years of their life, and discover that a million years on that scale would be about 1 football field long, and 500 million years would be about 30 miles away! . . . Some geologists have had a few other ideas about the Green River Fm, but the seasonal changes accounting for the laminations seems secure.” **What a Hoax on America’s Children**



**Miocene Shales (Mojave Desert, CA)
One billion fish suffocated and were fossilized
within a four square mile area**



Allen Glazner

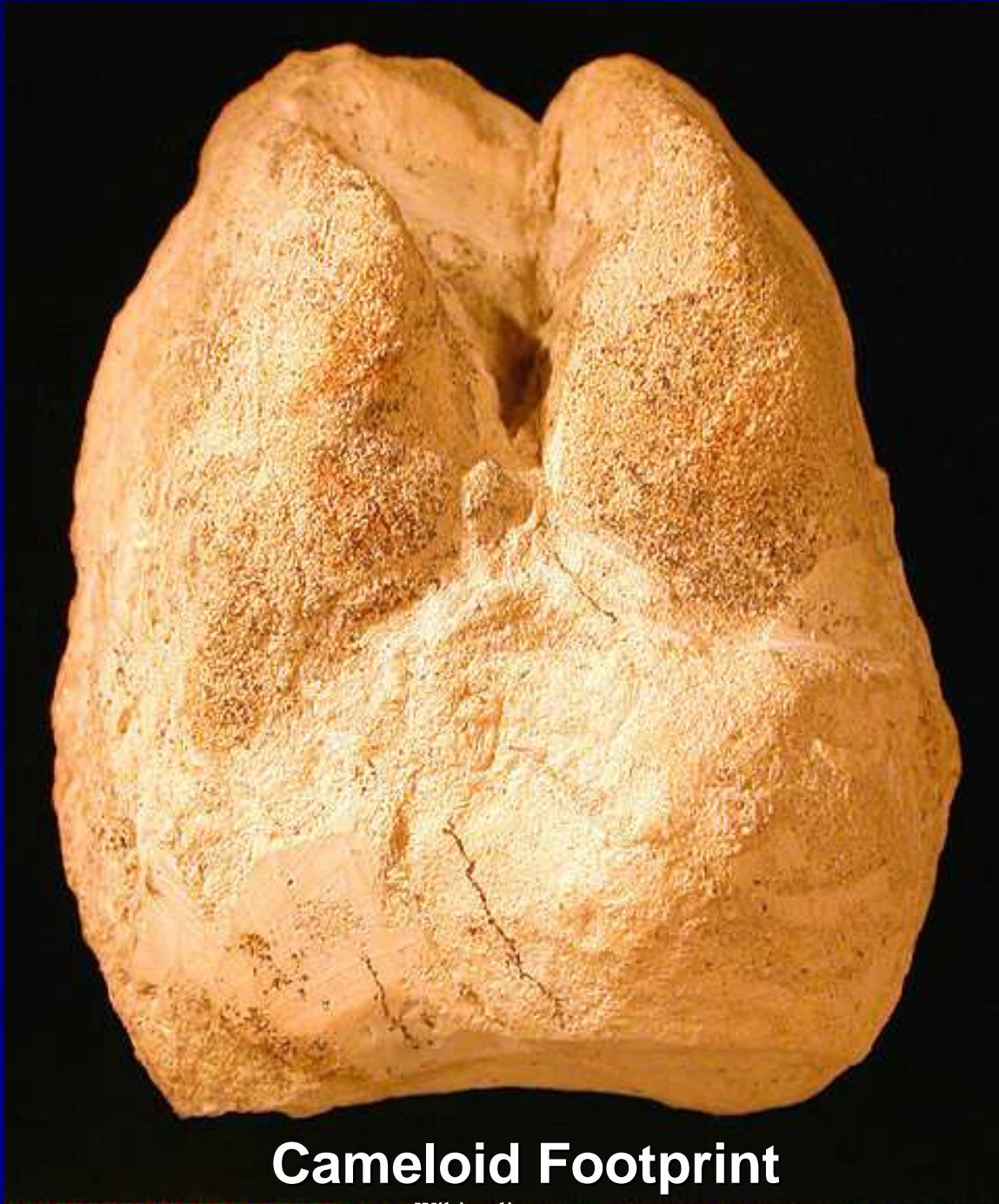


Allen Glazner



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Cameloid Footprint

[Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameloid_Footprint)

Karoo Supergroup of Africa

(Contains the fossils of 800 billion rapidly buried vertebrate animals)





<http://capetowntour.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/cape-fold-mountains.jpg>



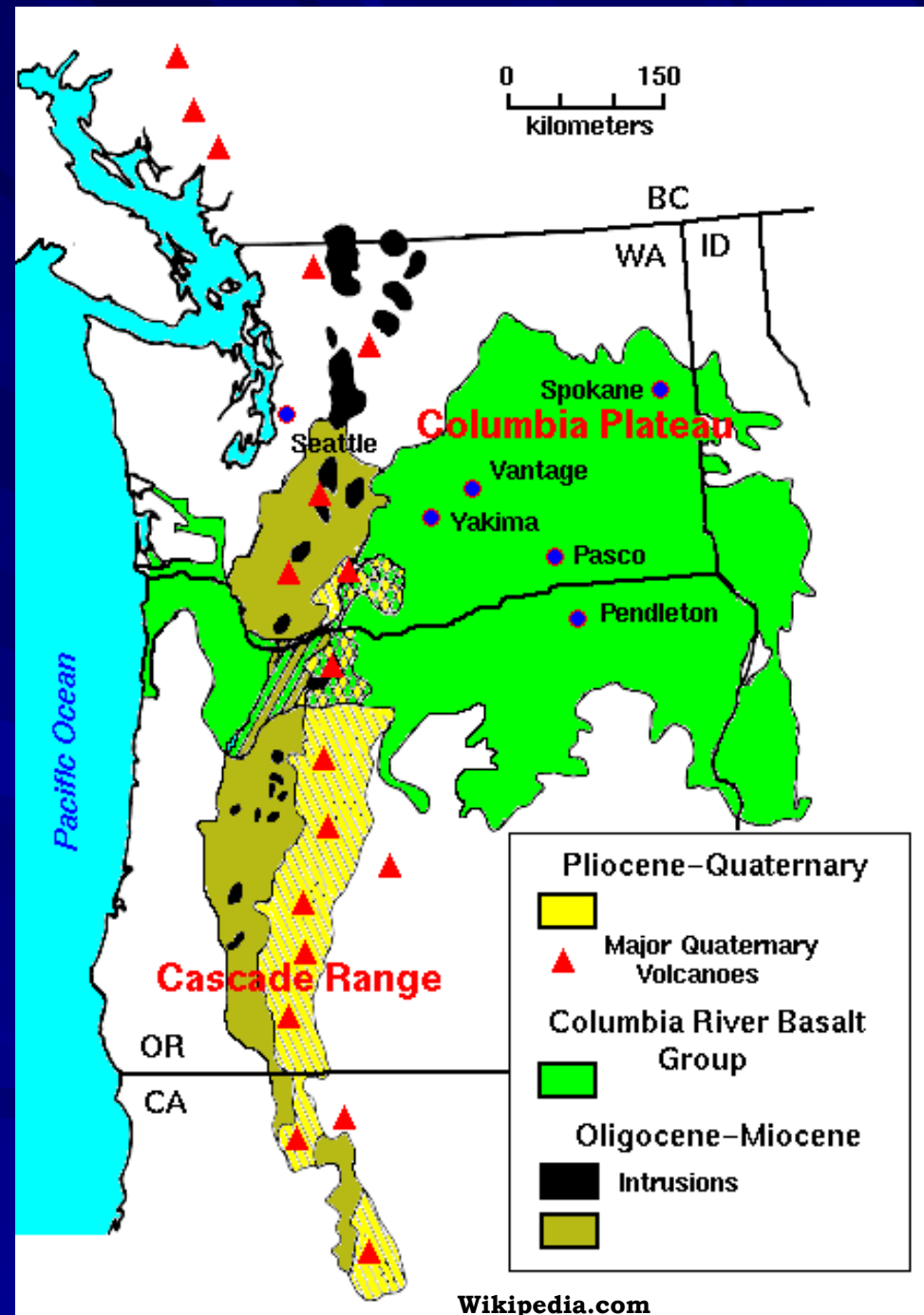
http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4005/4694096012_a43eb3f5f5.jpg



Semionotus capensis (NMB 1502) from the Sinemuzian-Pliensbachian Clarens Formation, Stormberg Group, Karoo Supergroup, South Africa.

www.scielo.org.ar/img/revistas/raga/v63n4/a10f7.gif

**Columbian
Plateau
Lava Beds
(63,000²
miles, 6,000
feet thick)**



“The hurricane, the flood or the tsunami may do more in an hour or a day than the ordinary processes of nature have achieved in a thousand years. Given all the millennia we have to play with in the stratigraphical record, we can expect our periodic catastrophes to do all the work we want of them.”

- Derek V Ager, The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1993), pp. 68, 69, Dr. Ager was Professor and Head of the Department of Geology and Oceanography, University College of Swansea. He had also served as president of the British Geological Association.

