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Figure 1.1 *Grand Canyon of northern Arizona.*

## THE GRANDEST OF CANYONS

*... 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; that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever"*

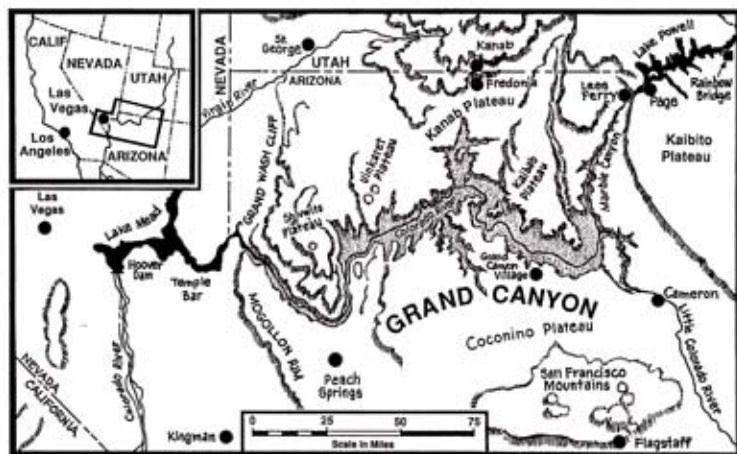
Joshua 4:7,24

## Grand Canyon

There is no sight on Earth which matches Grand Canyon. There are other canyons, other mountains, and other rivers, but this Canyon excels all in scenic grandeur. Can any visitor, upon first viewing Grand Canyon, grasp and appreciate the spectacle spread before him? The ornate sculpture work and the wealth of color are like no other landscape. They suggest an alien world. The scale is too outrageous. The sheer size and majesty engulf the intruder, surpassing his ability to take it in.

The spectacle stretches 277 miles through northern Arizona (see figure 1.2). The main portion of Grand Canyon attains a depth of more than a mile and ranges from 4 to 18 miles in width. The north rim, somewhat higher than the south rim, reaches an altitude of 8,500 feet, while the Colorado River cascades along at about 2,400 feet.

Within the chasm is a host of pinnacles and buttes, canyons within canyons, and precipitous gorges and ravines. The most spectacular spires, or pinnacles, have been dubbed "temples," some towering a mile above the river. The



**Figure 1.2** Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide, and almost a mile deep! Note that Grand Canyon (including its sixty-mile-long connection with Marble Canyon) isolates virtually the entire northwestern corner of Arizona from the rest of the state. High plateaus surround Grand Canyon.

scarcity of vegetation allows the eyes to feast on delicate hues which come alive as the sun strikes the walls.

Surrounding Grand Canyon, throughout northern Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Utah, are spectacles made up of the same rock units found in the Canyon, as well as others which previously covered this area, now eroded away. A unique series of geologic events allows us to behold these various records of the past. This is "earth's strangest land," displaying the greatest variety of rock formations and erosional forms to be found in any area of comparable size.

The Christian can appreciate, as no one else, the wonders and beauty of God's creation. We can exclaim with David, "O LORD our LORD, how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:1,9). He has given us Grand Canyon and its environs as object lessons of His majestic power. Let us not fail to return to Him the praise, honor, and glory due Him for His wondrous works.

## What Mean These Stones?

Our Lord understands that we are likely to forget the great things He has done for us. Not only are we likely to forget, we are also likely not to tell the next generation of the things of God as we ought.

The Lord has used a number of reminders or memorials on Earth to bring to memory vital matters that should never be forgotten. On a number of occasions, the Israelites were given specific memorials as reminders for each generation. One was to the generation of Israelites who escaped Egypt by a miraculous crossing of the Red Sea on dry ground, and who saw the pursuing Egyptians drowned behind them, but themselves died during the 40-year Exodus because they failed to remember God's sufficiency.

As recorded in Joshua 3 and 4, now the next generation stood facing the Promised Land, halted by the Jordan River at floodstage. Again, God provided a miracle. As the priests, bearing the Ark of the Covenant, stepped into the water, the Jordan's flow was stemmed. The priests proceeded to midstream and "stood firm," while all the people "passed over on dry ground." Next, 12 men, one from each tribe, picked up a stone from where the priests stood, and carried his to the far shore. The priests followed. Then, "the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before" (Joshua 4:18).

As a witness to future generations, the 12 stones were set up to be a memorial. "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them . . . these stones shall be for a memorial . . ." (Joshua 4:6,7). But, what is the purpose of this memorial? Scripture tells us, ". . . that all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: That ye might fear the LORD your God forever" (Joshua 4:24).

Consider, though, a far greater memorial! Crystalline rocks deep in Grand Canyon are covered by countless billions of tons of strata that remind us of God's intervention. In Genesis, chapter 1, we are told of a perfect earth created at God's command. In Genesis, chapters 6 through 9, we read of a later, worldwide catastrophe by which God judged the earth with a global flood.<sup>1</sup> If this catastrophic event, involving water scouring and the depositing of countless billions of tons of sediment, of the drowning and burying of millions of animals and plants really did occur, one would expect to discover massive evidences of the event. We would expect to find remains of billions of dead organisms buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth. That is exactly what we do find! The strata and fossils of the earth, and Grand Canyon in particular, could very well be intended as reminders that this judgment was carried out just as the Bible states. These are subjects for later chapters of this book.

As one stands on the rim of Grand Canyon or walks among the rocks displayed so prominently (figure 1.3), the question might be asked, "How is this a memorial of the mighty things our Lord has done?" First of all, many of those deeply buried crystalline rocks suggest God's activity during Creation Week. The fossil-bearing rock layers of Grand Canyon seem to have been laid down during the time of Noah's Flood.<sup>2</sup> The Canyon itself appears to have been eroded sometime after this catastrophic event.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the Canyon and layers of sedimentary rock may, in fact, offer an obvious reminder that God is omnipotent Creator and that He has sovereignly judged this world.

Secondly, Grand Canyon should be of interest to us because of the important controversy it has started. Most people who look at Grand Canyon and ask, "What mean these stones?" are told that scientists believe these layers are the results of millions of years of earth's history—that these layers are *not* a colossal memorial or reminder that God is both Creator and Judge. Instead, many people are being taught evolutionary ideas regarding the origin of Grand Canyon, and thus, in their minds, the Bible has been undermined. Even many Christians have been influenced by this teaching.

Thirdly, the Bible teaches that physical death and bloodshed came only after Adam sinned (Romans 5:12; I Corinthians 15:21). Not just man, but the whole creation, was subjected to the judgment of sin and death (Romans 8:22). This is a most important doctrine from the first three chapters of Genesis.<sup>4</sup> God instituted death and bloodshed because of sin, so that man could be redeemed. The redemption includes not only man, but the whole creation (Romans 8:19-23; II Peter 3:12,13). Though we leave this body because death and bloodshed have been introduced into the world, we know that God, Himself, came in the person of Jesus Christ, suffering death and shedding His

blood for our sin—conquering death so that we can spend eternity with Him. However, if death and bloodshed existed before Adam sinned, then the whole foundation of the Gospel message has been nullified. If the Bible is true, then these billions of dead things (fossils) should not have formed until after Adam sinned. Noah's Flood offers a good explanation of these strata and the fossils they contain. What we believe concerning the origin of Grand Canyon is very important, because millions are being told that death during millions of years was a part of what happened to form strata of Grand Canyon. This means millions of people are being told that the foundation of the Gospel message has been destroyed.

Fourthly, II Peter, chapter 3 tells us that in the last days people will deny the message of Creation, Noah's Flood, and of the coming judgment by fire. Why should people listen when Christians teach about coming judgment, when they deny there was a past judgment? Each time a scientist or a guide teaches that Grand Canyon is the result of millions of years of slow and continuous processes, that person is questioning the past judgment by God.



Figure 1.3 Grand Canyon commands our attention and prompts us to ask, "What mean these stones?"

Evolutionary teaching puts a stumbling block in people's way regarding any future judgment.

The question could then be asked, "If the evidence of Grand Canyon fits with Noah's Flood, why have not the majority of scientists recognized it?" The answer to this can be found in II Peter 3:5,6 where we read: "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." The Bible teaches that people are willingly ignorant—that is, they deliberately choose to reject the evidence. As explained later in this book, the evidence from Grand Canyon does fit with Creation and Noah's Flood. That means that the Bible is true, and that God is Creator and Judge. To accept that God is Creator means that He has a right over each person's life because He owns each person. Thus, right and wrong are set by God, because He is the absolute authority.

On the other hand, to assume an evolutionary philosophy of origins leads to the belief that everything was formed by chance produced by random processes during billions of years. The evolutionary philosophy leads to the notion that each person owns himself, and is the master of his own destiny. This is contrary to the Bible teaching that mankind is in rebellion against God, because of the fact that we all sin after the likeness of Adam. Adam's sin was rebellion! He decided to write his own rules and not accept what God had stated. Thus, the real battle in regard to understanding Grand Canyon is founded not just upon Creation and Noah's Flood versus evolution, but upon Christianity versus humanism.

Each time we see Grand Canyon or hear people ask concerning this massive chasm, "What mean these stones?" let us hasten to explain the evidence for His past judgment and, as well, His future judgment. At the same time, we can also tell them of God's provision. Just as God preserved Noah and his family after they went through the door of the Ark to be saved from the judgment of the Flood, so God introduced death and bloodshed into the world, that we could have a doorway through which we could walk in order to be saved. The Lord Jesus Christ is that doorway. Because of what He did on the cross, those who trust in Him can spend eternity with Him. Let us, therefore, never forget that death and bloodshed are not the means by which we have evolved, but the means by which we can be redeemed. We chose to live in separation from God; God chose to have us live with Him!

Grand Canyon provides ample opportunity to reflect on the meaning of stones. The layers of beauty on all sides are, in all likelihood, the grim reminder of sin, judgment, and destruction. Peter tells us that "the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (II Peter 3:6). All that remains of the pre-Flood world is rock laid down

*"Valuable guide to the 'canyon of canyons'!"*

Your personal tour of the Grand Canyon brought to you by the creation scientists who know it best! Learn how Grand Canyon is best understood in light of Scripture. Answer those hard questions regarding geology, biology, and human history. Understand the difference between Creation rocks and Flood rocks. Study Flood sedimentation and tectonics, fossils, ecology, the canopy model, and archaeology along with the ICR experts. GRAND CANYON is a monument to what God has done. This book is the next-best thing to being there!

## GRAND CANYON: MONUMENT TO CATASTROPHE



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