

Here then is a "mind-boggling" problem for "Flood geology" to face. How could 13,000 feet of sea-shell-animal sediments be "stacked up" all over a contiguous area as large as the State of West Virginia by using just the thin layer of ocean bottom off-shore from the land? The Flood would have had to collect sediments and sea-shell animals from at least 1,000 square miles just to build up the 13,000-foot deposit on one square mile of the inland area.

In thinking about this remember that almost none of the sea-shell animals are from the deep sea. These are the clam, snail, brachiopod, crinoid, coral, and bryozoan types; so they are the inhabitants of shallow seas and continental shelves. Thus, the area around the continents which could furnish such animals for the 13,000-foot-thick sediment deposits is very limited. This means that there would be no place to find 1,000 square miles of clams, brachiopods, etc. for the Flood to use in building each square mile of a 13,000-foot-thick expanse the size of the State of Ohio or larger (a contiguous area as large as West Virginia, plus other areas in the eastern part of the United States).

Of course, to visualize the production of this thick expanse of strata in this manner is illogical for several other reasons. One of these reasons is the impossible problem of how the surging waters of a mighty flood could transport the many square miles of sediments inland in an orderly manner and spread them in neat, uniform layers over the one square mile to form the thick series of strata we see now. (A further problem is the aspect of the ecological zoning hypothesis which requires that the animals be buried very near to where they were when the Flood came upon them. So, young-earth creationists have no place in their hypothesis for the necessary, long-distance transport.)

But suppose we were to go ahead and assume that the Flood collected sediments and organisms from an unrealistically large area of continental shelf to form the more than 25,000 square miles of 13,000-foot-thick marine deposit we find in the Central Appalachians? While the flood waters were collecting the sediments and organisms, and sweeping them inland to form these 13,000 feet of strata, how were all of the later types of clams, snails, ostracods, and other shell-type animals held in reserve, ready to be added to the deposit after the older types had been laid down? (We must not forget that, as we find the fossils today in vertical sequences of strata, the lower strata contain many hundreds of species of shell-type animals, each in great abundance, which became extinct before the upper strata were laid down, with their more recent types of aquatic animals.)

Another of the problems which completely eliminate the possibility of such a rapid build up of 20,000-foot, neatly-layered sediment masses, is that of the required time for cementation, to which we have already referred in earlier sections. One year affords no time for the cementing of the sediments into stable rock. Four miles of soft sediments in a single mass would produce sufficient pressure to crush all delicate fossils in the lower layers, and to amalgamate the layers into a hopelessly confused mixture--especially since the great earthquakes and crustal upheavals which are said to have accompanied the Flood would have had a profound mixing effect.

So, from a whole series of aspects, the ecological zoning idea is an absolutely impossible explanation of the laying down of the earth's deposits of fossiliferous sediments. Yet it is very widely taught among young-earth creationists as though the hypothesis had been confirmed by scientific research. It is even frequently acclaimed by those who promote this view, as an example of "good science" which they have developed. This is truly a tragedy, especially when such teaching is promoted in Christian schools--not to mention the disgrace which it