

Review: Derek Ager, *The New Catastrophism: The Importance of the Rare Event in Geological History*, CUP, UK, 1993

Pages: 231

A Catastrophic Atheist Apologist

A rabid anti-Christian, this hostile witness manages to provide great evidence for Biblical geology, which plainly is catastrophism.

After a robust preface denying anything he will say should be taken as incriminating evidence against the fantasy of millions of years of deep time and biological evolution, he proceeds to lay out said evidence.

Vertically stratified trees, folded mountains, flood-cut canyons, and fast-forming coal beds are all documented, yet no secular answers are given (since there are none).

On biological evolution, there is nothing but Ager's faith, starting with a false dichotomy that it's either Darwinism or multiple special creations. He also incredibly states that stasis (i.e., that the 'missing links' are all still missing!) is actually evidence *for* evolution. In his warped mind, absence of evidence is evidence of Evolution's presence.

His quotation from Sir Edward Bailey (Geological Society of London, 1953) is apt; "To see a thing you have to believe it to be possible," and since Ager is blind to the Bible's history of what he sees in the rocks, he refused to believe it.

Preface (pp. xi-xii)

Geologists rewrite earth history.

"For a century and a half the geological world has been dominated, one might even say brain-washed, by the gradualistic uniformitarianism of Charles Lyell ...I wish to say that nothing in this book should be ...

thought in any way to support ... ‘creationists’ (who I refuse to call ‘scientific’ ”.” [pxi]

Introduction (pp. xv-xx)

“The unimaginable flood of water sweeping across the ‘barren scablands’ of the north-west United States, cutting canyons scores of metres deeps in hard basalt.” [pxviii]

“I do not think the bible-oriented fundamentalists are worth honouring with an answer to their nonsense.” [pxix]

The *New Catastrophism* is ... periodic events causing local disasters.

I) A Much Misunderstood Man (pp. 1-5)

Cuvier was the father of vertebrate paleontology.

II) Magnolias and Marigolds; Hippos and Hiatuses (pp. 6-17)

“Since living ‘serpents’ have rudimentary legs ... Genesis ... indicates an early recognition of evolution.” [p9]

‘Cave people’ were so because that was where their remains were found, not because they all lived in caves.

“History is what you can remember.”

The Grand Canyon lacks the Pennsylvanian, Ordovician and Silurian systems.

‘Golden-spikes’ define bases of overlying units.

III) Modern Terrestrial Deposits (pp. 18-40)

Harlen Bretz’s 1923 theory was a great *flood* of water had suddenly swept over Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to cut deep gorges (“coulees”), including Grand Coulee at 900 ft deep. Waters travelled across the N-W at 45mph, from their source of the ice-dammed lake at Missoula in Montana (1,100 ft deep).

Rivers and levées are ephemeral phenomena.

IV) Ancient Terrestrial Deposits (pp. 41-64)

Devonian continental deposits extend from the British Isles via Czechoslovakia to the former Soviet Union.

“Coal seams, like so many other things in earth history, were formed in very brief moments, geologically speaking, even the thickest of them.” [p47]

“Obviously, sedimentation had to be very rapid to bury a tree in a standing position before it rotted and fell down ... Standing trees are known at many levels and in many parts of the world ... where were evidently buried by a sudden rush of sediment.” [p49]

V) Modern Shorelines (pp. 65-78)

VI) Ancient Shorelines (pp. 79-92)

VII) Ancient Platform Deposits (pp. 93-102)

VIII) Off-Shore Deposits, Ancient and Modern (pp. 103-114)

Rushes of turbid water settles into graded beds (sand/clay fych”).

IX) Sudden Storms Are Short (pp. 115-127)

Sir Edward Bailey (Geological Society of London, 1953), “To see a thing you have to believe it to be possible.”

“It was certainly an earthquake and not the Israelite’s trumpets that caused the fall of the walls of Jericho.” [p125]

X) Evolution by Accident (pp. 128-152)

“If we do not accept evolution, then the fossil record shows ... we would have to accept many creations.” [p130]

“ ‘Stasis is data’ ... Nothing happening in a fossil lineage is just as important as something happening.” [p131]

“Evolution ... [is] shown to have resulted from accidents of three kinds: geographical, ecological, and opportunistic.” [p136]

XI) Periodic Plutonism (pp. 153-163)

XII) It's the Only Present We've Got! (pp. 164-174)

XIII) Jupiter or Pluto? (pp. 175-198)

Ir can come from volcanoes and meteorites.