

first part of this century. This belief did not cause these men to adopt evolutionary ideas, nor keep them from vigorously denouncing the doctrine of evolution within their denominational circles, and elsewhere. They were able to visualize the dinosaurs and many other prehistoric animals and plants as having lived and become extinct long before the creation of man--all in the great plan of God.

The Present Flow of New Evidences

Before leaving this chapter we wish to remind the reader that the increasing demand for mineral products of the earth has, within the past decade, produced a vast increase in the amount of geological exploration being carried out. This is revealing an unprecedented amount of information concerning the crust of the earth, the sediments of the ocean, and natural processes which go on in the ocean depths. Off-shore drillings by the oil industry have brought many new facts to light concerning ancient marine life, and sedimentation processes in early carbonate environments.

An even greater source of new information concerning the past is coming from the deep-sea drillings being carried out under the auspices of the National Science Foundation. In 1968 the drilling ship, the Glomar Challenger, set out in its first exploratory cruise. The main object has been to drill deeply into the ocean floors at many points, taking up thousands of feet of sediment cores, in order to determine the nature of the sea floor and of the processes which have occurred in it. This drilling ship is equipped far more adequately than any previous exploratory vessel, and has equipment for collecting chemical and biological data along with the several types of geologic information it is bringing back.

By October 1975 the Glomar Challenger with its highly trained crew had completed 44 cruises, with major drillings made in the ocean floor at 392 sites. Drillings were made in all of the oceans of the world, from the Aleutian Islands in the north to Antarctica in the south. Many of the "holes" penetrated to a depth of over 3,000 feet into the sea floor, and such drillings were carried out even where the water is three and one-half miles deep.²²

All of this is bringing to light a vast amount of information. Most of the data of each cruise are being published by the U. S. Government Printing Office in a series called Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project. As of May 1977, thirty-six large volumes, with an average of approximately 1,000 pages per volume, have been published and are available in many libraries. These cover the first 35 cruises and the 38th. In addition to these, a great deal of supplementary information on the drilling cores is being published by various geological laboratories and agencies.

Thus we are living at a time when more information on geologic structure and processes is coming to light each year than was reported in either the decade of the 1940's or that of the 1950's. Practically every month brings exciting new data, and much of it contains important indications on age. Some of these will be