The Real Relationship of Geology & Paleontology with Christianity, Part I:
The Rise of Deluge Geology; Calvin Tossed by Waves

Ralph Stearley
Calvin College
Overview of this talk

Historical & historiographical prolegomena: the origin of the “warfare metaphor” or the “conflict thesis”.

1920-1960: warfare or maybe not?

The rise of modern flood geology

Incidents and episodes in the history of flood geology; with and without Calvin College faculty
What this talk will not cover:

- Broader issues relating to evolution, such as the origin of humans
- The nature of natural evil
- The rise of the Intelligent Design movement
- The best way to mesh the Genesis text with the data of geological science

Come to the next two lectures in this series!!
I. The Warfare Metaphor
John William Draper
1811-1882
chemist, historian

1840: First photograph of Moon

1874: History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science
Genesis of a Myth

In 1874, American polemicist John William Draper wrote:

“The antagonism we thus witness between Religion and Science is the continuation of a struggle that commenced when Christianity began to attain political power...”

(History of the Conflict Between Science and Religion, 1874)
Andrew Dickinson White
1832-1918
Prof. History, Univ. Michigan, 1858-1863
1865: Co-founder and 1st president, Cornell University

1896: A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom
John Tyndal (1820-1893)

1853-1887, Professor of Physics
   Royal Institution, London

Work on magnetism; infrared spectroscopy

1859: demonstrated “greenhouse effect”

1850’s-60’s: studies on glaciers, Switzerland

Wrote over a dozen popular books on experimental physics

1874: Tyndale delivers keynote speech to British Assoc. Advancement of Science;

“religious theories, schemes and systems which embrace notions of cosmogony... must....submit to the control of science, and relinquish all thought of controlling it. Acting otherwise proved disastrous in the past, and is simply fatuous today”
“Man is the result of a purposeless and materialistic process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned. He is a state of matter, a form of life, a sort of animal, and a species of the order Primates, akin nearly or remotely to all of life and indeed to all that is material. It is, however, a gross misrepresentation to say that he is just an accident or nothing but an animal. ..

(Meaning of Evolution, 1949, p. 344)
Julian Sorrell Huxley (1887-1975)

1906-1909: Oxford
  Work on bird behavior, 1910-1927

1935-1942: Secretary, Zoological Society of London

1942: *Evolution: the New Synthesis*
  major work in NeoDarwinian Synthesis

1946-1948: First director, UNESCO


“There is no separate supernatural realm: all phenomena are part of one natural process of evolution. I believe that a drastic reorganization of our pattern of religious thought is now becoming necessary, from a god-centered to an evolution-centered pattern.”
“The evidence, so far at least and laws of Nature aside, does not require a Designer. Maybe there is one hiding, maddeningly unwilling to be revealed. Sometimes it seems a very slender hope. The significance of our lives and our fragile plane is then determined only by our own wisdom and courage. We are the custodians of life’s meaning.”

(Pale Blue Dot, 1994, p. 57)
Richard Dawkins (1941- )
1924: *Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Science*
Edwin Arthur Burtt

1951: *Genesis and Geology*
Charles Coulton Gillespie
(reissued by Harvard Univ. Press, 1996)

1975: *The Meaning of Fossils*
Martin J. S. Rudwick

1963: *Natural Law and Divine Miracle: the Principle of Uniformity in Geology, Biology and Theology.*
Reijer Hookaas
Martin Rudwick
1932-
“What is certainly untenable is any claim that the discovery of the Earth’s deep history has in the past been retarded or obstructed by ‘Religion’... ...In the history of the discovery of the Earth’s own history, as in the history of many other aspects of the sciences, the idea of a perennial and intrinsic ‘conflict’ between ‘Science’ and ‘Religion’—so essential to the rhetoric of modern fundamentalists, both religious and atheistic—fails to stand up to historical scrutiny.” (p. 306-307)
Ronald Numbers (1942-)
Prof. History of Science
University of Wisconsin
Dr. Numbers’ Goal

To confront “The greatest myth in the history of science and religion . . . that they have been in a state of constant conflict.”

— Ronald Numbers
One illustration of harmony: 
*The Fundamentals.* 
12 short booklets, authored during the 19-teens.

James Orr 
(1844-1913)
James Orr (1844-1913)
Scottish Evangelical Theologian

Invited to author the chapter on “Science and Christian Faith” for The Fundamentals (1910-1915)

“There is no violence done to the narrative in substituting in thought “aeonic” days—vast cosmic periods—for “days” on our narrower, sun-measured scale. Then the last trace of apparent “conflict” disappears”... (Volume IV, p. 100)
II. Early Flood Geology and Biostratigraphy
George McCready Price, 1870-1963
Joggins, Nova Scotia: “Polystrate” fossil stumps
EVIDENCE OF THE BIBLICAL FLOOD/ Genesis 7
FOSSILS - "The Creationist's Best Friend"

Polystrate Fossil Trees
Fossilized trees found all over the world connecting multiple rock layers!
Add the fact that there is no erosion marks between the sedimentary rock layers anywhere in the world; the evidence is overwhelming that the biblical account of a worldwide flood is accurate.

One of the finest modern-day detective stories regarding catastrophism in the fossil record is the story of the petrified trees found in Yellowstone.
Trace fossil, *Diplocraterion*

--time required...

Covington, N. Kentucky

Upper Ordovician limey shales
Alpena, Michigan: LaFarge Limestone Quarry and Cement Plant
Some things we have NEVER collected in Devonian strata in N. Michigan:

- Teleosts
- Dinosaurs
- Diatoms
- Sea urchins/sand dollars
- Angiosperms

Nor has anyone else—ever.
Green River, SW Wyoming
What’s NOT in the Green River Formation
Some things we have NEVER collected in Devonian strata
In N. Michigan: Which of these appear in the Green River Formation?

- Teleosts
- Diatoms
- Dinosaurs
- Sea urchins/sand dollars
- Angiosperms
William Smith (1769-1839)
Georges Cuvier and Alexandre Brongniart

**COUPE THÉORIQUE des divers TERRAINS ROCHES et MINÉRAUX**
qui entrent dans la composition du SOIL du RUSSE de PARIS. Par MM. CUVIER et Alexandre BRONGNIART. 1852.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Désignation des Terrains</th>
<th>Indication de quelques localités</th>
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- **1.** Sable gréseux et sable gréseux de la Béthémont.
- **2.** Grès de la Colonie de l'abbé de Beaumarchais.
- **3.** Grès de la Basse-Bretagne.
- **4.** Grès de la Basse-Bretagne.
- **5.** Grès de la Basse-Bretagne.

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**ALEXANDRE BRONGNIART**

- **Portrait of Georges Cuvier**
- **Portraits of Alexandre Brongniart**
William Smith (1769-1839)
George McCready Price, on William Smith (1923):

“It was William Smith, an ignorant English land surveyor, who first suggested the idea of fixing the relative ages of strata by their fossil contents. He wrote no books, and it is a little difficult to tell just what he did teach; but his theory seems only to have been a crude rule-of-thumb by which the various outcropping rocks in distant localities throughout England could be identified by their fossils, and thus be proved to be continuous underground between these scattered outcrops. His ideas were handed around privately among some clergymen and other enthusiastic fossil collectors in England, and soon he became quite popular. Ultimately he and his disciples came to the conclusion that one and the same succession of strata extended across England from the south coast to the east, these rocks being now classified as subdivisions of the Jurassic and Cretaceous systems; that certain fossils always “reappear in the same bed in the different localities”...

...the fault with Smith’s theory is the fault common to all crude guesses based on wholly insufficient data...
Biostratigraphy, according to G. M. Price

Hmm... we’ll shuffle the Alpena fossils into the “Devonian” File, ‘cause that’s where they’re supposed to be...”
III. Middle 20th Century
1922-25: Osborne and William Jennings Bryan spar in articles in *The NY Times*

1925: Osborne testifies at Scopes Trial; writes *The Earth Speaks to Bryan*.
Dayton, Tennessee, 1925

John Scopes, 1900-1970
Following trial, a geologist!
Defense attorney, Clarence Darrow; Prosecuting Attorney, William Jennings Bryan
IV. Enter Calvin College
1941:

Calvin College Biology Professor John Van Haitsma a founding member.
Edwin Y. Monsma

Prof. Biology, Calvin College (1927-65);
Founding member,
Creation Research Society

1954: *If Not Evolution, What Then?*
For example, when the fossil content of a rock formation is primarily that of simple forms, it is considered old, regardless of its actual position, when more complex forms predominate, it is considered younger... 

...the evidence for organic evolution from the field of geology, therefore, rests upon the use of two principles: First, the idea that simple organisms are older than more complex ones; and second, the principle of uniformitarianism, that changes have always taken place at the same rate. Both of the principles are evolutionary assumptions; the evidence for evolution from the geological record is therefore subjective. It appears as evidence only to those who have accepted the evolutionary philosophy...
1948: “Doc” DeVries publishes *Beyond the Atom*
1950:
Seminarian Tymen Hofman and others submit letter to Calvin Board of Trustees, requesting the introduction of geology into the curriculum at Calvin College.

Oct. 1950:
Referred to the Science Division

Hofman would later serve on the Calvin Board of Trustees (1957-62)
1967: Calvin hires Clarence Menninga to teach geology...

Clarence Menninga
Calvin faculty, 1967-1990
V. The Revival of Deluge Geology
Bernard Ramm (1916-1992) was a Baptist Theologian known for his work in the field of science and scripture. His book, "The Christian View of Science and Scripture," published in 1954, is a significant contribution to the field of Christian theology and science.
Henry Morris 1918-2006

John C. Whitcomb 1924-
“It is not easy to imagine any kind of modern "uniform" process by which this conglomeration of modern and extinct fishes, birds, reptiles, mammals, insects and plants could have been piled together and preserved for posterity...”  (Page 157)
John C. Whitcomb (1924--)
Prof. Old Testament, Grace Theological Seminary, 1951-1990

the EARLY EARTH
An Introduction to Biblical Creationism

the WORLD that PERISHED
An Introduction to Biblical Catastrophism
1961: *The Genesis Flood*

1963: Creation Research Society
1970: Institute for Creation Research
(San Diego Chr. College; independent since 1981)
The Evidence of Nothing

The silent witness of evolution’s missing links
Enno Wolhuis (1911-2005)
Prof. Chemistry, Calvin College, 1948-1975
“That Genesis 1 is not a detailed account of creation in scientific language should be clear from a few illustrations...

Some reader may object and say that one must accept the creation narrative literally or else capitulate to the current evolutionary theory. But certainly one does not interpret the scriptures primarily with a view to the consequences of such interpretation. Furthermore, it simply does not follow that a departure from a literal Interpretation makes one an evolutionist, anymore than a figurative reading of the book of Revelation makes one a religious liberal.”
1971: Duane Gish, one of CRS founding members, joins faculty of San Diego Christian Univ. ...then, the newly-created ICR.
Meet Duane Gish
Thursday June 28 at 6:30PM

Letter to a Theistic Evolutionist
Sincerely, your brother in Christ,

Duane T. Gish, Ph.D.

NEW Book Release!

Institute for Creation Research

The BASIC CREATION SERIES
The Bible and Modern Science
Duane T. Gish, Ph.D.

2012
EVOLUTION:
the fossils
STILL say
NO!

Duane T. Gish

Dr. Duane Gish
1921-2013
...but they have not been the Creationist’s Best Friend...
Paluxy River Valley, Texas

Cretaceous Dinosaur Trackway
Early 1950’s: Clifford Burdick claims to find human footprints in Paluxy River Dinosaur trackway; in 1961 these claims were included in the now-classic statement, *The Genesis Flood*

1972: Stanley E. Taylor investigates; films documentary, “Footprints in Stone”

--Duane Gish; John Morris from ICR visit; corroborate
Glen Kuban
(1957–)
CREATION EVIDENCE MUSEUM
PRE-FLOOD ATMOSPHERIC CHAMBER
EXPERIMENTS IN THIS CHAMBER HAVE PRODUCED AMAZING EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE BIBLICAL RECORD OF THE PRE-FLOOD WORLD. Some Examples:
• Extended Life Span of Dorsophila Fruit Flies by 3 Gen.
• Molecular Change of Venom in Snakes to Non-Toxic State
• Accelerated Growth of Parana Fish, 2-16 in 2.5 Years

(Dr.) Carl Baugh
--Archaeologist
Creation Evidence Museum
Glen Rose, TX; founded 1984

ICR; AiG warn creationists NOT to give credence to displays here or to Dr. Baugh
Dan Wonderly (1922-2004)

B.A., Anthropology, Wheaton
M.Div. & Th.M., Central Baptist
Seminary
M.S., Biology, Ohio University

1967-1973: taught biology at
Grace College, Indiana.

1977: *God’s Time-Records in Ancient Sediments*

1987: *Neglect of Geologic Data: Sedimentary Strata
Compared with Young-Earth Creationist Writings.*
--the latter is accessible online...
VI. Back to (the new campus) Calvin College
Clarence Menninga
Calvin faculty, 1967-1990

Davis Young
Calvin faculty, 1978-2004
Davis Young
Prof. Geology, Calvin College, 1978-2004

1982

Christianity & The Age Of The Earth

Davis A. Young
1983: Henry and John Morris co-author *Science, Scripture, and the Young Earth*

P. 82: “Dr. Young and his colleagues are urged to join in the battle for truth, rather than aiding the enemy…

P. 72: “Let us not be tempted --like Young, Pun, the A.S.A., and many others—to give up our eternal, creationist, Biblical, Christian birthright for a mess of evolutionary pottage.”
Salt Lake City, UT and the Wasatch Range:

30,000-40,000’ of stacked strata
Howard Van Till (1938--)
Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Calvin College

1986
1984-85: Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship --funded project...
Three professors from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan—Howard J. Van Till, Davis A. Young, and Clarence Menninga—have recently written a book entitled *Science Held Hostage*. The bold headline on the back cover states "Henry Morris or Carl Sagan?" What is the purpose of this heading? Basically, it is to get across to people that these two men represent extreme positions on the question of origins. On the one hand, there is the position taken by the Institute for Creation Research, and its president, Dr. Henry Morris, that Genesis must be taken literally and that it is foundational to the rest of the Bible, true science, true history, true philosophy, etc. On the other hand, there is the position on the opposite end of the spectrum held by people such as Carl Sagan, who take a totally atheistic view of origins...
Ken Ham (1951--)

1987: Ken Ham delegated to the ICR, from AiG (Australia)

1994: AiG (USA) founded by Ham
1986

Another encouraging reaction...
(demo item)
VII. 1990 and Beyond:
1996

Why Neither Side Is Winning the Creation-Evolution Debate

Del Ratzsch
Steven A. Austin (1948--) = AKA Stuart Nevins

1979: joins staff of ICR
Marcus Ross (1976--)
Ph.D., Brown University, mosasaur paleobiology
Prof. Geology, Liberty University;
Director, Center for Creation Studies

Kurt P. Wise (1959--)
Ph.D., Harvard University, paleontology, 1989
1989-2006: Bryan College, TN
2006-2009: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
2009-Present: Truett-McConnell College, Georgia
ICR sponsors the R.A.T.E. Project
[1997-2005]

“There is evidence for > 500 million years worth (at today’s rates) of nuclear and radioisotope decay...”
Kent Hovind
(1953--)

AKA “Dr. Dino”

1991: Creation Science Evangelism
1998: Dr. Dino website
2001: Dinosaur Adventure Land, Pensacola
2007: Began serving 10-year prison sentence, convicted of 58 federal counts.
1994: AiG (US) founded by Ken Ham

2007: Creation Museum (Kentucky) opens

2010: visitorship hits 1 million
“Davis A. Young is Professor of Geology Emeritus at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Young taught for many years at Calvin College (a well-known “Christian” college—but sadly one that undermines the authority of Scripture to generations of students as they are taught to believe in millions of years/evolution, etc).

Recently, Davis Young was given the 2009 Mary C. Rabbit Award by the History of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. (The list of past winners is very impressive: Martin Rudwick, the late Stephen Jay Gould, David Oldroyd, Stephen Brush ...)

Here are excerpts from his acceptance speech that clearly show what he was teaching (and others do teach) to the students at Calvin College—deliberately focusing on attacking those groups like AiG who stand on six literal days, young earth, global Flood, etc...."
Dave Young
Prof. Geology, Calvin College,
1978-2004

2008

The Bible, Rocks and Time
Geological Evidence for the Age of the Earth

Davis A. Young
& Ralph F. Stearly
Good News for Science
Why Scientific Minds Need God
DAVIS A. YOUNG

The Bible, Rocks and Time
Geological Evidence for the Age of the Earth
Davis A. Young
& Ralph F. Stearly

2012
2006: Creation Conference, Calvin College
organized by Craig Glupker, Calvin Physical Plant
Clarence Menninga in the Grand Canyon:

Right hand on Vishnu Schist;
Left hand on Tapeats Sandstone

Time gap represented is > 1 Gyr
To be available later this year...

Grand Canyon: Monument to an Ancient Earth

Can Noah’s Flood Explain the Grand Canyon?
2007: Institute for Creation Research relocates to Dallas, Texas

2008: Major disappointment:
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board refuses to accredit the ICR graduate school.
(go to www.icr.edu/soba to see the developing stance of ICR)
2012: Tom and Cheryl Cantor purchase the former ICR Museum; Santee, California, following the move of the ICR to Texas
2012: Creation Museum, Kentucky, expands; begins work on theme park: Ark Encounter
• Does it take millions of years for fossils to form?
• Did you know there are hundreds of similar floods stories from widely separated cultures throughout the world?
• Did you know that recently hardened volcanic rock is often incorrectly dated as millions of years old?
• Did you know that a number of fossilized dinosaur bones contain soft tissue resembling elastic blood vessels?

If interested in learning more about these questions, here's your opportunity to get the answers.

“In the Beginning” Conference is coming to Oxford February 4th-7th
Presented by: creationstudies.org

Location: North Oxford Baptist Church, Family Life Center

Wed, Feb 4th @ 6:00 – 7:00 pm “Tremendous Teen Talk” for middle and high school students
Thu, Feb 5th @ 3:30-4:30 “Curious Kids Conversations” for K-6th, @ 4:30 Kids Browse Fair,
@ 7:00-9:00 pm “College Night Creation Presentation & Open Discussion Forum”
Fri, Feb 6th @ 9:00 am – noon “Investigating Possibilities” presentations at Regents School
@ 6:00-9:00 pm “In the Beginning” Conference Part I
Sat, Feb 7th @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm “In the Beginning” Conference Part II
(including breaks and complimentary lunch)

Questions from audience are welcome in every presentation. Tom DeRosa and Carl Kerby, respected apologists, give sound arguments to support a creation worldview and challenge popular culture on Darwinian evolutionary teaching. Conference pre-registration is preferred or just come early (opens at 5:00 Friday).
Please call NOBC @ 662-234-1101 to register. Conference attendance is free. Love offering will be collected.
See: *Acts and Facts*, February 2011:

“Just Say No to Trojan Horses”, by James J. S. Johnson
...during the 1800’s, England hosted three major “Trojan horse” attacks on the Genesis account of the worldwide Flood....thus long before Charles Darwin published his atheistic account of “natural selection”...many of the leaders in Christian circles, both scientists and church leaders, had already closed the book of Genesis—at least as to what it teaches about the global Flood. Why? Because they voluntarily invited Trojan horses into the camp.

Today, Christendom faces new breeds of Trojan horses (e.g., BioLogos, Intelligent Design deism, day-age “progressive creation”, framework hypothesis, etc.), which lie in wait to attack our understanding of Genesis and what it teaches about the Flood. Beware—and keep your Bibles open!
Thanks to:

Gloria Stearley

Dave Young  Clarence Menninga

Dick Harms:  Director, Heritage Hall

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship

BioLogos Foundation

Reijer Hooykaas;  Martin Rudwick

Ron Numbers;  Michael Ruse