

THE GEOLOGIC TIMETABLE

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Evolutionists contend that the Earth is approximately 4.5 to 5 billion years old. For more than three billion years of Earth history, they believe, life has evolved from the simple to the complex. One of the standard ways of presenting this concept is by means of the so-called “geologic timetable,” which is a common feature in most textbooks dealing with geology, biology, etc. It proposes to show the alleged development of living organisms in an ascending order from the ancient past to the present. The truth of the matter is, this timetable is nothing more than a graphic conglomeration of assumptions that has been thrown together arbitrarily in an attempt to support the unprovable hypothesis of evolution. The concept of the geologic timetable conflicts with both the biblical record and the evidence of science.

THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE

According to the book of Genesis, the Earth and all its living inhabitants were created in six days. After giving Israel the command to observe the sabbath day (an obviously **literal** day), Moses wrote: “For in **six days** [not billions of years] Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is” (Exodus 20:11). There is simply no reasonable way to view this passage, other than as a historical affirmation of Earth’s creation (together with plants, animals, humans, etc.) in the span of slightly less than one literal week.¹

The Bible consistently represents the Earth as having been created explicitly for man’s dominion (Genesis 1:26). Isaiah declared that Jehovah created the Earth “to be inhabited” (Isaiah 45:18). How does this square with the notion that the Earth was in existence several billion years before there was anyone to inhabit it? What sort of intelligence would a builder exhibit who constructed a house many years prior to the time he planned for anyone to live in it? Moreover, the Word of God clearly affirms that man was intended to exercise dominion over all living creatures (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:68). How could this be possible if numerous creatures already had become extinct before man appeared on the scene (as advocates of the geologic timetable assert)?

John Clayton commented: “If dinosaurs existed two hundred million years before Adam and Eve, it does not present any problem to a literal understanding of the Genesis account.”² Such a statement, however, not only ignores the plain meaning of the Genesis text, but also reflects upon both the credibility of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of

the New Testament. When the Lord was discussing the origin of Adam and Eve, He said in the clearest possible language: “But from the beginning of the creation, male and female made he them” (Mark 10:6). If that statement does not mean that the first couple existed from the very **beginning of creation**, then what does it mean? Furthermore, in Romans 1:20 the inspired apostle Paul announced that the invisible things of God “since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse.” The following facts are evident from this passage: (a) God is revealed through the things He made; (b) such revelation has been observed and understood by men **since the creation of the world**; (c) those who have veiled their vision to these testimonies are without excuse. This verse makes it absolutely certain that human history reaches back to the very creation of the world!

EXTRA-BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

The geologic timetable is an artificial arrangement of certain rock strata (depending upon the type of fossils found therein) according to their supposed formation throughout the Earth’s history. It may come as a shock to many students to learn that it exists nowhere in fact! Noted geologist Thomas Chamberlin acknowledged:

It should be understood that it is not possible to proceed directly downward through the whole succession of bedded rocks, but that the edges of the various beds may be found here and there where they have been brought to the surface by workings and tiltings, or exposed by the wearing away of the beds which once overlay them. The full series of strata is made out only by putting these data gathered throughout all lands; and even when this is done, an absolutely complete series cannot yet be made out, or at least has not been.³

Evolutionist A.M. Winchester acknowledged that the gaps in the geologic record are significant:

The record is by no means complete—there are great gaps covering millions of years in which absolutely no records have been found. It is somewhat as if we are permitted to view isolated individual frames of a gigantic motion picture of the caravan of life through the ages.⁴

Yes, and sometimes these frames are completely out of sequence! In numerous instances, a stratum from a supposed very ancient period is sitting smack dab on top of very young stratum—and that over vast miles of territory!⁵

Finally, the multiple contradictions characteristic of this geological fabrication would be humorous—if the system were not viewed so seriously by many sincere but credulous students. The geologic time scale is divided into five vast eras: Archeozoic (ancient life); Proterozoic (earlier life); Paleozoic (old life); Mesozoic (middle life); and Cenozoic (recent life). The following brief chart, in a very condensed way, shows these five ages, the time they are alleged to span, and a few examples (to illustrate our point) of things that purportedly evolved in these periods.

Cenozoic Present—55 million years ago (man)

Mesozoic 55 million—190 million years (dinosaurs)

Paleozoic 190 million—550 million years (coal, trees, trilobites)

Proterozoic 550 million—2 billion years (algae)

Archeozoic 2 billion years and earlier

Note please, that the claim is made that man evolved in the Cenozoic age (current estimates suggest 2 to 3 million years ago). If this is the case, how does one explain the following geological discrepancies:

(a) Human footprints have been found in the Paleozoic age—two hundred fifty million years prior to man's arrival on this planet!⁶

(b) According to evolutionists, coal was formed during the Paleozoic age millions of years before the birth of man; however, near Glasgow, Scotland, under a mass of boulders, an iron instrument was discovered embedded in a coal seam seven feet under the surface.⁷

(c) Although trilobites (small marine arthropods) are alleged to have perished some 600 million years before man evolved, human sandal prints have been found embedded together with trilobites in Utah.⁸

(d) Evolutionists assert that trees did not evolve until the Paleozoic period; yet, conifer spores are found in the ages preceding this era (reputedly millions of years before). Geologist Clifford Burdick emphasized: "No self-respecting evolutionist will concede pine trees in the Precambrian (i.e., below the Paleozoic period)."⁹

(e) Fossilized trees have been found vertically penetrating several geological strata, indicating sudden burial before decay could set in, rather than gradual deposition over millions of years. Dr. Russell Artist wrote: "At Essen, Germany I came across such fossil tree trunks literally sticking up through seven layers of sedimentary beds." He further stated: "Though I was indoctrinated into all these data for the languages concept, and was required to memorize the geological time table, I have quite reversed my stand on all these hypothetical matters and hold to a strict creation account, which assumes a world that is essentially young, measured in thousands of years, not millions or billions."¹⁰

Even evolutionist Immanuel Velikovsky has shown that if "great catastrophes" occurred on the surface of the Earth and in the depths of the seas, of more than local character, then "the time allotment involved in the geologic scale is without validity."¹¹ And one need not agree with Velikovsky's

interpretations of catastrophes,¹² to realize that divinely oriented catastrophes (e.g., the Flood) have occurred in historical times.

Let it be said again. The geologic timetable is a hoax that was conceived to buttress the evolutionary view of origins as a substitute for the inspired Genesis record. Those who respect the Mosaic narrative will not endorse this anti-biblical scheme.

REFERENCES

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- ⁴ A.M. Winchester (1975), *Biology and Its Relation to Mankind* (New York: Van Nostrand), fifth edition, p. 849.
- ⁵ See Whitcomb, John C. and Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Flood* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker), pp. 180-200.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 172.
- ⁷ *Bible-Science Newsletter*, July 15, 1970.
- ⁸ *Bible-Science Newsletter*, August 9, 1969.
- ⁹ *Bible-Science Newsletter*, April 15, 1968.
- ¹⁰ See Camp, Robert (1972), *A Critical Look at Evolution* (Atlanta, GA: Religion, Science, and Communication Research and Development Corporation), pp. 147, 149.
- ¹¹ Immanuel Velikovsky (1955), *Earth in Upheaval* (New York: Pocket Books), pp. 209, 210.
- ¹² See *Reader's Digest*, December 1975.

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