

THE FROZEN PARADOX: ICE CORES vs DEEP TIME

What Ice Cores Reveal
about Earth's History

by Michael J. Oard, M.S.



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Preface

Conventional scientists believe that many events of earth history contradict the Bible. One of these is the millions of years they claim for the Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets. Drilling down into the Greenland Ice Sheet, conventional scientists have counted 110,000 annual layers, like counting the rings in a tree to determine its age. In the Dome C Antarctic ice core, 800,000 years have been claimed. These ages are vastly older than the Biblical age of about 6,000 years based on the straightforward reading of the Masoretic text of the Bible.

The Bible can be trusted

Before the reader dismisses the Bible as a fairy tale, you must remember that the Bible has withstood the test of time from an army of critics. It seems like every time critics ‘find’ a contradiction in the Bible, a reasonable solution is soon discovered. Many of these contradictions commonly boil down to mistaken interpretation by the critics, who do not know or understand the Bible all that well. Many of these exploded contradictions have occurred in archeology, with the Bible showing an accurate portrayal of the times, cities, and events.

In answer to the critics who claim the Bible was altered after the apostles died, and that many ‘books’ were ignored, such as the ‘gospel of Thomas’ as part of the Bible, study shows that there are tens of thousands of partial manuscripts, including some going back to near the time when John died a little before the year AD 100. Furthermore, the New Testament can be nearly rewritten by gathering all the Scripture quotes from the early church fathers. Yes, indeed, the Bible has withstood the test of time and is accurate. Why should we not expect that the Bible can withstand the claims of ‘science’ about the past? Creation scientists have already answered many of these scientific challenges to the Bible—just check out the website creation.com and take a look at the long list of resources written by creation scientists.

Ice Age

The Bible provides the proper framework in which to understand the evidence for Ice Age conditions. I have worked together with other scientists on the Ice Age for almost half a century. A *single*, intense Ice Age would have been caused by the conditions at the end of Noah's Flood in Genesis 6–9. Moreover, meteorology, climatology, geology, glaciology, and paleontology applied to the climatic consequences of the Genesis Flood can readily explain the Ice Age.

The biblical Ice Age also solves many other mysteries that secular science has not been able to solve for over 200 years. For example, a *single* Ice Age *caused by the Genesis Flood* answers many issues that are puzzling to secular geologists. I cover this in my previous book *How Noah's Flood Caused a Single Ice Age*, CBP, 2024.

Ice cores

This book builds on this information to cover an important subset of the Ice Age. That is, how the ice sheets with their ice cores fit into biblical earth history. As mentioned above, many skeptics use thick ice sheets and allegedly hundreds of thousands of ice layers to undermine biblical history.

We will examine the claim of 110,000 annual layers in the Greenland ice cores, as well as the belief that the Dome C Antarctic ice core records 800,000 years. We will show that both these deductions are based on circular reasoning with the assumptions of uniformitarianism and deep time (the millions of years) built in. But I will not only challenge the conventional interpretation of ice cores, but also I will show how creation scientists can explain the ice cores and ice sheets within biblical earth history. As a bonus, chapter 8 will show how the model of the Ice Age can explain a major mystery of atmospheric science, and that is the well-watered 'green Sahara'.

Scientific and dating terms and common abbreviations

- For Bible quotes, the ESV will be used unless otherwise stated.
- We also use the standard evolutionary names for rock strata, so communication is possible. But we make it clear that we

deny the claimed millions of years age of these rock layers. We also use the objective stratigraphic terms such as “upper Cretaceous” and “lower Jurassic”, rather than the evolutionary terms “late Cretaceous” and “early Jurassic”, since these layers were all laid down during the Flood year of Noah’s time.

- Standard SI unit symbols are used throughout. For example, 1 metre (m) \cong 3.28 feet, 1 kg \cong 2.205 lb, 1 km \cong 0.621 miles.
- To convert Celsius *temperature* to Fahrenheit temperature, multiply by 1.8 ($\frac{9}{5}$) then add 32. E.g. $100^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8 + 32 = 212^{\circ}\text{F}$. But to convert a temperature *change* (i.e. something is hotter or cooler) from Celsius to Fahrenheit, just multiply by 1.8. E.g. This is 100 Celsius degrees hotter than freezing point. It is also 180 Fahrenheit degrees hotter ($212 - 32$), or 1.8×100 . For most conversions, the same number of significant figures is used. E.g. if ice thickness was known to be 100 m *to the nearest metre*, the conversion would be 328 ft. But if 100 m was just a round figure, the conversion would also be to the round figure of 300 ft.
- Ga = giga-annum or a billion (10^9) years ago; Ma = mega-annum or a million years ago; ka = kilo-annum or a thousand years ago—these are (alleged) *dates*. For *duration*, it is Gyr, Myr, kyr, e.g., evolutionists believe that the Mesozoic Era was 252–65 Ma; thus, it lasted 187 Myr.
- ASL = above sea level.
- ‰ = per mil = per thousand.
- ppm = parts per million; ppmv = parts per million by volume.
- ppb = parts per billion; ppbv = parts per billion by volume.
- ppt = parts per trillion; pptv = parts per trillion by volume
- ARJ = *Answers Research Journal*.
- CBP = Creation Book Publishers, Powder Springs, Georgia, USA.
- CRS = Creation Research Society, Glendale, Arizona, USA.
- CRSQ = *Creation Research Society Quarterly*.

- ICC = International Conference on Creationism, Creation Science Fellowship, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH, USA.
- ICR = Institute for Creation Research, Dallas, Texas, USA.
- MB = Master Books, Green Forest, Arkansas, USA.
- PNAS = *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Glossary entries

Throughout the book, we will highlight terms (in bold blue) that are further explained in the Glossary at the back of the book.



Chapter 1

The challenge of ice cores

As the world becomes more secular, Christians are faced with more and more challenges to the Bible from the culture. Some come from the earth sciences, i.e., where secular scientists claim it took millions of years for coal, oil, ice ages, and many other geologic features to form. They say the biblical timescale is simply too short. Another claim is that the thick Antarctic and Greenland Ice Sheets required millions of years to form.

The biblical timescale is based on the straightforward interpretation of the chronogenealogies in Genesis chapters 5 and 11 that give no hint that the meaning is figurative. Some acknowledge that man has been on the earth for only about 6,000 years, accepting the genealogies, but there are billions of years between the creation and man. However, statements by Jesus and Paul indicate that there is no gap in time between the Creation and man,¹ such as Mark 10:6: “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’” This verse indicates that people existed since the *beginning*

1. Wieland, C., Jesus on the age of the earth: Jesus believed in a young world, but leading theistic evolutionists say He is wrong, *Creation* 31(2):51-54, 2012; creation.com/jesus-age.

of creation. Luke 11:50–51 indicates that Abel’s blood was shed at the “foundation of the world.” Paul in Romans 1:20 says that God’s creation was perceived by people “since the creation of the world.” Numerous scientific evidences also support a 6,000-year-old earth.² Many more evidences show evolution is false.³

No observation of science is contrary to the Bible

Secular challenges are based on *interpretations* of the observations (the data) based on their **worldview**, and not the observations themselves. A worldview is the filter a person uses to interpret everything. It determines what they think about the past, and what they believe directs the future of our society.

Two of the most significant worldviews are the **naturalistic** worldview and the biblical worldview. The former views the world as if God does not exist, while the latter interprets everything from the point of view of the Bible.

No observations of science are contrary to the Bible. For instance, no bone comes with a date attached (figure 1.1). A date of 66 million years old for a dinosaur bone is based on interpretations, which could be based on radiometric dating of the rocks containing the

bone. However, radiometric dates are based on three main radiometric dating assumptions that are difficult to apply to the past. In addition, each dating method has additional assumptions of its own.² Secular scientists always chose dating methods that give the oldest age, while ignoring many other methods that support young ages.⁴



Figure 1.1. No bones come with a date attached, like this. Rather, dating is based on interpretations.

2. Oard, M.J., *The Deep Time Deception: Examining the Case for Millions of Years*, CBP, 2019; creation.com/s/10-2-630.
3. Carter, R.W., Ed., *Evolution's Achilles Heels: 9 PhD Scientists Explain Evolution's Fatal Flaws—in Areas Claimed to be Its Greatest Strength*, 2nd Edn, CBP, 2024; creation.com/s/10-2-640.
4. Batten, D., Age of the earth: 101 evidences for a young age of the earth and the universe, creation.com/age.

Examples include the existence of soft dinosaur tissue, protein, and DNA that should have decayed within thousands of years.⁵

Secular interpretations based on uniformitarian assumptions

I want especially to emphasize that the secular interpretations of the observations from the naturalistic worldview are based on assumptions and preconceived ideas. The most basic assumption is **uniformitarianism**, where present, *uniform* processes we see today account for all that happened in the past. An example of a present process is a river flood that erodes, transports, and deposits sediment in a floodplain or delta. Since no acts of special creation or a global flood are happening now, they are ruled out **a priori** from explaining the past (cf. 2 Peter 3:3–7). Rather, we must explain everything by today's processes, which are mostly slow and gradual. At that rate, it would have taken millions of years to form **sedimentary** rocks and fossils. So, the millions of years automatically were also assumed.

Uniformitarianism is the basis behind the claims that ice sheets are very old and contrary to the biblical young earth timescale. This is the main reason why secular scientists believe the ice sheets are

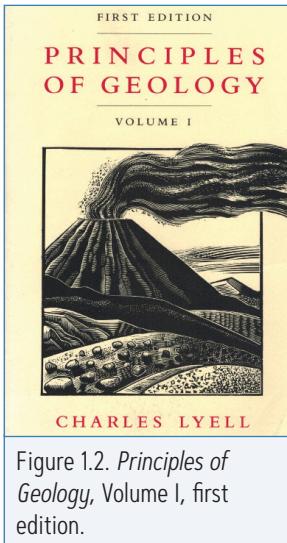


Figure 1.2. *Principles of Geology*, Volume I, first edition.

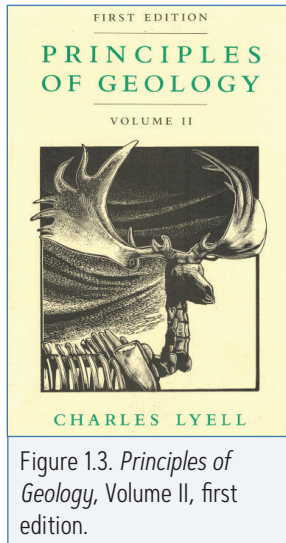


Figure 1.3. *Principles of Geology*, Volume II, first edition.

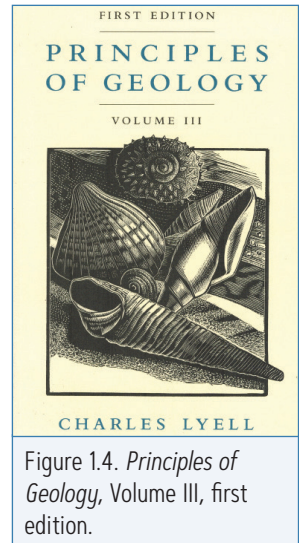


Figure 1.4. *Principles of Geology*, Volume III, first edition.

5. Anderson, K., *Echoes of the Jurassic*, CRS, 2016.

millions of years old. They have assumed millions of years, as we will see in this book.

The assumption of uniformitarianism came with the rise of the so-called **Enlightenment** beginning in the late 1700s. Uniformitarianism was first decreed by James Hutton (1726–1797) in 1795, then the lawyer Charles Lyell (1797–1875) popularized it from 1830 to 1833 (figures 1.2–1.4).⁶ It was formulated at a time when little was really known about science, especially geology.

There is a slight difference between uniformitarianism and what is called **actualism**, but I will refer to secular scientists as uniformitarian scientists. Both reject the biblical timescale and Flood.

Uniformitarianism began with little geological knowledge

When uniformitarianism became a dogmatic assumption of geology, scientists did not even know the origin of **basalt** or **granite**. The **Neptunists** argued that both were deposited from a receding primordial ocean, while the **Plutonists** believed they solidified from molten rock. Basalt commonly occurs as multiple flows, so they have a superficial appearance similar to layers of sedimentary rocks (figure 1.5). Basalt of course is an **extrusive** igneous rock—a type of lava. The leading Plutonist Hutton observed that granite had intruded into metamorphic rocks in the Scottish Highlands.



Figure 1.5. Layers of basalt flows in the walls at Palouse Falls, southeast Washington, USA.

He rightly thought that it must have come from molten rock pushed in from below, and thus must be younger than the rocks they intruded into. Neptunism claimed granite was the first rock to be precipitated, so was falsified.

With the assumption of uniformitarianism came the corollary that the earth is much older than the biblical timescale. Before the rise

6. Oard, M.J. and Carter, R.W., *Biblical Geology 101*, CBP, 2021; creation.com/s/10-2-675.

of uniformitarianism, intellectuals believed in both the biblical timescale and global Flood. These intellectuals included Bible commentators and the founders of geology such as Nicolas Steno (1638–1686) and John Woodward (1665–1728). Replacing Noah’s Flood with uniformitarianism required millions of years to explain all the sedimentary deposits of places like the Grand Canyon. This thinking gradually was accepted by the populace and scientists alike. Today the earth is generally believed to be 4.6 Ga and the universe, 13.8 Ga. This is called **deep time**. Other events were also dated to fit into the millions of years framework, such as the extinction of dinosaurs supposedly 66 million years ago.

Secular timescale contrary to the biblical timescale

Uniformitarianism tosses out Genesis 1–11, the Creation, the Fall into sin, the Genesis Flood, the supernatural origin of different language families, and the shorter timescale described by the genealogies as explanations for what we observe. This was Lyell and other’s intent from the beginning. The secular deep time scale obviously is very much older than the 6,000 years the biblical timescale gives since the beginning of creation (figure 1.6).

Since Genesis 1–11 establishes many of the doctrines of Christianity, rejecting Genesis 1–11 has produced many theological

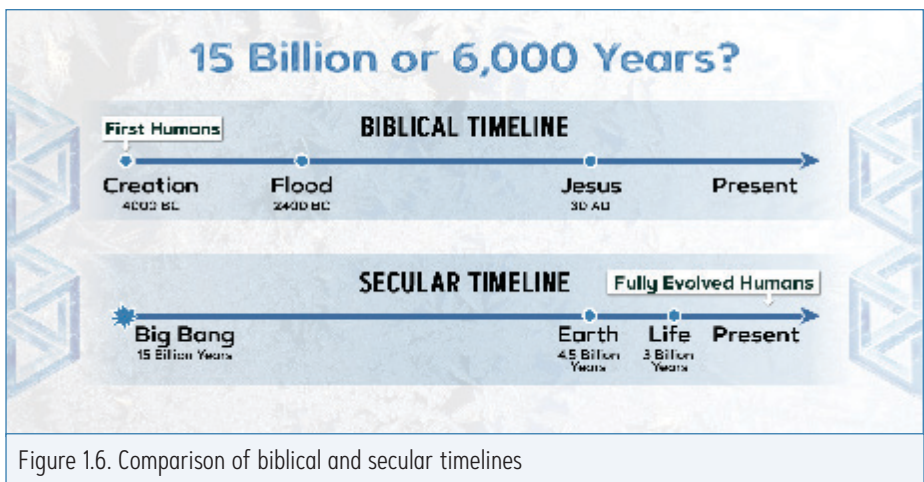


Figure 1.6. Comparison of biblical and secular timelines

‘earthquakes’ resulting in a weakening of Christianity. It is not surprising that many non-Christians believe ‘science’ has disproven the Bible. Indeed, this is a major factor as to why many of our churches are emptying out and some others end up watering-down truth. It also is a major hurdle for evangelism. A Barna survey revealed that the number-2 reason why those with no faith doubt Christianity is because of ‘science’, the number-1 reason being the claimed hypocrisy of Christians.⁷ Of course, when secularists say ‘science’ they mean uniformitarianism, deep time, and evolution that they instinctively know is contrary to the Bible.

Probably the most damage occurs when Genesis 3 is rejected. This is the fall of man into sin and how death entered the world, as Romans 5:12 states: “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” In context, this verse refers to man, but when Romans 8:19–22 is considered, what happened to man also happens to the animals. This is reinforced when Genesis 1:29–31 says man and animals at the Creation were vegetarians, which is why God proclaimed all His Creation as “very good.”

Logically, if we never fell into sin as Genesis 3 proclaims, then we do not need a Savior or need His death and resurrection. Many Christians fail to see this logical connection between denying the historicity of Genesis and destroying the very foundation of Christianity. Many atheists understand this connection. Indeed, gay atheist activist Frank Zindler (1939–) said during a debate with theistic evolutionary Christian apologist William Lane Craig (1949–):

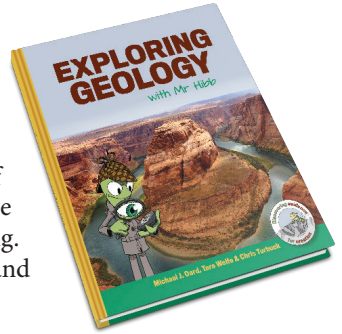
“The most devastating thing though that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there never was an Adam and Eve there never was an original sin. If there never was an original sin there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation there is no need of a savior. And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity.”⁸

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7. Barna report *Openness to Jesus isn't the problem—the Church is*, [barna.com/research/openness-to-jesus](https://www.barna.com/research/openness-to-jesus), 17 May 2023. See also [creation.com/hypocrisy](https://www.creation.com/hypocrisy).
 8. Frank Zindler, in a debate with William Craig, *Atheism vs Christianity* video, Zondervan, 1996.

Exploring Geology with Mr Hibb

Michael J. Oard, Tara Wolfe, Chris Turbuck

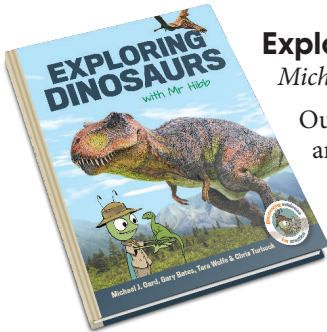
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Michael J. Oard, Tara Wolfe, Chris Turbuck, Gary Bates

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