

SOME PARTS OF THE EARTH'S SEDIMENTARY COVER WHICH
EVIDENTLY WERE FORMED PRIOR TO THE BIBLICAL FLOOD

BY Daniel E. Wonderly, June 1989

Introduction

In accepting the true historicity of the Book of Genesis we necessarily assume that the biblical flood occurred less than one-hundred thousand years ago. Because a high percentage of the earth's sedimentary strata are of types which apparently could not have been laid down rapidly by flood waters, and could not have acquired a significant degree of lithification without long periods of time, it seems necessary to accept the geologic evidence which indicates that most of the earth's sedimentary cover was laid down before the Flood.

Limestone Strata Underlying Broad Areas on the Continents

Deep drillings in search of petroleum on the continents have provided us with a knowledge of many thick limestone formations of immense areal extent within the earth's crust. (This use of the word "formation" refers to a set of related strata lying one upon another in vertical sequence.) Many of the limestone formations are hundreds of feet thick, and it is not uncommon for such a formation to be a few thousands of feet in thickness (Chen, 1977, p. 26-67). In most parts of the world the crust contains several limestone-containing formations lying in vertical sequence. Often the lower ones are a few miles below the surface, and usually there are some thick, non-carbonate formations (shale, siltstone, etc.) lying between the limestone formations.¹

In order to think accurately regarding the origin of the limestone strata of the earth we need to reckon with the immense amounts of this rock which exist, and also with the precise makeup of the rock material in the strata. Sanders and Friedman (1967, p. 193) give the following summary statement (using "limestone" in the general sense which includes dolostone):

Limestone occurs in all parts of the world and at all levels in the stratigraphic column, though probably it is less common in ancient Precambrian strata. Limestones have been estimated to comprise 19 to 22% of available measured stratigraphic sections.

The percentage range stated in this quotation has been confirmed many times, both before and since its publication. In agreement with the 20% figure is the fact that the average thickness of limestone (including dolostone)² in the sedimentary