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# CHAPTER 1

## CREATIONIST CHALLENGE

There is a mass of scientific data which supports the belief that the Creator produced many separate kinds of organisms, without recourse to evolution. In order to come to this conclusion yourself, it is important to read and understand what creationism truly involves. Creationist ideas have become much more sophisticated in recent years, and many old creationist ideas have been revised.

In this introduction, there is both good news and bad news. The good news is that creation enjoys strong support in the field of biology. The bad news is that creationists have a long way to go before they can demonstrate a good fit between all geological data and a global flood. It is to the end of lending further scientific credibility to the Genesis Flood that I offer this detailed analysis of one geological problem and its proposed solution.

### **Biology Favors Creation**

In the study of the biological sciences, an objective appraisal of the scientific data will demonstrate that the evidence favors the origin of the basic categories of organisms or "kinds," by creationism and not evolution. At the very start within the evolutionary theory, experiments and theories on the origin of life from non-life, called chemical evolution, meet insurmountable obstacles at every step (Gish, 1972; Coppedge, 1973; Wilder-Smith, 1981; Thaxton, Bradley, and Olsen, 1984; Dose, 1988; Bird, 1989, p. 293-391). This lack of support for the origin of life by evolution throws doubt on evolutionary origins theories in general, all of which depend on this crucial step in some fashion.

Once life supposedly arose by chance, it is believed by many that a progression occurred from "simple" bacteria and blue-green algae all the way to man. However, many simple fossils are still alive today. Some of the very first organisms that supposedly evolved were already very complex. For example, the compound eyes of the trilobite are probably more complex than the eyes of man. The facts suggest that there are *distinct kinds* of organisms with a small variability within each kind. The kinds are separated from each other by large *gaps* (Gould, 1980, p. 179-185; Sunderland, 1984; Gish, 1985; Denton, 1986). The transitional fossils that should be in the rocks, based on the supposed mechanisms of

macroevolution (the origin of new distinct kinds of organisms) are missing. This is the famous evolutionary problem of "missing links" or the universal "gaps" in the fossil record. The fossil gaps are no different from the gaps between kinds observed in the modern organic world. The gaps verify Genesis 1 and support the belief that macroevolution never occurred. Macroevolution is not supported by the fossils.

Evolutionists have made claims for several transitional fossils (out of the billions that should have existed). *Archaeopteryx* is considered their best example (Carroll, 1988, p. 338) - a "Mr. Missing Link." However, ornithologists have made a case that *Archaeopteryx* is no feathered dinosaur, but is an extinct bird that lived in the trees (Feduccia, 1993; Morell, 1993).

Some evolutionists have thought that if they could simply find the missing link between man and ape-like creatures, they would prove evolution. Over a century of effort has resulted in many mistaken interpretations and a few outright frauds (Zuckerman, 1971; Fix, 1984; Lubenow, 1992). The most famous "missing link," *Australopithecus*, can be shown by computer analysis to be a unique, extinct ape and not a hypothetical link (Oxnard, 1975).

Another challenge to evolution that favors creation is the bewildering complexity of the biosphere as revealed by modern biology. Even one cell in our bodies is more complex than all the non-organic features of New York City. Modern science has shown that no organism is simple, but that even the smallest ones are exceedingly complex. The naturalistic origin of such complexity brings up many quandaries, as even secular scientists have conceded (Kerkut, 1960; Grassé, 1977; Denton, 1986). There is a philosophical principle of science affirming that a cause must be greater than its effect. All watches are made by watchmakers (Paley, 1803). Supreme intelligence is evidenced by the design in nature (Romans 1:20).

The proposed mechanism for evolution (random mutations and natural selection) is powerless to create the marvelous complexities of nature (Johnson, 1991). Modern genetics does not reveal any mutation that leads toward a higher level of complexity in a natural environment (Morris, 1974, p. 54-58). Mutations are random and are mostly lethal or harmful.

## Ancient Ice Ages or Gigantic Submarine Landslides?

Table 1.1. Biological evidence against the theory of evolution and in favor of creation.

<u>Evolutionary Hypothesis</u>	<u>Evidence for Creation</u>	<u>References</u>
1) Origin of life	Seems impossible from non-life	Gish (1971); Coopedge (1973); Wilder-Smith(1981); Thaxton, Bradley, and Olsen (1984); Dose (1988); Bird (1989)
2) Fossil record	Universal gaps as predicted from Genesis 1	Zuckerman (1971); Oxnard (1975); Gould (1980); Sunderland (1984); Gish (1985); Denton (1986); Feduccia (1993); Fix (1984); Lubenow (1992)
3) Biological life	Exceedingly complex	Paley (1803); Denton (1986)
4) Mutations	Rare, practically all harmful or neutral	Morris (1974); Johnson (1991)
5) Natural selection	Preserves the kinds and tautology	Peters (1976,1978); Johnson (1991)
6) The biological "proofs"	False, exaggerated, and riddled with contradictions	Davidheiser (1969); Macbeth (1971); Bergman and Howe (1990); Denton (1986)

Natural selection is considered to be a tautology by some scientists (Peters, 1976,1978; Johnson, 1991, p. 20-23). There are examples of natural selection, such as the peppered moth or Darwin's finches, but the overwhelming action of such selection is to preserve each kind of organism physically fit. In fact, the example of the peppered moth shows natural selection to be a conservative process, not an innovative process. Thus any natural selection which can be observed fits clearly within the creationist view and it does not yield new kinds of organisms.

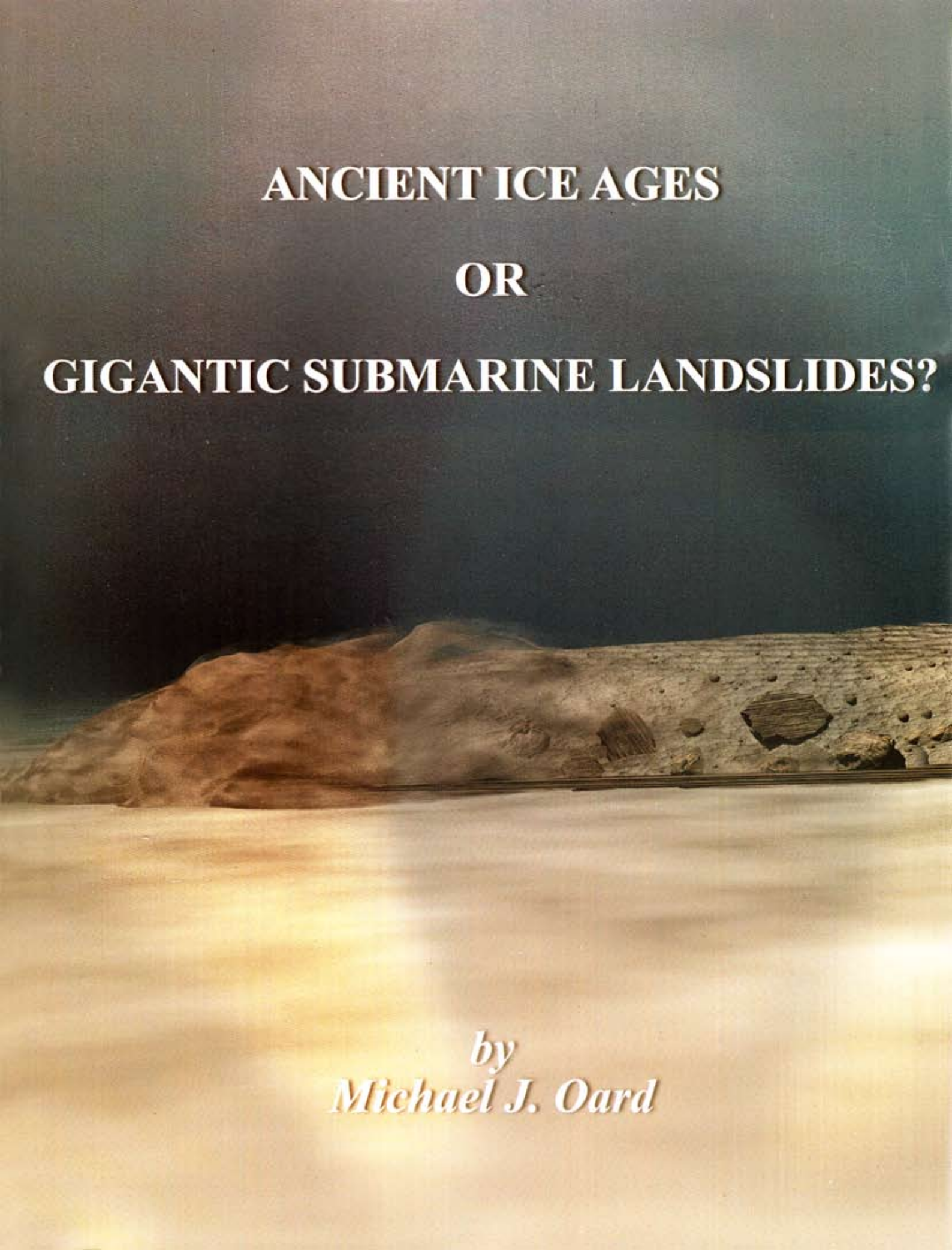
Some of the classical biological "proofs" of evolution from Darwin's day have been shown to be false, such as the "proof" that embryology recapitulates phylogeny and that the so-called vestigial organs are remnants from previous ancestral stages (Bergman and Howe, 1990). Other "proofs" of major changes in the domain of animal breeding are greatly exaggerated (Macbeth, 1971). Arguments for macroevolution from comparative anatomy, physiology, and molecular biology, are circumstantial at best and are riddled with contradictions (Davidheiser, 1969; Denton, 1986). Looking back at Darwin's book *Origin of Species*, which started it all, reveals a series of arguments that are more rhetorical, as Himmelfarb (1962) has noted.

In Table 1.1, I have summarized the significant biological evidence favoring creation and opposing macroevolution. Some data of biology favor small changes (microevolution), but the big picture of modern biology emphatically concludes that macroevolution did not occur (Davis and Kenyon, 1993).

### The Challenge of Historical Geology

The main hope for the theory of evolution lies in the field of historical geology. The geological column with its purported transformation from structurally simple to complex fossils and bolstered by radiometric dating appears to present a formidable challenge to creationists. Although gaps are universal among the fossils, evolutionists can point to the supposed change with time of the fossils as proof of evolution. Geological processes and events such as the formation of coal, oil, "evaporites," large-scale limestone formations, "paleosols," extant ice sheets, and ice ages are considered conclusive evidence against the creationist short time scale. As a result, many Christians have come to believe that these and other such geological processes demand long periods of time, and some have capitulated to the theory of evolution and uniformitarian geology. Thus, many Christians support some form of God-controlled evolution over long periods of time. Genesis and other parts of the Bible have been compromised. Why should geology apparently support a scenario of evolution over vast ages when evidence for design in biology fits with a rapid creation or separate kinds? There are many possible reasons for this perplexing difference.

First, many biological arguments for evolution are largely testable or falsifiable. Many geological arguments are not. This is particularly true of historical geology, which encompasses geological phenomena solely in the unobservable past. Testability and falsifiability are distinguishing characteristics of scientific hypotheses (Copi, 1982, p. 471; Moreland, 1989). Therefore, while biological evidence against macroevolution may be

The background of the cover is a photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, there is a wide, sandy beach with a warm, golden-brown hue. The middle ground shows a rugged, rocky shoreline with several large, dark, angular rock formations protruding from the water's edge. The sky above is a deep, dark blue, suggesting a twilight or night setting. The overall composition is horizontal, with the beach and rocks occupying the lower half and the sky the upper half.

**ANCIENT ICE AGES  
OR  
GIGANTIC SUBMARINE LANDSLIDES?**

*by  
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