

always "guarantees" that the cementation processes will be very slow, because the pore water which carries the mineral ions for precipitating cement crystals is then restricted as to its circulation.

In spite of the availability of research reports on cementation and other lithification processes, nearly all young-earth creationists are totally unaware of this information. (Some further explanation of cementation of sediments can be found in Wonderly, 1977, p. 120-121, 125, 129, 132, and in Wonderly, 1987, p. 12-15, 33-36; and a few good sources are cited there.) There is a widespread tendency among young-earth creationists to assume that, just because the Biblical Flood was an unusual event, it was capable of performing practically all kinds of activities. This is of course fallacious reasoning. There are many kinds of things which a forest fire can do, but, as with a flood, its effects are primarily destructive. For example, the fire can not build a vacation cottage in the edge of the woods; neither can a flood build all kinds of microscopic and biogenic structures in sedimentary strata.

The almost perfect preservation of delicate marine animals and plants, in a fossilized state, in deep masses of sediments is another inexplicable problem which "Flood geologists" face. How could such organisms be covered with 5 miles of thickness (and sometimes even more) of dense, unlithified sediments without being completely crushed--especially when these great sediment masses were supposedly trembling with great earthquakes at that time? The answer to this question has to be either (a) special divine, miraculous protection for the organisms, or (b) the fact that no great weight of sediment was added until hundreds or thousands of years later, thus allowing time for each formation of the sedimentary column to become lithified before the next formation, with its fossils, was added.

Unless the teachers and students in our Christian schools are taught to squarely face the realities which these problems set before us, their creation doctrine will be unscientific and their entire conception of the nature of science will be warped. This will not only be a handicap to all of the students in a school, but will confuse and retard the education of any student who might want to become a research scientist.

(3) A third great problem which the teachings of "Flood geology" are not able to solve is that of the order in which different kinds of fossils are found in the strata of the earth. There are many kinds of extinct fossils which are not found in the upper rock systems of the earth's sedimentary cover; and, conversely, there are many modern, common types which are not found at all in the lower (Paleozoic) rock systems. Various young-earth publications attempt to assure the readers that this is not a serious problem. For example, Henry Morris says:

In the preceding chapter, we pointed out much evidence that the plants and animals in the fossils were much the same as in the present world. The same classification system applies, with the same categories and the same gaps between the categories. Most modern plants and animals can be found in the fossils, and a great many fossil animals and plants are still living today, especially when we allow for variations within the kinds to adjust to changing environments.

All of which indicates that many organisms of the fossils, in all "ages," were indeed contemporaneous, since they have in fact survived into the present era. (Morris, 1974 & 1985, p. 116.)

This may sound reassuring to a layman, but any paleontologist--and many biologists--will immediately recognize how incorrect such a claim is. Notice that