

collected scientific data in the fields of geology, physics, and astronomy. They took these examples of obscurantism and began what is now the well-known and powerful anti-creationist movement.

From the beginning, a high percentage of the newspaper articles reporting on the Arkansas trial emphasized the claim being made by the creationists that the earth is only a few thousand years old (e. g., the Associated Press article in the Albuquerque Journal of January 6, 1982, p. A-1). Then, from that point onward there was an almost unbelievably large increase in the publication of journal articles and books devoted to exposing the errors and inconsistencies in what had become known as "creation science." Before 1980 hardly one scientist in 100 would stoop to even comment at any length on the writings of creationists. But, now that it had become obvious that many educators and legislators were seriously trying to listen to the creationists, a complete turn-about took place. Many of the leading book publishers, including a few of the large university presses, and a large number of leading scientific and educational journals, began to publish extensively against creationism. In most of these books and articles, the outstanding errors of "creation science" regarding the nature of the earth's crust and of the fossil record served as a springboard for the defense of evolutionary teaching in America's schools.

In this same year, Isaac Asimov, Associate Professor of Biochemistry in Boston University's School of Medicine, sent out "a nationwide call (cooperating with the ACLU) for funds to fight creationism." His personal letter to educators and scientists began: "Next fall, school children in Louisiana will be learning that the earth is only about 6,000 years old, that a Divine Being suddenly and all at once created all forms of plant and animal life, that there was a world-wide flood...." (Moody Monthly, vol. 82, no. 11, July-August, 1982, p. 75). So, here again, the young-earth and "Flood-geology" hypotheses served as a springboard for devastating attacks against the entire teaching of creation and of God.

Cited below are a few examples of the journal articles and books which were published in the 1980's in the effort to notify educators and other public leaders that creationists (supposedly all creationists) carelessly reject and ignore scientific data.

1. Journal of Geological Education

In early 1982 the Journal of Geological Education devoted an entire issue to the publication of articles exposing the weaknesses of creationism. One of these articles which really "zeroes in" on a number of the errors of Morris, Slusher, and Barnes regarding age was "Finding the Age of the Earth, by Physics or by Faith" (Brush, 1982). In this article Brush quotes several of the young-earth creationist leaders' statements on the subject of age in order to show how they are very badly neglecting scientific data. For example he says:

In his book The Remarkable Birth of Planet Earth, Henry Morris wrote: "The only way we can determine the true age of the earth is for God to tell us what it is. And since He has told us, very plainly, in the Holy Scriptures that it is several thousand years in age, and no more, that ought to settle all basic questions of terrestrial chronology." (Morris, 1972, p. 94) I have not yet found a creationist who can point out such a statement in the Bible, other than Bishop Ussher's seventeenth-century addition to the King James version. (p.37)