



# Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

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## One Step at a Time

(by Mary Jo Nutting)

Hiking across the Tonto Platform in the Grand Canyon provides awe-inspiring vistas and "up close and personal" encounters with blackbrush, cactus, agave plants, lizards, and even an occasional rattlesnake. Often you can see the trail snaking its way across the platform a long ways in the distance. At times, though, it seems to disappear completely, and you are left with the helpless feeling of not knowing which way to go.

On one particularly beautiful, clear morning as I was hiking across the Tonto Platform in the Grand Canyon, I was faced with just such a challenge. The trail was traversing a very rocky area, and as I looked ahead it literally seemed to disappear. As I stopped to survey the situation, though, I saw the next step. As I tentatively took it, I was able to see the next step and then the next and the next. I made my way through this section, "one step at a time," until finally I could see the trail stretching out ahead of me again.

I have often thought about this experience and how it relates to our walk with God. How often we struggle with various decisions in life, trying to think through all the contingencies and plan all the details for years to come. How frustrated and bewildered we become! How much better it is when we can be content walking "one step at a time" with our God, trusting that He will show us those that follow in due time.

There are other times when the "one step at a time" principle is a good one. How do you get from the bottom of the Grand Canyon to the rim? -- one step at a time. How do you scale a lofty peak? -- one step at a time. When the way seems endless and the task insurmountable, God gives strength as we tackle it "one step at a time."

When we see the many problems in the world around us, including the challenge of getting the Church back on a creation base, we might get discouraged. We have wandered so far from our Christian heritage in this country and the trail back seems so long and hard. Often we don't even know where to begin, but again the "one step at a time" principle can help us out. Through books, videos, seminars, camps, and conferences we can educate ourselves and our families on the issues. Then we can begin to share our knowledge and resources with friends and neighbors. As we become more knowledgeable, we can write letters to the editor, talk with teachers, teach a Sunday School class, start a creation club or whatever else God shows us to do.

One step at a time -- person to person -- we can reach out through words and actions. This involves sharing God's Word, exposing falsehood, correcting error, instructing in truth, and all the time undergirding our life with prayer and trusting that God will direct us in the way we should go -- one step at a time.



Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe

# NOTES & QUOTES

■ **New Book!** Have you ever wished there was a creation-based guidebook to the Grand Canyon? Well, your wish has come true. **Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe** is hot off the press! This unique book lays out a model for the deposition of rock layers and the carving of the Grand Canyon which is **consistent with Biblical teaching** about creation and the Flood. It covers topics in geology, biology, ecology, and human history and is extensively illustrated with charts, drawings and photographs. It will revolutionize your understanding of the Canyon. You will discover which rocks are thought to be "Creation Week" rocks and which are "Flood" rocks. You will learn about sedimentation, tectonics, fossils, ecology, the canopy model, archaeology, plants, animals, weather and more. Also included is a section on other things to see and do in the Southwest. You won't want to miss this book! (A reprint of the Preface follows:)

"Grand Canyon is known internationally as the world's greatest natural wonder. Four-million people visit the Canyon each year and almost everyone who asks the question, "What mean these stones?" is given an evolutionary interpretation assuming slow processes operating for more than one-billion years. This is what the signs, museum displays, television documentaries, and textbooks present. In the minds of most people, Grand Canyon evokes an image of an evolving earth.

"Christians who have a strong commitment to the authority of Scripture, have wondered how Creation and Noah's Flood fit into the interpretation of Grand Canyon. They are usually told that such beliefs are myths which were incorporated into the Bible during "prescientific" times. Extraordinarily slow processes and organic evolution operated during "geologic ages," the public is told, to cause Grand Canyon to be as we see it today. Because of this teaching, many modern Christians fail to understand God's creation, and compromise in their commitment to Christ. Sadly, very few Christians can use Grand Canyon as an apologetic "to give an answer to every man" (I Peter 3:15) concerning God's actions either as a "faithful Creator" (I Peter 4:19) or as Revealer of a "lively hope" (I Peter 1:3).

"Christian geologists have been challenged by the prophecy of the apostle Peter, when he wrote about scoffers who would come in the "last days" claiming "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Peter 3:3,4). According to Peter, these scoffers would deny that creation was by the Word of God, that the earth's surface was formed in a special way by water, and that the pre-Flood world was judged by a watery cataclysm (II Peter 3:5,6).

"During the seventies and eighties, scientists with commitments to Christ discovered that Grand Canyon *does* provide a powerful testimony of Christ as Creator, Judge,

and Coming King. Initial research projects proved especially beneficial in disclosing evidences of catastrophic, sedimentary, and erosional processes. Even many of the popular geologic evidences in Grand Canyon could be integrated well within the framework of a global Flood. Evidences in creationist biology flourished as well.

"The success of creationist studies of Grand Canyon gave rise to field trips with graduate students and led to tours ... [**Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe**] is the product of more than a dozen tours.

"Fourteen creation scientists with recognized achievements in research and education were asked to contribute their understandings of Grand Canyon at the undergraduate college level, and to use nontechnical language. They were also encouraged, whenever possible, to include scholarly documentation so that the book would set a standard for Christian scholarship. Furthermore, they were requested to provide line illustrations and photographs to support their writings. Finally, the writers were asked to submit an extensive glossary of terms, so that the material could be comprehended by those without technical training in these specific sciences.

"It was the desire of the authors that this book would make a lasting impact on Christians everywhere. We know that you will want to acquire your own understanding of Grand Canyon. Why not take a trip yourself? The authors challenge you to integrate your study of Grand Canyon into the historical framework of Scripture. Grand Canyon is a significant monument to what God has done, and the authors hope you discover God's handiwork in the Canyon of canyons. When someone asks you, "What mean these stones?" you will be able to tell them. In the words of Joshua, "... these stones shall be for a memorial ... that all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty ..." (Joshua 4:7, 24). (Preface, **Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe**, 1994, Ed. Dr. Steven Austin, p. iii. Reprinted here with permission.)

This book is an extremely valuable contribution to creationist literature. Get your copy today! **Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe**, is available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$19.95 plus \$2.00 S/H. Colorado residents please add 3% tax.

■ Please pray not only for us at Alpha Omega Institute, but also for the Institute for Creation Research and other creationist scientists as they continue to do research for the glory of God. They are often hampered by limited time, funding and personnel. In addition, they are frequently ridiculed by scientists in secular institutions and face an uphill battle in getting their work published. Pray that God would protect and encourage them and give them fruit for their labor.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

## A Creationist View of Grand Canyon Strata

(Summary of the model presented in *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*, 1994, pp. 57-81.)

For decades, Grand Canyon has been used as a showcase for evolution and uniformitarian geology. Many Christians have wondered how to reconcile such teaching about Grand Canyon with the clear testimony of Scripture. After many years of extensive research, creationists have proposed alternative models that are consistent with Biblical teaching on creation and the Flood. Research is continuing and refinements to the models will be added as more is learned. A condensation of the model presented in *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe* follows.

The strata (rock layers) in the Grand Canyon region are quite easily distinguished. They can be divided into 5 major divisions according to conditions at the time they were formed. According to the model, these divisions represent geologic activity on Earth during Creation Week, the pre-Flood era, the Flood, and subsequent events. **This interpretation of the rock strata is entirely consistent with a short-age, literal 6 day creation and year-long global Flood as described in Genesis.**

The first division consists of Zoroaster Granite and Vishnu Schist. These deep igneous and metamorphic rocks have been greatly deformed by temperature and pressure and broken by numerous faults. They are thought to represent the first part of Creation Week, and hence are the "oldest" rocks underlying the Canyon (albeit just a couple days older than the next layer).

The next division is made up of faulted, tilted layers of sedimentary rock which are often called the Grand Canyon Supergroup. These are usually classified as Pre-Cambrian and include the Bass Formation, Hakatai Shale, Shinumo Quartzite, Cardenas Basalt, Nannkoweit Formation, and several others. This group of formations appears to have been generated during the third day of Creation Week, when God separated the sea and the dry land. Some of the upper layers may have occurred as the result of normal sedimentation in the pre-Flood ocean. Tilting and upheaval occurred sometime between initial deposition and the early stages of the Flood.

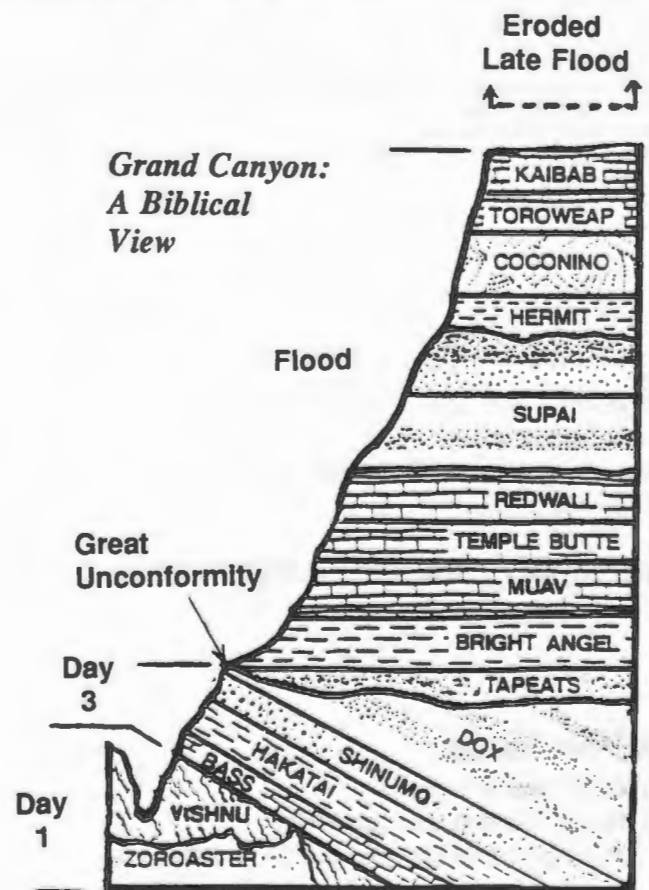
This second division is abruptly planed off at the top by a very conspicuous erosional surface commonly known as the "Great Unconformity." Geology texts say this represents a block of 1200 million years of "missing time." According to this creation model, though, it represents the initial planing and erosion at the onset of the Flood.

Lying on top of the Great Unconformity are the mostly flat-lying "Paleozoic" strata so readily seen in Grand Canyon (Tapeats Sandstone, Bright Angel Shale, Muav Limestone, Temple Butte Limestone, Redwall Limestone, Supai Group, Hermit Shale, Coconino Sandstone, Toroweap Formation and Kaibab Limestone) This 4000 foot section is thought to represent broad regional deposition of sediments during the early part of the Flood.

The next division, although usually classified as Mesozoic, appears to be associated with alternating deposition and erosion during the last half of the Flood, as the waters were "going and retreating." Formations in this group include Moenkopi, Shinarump, Chinle, Kayenta, Navaho Sandstone, and others. At the end of this period, as the Colorado Plateau was uplifted and water rushed off the region, these formations were almost completely eroded at the rim of Grand Canyon, although they are still visible to the north, east and south of it. Major carving of the Canyon may have taken place as water channelized or as impounded water was suddenly released.

The final division represents Post-Flood events: landslides, lake sediments, lava flows, river gravel, etc., many of which have occurred since the erosion of the Canyon. The lava falls in western Grand Canyon would be one such formation.

The above scenario represents a dramatic departure from the commonly accepted models for deposition of the strata in the Grand Canyon area. It seems consistent with both observable data and Scripture, though. It will be interesting to see how further findings enhance our understanding of the geologic history of Grand Canyon.



## EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)  
("J" indicates Johnsons, "N" Nuttings, "B" both)

- July 3-8: Colbran, CO:** Twin Peaks Family Adventure (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- July 11-15: Rifle, CO:** Tee Pee Bible Camp (J)  
Contact Dave, 303-876-2108.
- July 18-22: Idaho Springs, CO:** First Baptist Church VBS (J)  
Contact Ken VanBrunt, 303-567-2028.
- July 18-23: Pittsburgh PA:** International Creation Conference (N)  
Contact ICC, 412-341-4908.
- Aug 10,11: Grand Mesa, CO:** Grand Mesa Baptist Camp (J)  
Contact Earl Hittle, 303-487-3065.
- Aug 14-19: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Adventure I (B)
- Aug 21-26: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Adventure II (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Sept 2-5: Bailey, CO:** Id-Ra-Ha-Je Creation Family Camp (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906, or Rod Adams, 303-674-8442
- Sept 18-19: Grand Junction, CO:** Northeast Christian Church (B)  
Contact Church, 303-243-6672.
- Sept 25: Grand Junction, CO:** St. Paul Ev. Lutheran (B) (Tentative)  
Contact church, 303-243-3626.
- Sept 26-27: Delta, CO:** Delta Home Educators Creationfest (B)  
Contact Robin Donahue, 303-874-5361.
- Oct 2: Buena Vista, CO:** First Baptist Church (B)  
Contact Church, 719-395-2242.
- Oct 3-4: Pueblo, CO:** School & Parents' Seminar, Trinity Luth (B)  
Contact School, **719-542-1864**.
- Oct 3-4: Pueblo, Co:** Freedom Outreach & Christian Fam. Ed. (B)  
Contact Ava Jay, 719-948-9712.
- Oct 5-6: Salida, CO:** Area Seminar, First Baptist (B)  
Contact Church, 719-539-2693.
- Oct 10:, Rifle, CO:** First Christian Church (B)  
Contact Church, 303-625-2902.
- Nov 1-20: Pacific Northwest, Multiple Seminars TBA**  
Contact us immediately if you'd like a seminar in your area.  
We still have some openings.

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

The following books and videos contain information related to creation and the Flood. We highly recommend building your personal library with these informative creation materials. (Available from Alpha Omega Institute. Please Include 10% S/H. CO res add 3% tax.)

<b>Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>
<b>The Genesis Flood</b>	<b>\$11.95</b>
<b>Mount St. Helen's (VHS 58 min)</b>	<b>\$19.95</b>
<b>The Genesis Record</b>	<b>\$24.95</b>
<b>The World that Perished (VHS 35 min)</b>	<b>\$28.95</b>

### Especially for Children:

<b>Noah's Ark and the Ararat Adventure</b>	<b>\$12.95</b>
<b>Dry Bones ... and Other Fossils</b>	<b>\$5.95</b>
<b>"D" is for Dinosaur</b>	<b>\$14.95</b>
<b>Great Dinosaur Mystery (VHS 20 min)</b>	<b>\$18.95</b>
<b>Dyno-Song Sing (Audio Tape)</b>	<b>\$8.95</b>

## YOU CAN HELP!

- PRAY** for God's protection, for open doors, for financial provision, for health and safety, and for fruit for eternity.
- Sponsor a seminar in your area.** We will send you all you need to help you sponsor a seminar for your church, school, or homeschool group. We also do camps, VBS, "Creationfests," retreats. Write or call for details.
- Send articles** relating to the creation/evolution issue. Please include title of book or magazine, date, etc.
- Study** so you can join in the battle.
- Share** your books and videos with others.
- Teach** a class if you can.
- Volunteer to help.** We really need newsletter stuffers, people to put together craft supplies for children programs, artists, and someone to help with the library, or \_\_\_\_?

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