

widely publicize their belief that the Bible is an extremely harmful book which denies the realities of this physical universe. We have to admit that very few scientists were doing this before young-earth "Flood geology" teaching was brought to their attention in the 1970's and early 80's. (During the 1950's, 60's, and 70's practically all scientists in the U. S., Canada, and Europe were following a policy of totally ignoring religion. They were not "on the warpath" against the Bible like some of the scientists were in earlier decades.)

If it is argued that the present outcry against the Bible is only a response to the open efforts of creationists to obtain legislation demanding the teaching of creation, the answer to this is in the negative. Their efforts to obtain legislation were realizing remarkable success until scientists entered the battle and began pointing out to the educators and legislators that they were dealing with a system of thought which violates many universally accepted principles of science. Evolutionary theory was not universally accepted by the educators and legislators, and thus they had been sympathetic toward creation teaching (Gwynne, et al., 1981). But when they saw, as several of the above quotations bear out, that basic laws of physics, astronomy, and geology were being disregarded by creationist leaders, the tide of opinion shifted radically.

5. Science and Creationism

In 1984 the most influential of all events in this conflict occurred. This was the publication and distribution of the booklet Science and Creationism, by the National Academy of Sciences, of Washington, D. C. The National Academy of Sciences is usually recognized as the most prestigious scientific organization in the United States. The above-named booklet was prepared by a special committee of research scientists appointed by the Academy for this task. Distribution of this 28-page, attractive, 8½ x 11 booklet was rapid and effective; 40,000 copies were sent out to teachers, educational administrators, and legislators throughout the United States; and more copies have been available on demand.

In order to assure success of the evolutionary message of this booklet, the authors followed the same procedure which is seen in the other works cited above. Namely, they prominently displayed the young-earth assertions of creationism at the beginning of the first section. The second paragraph of the chapter reads as follows:

The teachings of creationism as advocated by and exemplified in the writings of the leading proponents of "creation science" include the following judgments: (1) the earth and universe are relatively young, perhaps only 6,000 to 10,000 years old; (2) the present physical form of the earth can be explained by "catastrophism," including a worldwide flood; and (3) all living things (including humans) were created miraculously, essentially in the forms we now find them. These teachings may be recognized as having been derived from the accounts of origins in the first two chapters of Genesis in the Bible. (p. 7)

Notice that the Bible is named as the source of the 3 beliefs listed. This is most unfortunate, since the first two beliefs of their list are obviously contradictory of dozens of characteristics which we all can see in the earth around us and beneath our feet--and the Bible is blamed for this error. This false accusation against the Bible is particularly disappointing to those of us who have been teaching for several decades that God, by His Spirit, preserved the writers of the Bible from any errors or false mythology as they wrote. Creationists who have insisted on believing the first two items of this list should have