

## THE DATE OF CREATION: BIBLE-COMPATIBLE EVIDENCES FOR GREAT AGE

by Daniel E. Wonderly, March 1989

The creation of the earth and universe by God is a foundation principle of Christianity. A great number of chapters in both the Old and New Testaments emphasize this truth. We are thankful that many evangelicals today realize the dangers of evolutionary philosophy and are warning others of those dangers.

However, many Christians are now confused, and sometimes in bitter disagreement with each other, over the question of how old the fossils and geologic strata are. There is the important rule that we should never adopt beliefs which contradict any of the Bible's direct teachings, but we do need also to recognize the principle that we should not reject the careful observations of research science. Geology, oceanography, and some of the other sciences have given us much reliable information regarding the nature of the earth's crust. It is logical that Christians should use the results of geologic and oceanographic research because these sciences are practically neutral with respect to biological evolution.

Even though a high percentage of all scientists believe the standard evolutionary scenario, scientific research regarding the earth's crust gives them very little, if any, support for that belief. Thus the frequent rejection by Christians, of research data (items of evidence) regarding the geologic formations and strata of the earth is both unnecessary and harmful. We say harmful, because Christians can not have a good witness and influence in the presence of unbelievers or of our nation's educators if they deny obvious realities regarding God's created world.

Some evangelical Christians today fall into the trap of denying one such area of reality, namely, the great age of many parts of the earth's crust. They do this thinking that it is necessary for rejecting evolutionism. But, as we will see below, the recognition of long periods of time has no necessary connection with belief in biological evolution.

### Weak Arguments Against Evolution Weaken the Evangelical Position

The evidences against an evolutionary origin of life are very strong, but the arguments in favor of an earth only a few thousand years old are exceedingly weak. Yet many evangelical Christians, students, and public officials of our nation are regularly being told by young-earth creationist leaders that these weak arguments should be given a prominent place in the teaching of origins. These arguments are in conflict with a great deal of high quality scientific data, and usually create an unwholesome anti-science attitude in the minds of those who feel they must accept