

Table of Contents

Foreword	10
Preface	13
CHAPTER 1 — GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.....	14
Mysteries That Uniformitarianism Fails to Explain	16
The Study of Geomorphology	19
The Problem Is the Uniformitarian Assumption	20
CHAPTER 2 — THE GENESIS FLOOD REALLY HAPPENED.....	22
A Global Genesis Flood.....	23
Scripture Says Global Not Local	23
Worldwide Traditions Support the Biblical Version.....	25
Sedimentary Rocks Demonstrate a Global Flood.....	25
1) Sedimentary Layers, Often of Vast Extent.....	27
2) Little or No Erosion Between Layers.....	28
3) Grand Canyon Represents Other Sedimentary Layers	28
Fossils Show Catastrophic Burial	29
The Bible Predicts a Last Days Rejection of the Global Flood.....	30
The Flood Rejected for Unscientific Reasons	31
The Biblical Geological Model.....	32
Sheet Flow Transforms into Channelized Flow	35
Dating in Disarray	36
CHAPTER 3 — HOW DID THE FLOOD WATER DRAIN OFF THE CONTINENTS?	38
Mountains Rose and Valleys Sank	40
Enormous Uplift and Sinking in Wyoming	41
Crustal Uplift and Sinking — A Worldwide Reality	45
Continents Uplifted and Ocean Basins Sank	46
CHAPTER 4 — CATASTROPHIC SHEET EROSION AND DEPOSITION.....	50
Eroded Anticlines Demonstrate Thousands of Feet of Erosion.....	51
Immense Erosion from the San Rafael Swell, Utah	51
Vast Erosion Elsewhere in North America.....	52
Prodigious Continental Erosion Worldwide.....	53
Eroded Escarpments.....	53
Cobbles and Boulders Catastrophically Transported Long Distances	54

Quartzite Rocks from Northern Rockies Spread 800 Miles by Flood Water.....	55
1) Catastrophic Erosion and Transport	55
2) Percussion Marks Formed by Ferocious Pounding.....	56
Rocks Transported Long Distances from Other U.S. Mountain Ranges.....	58
Erosional Remnants Demonstrate Catastrophic Erosion.....	59
Devils Tower Should Not Exist.....	59
The Meaning of Devils Tower.....	60
Rapid Deposition of the Continental Margin.....	61
The Continental Margin.....	61
The Meaning of the Continental Margin.....	63
The Example of the Portland Delta Formed during the Lake Missoula flood.....	64
Summary.....	64

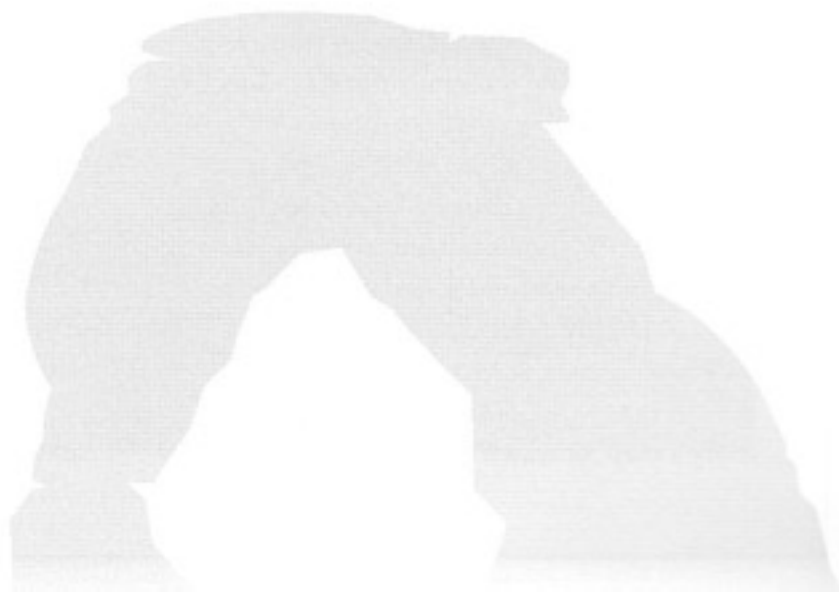
CHAPTER 5 — PLANATION SURFACES — OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE

FOR THE FLOOD.....	66
What Is a Planation Surface?.....	66
Planation Surfaces Common and Worldwide.....	68
A Major Mystery of Uniformitarian Geomorphology.....	70
All Uniformitarian Geomorphological Hypotheses Fail.....	71
The Dilemma of Inselbergs.....	72
Tall Inselbergs above Planation Surfaces.....	72
Inselbergs in Limestone Terrain.....	73
How Can Inselbergs Stand Tall for Tens of Millions of Years?.....	74
Planation Surfaces and Inselbergs — Carved by the Retreating Flood Water.....	74
Plateaus, Mesas, and Buttes.....	76
Recognizing Planation Surfaces.....	76

CHAPTER 6 — CATASTROPHIC CHANNELIZED EROSION.....


The Rapid Excavation of Valleys.....	79
Vertically Walled Valleys Young.....	79
Many Vertically Walled Valleys on the Earth's Surface.....	81
Rapid Flood-carved Valleys.....	81
Mysterious Pediments Formed by Channelized Flood Water.....	82
What Is a Pediment?.....	82
Dissected, Gravel-capped Flat Surfaces.....	82
Common, Worldwide Landforms.....	83
Complications.....	85
Not Forming Today.....	85
All Uniformitarian Hypotheses Fail.....	86
Rapidly Formed during the Channelized Flow Phase of the Flood.....	87

Rapid Cutting of Submarine Canyons on Continental Margins	88
Common, Deep Chasm Perpendicular to the Coast	88
Are Submarine Canyons Related to Rivers?.....	91
The Origin of Submarine Canyons Unknown.....	91
Explosive Late Flood Origin of Submarine Canyons.....	91
 CHAPTER 7 — WHY DO RIVERS CUT THROUGH MOUNTAINS?.....	94
Water and Wind Gaps Common and Worldwide.....	94
Numerous Water Gaps Western United States	95
Appalachian Mountains Noted for Water and Wind Gaps.....	96
The Amazing Himalaya and Zagros Water Gaps.....	97
Water Gaps Are Common	98
Uniformitarian Hypotheses Have Many Difficulties.....	98
The Late Flood Origin of Water and Wind Gaps.....	100
The Example of the Lake Missoula Flood	100
The Origin of the Grand Canyon	102
A Long History of Uniformitarian Speculation.....	102
Serious Problems with the Creationist Dam-breach Hypothesis.....	103
Fits in More Naturally with the Channelized Flow Phase of the Flood.....	105
Antecedent Stream Hypotheses.....	107
 CHAPTER 8 — WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?.....	110
Landforms Explained by the Genesis Flood.....	111
You Can Trust the Bible — All of It!	112
 Bibliography	114
Glossary	125
Index	127

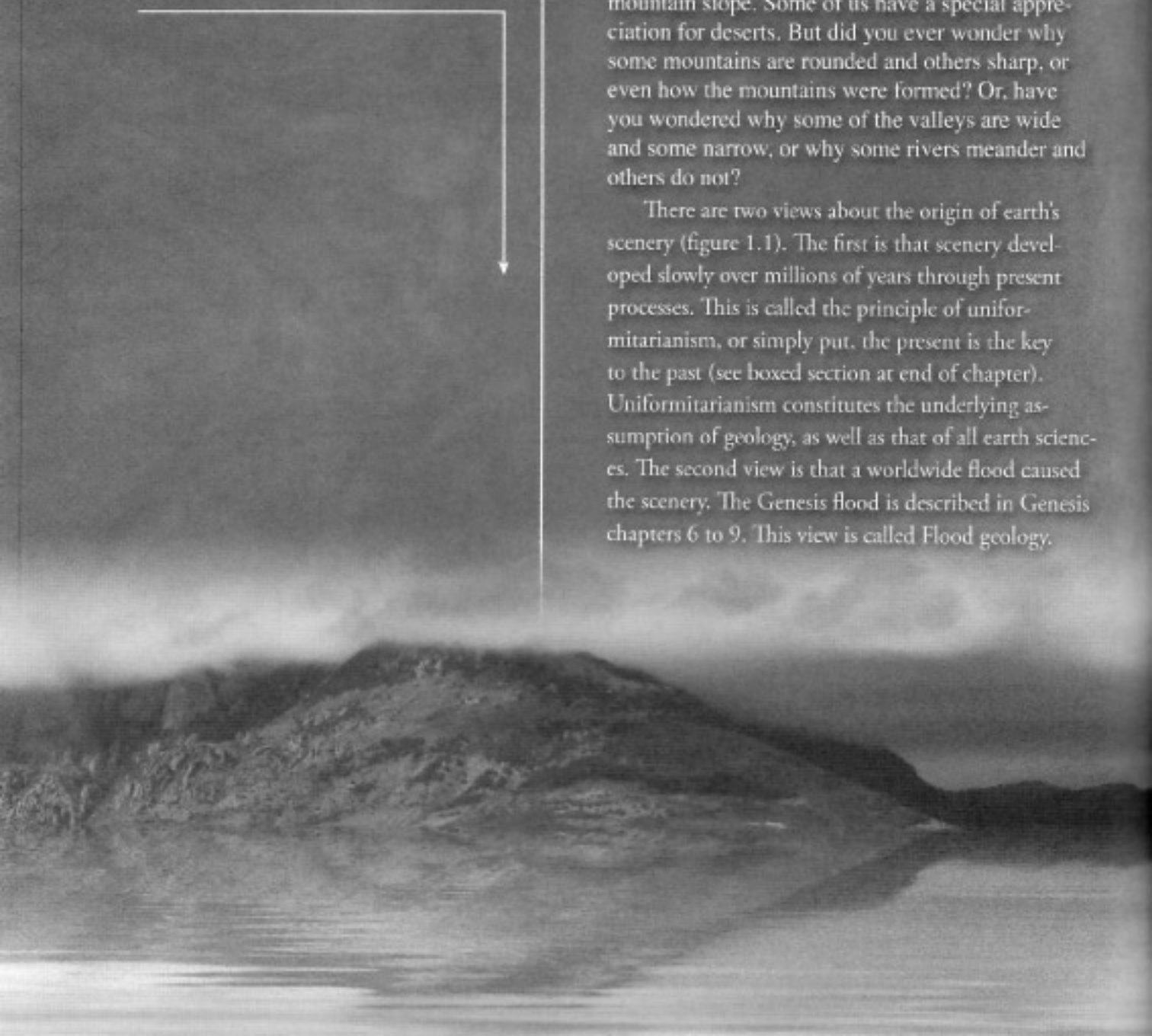


CHAPTER ONE

GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE



All of us love nature. We enjoy spending time hiking in beautiful mountains. Many love to fish or swim in lakes or streams, or ski down a mountain slope. Some of us have a special appreciation for deserts. But did you ever wonder why some mountains are rounded and others sharp, or even how the mountains were formed? Or, have you wondered why some of the valleys are wide and some narrow, or why some rivers meander and others do not?



There are two views about the origin of earth's scenery (figure 1.1). The first is that scenery developed slowly over millions of years through present processes. This is called the principle of uniformitarianism, or simply put, the present is the key to the past (see boxed section at end of chapter). Uniformitarianism constitutes the underlying assumption of geology, as well as that of all earth sciences. The second view is that a worldwide flood caused the scenery. The Genesis flood is described in Genesis chapters 6 to 9. This view is called Flood geology.

Uniformitarian scientists observe rivers eroding and present-day flooding episodes. They conclude that such river activity is responsible for the many flat surfaces of the earth. They also believe slow mountain building and erosion continually re-creates mountain ranges. Conversely, Flood geologists believe the majority of the present scenery is the product of Noah's flood. The Ice Age, rivers, local floods, and erosion have only slightly moderated the earth's surface after the Flood.

Flood geology accepts Genesis as history. Noah's flood is very clearly described as a global event. Other Scriptures affirm the totality of the Flood and its purpose. The events unfolded as follows: In the beginning, God created a perfect world and declared it *very good*. Animals were all vegetarians and there was no death

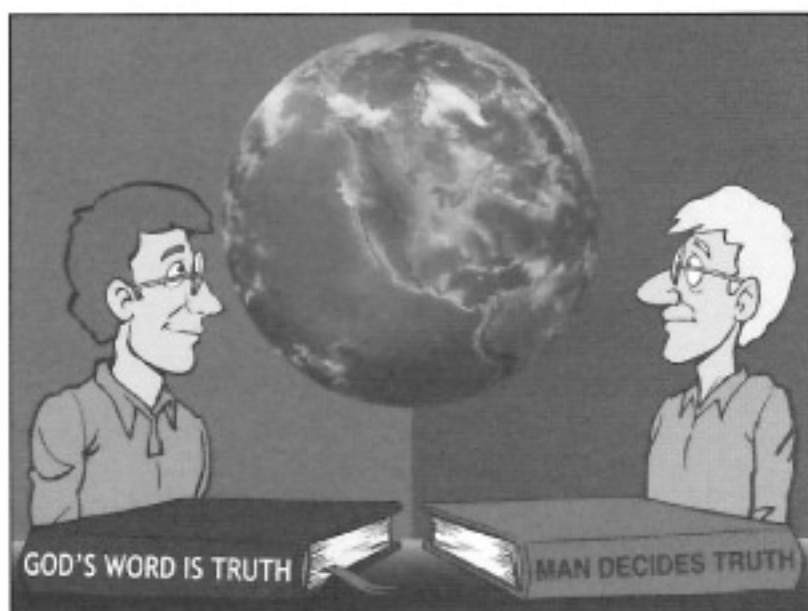


Figure 1.1. Two views of the world (courtesy of AiG).

for man or animals. Then, mankind's sin in Genesis 3 caused the earth and universe to be cursed. Thorns and thistles grew. Pain and suffering became a part of childbirth, and ultimately physical death affected all mankind. Instead of accepting correction, mankind's



Figure 1.2. The 11,000-foot high (3,350 m) Spanish Peaks of the northern Madison Range in southwest Montana is seen from the author's study window.

rebellion against God increased. It became so great ". . . that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5; NASB). Mankind required a new beginning. God vastly loved the people but was forced to act, since the situation was beyond repair. He sent the global Flood as described in Genesis 6–9. The Flood was terrible and all humans and all animals that breathed air (except those on the ark) perished. The runoff from the Flood water shaped our mountains, valleys, and plains. Isn't it amazing how our great God can make such a tragedy beautiful by "re-creating" the surface of the earth?

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. Before I discuss how the Flood produced the scenery, I must briefly describe the many landscape features that uniformitarians cannot explain. The study of scenery makes up the geological subfield called geomorphology, and the individual units of the scenery are called landforms (see boxed section at end of chapter).

In the next chapter, we will give evidence that the Genesis flood was a real event of earth history, and that it was rejected during the 1800s for personal reasons

and not scientific reasons. We will also describe the various phases of the Flood and their effect on the scenery.

Later, we will show how the Flood easily explains the origin of our landscape, whereas the "slow processes over millions of years" assumption has great difficulty explaining common features of the earth.

MYSTERIES THAT UNIFORMITARIANISM FAILS TO EXPLAIN

Despite about 200 years of study, the origin of many features of the earth's surface remains a mystery to uniformitarian scientists. Something as simple as scenery should have been easy to explain by present processes, if the theory was adequate. In fact, a famous scientist, William Morris Davis, predicted around 1900 the explanations for the earth's landscapes would soon be forthcoming, now that scientists banished Noah's flood and substituted uniformitarianism. In regard to planation surfaces, Davis (1954, p. 272) predicted:

It cannot be doubted, in view of what has already been learned today [sic], that an essentially explanatory treatment must in the next century [20th century] be generally adopted in all branches of geographical study. . . .

Davis was greatly mistaken.

Despite what some scientists claim, those beautiful mountains still resist explanation to this day. Two Australian geomorphologists, Cliff



Figure 1.3. Spider Rock, in the semi-arid Canyon d'Chelly in northeast Arizona

FLOOD BY design

There are features on the earth's surface that science cannot explain with theories of changes over millions or even billions of years by the geologic processes that we see occurring commonly today. However, when you explore the evidence from a biblical worldview, the geologic features marking the planet's surface make sense given the worldwide catastrophic flood described in the book of Genesis.

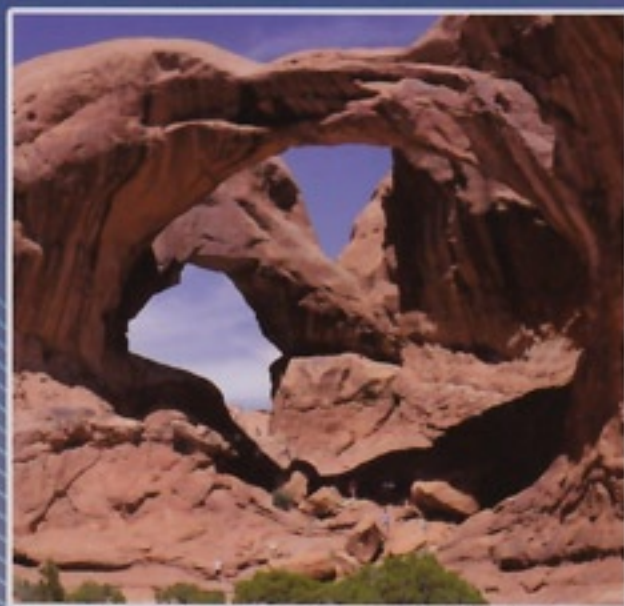
Join author Mike Oard as he explores what is termed as "the retreating stage of the flood" — the seven month-period when the waters receded and the landscapes which are familiar to us were formed by a myriad of processes like uplifts and sinking, erosion, and more, which answer important questions regarding:

- Unusual dispersals of rocks over hundreds of miles
- How quickly mountains and valleys were carved
- Emergence of continents and the formation of ocean basins
- Percussions marks shaped by vast and violently moving water
- Why very gradual erosion and deposits of soil cannot explain surface formations
- The study of geomorphology and what it can reveal

Flood by Design takes you into a fascinating aspect of the Genesis flood you may never have considered. Examine unusual rock formations and evidence that only the biblical flood model can fully explain. Filled with many photographs and easy-to-understand illustrations and charts, the book is a powerful source of research and answers for high school students and beyond.

Michael Oard — one of today's most innovative and prolific creationists — has opened a new window on the past. A mountain of evidence demonstrates how the Genesis flood is not simply the best explanation for Earth's landscapes, but in light of completely implausible conventional theories, it is really the only reasonable explanation offered to date.

John K. Reed, PhD
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