

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

Geologic Column and Strange Fossils

Lesson #12

One of the common ideas taught in schools, colleges, and universities today is the geologic column. The geologic column is the layers of rock we see all around the world. We are told that those layers of rock were laid down sequentially over millions of years and different layers of rock represent different time periods or ages and that those ages contain and are often identified by what are called “index fossils.” If a geologist finds certain fossils in a layer of rock he assumes that rock layer belongs to a certain time period, since it is assumed that those fossils came from that time period. Is this kind of reasoning sound? Was the geologic column laid down over millions of years? Do certain fossils tell us the age of rocks? Are there any fossils that don’t seem to fit into the preconceived notions of the geologic column? In this lesson we are going to seek to answer these and other questions concerning the geologic column. What we are going to discover is that the geologic column fits perfectly with what the Bible says not what evolutionists assume is true.

I. THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN DEFINED

A. The website www.creationwiki.org defines the geologic column as:

The geological column is the theoretical classification system for the layers of rocks and fossils that make up the Earth's crust (also known as the standard geologic column). Fossiliferous layers can often be traced across entire continents and correlated with rocks in other countries. In such cases, these layers have been given names and assigned dates, and are frequently diagrammed as a cross-sectional column (the geologic column). Important in its development were studies on the origins of the various kinds of rocks (petrology), coupled with studies of rock layering (stratigraphy) and the fossils they contain (paleontology). The full sequence of layers was compiled following the study and correlation of rock layers on many continents, and was largely based on the interpretation that layers of sedimentary rock formed over millions and even billions of years at uniform geologic rates.¹

¹http://creationwiki.org/Geological_column

B. Dennis Gordon Lindsay, speaking of the geologic column has said:

Once a person has rejected God and His Word, then he must look for another ruler by which to determine morality, origin and purpose. Contemplating one's own existence, one must also contemplate the origins and age of the Earth. The ruler evolutionists chose for the Earth's age is the hypothetical geological column. It supposedly represents the entire geological history of planet Earth.²

Lindsay goes on to say:

The evolutionary community has attempted to grow their own tree of life—the evolutionary geological column. It involves a detailed theory which not only speculates how long it took each layer of the Earth to form, but which life-form came first, second, third, and so on, moving up the ladder of life from the one-celled creature to the most complex life-form—man. . . . After speculating which life-form came first, which came second, etc., it became necessary for evolutionists to try to figure out how long it took each life-form to evolve into its perfected state, as well as how long it took each species of animal to evolve into a totally new and different species. Guesstimation was necessary in assigning ages to each life form and its evolution. This tree might be better dubbed, as Harold Hill titled his book, *From Goo to You by Way of the Zoo*.³

C. Geologic column is the idea that the layers of rock strata which we find all over the world were laid down sequentially, over millions of years, little by little, in keeping with uniformitarian presuppositions and the preconceived notion that the earth is billions of years old. As one heads down, the rock layers supposedly grow older. In keeping with this idea is another assertion that there are certain fossils found in rock layers that identify the age of that rock layer. These so-called identifying fossils are called "*index fossils*." No one disputes that there are rock layers or that there are fossils found in the rock layers, but the age of the earth, when and how the rock layers were laid down, and the age of the so-called "index fossils" is disputed.

²Dennis Gordon Lindsay, *The Dismantling of Evolutionism's Sacred Cow: Radiometric Dating* (Dallas, TX: Christ for the Nations, 1999).

³Ibid.

II. THE HISTORY OF THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN

- A. The 11th-century Persian geologist Avicenna may have been the first to allude to geologic time periods corresponding to rock strata in his work, *The Book of Healing* written in 1027. Later Nicholas Steno (1638-1686) proposed geologic time scales believing that rock layers were laid down sequentially, each representing a slice of time. Steno, like most at the time, believed the Bible was true and that the earth was 6,000 years old.⁴ He formulated *the law of superposition*, which says that the lower rock strata are usually older than the those higher up. It wasn't until the late 1700's that Abraham Werner proposed a comprehensive time scale of the history of the earth. Werner divided up the rock strata into types and said each type represented a geologic time period.⁵
- B. James Hutton, 1726-1797, is often considered the father of geology. Hutton was a Scottish doctor and farmer, who proposed the ideas of catastrophism, the theory that huge catastrophes happened sporadically throughout earth's history, like meliorates striking the earth. He also proposed the theory of gradualism or uniformitarianism, that things changed gradually in between catastrophes over millions of years. Hutton's ideas were added to by Charles Lyell, lawyer and geologists, who wrote *Principles of Geology* in 1830. Hutton departed from the common practice of many before him who trusted that the Bible, being the Word of God, was accurate and that science must submit to the ultimate and infallible authority which is the Word of God. Hutton promoted the same idea of Galileo that the Bible contained religious and mythological content, but that science was about truth and facts.⁶
- C. Charles Lyell promoted millions of years in his book *Principles of Geology*.⁷ In Lyell's book he refers to those who believe the Bible as having "religious prejudice," "religious biases," "blinded by biblical authority" and of inferior talent, because they believed the inspired Word of God! Lyell expressed that one of his goals was to "free science from

⁴ For an excellent and detailed history of the men who laid the foundation for early geological studies and how they came to be what they are today, see: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v2/n1/old-earth-time-scale>.

⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geologic_time_scale

⁶http://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j18_2/j18_2_55-57.pdf which is a link to a book review about James Hutton called, *The Man Who Found Time* (Cambridge Perseus Publishing, 2003).

⁷ For a discussion of how Charles Darwin was influenced by Lyell see lesson #8 in this series.

Moses”⁸ by which he meant reject biblical creation, a young age of the earth, and the world wide flood of Noah’s day. He wanted people to interpret geology in light of millions of years not the Bible. He is really the father of the geologic column as we see it in geology textbooks today. Lyell put dates to each layer in his geologic column but the ages were all made up. Radiometric dating wasn’t even invented at that time. Lyell purely guessed at the ages so that he could promote millions of years.⁹

- D. Dennis Gordon Lindsay, speaking of the reason that the geologic column was invented, said:

Evolutionists have led the public to believe that the dates assigned to rocks, fossils, and the layers of the geological column have been assigned or at least confirmed by some RMD method. The truth of the matter is that the assigned dates were in all the evolutionary text books more than a hundred years before RMD ever came into existence. RMD didn’t come into existence until the 1940’s; the arbitrary dates of the evolutionary geological column were assigned in the early 1800’s. Thus, the evolutionists have made their own ruler of time . . . , evolutionists wanted so much for the universe to be ancient, they devised their own ruler to “prove” that it is old.¹⁰

III. SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WITH THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN

- A. The geological column, as it is presented in text books, is not found anywhere on earth. It does not exist as it is presented by artists except in the pages of geology text books! Thus there is no scientific evidence that says the geological column, as proposed in the text books even exists. It is true that rock layers exist, but they don’t exist as they exist in the text books, with all the layers one would expect of the rock strata laid down over millions of years, sequentially, as uniformitarian evolutionists claim it was.

⁸Charles Lyell, *Life, Letters, and Journal*, 1881. (Published by John Murray)

⁹<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v2/n1/old-earth-time-scale>

¹⁰Dennis Gordon Lindsay, *The Dismantling of Evolutionism’s Sacred Cow: Radiometric Dating* (Dallas, TX: Christ for the Nations, 1999).

- B. If the geologic column did exist, and it does not, and if all the layers were present, and they are not, the geologic column would be some 100 miles thick!¹¹

- C. Numerous places have been discovered (about 26), where a few layers of rock strata corresponding to the geologic column exist one on top of another. The entire column has not yet been found. However, there are also many places where “index fossils” have been found in the wrong strata! John Woodmorappe has documented over 200 instances of so-called index fossils found in a rock strata which contradicts the geologic column invented by geologists.¹²

- D. There are also areas where the layers of rock strata are mixed up and upside down¹³ indicating that the layers are not sequential, that the assumptions of geologists concerning the geologic column are wrong, and that the layers were laid down at one time by a lot of water – like a world wide flood as described in the Bible!¹⁴

- E. The age of most rock layers cannot be scientifically determined unless we watched them form in recent years.¹⁵ Often the composition of rocks in the supposed geological column are identical. They can’t be identified by any scientific test, but only by “index fossils” found in that rock layer. Of course there are many “index fossils” that are out of sequence and in the wrong layers. And besides, fossils can’t be dated by any accurate scientific method.¹⁶

- F. In most cases, geologists assume the age of rocks by the fossils found in the rock and they assume the age of the fossil by what rock layer it is

¹¹<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/ee/geologic-record>

¹²John Woodmorappe, *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 18 (4), March 1982. Also see http://creationwiki.org/Anomalously_occurring_fossils

¹³<http://www.creationmoments.com/content/difficulties-geologic-column>

¹⁴http://creationwiki.org/Geological_column

¹⁵See lesson #4 on the age of the earth to see why we can’t date rock layers accurately.

¹⁶Ibid. (See Lesson #4)

found in! They tell you “this fossil is 100 million years old!” You ask, “How do you know that?” They reply, “Because it was found in rock layers *which we know to be 100 million years old.*” They tell you, “This rock layer is 100 million years old!” Then you ask them, “How do you know the rock layer is that old?” They will tell you because we found certain fossils in that rock layer that we *know to be 100 millions years old.*” On the Wikipedia website they have an entry on the “Geologic Time Scale.” There is a very nice colorful picture to the right that shows a geologic time clock. The caption at the bottom reads, “This clock representation shows some of the major units of geological time and definitive events of Earth history.”¹⁷ The guesses of Charles Lyell and others are now declared to be “definitive” in their accuracy, though they cannot be proven to be true!¹⁸

- G. One of the things that is missing from in between layers of rock strata is erosion marks. Instead, the rock strata fits closely together as if laid down at one time. If each layer formed slowly and was exposed to the elements for millions of years, one would expect to find lots of erosion in every layer. Yet we find none! The only layer that shows erosion is the top few layers. This argues that the layers were all laid down at one time, as we would expect from what the Bible says about the flood of Noah’s day.¹⁹
- H. Every day meteorites enter the atmosphere and some of them strike the earth’s surface. Consider the surface of the moon which shows evidence of many meteorites striking its surface. Over the course of alleged “millions and billions of years,” many large and small meteorites would have struck the earth. We would find craters and meteorites in all the rock layers of the geologic column. However, after hundreds of years of mining and excavation – we haven’t found any! This tells us two things, either meteorites have only recently started striking the earth (against uniformitarian views), or that all the rock layers were laid down at one time by the waters of a world wide flood which is why only the top layer of strata has meteorites in it!²⁰

¹⁷http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geologic_time_scale

¹⁸<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v22/n2/geology>

¹⁹<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n1/no-slow-erosion>

²⁰<http://www.bible.ca/tracks/fast.htm> Quotes from this page are from William D. Stansfield's book, *The Science of Evolution*. Stansfield is an evolutionist who admits the scientific evidence doesn't always agree with evolution.

- I. *The law of superposition*, which says that the oldest rock layers are always found lower in the geologic column has shown to be false in several instances. First, when volcanic activity forces molten rock between layers²¹ and secondly, when rock layers are laid down by moving water (like you would have at the flood). In the case of sediments laid down by moving water, younger layers can at times be found in lower strata, but usually this is not the case.²²

IV. THE BIBLICAL EXPLANATION OF THE VARIOUS ROCK LAYERS

- A. The Bible says there was a world wide flood in the days of Noah. God was there, God made it happen, and God gave us his inspired and infallible Word, the Bible, to let us know that it happened. Thus the issue is settled in that God has spoken, and being God, He cannot err. However, most men don't want to submit to God, believe in Christ, and trust in the Bible. So they invent their own theories about what happened and how the rocks formed over millions and billions of years.

As we have seen above, there are many problems with the geologic column time table theory. Yet the facts and scientific evidence fit a world wide flood perfectly. Why? Because that is what happened, it is the truth. Once one overcomes the preconceived notion that the earth is millions and billions of years old, and that the dates of the geologic column are artificial not scientifically verified, and that radiometric dating is not reliable in most cases (see Lesson #4), most still have trouble accepting what the Bible says. Not because the evidence doesn't support the world wide flood, but with that argues for the existence of God, heaven, hell, and judgment. Thus men are opposed to the facts not because the evidence is against the truth, but because it leads them face to face with their Creator.

The biblical view is that during the world wide flood the majority of all rock layers were laid down at one time. This means they are all the same age and that the index fossils all lived at the same time, being killed in the world wide flood some 6,000 years ago. Besides the trustworthiness of the Bible, which should be enough for any believer, the scientific evidence

²¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_superposition

²²<http://creationwiki.org/Strata>

supports a world wide flood laying down the rock strata which form the geologic column.²³

- B. Mt. St. Helens is a great example of how one catastrophe can account for many rock layers being laid down at one time. At Mt. St. Helens you see an example of the kind of catastrophe that creates fossils, how the sedimentary layers are laid down by water all at one time and turn into rock (many of the sediments are almost as hard as sand stone today), how poly strata fossils are formed, and you can see how many other difficulties concerning modern views of the geologic column are resolved if one adopts a biblical view of the geologic column.

By shaking a jar of soil and water, and then letting it settle, one observes that many layers are formed in one event. There are so many rock layers laid down by water all over the earth, the only logical explanation is that either the earth went through one huge deluge or that massive floods have swept entire continents of the earth on a regular basis throughout the earth's history. Yet that later idea flies in the face of uniformitarian evolution and present, observable weather patterns. It is beyond a doubt that almost all rock layers are laid down by water, water and volcanic activity, or water causing tectonic plate movement and thrusts.

V. UNIQUE FOSSILS AND THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN

The examples below, some verified, and some not, argue against the geologic column being laid down over millions and billions of years. The discovery of many anomalies in the geologic column, indicates that it is not millions or even hundreds of thousands years old, but like the Bible says, only a few thousand years old. Keep in mind that many of the people who reported many of the things below, were not trying to prove a point. They were not trying to refute the idea of the geologic column. They just found amazing things in strange places and told people about it. And it just so happens that these refute the idea of the geologic column being millions and billions of years old. Also, even if 75% of the anomalies are false, the remaining ones that are true still make the common ideas of the geologic column impossible.

²³For a detailed bullet point list of reasons to believe in a global flood as the source of the rock strata, see <http://unmaskingevolution.com/18-flood.htm>

- A. A Trilobite, an arthropod that supposedly lived 500 million years ago, was found in a fossilized human shoe print by William Meister of Kearns Utah, 1968. It was verified by Dr. H. H. Doeling as authentic, others have said it is a natural break in the rock (spalling) that just happens to look like a sandal print.
- B. Trilobites are believed to have the most complex eyes of any creature that has ever existed! Yet trilobites are said to be less evolved creatures, supposedly appearing in the Cambrian strata 500 million years ago! It contradicts evolution and the geologic column to say the earliest life forms have the most complex eyes.²⁴
- C. There is a small class of creatures called *graptolites* which supposedly belong to strata that is 410 million years old. In recent years, graptolites have been discovered still alive today.²⁵
- D. They used to say the lobed finned fish were index fossils for rock layers 325 to 410 million years old. Since then lobed finned fish have been discovered alive today and look the same as they did then! Haven't evolved a spec!
- E. Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur bones have been found with fresh blood cells in them, rocking the scientific community since the T-Rex supposedly lived, according to evolutionary thinking, 65 million years ago!²⁶
- F. Human footprints found alongside of dinosaur footprints in three different locations indicate that humans and dinosaurs existed together. Keep in mind that all of these examples are desperately opposed by evolutionists because to admit to them would be to destroy their entire system.
 - 1. *Pauluxy River Dinosaurs and human fossilized footprints?* Evolution has become so widely accepted as "fact" that most people believe the rock of the geologic column was formed millions of years ago, way before man "evolved" and that dinosaurs never existed with man. In Glen Rose, Texas, in the Paluxy river bed, human footprints are found side by side and criss-crossing with dinosaur tracks in rock strata estimated by evolutionists to be about 200 million years old!

²⁴Lisa Sawyer *Science News*, Feb. 1974, 72. Or Stephen Gould, *Natural History*, Feb. 1984, 23.

²⁵<http://discovermagazine.com/1993/jul/itsaliveanditsag249>

²⁶<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaur.html> Or <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-c026.html#f1> Or <http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-06-evidence-dinosaur-soft-tissue.html>

The human footprint on top of the dinosaur print was first featured at the 1989 Dayton, Tennessee creation conference. Present were two evolutionists who were visibly shaken by the evidence showing that humans co-existed with dinosaurs. The next morning the evolutionists flew to Dallas, Texas, drove to the Puluxy river and chiseled out the human print so that it was unrecognizable. Fortunately quality photographs were taken before the vandalism took place. But many still refused to believe the photographs were true and that a human footprint ever existed on top of a dinosaur print. Later excavators dug up a larger section of the Paluxy river bed in hopes of finding more footprints, removing tons of stone. Providentially they discovered fourteen human tracks crisscrossing dinosaur tracks at a thirty degree angle!²⁷ Of course evolutionists deny that the tracks are human in nature.

2. In Turkmenistan Russia, journalist Alexander Bushev reported in January 31st, 1995 in an edition of Komsomolskaya Pravda (a popular Russian newspaper) that he found the fossilized prints of dinosaurs and humans together near the village of Khodga-Pil in Turkmenistan.²⁸
3. A similar case was reported in Africa. Jonathan Sarfati says:

A good example of reworking is the famous fossil footprints at Laetoli, Africa, of an upright walking biped-the University of Chicago's Dr Russell Tuttle has shown that these are the same sorts of prints as made by habitually barefoot humans. But since they are dated at millions of years prior to when evolutionists believe modern humans arrived, they are regarded as australopithecine prints, by definition, even though australopithecine foot bones are substantially different from human ones. And then in an amazing twist, the same prints are held up as evidence that australopithecines [supposed early ape man] walked upright like humans-regardless of the fact that other aspects of their anatomy indicate otherwise.²⁹

²⁷<http://www.bible.ca/tracks/tracks.htm>

²⁸<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v18/n4/footprints-in-turkmenistan> see also <http://livingdinosaurs.com/2011/07/human-and-dinosaur-footprints-in-turkmenistan/>

²⁹ Jonathan Sarfati, *Refuting Evolution 2*, Chapter 8 - "Argument: the Fossil Record Supports Evolution" (Greenforest: Master Books, 2002), 12.

G. **Polystrate Fossils**

1. In Cookville, Tennessee they found a 30-foot petrified tree that was turned to coal at the bottom, petrified into stone in the middle, and turned to coal on top! It spanned three layers that supposedly took millions of years to form! There are many places on earth where trees have been found petrified vertically, going through many layers of rock strata. In some places the trees are upside down!
2. At Mt. St. Helen's in Spirit Lake, there are many trees left over from the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Some trees are still floating in the lake, others, because of the root ball sunk and are stuck vertically in 15 feet of mud and ash (many layers) at the bottom of the lake. Still others were covered quickly at an angle through many layers of ash.³⁰

H. **Out of Place Artifacts in the Geologic Column.** If the geologic column were as old as evolutionists claim and if it was laid down over millions and billions of years, you would not find the many problems listed above and you would especially not find fossils and artifacts out of place and way before their time. Creationwiki.org writes:

The most controversial findings in geology and also in archaeology are out-of-place artifacts. This term refers to human fossils in sub-quaternary or even sub-cenozoic layers, and also to clearly anachronistic artistic and even technological finds. The first such find was probably the Inca Nail, presented to the Viceroy of Peru in 1572. But the oldest alleged OOPart would be the Wonderstone Spheroids, obviously artificial constructs excavated from a very deep Precambrian stratum estimated to be 2.8 to 3 billion years old.³¹

1. "*Wonderstone [or Klerksdorp] Spheroids*, now numbering 200 or more, were found in a silver mine in South Africa. They are of a nickel-steel alloy that cannot have occurred outside a laboratory or a steel mill. Nor could they be meteoric; the composition does not match that of any meteorite thus far found. A museum curator has

³⁰<http://www.jstor.org/pss/3514646>

³¹http://creationwiki.org/Geological_column#cite_ref-refuting128_7-0

observed one of these spheroids rotating within its setting, apparently under its own power. Yet the miners who excavated these spheroids found them in a stratum that, according to uniformitarianism, ought to be 3 billion years old.”³²

2. *The Coso Artifact:* While mineral hunting in the mountains of California near Olancho during the winter of 1961, Wallace Lane, Virginia Maxey and Mike Mikesell found a rock they thought was a geode (a rock with crystal formations in the center). Upon cutting it open they discovered an object inside that seemed to be made of white porcelain. In the center was a shaft of shiny metal.

Experts estimated that it should have taken about 500,000 years for this fossil-encrusted nodule to form, yet the object inside was obviously a very sophisticated man-made object. Further investigation revealed that the porcelain was surrounded by a hexagonal casing, and an x-ray revealed what appeared to be a tiny spring at one end.

After further investigation it was discovered that the item inside the rock was a 1920's Champion spark plug! Though this mystery seems to be solved, it proves a point worthy of note. Researchers were convinced the stone that encased the spark plug was 500,000 years old! This goes to show that well-intentioned scientists are often wrong by huge margins of error. It also goes to show that items may have the appearance of age and yet be less than a hundred years old. Beware of claims that things are hundreds of thousands, millions, or even billions of years old!

3. Many out of place objects have been found in coal deposits which were supposedly several hundred million years old!
 - a. A brass bell with an iron clapper, found in a lump of coal. Uniformitarians commonly insist that all the coal in the world formed 280 to 300 million years ago.
 - b. The London Hammer, a hammer found in limestone in the Cretaceous stratum, supposedly 140 million years old.
 - c. A Gold Thread was found imbedded in stone (*London Times*, June 22, 1844)

³²http://creationwiki.org/Out-of-place_artifact

- d. Carved Stone was found in a coal deposit (*Daily News*, Omaha Neb. April 2, 1897)
- e. A human skeleton was found in a coal deposit (*The Geologist*, December 1862)
- f. Human footprints were found in a coal deposit (Burroughs, Kentucky 1938, (*The Berea Alumnus*, Berea College, Kentucky, Nov. pg. 46-47).
- g. A silver object and block wall was found in a coal deposit (Steiger, 1979. 'Worlds Before Our Own', New York, Berkeley)
- h. Gold Chain found in coal deposit (Morrisonville (Ill.)*Times*, June 11, 1891)
- i. In 1967 a hardened copper arrowhead was found in a silver mine 400 feet below the surface of the earth.
- j. The June 1851 edition of *Scientific America* reported that a beautiful glass vase, adorned with flowers and laced with silver was blasted out of solid rock in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

It might be asked why so many of the examples above are from the 1800's and why there aren't as many modern finds of items imbedded in coal. The answer is quite simple. Coal used to be dug by hand and many people used coal to heat their houses. Therefore there used to be a lot of "hands on" coal digging and usage. Today, however, machines do the digging and coal is mostly used to fire power plants and never is closely examined by a lot of people. But during the time when everyone heated their houses with coal and coal was dug by hand, many inexplicable items were found. Inexplicable if you believe in millions and billions of years, but not if you believe the Bible.