

The Geologic Column

By Jonathan Cox

There have been many disagreements over whether the geologic column really exists and if it does, where it is. I believe that it is important to learn as much as we can, so when confronted about a topic, we have an answer, which is why I wish to write on this subject. Some scientists say that the geologic column is located at a few different places and that the geologic column is a fact, and not a hypothesis. I disagree with that.

First, I want to talk about the geologic column and what it is. The geologic column is a vertical line of many different rock formations that represent every year of history so far. It was created by a man named James Hutton in 1795, and was worked on more by Charles Lyell in 1830. There are supposedly 12 periods which fit into four era's in the geologic column, starting from the year 4,600 million with the first rock layer, to present-day. The following chart shows the eras with the periods:

<u>Precambrian Era</u>	<u>Paleozoic Era</u>	<u>Mesozoic Era</u>	<u>Cenozoic Era</u>
<i>4,600-545 million years ago</i>	<i>545-250 million years ago</i>	<i>250-65 million years ago</i>	<i>65 million years ago- present</i>
Precambrian Period	Cambrian Period, Ordovician Period Silurian Period Devonian Period Carboniferous Period Permian Period	Triassic Period Jurassic Period Cretaceous Period	Tertiary Period Quaternary Period

Supporters of the geologic column (and evolution) say that each period has creatures that are slowly evolving into what we have today. The creatures eventually die and rot away or they become fossils. The way they identify each layer is by what fossils are in it, and in that way, they determine the age of each fossil. So, in doing that, they must assume that they will find only certain fossils in a certain rock layer. There is one problem with that, they have found fossils in a layer with other fossils from 140 million years earlier. Also, the twelve layers that make up the geologic column are identified as a certain layer by the fossils that are in them. Most fossils are dated by the rocks they are in, and then they use the fossils to date rocks. They use circular reasoning. Did they realize this, or could they not figure out a better way to tell the ages of the fossils and rock layers? These are problems for them and the only way they have dealt with these problems that I know of, is by ignoring them.

According to scientists, all of the above periods should have a layer of rock formation. This means there should be a large amount of layers, since according to the geologic column; the Earth is 4,600 million years. Unfortunately for those who believe in the geologic column, we have not found that many layers so far.

First off, the entire geologic column is supposed to be around 100 to 200 miles thick, which would represent the total sedimentary activity of all the geological ages (each year). But the average thickness in most columns around the world is one mile and in some places it gets up to 16 miles, but not very often. This tells us that scientists created the geologic column using information from many sites with only part of the geologic column.

Proponents of the geologic column who know that it may be missing layers will say that the reason we find only parts of the geologic column and not all of it, is because of erosion. Each period of the geologic column has its own rock deposit and they are saying that when the rock deposit happens, water comes and erosion happens. Once the water removes the layer that was there, the next layer is laid down where the other was. This is one of their reasons for not being able to find the geologic column everywhere.

The Geologic Column also is supposed to be everywhere since it represents the entire time line for the earth. But it does not appear all over the Earth, in fact, even if it did appear in fifty different locations that is still only 1% of the Earth, and if you add the ocean floor, that number drops to 0.4% of the places where the geologic column could be.

One of the locations that should have at least most of the Geologic Column, is the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is one of the deepest land exposures that there is and it contains less than half of the ideal geologic column! If this is one of the largest land openings, then why is less than half of the geologic column there? Is the geologic column yet to be found? Or, is just a hypothesis?

The Bible's first words are "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," Being a Christian, I believe that the Bible is true, and if it states that God created the heavens and the earth, how could I believe in something that supports a hypothesis (evolution) that says God didn't create earth. With all of the problems with the geologic column, why should I believe evolution which depends upon the belief in the geologic column?

Bibliography:

Woodmorappe, John. "The Geologic Column: Does it Exist?" The True Origin Archive. 30 April 2007. <http://www.trueorigin.org/geocolumn.asp>.

Rogers, Kristeen., et al. Science Encyclopedia. London, England, Usborne Books, 2000.

"Fossils and the Geologic Column". Forerunners. http://forerunner.com/forerunner/X0731_Fossils_Geologic_Co.html

Sewell, Curt. "Uniformitarianism and the Geological Column". Creation Bits No 12. 8 Nov. 1999. <http://www.rae.org/bits12.htm>.