

the evaporating seawater, is so well documented and understood from the research of the past 30 years that no one who studies the research reports can deny the evidences. There is a detailed, fully documented summary of several of these research reports in Wonderly (1987, p. 78-96). Anyone who studies such research-report material will soon realize that the evaporite strata which cover these reefs were actually formed as a result of evaporation of seawater in an open, stagnant body of water. The suggestions which have been made by some creationists, that similar mineral layers are the result of activity of catastrophic processes, such as hydrothermal springs or volcanic action, can not possibly refer to the Alberta oil fields; the data contradict such an idea at every point.<sup>6</sup>

The length of time required for the burial of the Alberta reefs is further affected by the more than 1,200 m of additional strata overlying them which have to be penetrated by each oil well. These consist of multilayered formations of quartz sandstone, shale, siltstone, chert, limestone, and dolostone, most of which are of types which can not be laid down by rapidly moving water. Practically all of the layers of limestone and dolostone (from 300 m to 600 m) are of types which show that they were formed by the usual, slow processes of limestone production in warm, relatively shallow seas.

In concluding I wish to say that, even though it is very evident that the great majority of the sedimentary strata of the earth were formed long before the creation of man, I do believe that the biblical flood was a major catastrophic event which destroyed all the human population except Noah and his family, and geologically affected at least the shores of all the continents. For example, at various places along the North American coasts there are sedimentary strata which are poorly consolidated, not yet having had time or opportunity for extensive lithification.<sup>7</sup> These probably could have been deposited by waters of the Flood.