PART 2: GOD WROTE IN THE ROCKS
WHAT HE WROTE IN THE BOOK

Biblical Extinction

Four chapters in Genesis are devoted to the Flood - double the number of chapters devoted to creation! Five New Testament passages also refer to the Flood as a real historical event (Matt. 24:37-42, Luke 17:26-27, Heb. 11:7, 2 Pet. 2:4-5 and 2 Pet. 3:5-7). If God really did what He said He did, then our understanding of earth history must include this event. God was not simply a spectator to the Flood, He caused it! Consider the following verses,

> *"Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, "**The end of all flesh has come before Me**; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold**, I am about to destroy them** with the earth."*[209]
>
> *"Behold, I, even **I am bringing the flood of water** upon the earth, **to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life**, from under heaven; **everything that is on the earth shall perish**."*[210]
>
> *"**All flesh that moved on the earth perished**, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; **of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land**, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and **they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.** The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days."*[211]

Since God exterminated all animal and human life on the earth's surface by causing a worldwide flood, what would have happened to all those organisms? As Ken Ham, a popular creationist speaker put it *"you would expect to find billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth ."*

What do you think happened to the remains of all those animals and plants? There are only three possibilities. Their remains were eaten by fish or by land animals before they perished, or they rotted as they floated in the water, or they were buried in the sediment deposited by the moving water of the Flood.

---

[209] Gen. 6:11-13, NASÕ5, emphasis mine
[210] Gen. 6:17, NASÕ5, emphasis mine
[211] Gen. 7:21-24, NASÕ5, emphasis mine

Notice that God specifically identifies those living things that will all die, except for the ones in the ark: ***"from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky."*** We assume that during the Flood some plants and marine organisms also died and were buried.

Description of the Flood

> *"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all* ***the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened****. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights."*[212]

Notice that there were two sources of water - subterranean and atmospheric. The duration of the Flood, from the beginning of rainfall in Noah's 600th year, 2nd month, 17th day (Gen. 7:11) to the time when he left the ark in Noah's 601st year, 2nd month, 27th day (Gen. 8:14) was over a year. The water depth is unknown except that:

> *"The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that* ***all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered****. The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered."*[213]

We don't know how high the highest mountains were then but if they were all covered, it must have been a worldwide flood. There isn't enough water on earth to cover the highest mountains on earth today. But consider this: if the current earth's surface had no irregularities at all (smooth like a billiard ball), the earth's surface would be covered uniformly by the water on earth now to a depth of **over two miles (about 12,000 feet)!** So, at the time of the Flood, mountains less than about 12,000 feet would have been underwater assuming a flat and shallow ocean floor. That's a lot of water! Perhaps at the close of the Flood or after the Flood, mountains rose to their current height.

> *"He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever. You covered it with the deep as with a garment;* ***The waters were standing above the mountains.*** *At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.* ***The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them****. You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth."*[214]

---

[212] Gen. 7:11-12, NASB95, emphasis mine
[213] Gen. 7:19-20, NASB95, emphasis mine
[214] Psalm 104:5-9, NASB95, emphasis mine

I believe the Flood to be of worldwide extent because:

- Water covered all the high mountains **everywhere** (Gen. 7:19)
- What constrained the water if it was a local flood?
- Why would Noah have to build an ark if the Flood was only local?
- How could *"all flesh that moved on the earth perish"* (Gen. 7:21-23) in a local flood?
- Since local floods occur today, hasn't God broken His promise (Gen. 8:21, 9:11, 9:15) to never again produce such a catastrophe?

The Preflood World

Let's start with the preflood climate. Since tropical fossils are found widely distributed on all continents, we assume that the climate was warm. The typical latitudinal zonation of climates – warmer equator and colder poles – that we have now may not have existed before the Flood. If tropical plants like ferns were fossilized where they grew, then the Antarctic continent was experiencing a tropical (warm, humid) climate to account for such fossils in coal deposits found there. However, they could have floated there to be deposited instead of growing there. There may have been only one large continent (geologists call it Pangea which means "all land"), as this verse implies.

> *"Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be* ***gathered into one place****, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so."*[215]

If the water was gathered into one place the land could have also been in one place. However, even if the preflood world had only one continent, the lack of climatic zonation on this super continent is a challenge to explain.

> "*…there is little evidence that climatic belts existed in the early history of the earth, yet climatic zonation, both latitudinal and vertical, is clearly apparent in all parts of the earth today. This anomalous situation is difficult to explain. It is impossible to reconstruct a super-continent which could lie entirely within one climatic regime. Any rotating planet, orbiting the Sun on an inclined axis of rotation must have climatic zonation. It is obvious, therefore, that climatic conditions in the past were significantly different from those in evidence today."*[216]

[215] Gen. 1:9, NASB95, emphasis mine

[216] Heylmun, E., 1971, *Should We Teach Uniformatarianism?*, Jour. Geological Education, V.19, Jan. 1971, p. 35.

Perhaps the atmosphere had such a thick cloud cover (after all, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, Gen. 7:4,12) that sunlight could not reach the ground to heat it as it does now. Sunlight does not heat air directly since air is transparent. The sun heats the ground and the ground heats the air. Since this process takes time, there is a lag time between when the sun is highest at noon each day and the hottest time of the day one or two hours later. The same is true for the month when the noon sun is highest at the summer solstice in June while the hottest month is July or August in the United States. It takes time for the sun to heat the ground and for the ground to heat the air.

As we travel to the poles, the sunlight is spread out over more area of the ground and, therefore, heats the ground less and in turn heats the air less. That is why climates on the equator are warm (having more direct sunlight) and climates near the poles are cold (having less direct sunlight). But all of this depends on the sunlight reaching the ground, which would be absent if a thick cloud cover existed before the Flood. Rain may have not fallen before the Flood because,

> *"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted,* ***for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth****, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.* ***But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground****."*[217]

And the rainbow covenant would loose much of its significance if rainbows were seen before the Flood.

> *"I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations;* ***I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth****. "It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. "****When the bow is in the cloud****, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."*[218]

---

[217] Gen. 2:4-6, NASÕ5, emphasis mine
[218] Gen. 9:11-17, NASÕ5, emphasis mine

However, the mist may have been limited to the days of creation (note wording above) and it is possible that rain fell before the Flood. If the atmosphere had a complete cloud cover, rain could fall and yet rainbows would not be visible because the sun needs to be shining directly on raindrops to produce a rainbow. This is consistent with the earliest reference to anyone seeing the Sun, Moon or stars in Gen. 15:5, after the Flood, when God asks Abram to count the stars as a measure of his descendents.

A close look at genealogies in Genesis reveals two interesting things: human life spans were much longer than today; and life spans show a dramatic decrease following the Flood. Adam lived contemporaneously with eight generations of his ancestors!

> *"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"*[219]

Compare what you could do in a 70-year life span with a life span 13 times as long - 910 years! Consider the hundreds of inventions produced in the single brief life of Thomas Edison or stacks of musical masterpieces created by men like Mozart (who died at age 35), Bach (died at 65) and Beethoven (died at 57). Not only was there more time available to live, but also, the potential of tremendous knowledge shared directly between eight generations.

Notice the accomplishments of preflood man:

- Adam and Eve worked in the garden and took care of it (Gen. 2:15).
- Adam named each living creature (Gen. 2:19).
- Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil (Gen. 4:2).
- Cain built a city (Gen. 4:17).
- Jabal was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock (Gen. 4:20).
- Jubal was the father of all who play the harp and flute (Gen. 4:21).
- Tubal-Cain forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron (Gen. 4:22).
    - Noah built the ark according to God's instructions (Gen.6:22) so he must have been quite a craftsman.

[219] Job. 12:12, NIV

When you visualize preflood man, do you think of brutish "ape-men" only capable of grunting, or do you think of civilized men? Where did this notion come from? From the minds of men who were not there and don't know everything. Since man evolved through natural selection it makes good evolutionary sense to think of our ancestors in this way.

Why did human life spans drop so dramatically after the flood? Here is some food for thought:

- The seasons began (Gen. 8:22) replacing a warmer and more uniform climate under the vapor canopy making it more difficult to keep warm, raise crops and raise animals.
- There was more radiation reaching the surface to cause more genetic mutations than before the Flood.
- There was less oxygen pressure so healing of wounds was less rapid after the Flood.
- There was a change of diet from vegetation before the Flood (Gen. 1:29-30) to meat after the Flood (Gen. 9:2-3).
- God made animals afraid of man (Gen. 9:2) so food may have been harder to get and larger animals may have been more aggressive toward man.
- The human gene pool was much smaller after the Flood than before. Perhaps those characteristics conducive to longevity were not as prominent in Noah's family than in his ancestors.

Similar arguments can be made for animals that left the ark to repopulate the earth. Perhaps some of them became extinct because they could not compete in the post flood world.

…now boarding the bat kind in pen number…

God gave detailed ark building instructions to Noah. If we assume the length of a cubit as 17.5 inches (the so called "Egyptian cubit"), then the ark was 437 feet long, 73 feet wide and 44 feet high. There is no evidence that anyone built a larger ship until 1858!

"Since the standard railroad stock car contains 2,670 cubic feet effective capacity, the Ark had a volumetric capacity equal to that of 522 standard stock cars. Since a standard stock car can carry 240 sheep, the Ark could have carried over 125,000 sheep. The average size of all animals is certainly less than that of a sheep and there are less than 18,000 species of land animals alive today (that is, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians)".[220]

It had a window on the roof, door on the side, and three decks. Notice how God described its contents:

"You shall take with you of ***every clean animal by sevens****, a male and his female; and of* ***the animals that are not clean two****, a male and his female;* ***also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth****."*[221]

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. "And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ***"Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.*** *"As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them." Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did."*[222]

Notice why animals were taken into the ark – ***"…to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth"***. And this verse *"…that they* ***may breed abundantly*** *on the earth, and be fruitful and* ***multiply*** *on the earth."*[223]

Who selected the actual animals that went on the ark? How did the animals get to the ark? Who shut the door to the ark after it was loaded? The answer is God! He alone knows the genetic information in every living thing so He can make the best choice. And He has the ability of getting any thing any where at any time. A great One to have around for those really big jobs!

"Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and ***the LORD closed it behind him****."*[224]

---

[220] Morris, H. "*The Biblical Basis For Modern Science*" p. 291-292
[221] Gen. 7:2-3, NAS,95, emphasis mine
[222] Gen. 6:18-22, NASÕ5, emphasis mine
[223] Gen. 8:17b, NASÕ5, emphasis mine
[224] Gen. 7:16, NAS,95, emphasis mine

It is interesting to note that animals were taken into the ark in pairs by "kind" (Gen. 6:20 and 7:14). This is the same Hebrew word for kind "miyn" (Strong's 4327, species) that is used in Gen. 1 where God creates them by their "kind". This word appears in seven verses in the first chapter of Genesis – five verses describing creation and two verses describing the Flood. It also appears in 11 other verses in the Old Testament and in every case it refers to animals. The following are taken from the King James Version and most verses refer to dietary restrictions,

- Lev. 11:14 vulture, kite
- Lev. 11:15 and De. 14:14 raven
- Lev. 11:16 and De. 14:15 owl, night hawk, cuckow
- Lev. 11:19 stork, heron, lapwing, bat, locust, bald locust, beetle, grasshopper
- Lev. 11:22 locust, bald locust, beetle, grasshopper
- Lev. 11:29 weasel, mouse, tortoise
- Deut. 14:13 glede, kite, vulture
- Deut. 14:18 stork, heron, lapwing, bat
- Eze. 47:10 fish

Notice that the birds and insects are subdivided into different kinds. So, using these verses as a rough guide, the meaning of kind (miyn) can have a broad meaning (like fish) as well as a more specific meaning (like lapwing, weasel, beetle). Each different kind would have different DNA. Only one pair of each kind was needed because microevolution (variation within a kind) would provide the diversity within that kind after the Flood in much the same way that the variety of dogs we know today are descendant of the wild dog.

Did dinosaurs get on the Ark? Dinosaurs were created on day six, along with man (Gen, 1:24-27), because they are "beasts" (KJ and NAS). There is no mention in the Bible of their extinction so they most likely boarded the Ark since *"every beast after its kind"* (Gen. 7:14) boarded the Ark. Does every mean some or all? It makes sense that juvenile dinosaurs of the large variety, such as the saurapods (the large kind that sneezed at the humans up in the tree in the movie *Jurassic Park)*, went in the Ark instead of full-grown adults.

Did fish board the Ark? There is no mention of aquatic animals in the list of what **was to board** (Gen. 6:18-21, 7:2-4), in the list of what He **would destroy** (Gen. 6:7) and in the list of what He **did destroy** (Gen. 7:21-23). Although aquatic animals were not singled out for extermination, it is reasonable to conclude that many would have died in the Flood. The same argument holds for plant life.

Good Boats Don't Just Happen

Was the Ark sea worthy? Since God designed it and told Noah how to build it, you can bet the answer is yes! David Collins, a Naval Architect, evaluated the stability of the ark according to U.S. Coast Guard Regulations. He assumed that the ark's weight was 4140 long tons using cypress wood since "gopher wood" (Gen. 6:14) is unknown. A long ton is 2,240 pounds. He further assumed the total weight of animals at 100 long tons and 6,000 long tons for food (30 times the weight of animals for food and 30 times the weight of animals for water) totaling 10,240 long tons for the loaded ark. The fully loaded ark would have a draft (sink into the water) of 10.6 feet. He followed the same procedure used by modern naval architects and concludes:

> *"Noah's Ark was extremely stable. When God told Noah how to build it, He did a very good job. He made the Ark so stable that it would be fully safe whatever cataclysmic forces of the flood were hurled against it!"*[225]

A more recent investigation by nine staff members of the Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering in Taejon, Korea, also evaluated the Ark's safety in "severe environments imposed by waves and winds during the Flood. They built 1/50-scaled models of several hull designs to confirm their theoretical analysis. They conclude:

> *"Total safety index, defined as the weighted averages of three relative safety performances, showed that* ***the Ark had a superior level of safety in high winds and waves compared with other hull forms studied. The voyage limit of the Ark, estimated on the basis of modern passenger ship's criteria, revealed that it could have navigated through waves higher than 30 meters*** **[90 feet]**." [226]

Should we be surprised that the One who invented water also designed a sea worthy ship? Should we be surprised that the One who made all the animals also knows what they need for a year long cruise?

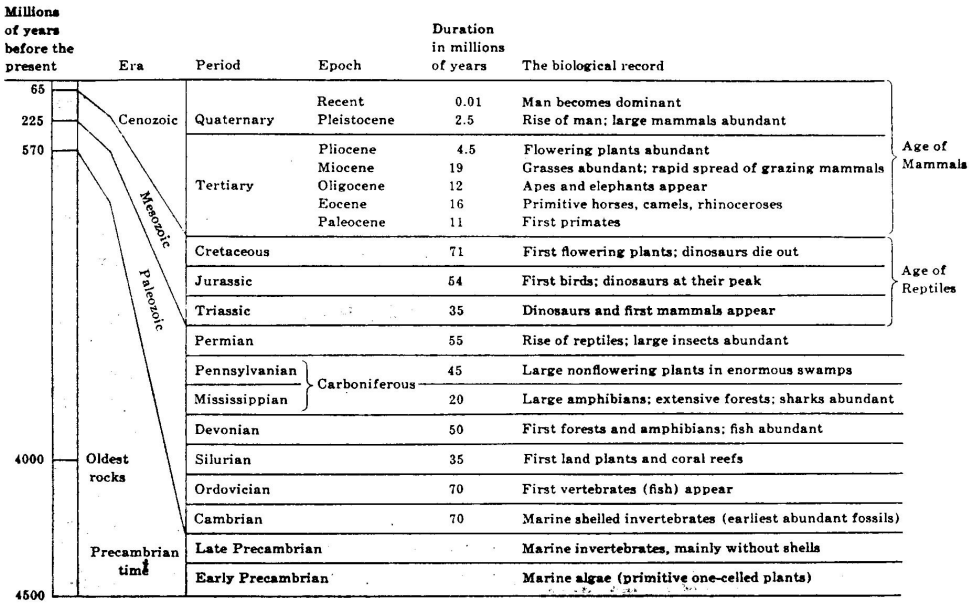
---

[225] Collins, D., 1977, *Was Noah's Ark Stable?*, Creation Research Society Quarterly, V.14, p.87

[226] Hong, S. et. al., 1994, *Safety Investigation of Noah's Ark in a Seaway,* Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal, V.8, Part 1, p.26, emphasis mine.

The Fossil Record

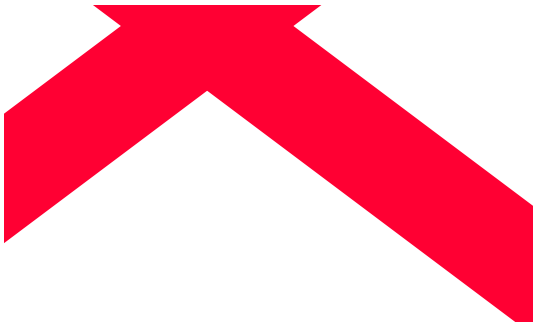
Every earth science textbook has a diagram like the one below, which is supposed to be a summary of earth history and the evolution of life.



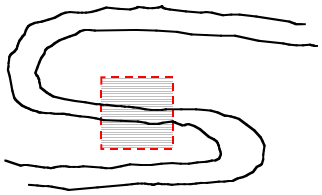
Millions of years before the present	Era	Period	Epoch	Duration in millions of years	The biological record	
65	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent	0.01	Man becomes dominant	
225			Pleistocene	2.5	Rise of man; large mammals abundant	
570		Tertiary	Pliocene	4.5	Flowering plants abundant	Age of Mammals
			Miocene	19	Grasses abundant; rapid spread of grazing mammals	
			Oligocene	12	Apes and elephants appear	
			Eocene	16	Primitive horses, camels, rhinoceroses	
			Paleocene	11	First primates	
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous		71	First flowering plants; dinosaurs die out	Age of Reptiles
		Jurassic		54	First birds; dinosaurs at their peak	
		Triassic		35	Dinosaurs and first mammals appear	
	Paleozoic	Permian		55	Rise of reptiles; large insects abundant	
		Pennsylvanian	Carboniferous	45	Large nonflowering plants in enormous swamps	
		Mississippian		20	Large amphibians; extensive forests; sharks abundant	
		Devonian		50	First forests and amphibians; fish abundant	
4000	Oldest rocks	Silurian		35	First land plants and coral reefs	
		Ordovician		70	First vertebrates (fish) appear	
		Cambrian		70	Marine shelled invertebrates (earliest abundant fossils)	
	Precambrian time	Late Precambrian			Marine invertebrates, mainly without shells	
4500		Early Precambrian			Marine algae (primitive one-celled plants)	

It is always a sketch or a table but never a photograph for a good reason – all of the fossil bearing layers of sedimentary rocks doesn't exist in one place. This famous sketch is the result of piecing together information from many places with assumptions. So our first step to understanding this record is to review how it was developed.

Sedimentary rocks form in layers but those layers have boundaries. So if you could find sedimentary rock layers and follow a layer it would end at a fault or against an igneous or metamorphic rock or may simply end as the current eroded surface of the earth. A good local example is Vasquez Rocks visible from Highway 14. The next time you drive from the Antelope Valley to Los Angeles, slow down to 80 miles per hour and look carefully at the rocks. Vasquez Rocks are visible for only part of the drive. They suddenly appear and then they suddenly disappear. So Vasquez Rocks is a part of earth history, just like pages 20-30 would be part of a book.



Now imagine that you are standing at a road cut where sedimentary rock layers are exposed and some layers contain fossils. There is obviously an order to the deposition of layers. The one on the bottom must have been deposited before the one immediately above, and so on, to the top layer which is the youngest in this particular pile of layers. This is common sense reasoning that does not require verification by a witness. Of course, there is the possibility that God created them instantly that way, but if we confine our possibilities to the natural and not the supernatural, we can accept this common sense reasoning as fact. It is also possible that we are seeing only the part of a tight fold where the layers are overturned as shown in the gray box below. We will ignore this special case as well.

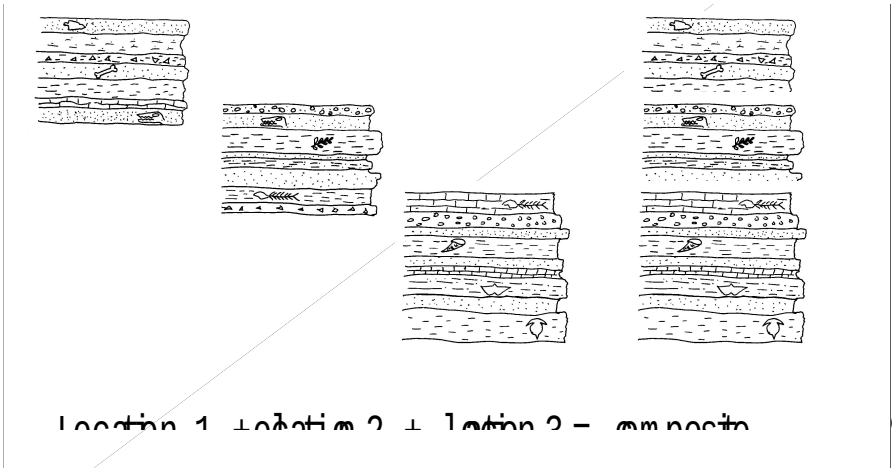


It is important to realize that the order of layers implies nothing about the length of time for deposition to occur. A geologist who is biased in favor of uniformatarianism would probably imagine that these layers took at least hundreds or thousands of years to be deposited whereas a creationist geologist would entertain the possibility that the very same layers were deposited over a span of hours, days, weeks or months. There is no way to prove which geologist is correct unless there was a witness to the event. Consider these questions: were there more layers on top of the pile at one time that may have been eroded away; and are there more layers below the lowest one that are unseen because they are buried from our view? In other words, what happened before the layer containing the fish was deposited and after the layer with the dinosaur head was deposited? It is like having 8 pages of a book and you want to read the whole thing. Could we find answers to these questions at another locality?

Here is an analogy of what we want to do. Imagine tearing out pages from a book, not one by one, but in groups of two or more pages at a time. Then throw the pile of pages in the air so that they come to rest on the floor all mixed up - out of page order. Now, pick-up one of the groups of pages - it is analogous to the rock layers in the road cut. Could rock layers in the road cut be part of a larger sequence of layers just like the group of pages is part of a larger sequence of the book? The book can be put back in order by using page numbers but what can be used for rock layers? The type of rock can't be used because each type of rock - like sandstone, limestone, shale, etc. - repeats itself often - it's not unique enough. Also, it is rather common for the type of rock to change within the same layer as you trace it for a distance. In 1795, William "Strata" Smith used fossils as the criteria for matching layers from place to place.

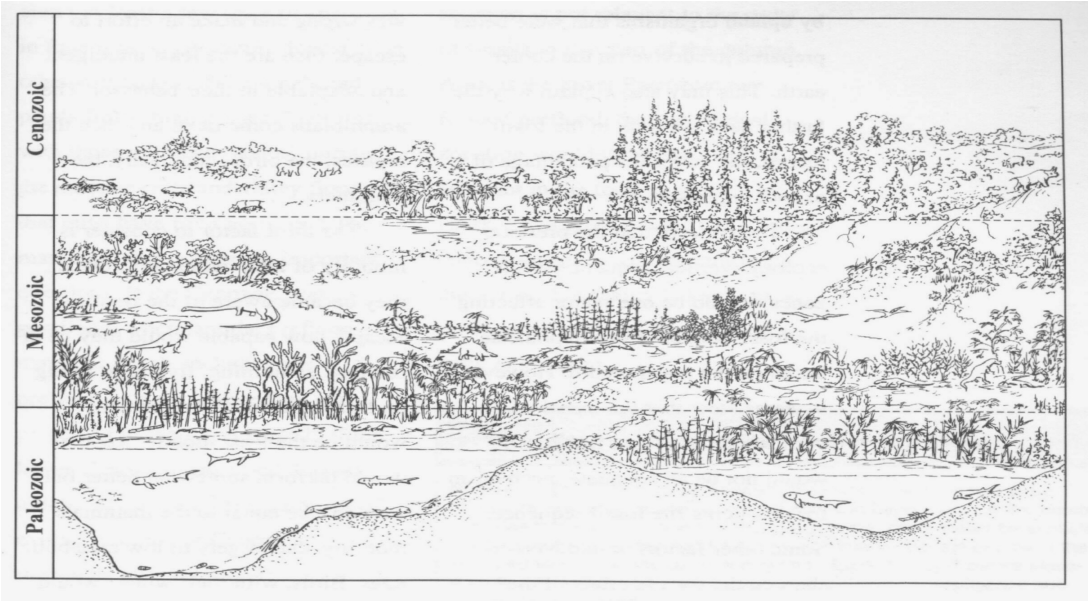
Now imagine that we visit two other localities where some of the layers have fossils.

Notice that some layers at different localities have the same fossils. William Smith simply used common fossils to match layers.



Now we know the answer to those two questions – we have the layers that were deposited after the dinosaur head and before the fish. This kind of correlation using fossils has been done for about 200 years and the result is the textbook sketch we started with. The total thickness of all layers deposited in all of earth history is somewhere between 125 to 200 miles.

When the same fossils they contain match layers from two different localities, doesn't it follow that the two layers may represent the same type of habitat or ecosystem? Matching the same fish is a match of the marine ecosystem in which it lived and matching dinosaurs is a match of the same land ecosystem in which they lived.



As mentioned earlier, the Flood may have moved some organisms out of their ecosystem while others were buried where they lived, within their ecosystem.[227] Imagine that a worldwide flood buries all life on earth right where they live - in their own ecosystem. Then imagine that parts of the earth's crust moved higher and other parts sank, as Psalms 104:5-9 describes. It is now your task to match layers by their fossils to determine the total thickness of sedimentary deposits worldwide. Wouldn't the rocks on the bottom come from the ecosystem that is lowest in elevation (deep ocean), followed upward by higher ecosystems (mid-ocean, shallow ocean) and ending at the top with land ecosystems since they are the highest? Examine the chart of earth history again - doesn't it show roughly the same sequence from bottom to top?

The creationists interpret the fossil record to be the result of the Flood. This fossil record formed in a matter of months, not hundreds of millions of years. Evolutionists believe that when the same fossil matches layers, **they must have been deposited at the same time.** Why is time an element in their interpretation? Because they view life as having started as simple - like algae - and through macroevolution life forms change and become extinct. **Instead**

[227] This sketch was drawn by Hobart Knabenbaur, after Clark, H., 1946, *The New Diluvialism,* Angwin, CA: Science Publications, and taken from Brand, L., 1977, *Faith, Reason and Earth History,* Andrews University Press, p. 281.

of an earth **where all living things were present at the same time, as creationists believe, evolutionists believe that life forms changed with time - the unfolding story of evolution.** The reason why dinosaurs aren't found in rocks younger than 65 million years is that they became extinct. Jay Ransom, in his book *Fossils In America* summarizes the evolutionist interpretation quite well:

> *"FOSSIL BASIS FOR DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION: once it was understood that each fossil represents a biologic entity, in* ***stead of a special divinely created life form,*** *it became* ***quite obvious*** *that plants and animals of each stratigraphic division had simply evolved from those of the preceding epoch through gradual adaptation. They were, in turn, ancestral to those that followed. A* ***sedimentary rock, therefore, can be no older than the youngest fossil in it."***[228]

A close examination of the earth history chart reveals terms like Paleozoic (ancient life), Mesozoic (middle life) and Cenozoic (recent life) which imply the change of life forms through time.

Macroevolution is **assumed** to have happened in order to match layers containing the same fossils and **conclude** that they were deposited at the same time. As pointed out in an earlier chapter of this paper, macroevolution is a belief, yet to be verified by the scientific method. If macroevolution did not occur then the correlation of layers from two localities in terms of time of deposition falls apart!

A big assumption in the evolutionist's reasoning is that once a life form becomes extinct in the fossil record, it does not appear in younger rocks, except by the reworking of older rocks through erosion. An embarrassing challenge to this assumption occurred in 1939 when the first of several "living fossils" was discovered. Such fossils were supposed to have become extinct millions of years ago but are now found alive and well!

> Prior to 1939, rocks containing Coelacanth fossils (a fish) weredated no younger than **70 million years old** but in 1939 a living Coelacanth was caught off the coast of South America[229]

> Prior to 1948, rocks containing Metasequoia fossils (a redwood tree) were dated no younger than **20 million years old** but in 1948 living Metasequoias were discovered growing in China.[230]

---

[228] P. 43
[229] Scientific Monthly, Feb. 1957, p.101
[230] American Scientist, V.36, Oct., 1948, p.490

Prior to 1952, rocks containing Neopilina galatheae fossils (a deep-sea mollusk) were dated no younger than **280 million years old** but in 1952 living specimens were dredged-up from the ocean floor off the west coast of Mexico.[231]

Prior to 1953, rocks containing Tuatara fossils (a lizard) were dated no younger than **135 million years old** but in 1953 living Tuataras were discovered in New Zealand.[232]

Prior to 1962, rocks containing Somasteroid fossils (an echinoderm) were dated no younger than **400 million years old** but in 1962 a living specimen was found in the Pacific Ocean off the southwest coast of Mexico.[233]

Prior to 1992, rocks containing Graptolite fossils (a strange sea creature) were dated no younger than **300 million years old** but in 1992 a living specimen was dredged off the sea floor near New Caledonia.[234]

In 2000 hundreds of new marine species were discovered on extinct underwater volcanoes in the Coral and Tasman seas bordering New Caledonia and Tasmania, some **believed extinct since the Mesozoic**.[235]

Where have these organisms been for millions of years that they have not been fossilized in younger rocks? **Could it be that the millions of years of time is a fallacy?** How do we know for sure that a particular fossil is now extinct? How do we know that it became extinct at a certain time in the past?

[231] Science, V. 126, July 26, 1957, p.158

[232] Scientific Monthly, March, 1953, p.163
[233] Science, V. 136, May 18, 1962, p.633
[234] Discover, July, 1993, p.18
[235] Nature, June 22, 2000