

23. When one tries to account for an ecological stratification by a violent, cataclysmic flood, numerous problems arise. For example, how can this be reconciled with the prevalent view that the "breaking up of the fountains of the great deep" (Genesis 7:11) violently disturbed the sea floors and swept heterogeneous, convulsing masses of sea life out into other localities before they were finally deposited? It is much more reasonable to account for ecological stratification by the many scientific evidences which indicate that most animals and plants which were fossilized were preserved near to their own life habitat by natural means of burial, similar to the burial forces we see at work today.

24. See Appendix II for further discussion on the "appearance of age" idea.

25. Emmett Williams and G. Mulfinger, Physical Science, Bob Jones University Press, 1974. (As quoted in Bible-Science Newsletter, Bible-Science Association, Inc., Caldwell, Idaho, v. 13, February, 1975, p. 2.)

See Chapter 2 for a discussion of the stability of natural laws, and of man's God-given ability to rationally observe and to analyze what he observes. Many Christians believe that we should gladly make use of geologic data in order to avoid our making false claims concerning the strata of the earth, the Flood, etc.--just as we make use of the facts of genetics and biochemistry in order to assure accuracy in the statements we make concerning evolutionary theory.

26. H. M. Morris, Biblical Cosmology and Modern Science, Craig Press, 1970, p. 19-24.

27. There is a strange, but widespread, misunderstanding among the people who hold this view, concerning carbon-14 dating. The present author has found that the usual student reaction (among those who have been exposed to young-earth teaching) is, "Scientists are trying to prove the earth to be millions or billions of years old by the carbon-14 method." Also, large numbers of tracts and articles specifically denouncing carbon-14 dating are currently being circulated. All this seems wholly unnecessary, in view of the fact that this dating method is used only for ages up to 50,000 years. The reason for this is that the half-life of carbon-14 is relatively short (5,700 years). This means that by the time 50,000 years have expired, following the death of the organism storing the carbon-14, there is such a small amount of the active isotope remaining that it can no longer be detected accurately. Therefore, radiation dating laboratories usually do not even attempt to make carbon-14 tests on materials older than this. Of course, some other types of radiation dating are useful for older materials. Nevertheless, it is important to keep in mind that our knowledge that the earth is very old is not really dependent upon any of the radiometric dating methods. Even if all of these were suddenly to be found invalid, we would still have the great body of primary evidences to which we have been referring in this book.

28. See Creation Research Society Quarterly, v. 9 (1972), p. 140,