

GRAND CANYON: MONUMENT TO AN ANCIENT EARTH

Can Noah's Flood Explain the Grand Canyon?

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Alcaron Terrace and the Great Bend. *Photo by David Edwards, Dave Edwards Photography*

Frontispiece to our book

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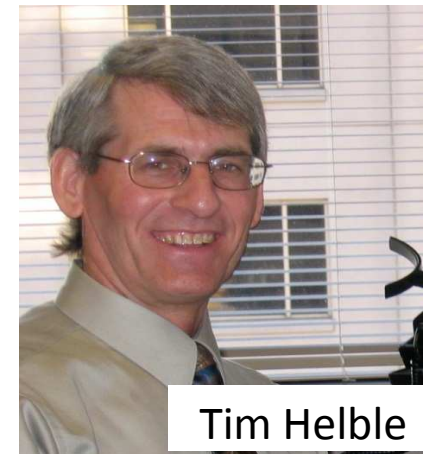
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NEED FOR BOOK

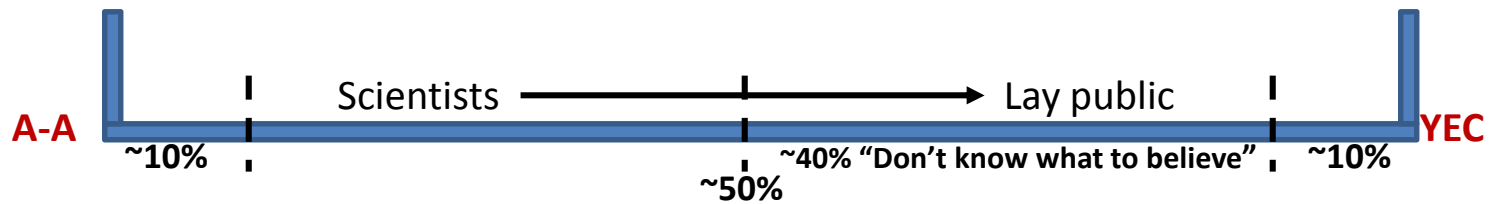
- What has been, and is being, done to make the religious public more scientifically literate is NOT WORKING! There now exists a climate of “anti-science populism.”
- The \$1.02 million “Ark Encounter” built at the *Answers in Genesis* Creation Museum in Kentucky is symptomatic of YEC’s popularity.
- The YEC group, *Canyon Ministries*, has been leading Grand Canyon river trips and hikes into the canyon for years.
 - Now they have 2 “prayer” vans escorting the public along the South Rim in order to promote their view that almost all GC sedimentary rocks formed in the one-year of Noah’s flood. This business is supposedly doubling every 2-3 yrs.
 - They are also placing their brochures in many Flagstaff motels advertising their van excursions.
 - They are hoping to someday build a Creationism museum in Tusayan, gateway to the South Rim for over 5 million visitors a year.
 - They are still selling their book *A Different View* at places like the IMAX theatre in Tusayan.



Photo of book author Tim Helble holding OUR book in front of a Canyon Ministries “prayer” van, Memorial Day, 2016. Photo by Tina Helble.

THEY HAVEN'T GONE AWAY; they are GETTING STRONGER, and no longer should be ignored!!!
Their presence is evident in politics and public policy on important issues such as global warming!

THE INTENDED AUDIENCE



YEC = Young Earth Creationists. Our book was NOT written for die-hard YECs, who have the attitude: “Don’t bother me with the facts, my mind is made up.”

LAY PUBLIC. The book WAS written for the lay person, both Christian and non-Christian, who “don’t know what to believe” after being inundated by Young Earth Creationism for so many years. One important target audience is college students when they are learning basic science principles.

SCIENTISTS. The book WAS written for scientists, both Christian and non-Christian, because they are the primary group who can educate the public + their own families and friends. Professors of geology are especially important in this regard.

A-A = ATHEISTS-AGNOSTICS. The book was NOT intended to polarize the public into non-religious and religious camps, but to reach the “middle ground.”

“Extreme conditions representing antagonistic perspectives on either end of the spectrum are often the ones that get the attention, but most people live somewhere in the middle.”

**Francis Collins, Geneticist, Genome Project;
Director of the National Institutes of Health**

- **RATIONALE FOR SUBTITLE: “Can Noah’s Flood Explain the Grand Canyon?” BOOK’S MAIN TARGET: the 40%**

PURPOSE OF BOOK

To explain to lay persons in simple terms they can understand, why Noah's flood – as portrayed by flood geology – cannot explain the Grand Canyon or any other geologic landscape on planet Earth.

- To teach the basic principles of geology to lay persons by drawing them into the Grand Canyon using the most beautiful photos possible.
- To teach why flood geology is NOT science.
- To use our book as a beginning geology textbook in secular & Christian colleges and universities in order to educate non-science students as to how mainstream geology differs from flood geology.
- To use our book in seminary workshops to equip pastoral students to deal with their future congregations in the matter of science.
- To use our book as a training aide to geologists and others who want to know exactly what Young Earth Creationists/flood geologists are claiming, so as to be able to knowledgeably challenge their claims.

PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND REACHING THE RELIGIOUS PUBLIC

- The tendency of all humans is to filter facts to support their pre-existing belief system.
- The way people process information is heavily determined by their deep-seated values and cultural identities, so we look to people we trust in our in-groups to help us make judgments. (This can also be referred to as a “tribal mentality” where we hold the same beliefs as others of our “tribe” – this is true for scientists as well as anyone else).
- Usually it is not an aversion to science that motivates people to tout unscientific ideas, but rather some underlying religious, cultural, social, or personal issues.
- **We have a number of papers to come that will be discussing some of these psychological issues.**

HOW NOT TO APPROACH THE RELIGIOUS PUBLIC:

- “We must defend science from creationist assaults.” The truth will, in the end, take care of itself.

HOW TO APPROACH THE RELIGIOUS PUBLIC:

- Listen with respect to what they have to say. Human judgments aren’t based on reason, but on emotion, and emotional outbursts generate more heat than light.
- Do not “lecture.” Speak in a voice that is trusted and likeable.
- Don’t come across as superior and haughty. Stay at *their* level of understanding; if you don’t, it makes no difference how much evidence you have – it will all go over their heads.
- Be kind, gentle, patient, and non-confrontational. Yet, don’t back down on the truth.

Some of these points came from “A User’s Guide to Rational Thinking” by Christie Aschwanden, *Discover Magazine*, v. 36, no. 6, 2015.

WHY WE THINK OUR GRAND CANYON BOOK WILL BE EFFECTIVE

- Because it is unique. We don't know of another book like ours that confronts flood geology head-on.
- Because we have prominent theologians behind it, as well as geologists and other scientists. The church *must* be involved at some level to avoid a "them against us" attitude (which now exists).
- Because we are going to seminaries with this book. If future pastors are not taught something about geology, the YEC deception will go on and on. Future pastors need to be able to discuss science-scripture issues with their congregations and recommend materials that are scientifically correct.
- Because we hope to set up a program where geology professors (you?) teach basic geology to non-geology students using our book as a text or supplementary text. Students coming into most American colleges and universities have almost NO knowledge of geology and what distinguishes *science* from *pseudoscience*. This distinction is what every university & college in the country should be teaching every student that passes through their doors. *And, one of the prime directives of our book is to teach this difference!*

ENDORSEMENTS



THEOLOGIANS

"I find this work by well-qualified, faith-filled scientists convincing – a book desperately needed in a day when critics consider the Scriptures and science to be in serious conflict and various well-meaning Christians fail to fully account for the available geological evidence."

— PAUL COPAN, PLEDGER FAMILY CHAIR
OF PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS,
PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

"Here is a resource that not only demonstrates the superiority of an ancient-earth interpretation of the Grand Canyon but also testifies of God's grandeur and providence. This is a necessary textbook for any class on Creation."

— KENNETH KEATHLEY, PROFESSOR OF
THEOLOGY, SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"The various authors of this book have done us all a tremendous service in their patient and clear exposition of geological thinking about the Grand Canyon (a magnificent place in its own right!)... These are God's processes after all! I urge everyone to read this, believer or not – you will enjoy it."

— C. JOHN COLLINS, PROFESSOR OF OLD
TESTAMENT, COVENANT THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

"Can Bible-believing Christians also believe that the earth is billions of years old and that the Grand Canyon could not have been formed by Noah's Flood?... On page after page, professional geologists explain that "flood geology"... fails to explain massive amounts of evidence in the Grand Canyon itself."

— WAYNE GRUDEM, RESEARCH PROFESSOR
OF THEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES,
PHOENIX SEMINARY

GEOLOGISTS

"The Grand Canyon, Monument to an Ancient Earth allows this marvelous landform to tell its own story, walking the reader through an illustrated guide to the geologic trail exposed in the canyon walls. A must read for anyone interested in the direct testimony of Creation itself on the history of our world."

— DAVID R. MONTGOMERY, AUTHOR OF *THE ROCKS
DON'T LIE: A GEOLOGIST INVESTIGATES NOAH'S FLOOD*

"[T]he authors, most of whom are Christians, have systematically contrasted the claims of so-called 'flood geologists' with the actual details of Grand Canyon geology. In doing so, they have utterly demolished the flood hypothesis with an avalanche of geologic evidence sufficient to fill a canyon."

— DAVIS A. YOUNG, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF
GEOLOGY, CALVIN COLLEGE

"The authors carefully, professionally, and convincingly show that flood geology is simply not science. They pose the question, 'Does it really matter?', and end with what we unquestionably should all agree with, 'Truth always matters!'"

— JOHN W. GEISSMAN, PAST PRESIDENT,
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

"The Grand Canyon ... is terrific. It is a comprehensive primer on geology as we know and practice it... Everyone on Earth should be aware of what this book contains as a science text, as well as a rationale for employing scientific methods to a basic understanding of anything natural."

— JOHN WARME, PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

(Complete endorsements are on pages 236-239 for Collins, Copan, Geissman, Grudem, Warne, and Young.)

"The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him." PROVERBS 18:17

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: TEACH A CLASS

Teach a *Basics of Geology* class for non-science majors, using our book as a text or supplementary text. (None of the authors get royalties!). Keep the geology very basic: include lots of questions and discussion!

Gear your class to a lay-public, freshman-level audience; i.e., to people who have very little knowledge of geology. (Not hard to do since very few high school students take geology). We purposely wrote our book with a basic-geology curriculum in mind. Perhaps teach it as a 2-credit-hour, elective, summer course, to partially fulfill a science requirement of your college or university? Retired professors welcome!

Emphasize the difference between science vs. pseudoscience. The public needs to be taught not to be so gullible to people who claim they are practicing real science, but who instead are promoting pseudoscience (like “Creation Science”).

The purpose of teaching basic geology to non-science majors is to go “grassroots.” That is what the Young Earth Creationists have done for the last 40 years & it works!

If you think you may be interested, we have some “teaching” pamphlets that are available during the break or after the session.

I would like to end this talk with a quote from a review our book received on Amazon.com:

Lavishly illustrated, clearly written, wide-ranging, easy to read

By Jeremy Robb on July 9, 2016

“Growing up as a young earth creationist (“YEC”), I thought Noah’s flood carved the Grand Canyon just a few thousand years ago. As a result I had little interest in visiting the Canyon because I thought the Bible required me to deny the preponderance of research into the Canyon. I feel liberated from that view now and would enjoy seeing and savoring the Canyon first-hand.

In my early 30s I began to understand that maybe I was wrong and the earth actually is very old...this book beautifully, graciously, and thoroughly confirmed that in my mind. This book offers grace, tact, and kindness toward people trapped in the “young earth” idea marketed by Answers in Genesis. I am so very grateful to the authors for writing this book – for sharing their love of the Grand Canyon and helping me understand that I can appreciate and study its wonders too... without denying the Bible.

As the authors powerfully conclude at the end: “Does it matter? It certainly does! Truth ALWAYS matters.”

**THIS IS WHY WE WROTE THE BOOK: for people like Jeremy in the 40% category.
We hope that our book will make a difference to many more people!**