

# **Why I am a Creationist**

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# **Were the Days of Creation Real 24-hour days?**

- Each day is designated by ordinal numbers (“day one,” “day two” etc.)
- Each day is set off by expression “evening and morning”
- References in Ex 20:11 and 31:17 support the literal day understanding within the context of summarizing the creation week as a period of 6 days

# Problems with non-literal days

- Figurative, non-literal meaning of the creation days are found wanting on the basis of genre investigation, literary considerations, grammatical study, syntactical usages, and semantic connections.

# Factors in favor of 6 literal days

- “The combinations of the factors of articular usage, singular gender, semantic-syntactical constructions, time boundaries, and so on corroborated by the divine promulgations . . . in Exodus 20:8-11 and Exodus 31:12-17, suggest uniquely and consistently that the creation “day” is meant to be literal, sequential, and chronological in nature.”



## Ellen White's views on 6 days (SG III:90)

- “I was then carried back to the creation and *was shown* (emphasis added) that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week. The great God in His days of creation and day of rest, measured off the first cycle as a sample for successive weeks till the close of time . . . God gives us the productions of His work at the close of *each literal day*.”

# Doesn't Genesis 1 and 2 contradict each other

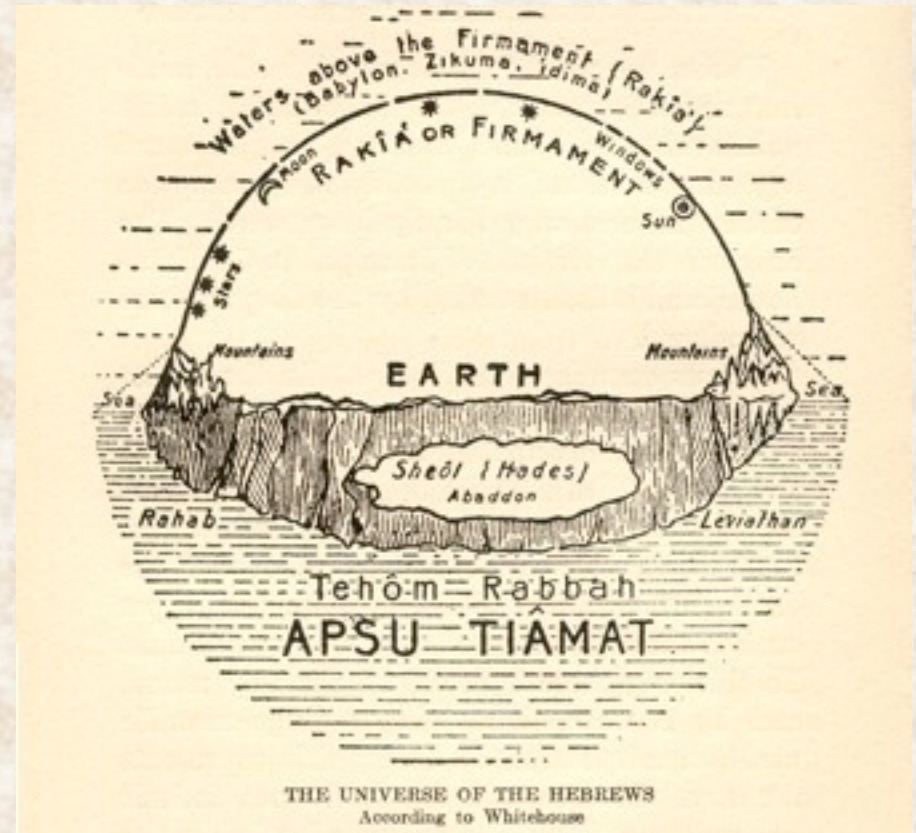
- Genesis 1 appears to describe a complete creation but Genesis 2:5 says that after creation there were four things God had not yet made—shrubs of the field, plants of the field, man to till the earth and rain
- Is there two contradictory creation stories?

# No Contradiction

- The Hebrew words for plants in Genesis 2 are completely different than in Genesis 1—they are plants that come about as the result of sin—the man to till—is also the result of sin—they have to now work for their food—and rain is a judgment that comes at the Flood

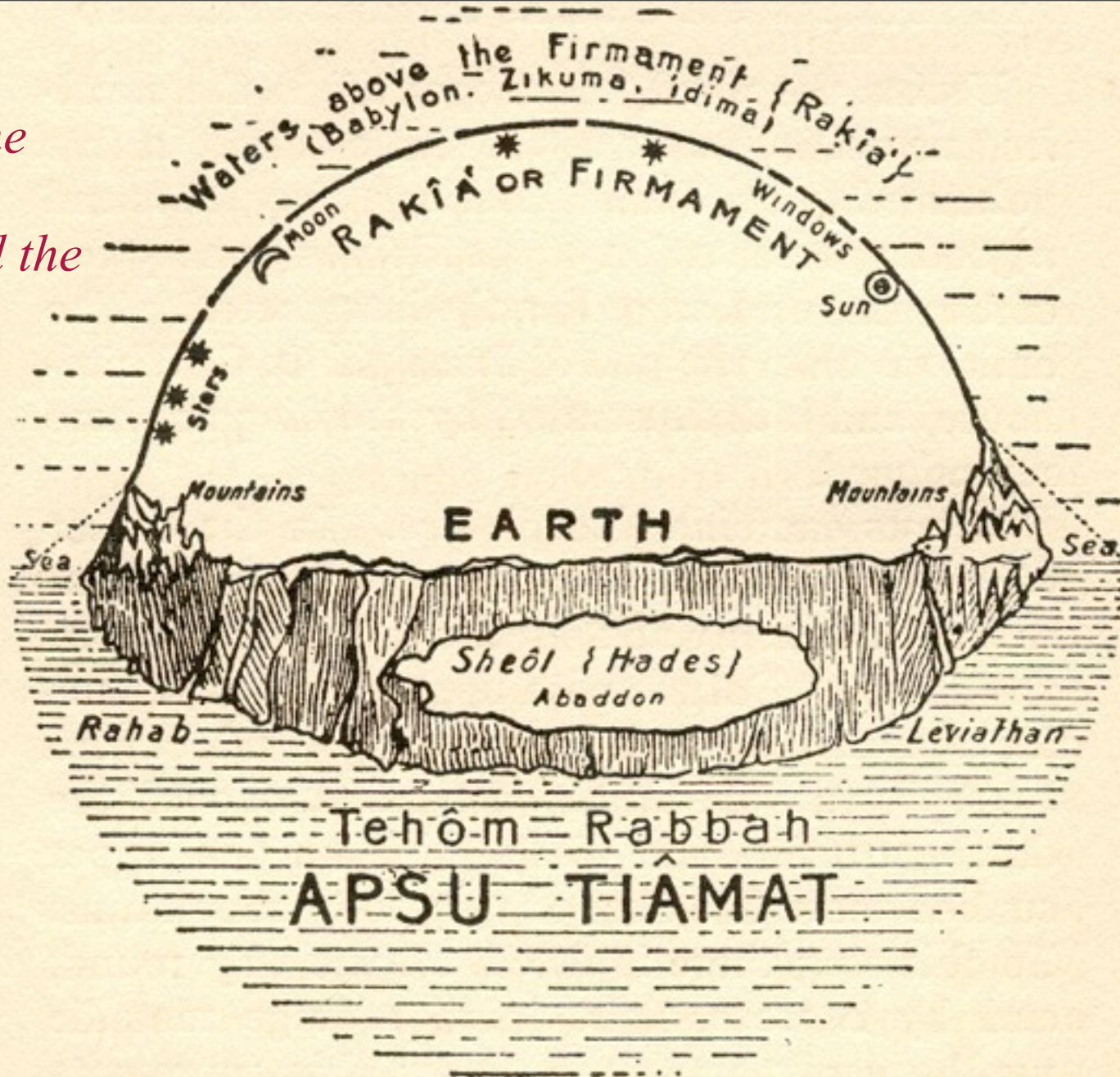
# Naïve Hebrew Ideas

- Didn't the Hebrews have naïve ideas about the universe—that the heavens were an upside down metal bowl; there were four corners to the earth etc





Owen Charles  
Whitehouse--*The  
Cuneiform  
Inscriptions and the  
Old Testament*



THE UNIVERSE OF THE HEBREWS  
According to Whitehouse

- In 1975, Assyriologist W.G. Lambert investigated the idea that the ancient Mesopotamians believed that the sky or heavens was a metal dome

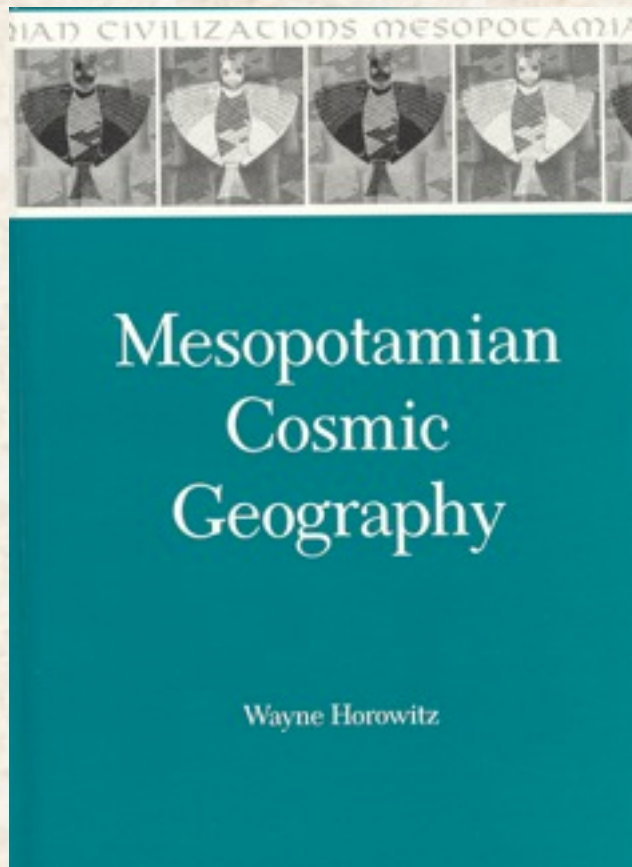
# W.G. Lambert

In conclusion, it may be well to indicate the lack of sound evidence for two ideas commonly attributed to the Babylonians and their forerunners. First, the allegation that the Babylonian universe was conceived as a kind of ziggurat going up to a peak, and secondly the idea that the sky was thought to be in the shape of a dome. The only surviving Babylonian world

## Lambert (1975: 61-62) on Jensen

The idea of a vault of heaven is not based on any piece of evidence. P. Jensen, whose *Die Kosmologie der Babylonier* of 1890 was for its time an excellent work, simply translated the Babylonian word for 'heaven' in Enūma Eliš IV 145 by 'vault of heaven' (p. 288–9) and thereafter assumes that the point is proved. Further support has also been sought in the word

# Horowitz' study



- Ancient Mesopotamians actually believed in at least *three flat heavens* and *three flat earths* that were parallel to each other, separated by space, but held together by *cables*

# Six Levels of Mesopotamian cosmos

*A View of The Mesopotamian Universe*

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Heaven of Anu

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Middle Heavens

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Sky

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Earth's Surface

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Apsu

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Underworld

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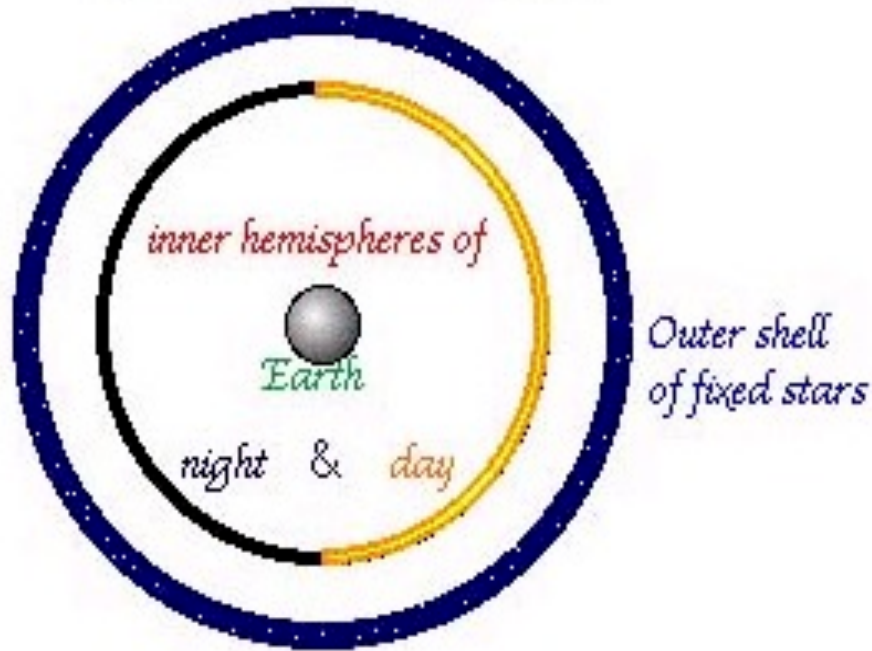
# How did the idea of a solid Heaven get into the Septuagint?

- The Greek translation of *raqia* is *stereōma* in Genesis 1:6—that went into the Latin firmament—where did they get that idea?

# Empedocles of Acragas

## 495-435 BC

*Empedocles' double sphere system: Day and Night*

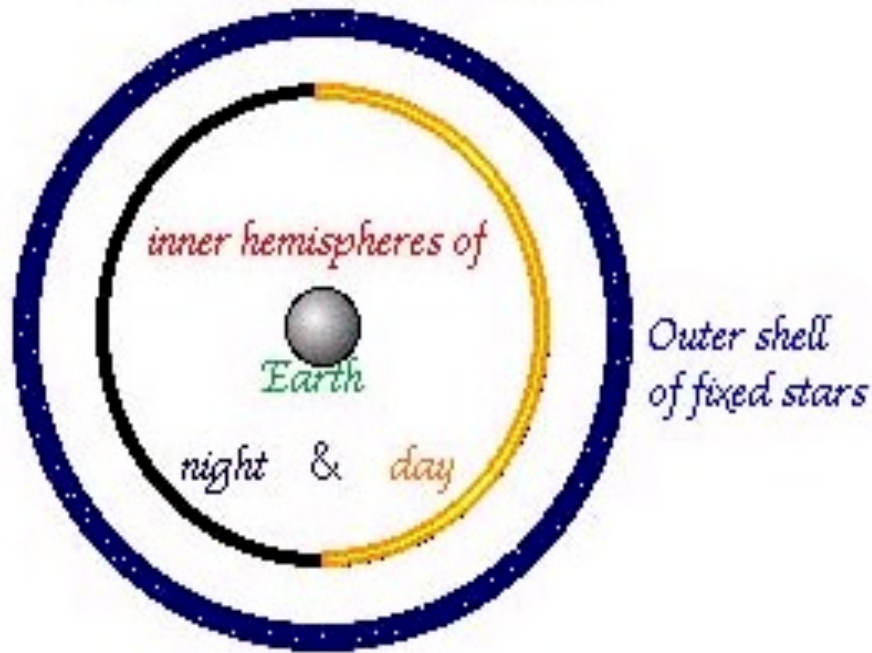


- Empedocles proposes an *outer, hard universal sphere* upon which the stars are fixed, and an inner sphere of double hemispheres, one of lighter fire for day, one of darker for night.



# Hard Spheres were common in Alexandrian theories

*Empedocles' double sphere system: Day and Night*



- Thus, at the time the Septuagint was translated from the Hebrew, *the idea of a solid sphere was common in Alexandria and made its way into the Greek NT and Latin Vulgate*—but it is not a Hebrew concept

# Conclusion: Hebrew Raqia= metal dome?

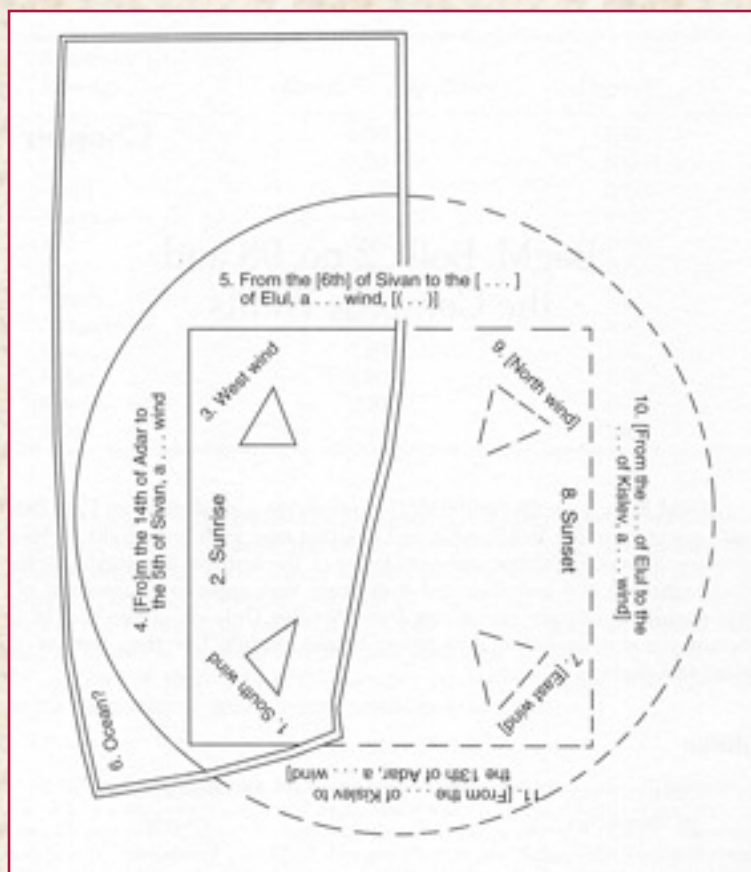
- In view of the mistranslation of the ancient Mesopotamian word for heavens and dome and the influence on the LXX translators of “metal spheres” in the heavens, there is **no reason** to believe that the ancient Hebrews thought the heavens were literally made of an upside down metal bowl
- The linguistic range of *raqia* as used in Scripture which includes its being equated with tent material and its ability to be stretched, preclude a dogmatic assertion that *raqia* was conceived as metal

# Critics switch genres

- Critics tend to switch genres in the Bible—passages that refer to God's creation in literary books such as the Wisdom literature are taken literally—the earth has four corners, while historic passages such as Genesis 1 which describe the creation in 6 days are taken non-literally—reverse of the ancient author's intentions!

# Tablet *BagM. Beih 2 no. 98*

## “Four Corners of the Earth”



- The idea that the ancient Hebrews and Mesopotamians believed in a simplistic four-cornered earth has been disproven by the discovery of a Mesopotamian tablet that shows that the four “corners” actually refers to the four cardinal directions *within the circle* of the earth

# Four Corners of Earth?

- Moreover, in Isa 11:12 and Eze 7:2 the two key Hebrew phrases are *arbah, kanephot*—literally “four wings.” It would be a mistake to assume that four literal 90-degree angled corners are intended. When the ancient Hebrews intended to describe an object with literal 90 degree angled corners such as the corner of a house, the corner of a street or the four corners of an altar, the common word that was employed was *pinnah* (“corner”).

# Conclusion

- The misconceptions that many modern scholars have about the idea that the ancient Mesopotamians and Hebrews believed in a sky that was an metal dome or that the earth had four literal corners suggest that more careful work needs to be done in order to determine how people in the ancient Near East actually thought their cosmos was constructed.

# Edward Hitchcock

(1793-1864)

As early as 1840 Dr. Edward Hitchcock—a theologian and geologist (and President of Amherst College, Mass. )—clearly saw the implications of the new science of geology for theology and addressed these in his book, *Elementary Geology*



# *Elementary Geology*

(Edward Hitchcock 1840: 273)



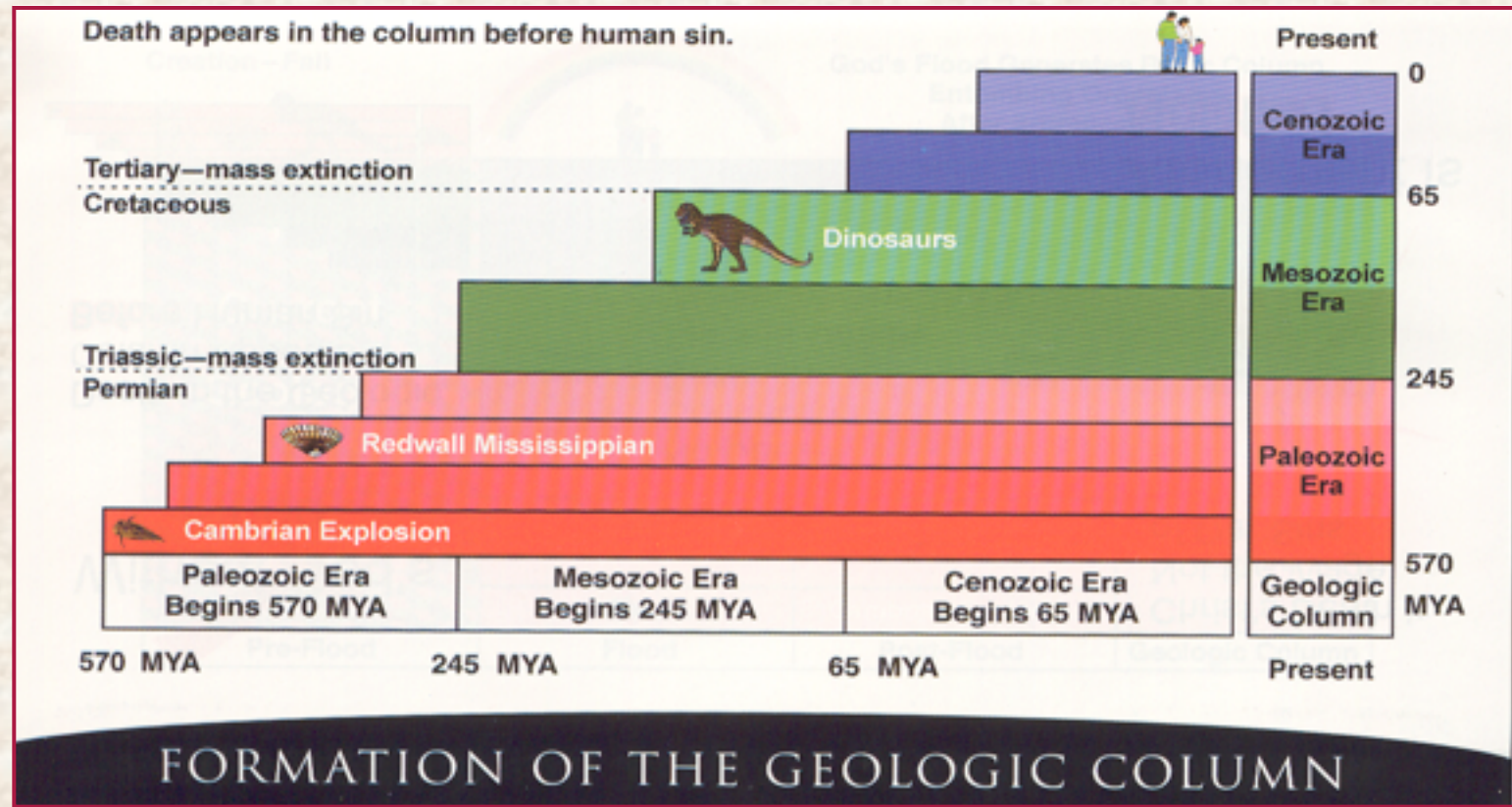
- “The general interpretation of the Bible has been, that until the Fall of man, **death** did *not* exist in the world even among the inferior animals. For the bible asserts that by man came death (1 Cor 15:21) and by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin (Rom 5:12). But geology teaches us that myriads of animals lived and died *before* the creation of man.”



# **Geologic Column seems to represent ancient death**



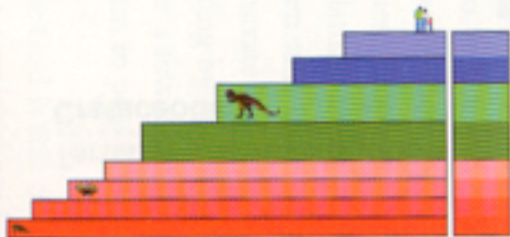
# Evolutionary view of Geologic Column requires Death Before Sin



# Post-modern Evolutionary View

~~Without God's  
Flood~~

Death in the Geologic  
Column Appears  
**Before** Human Sin



=

No Causal  
Connection  
Between  
Sin and Death—  
Wages of Sin  
Is Not Death

=

Christ's Death Is  
Not the Wage  
of Our Sins



Atonement Is  
**Nullified**

**How do Conservative Creationists  
explain the Geologic Column?**



-&"/ *mabbul*

# Uniqueness of *Mabbul*

- The word selected by the Hebrew writer for Flood in the Genesis Flood account is -&"/ *mabbul*.
- There are other floods in the Bible, but *mabbul* is reserved exclusively for Noah's Flood.
- It occurs only in Gen. 6-9 and Ps 29:10 in reference to Noah's Flood

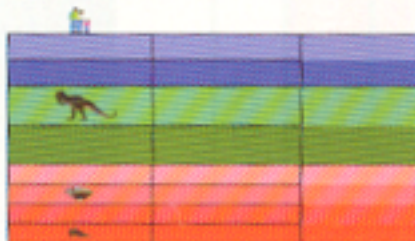
# Intended to be Global

- Most OT and Hebrew scholars agree that the author of Genesis intended to describe a literal 6 day creation and a global flood—that latter being essential an undoing of the creation
- If this event really happened, it would provide an answer for the geologic column

# Great Controversy Worldview Creation/Flood/Salvation



Dead Forms Entombed  
in the Geologic Column  
**After** Human Sin



=

Causal  
Connection  
Between  
Sin and Death  
Is Real

=

Christ's Death Is  
the Wage  
of Our Sins

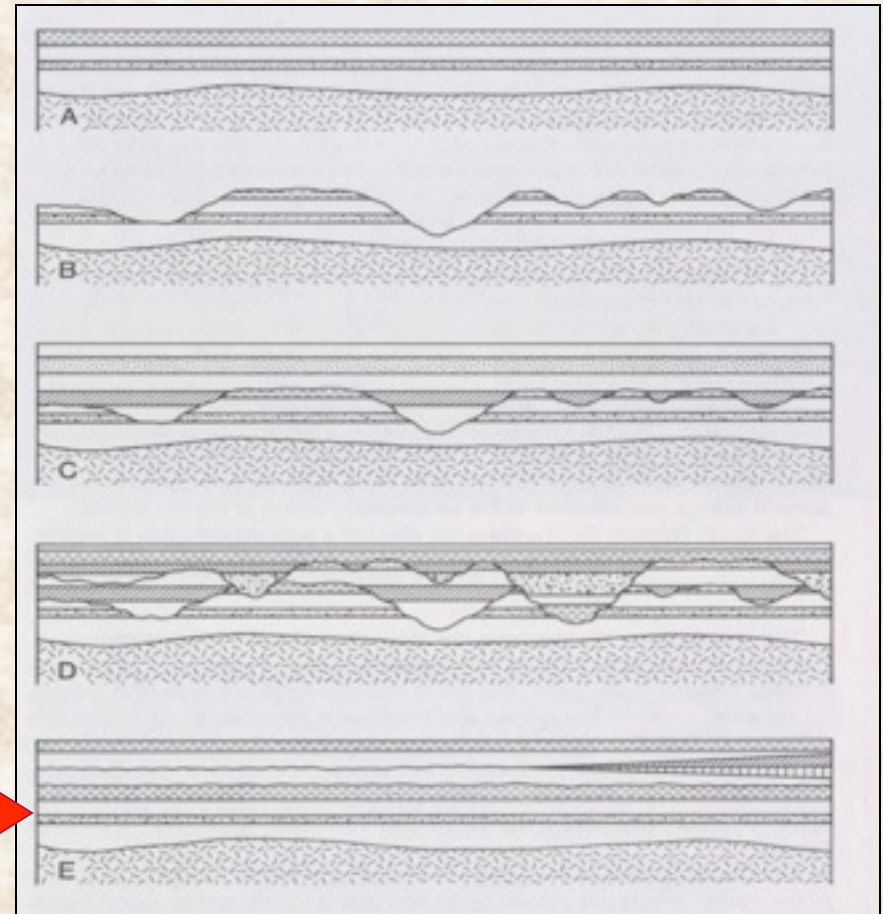


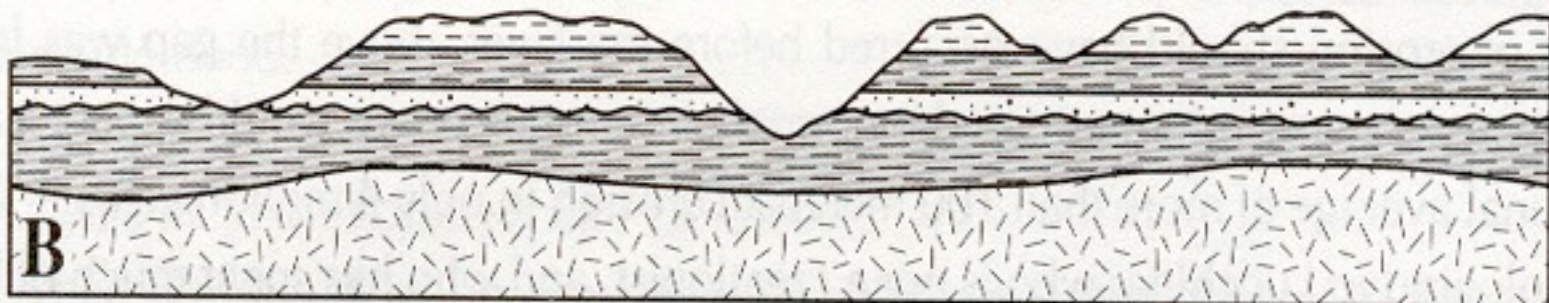
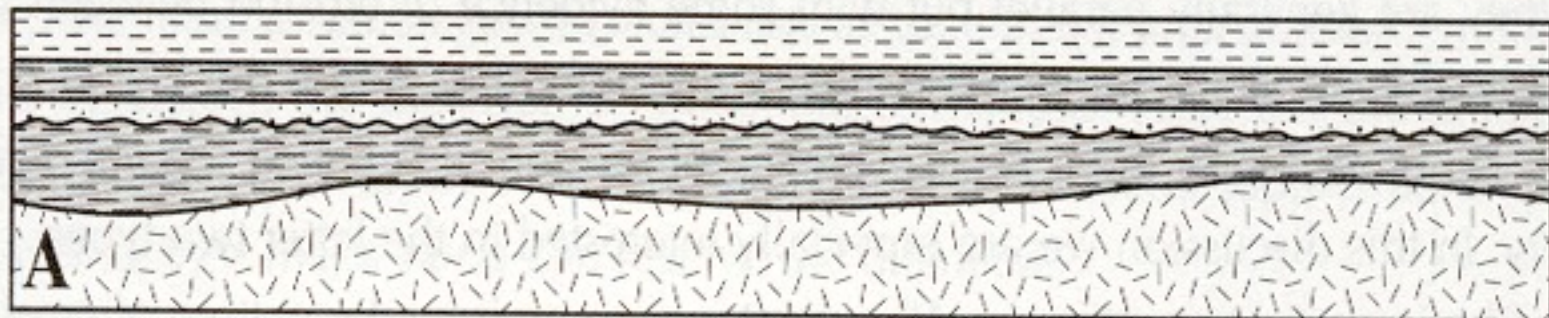
**Atonement Is  
Preserved**

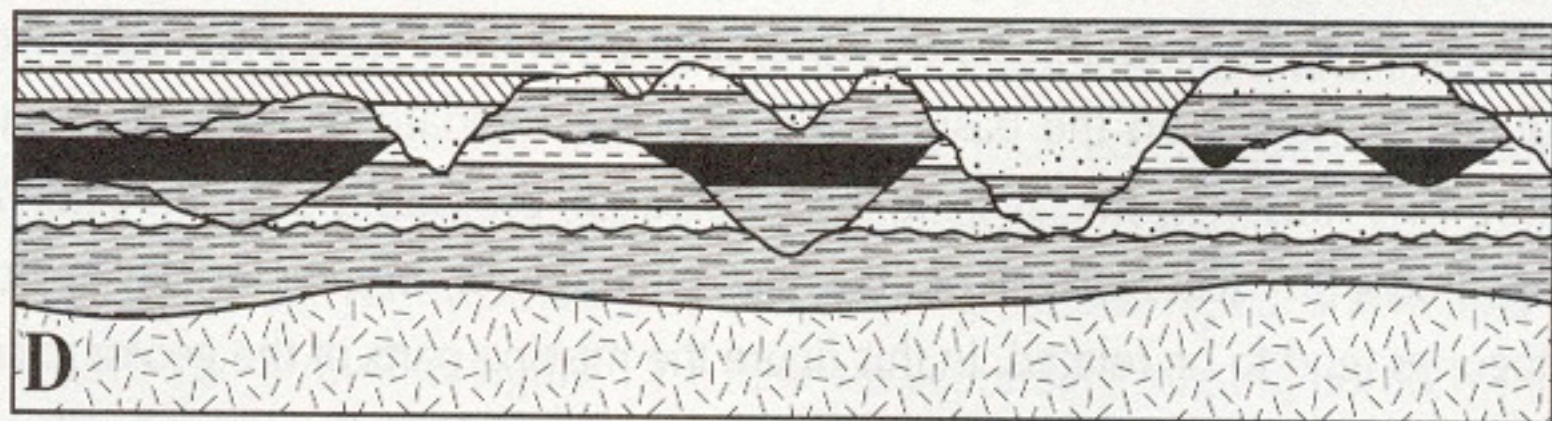
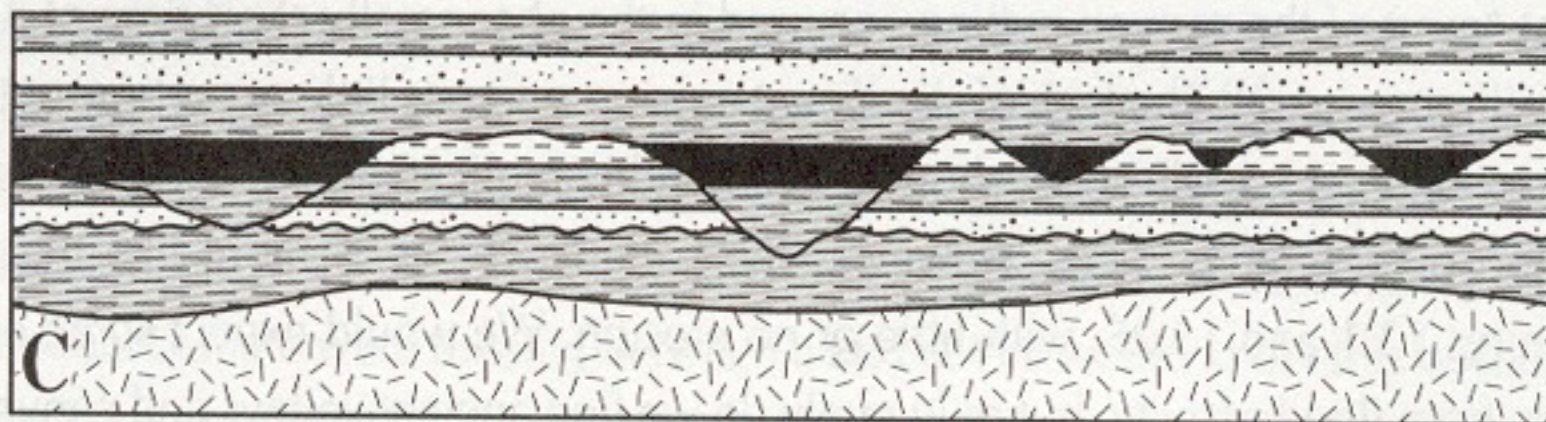


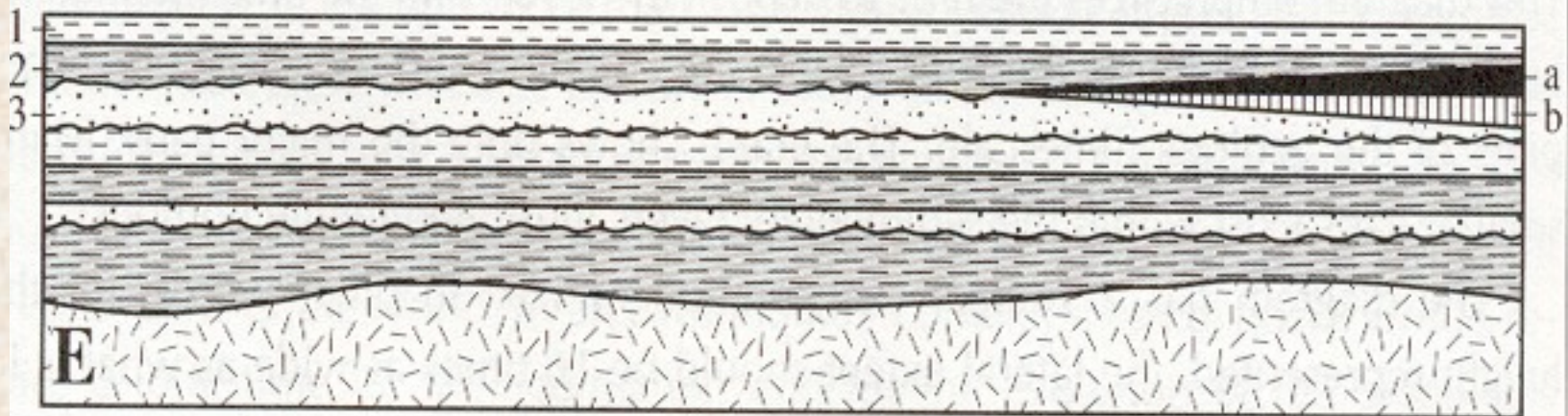
# Missing Erosional Features in the Geologic Column

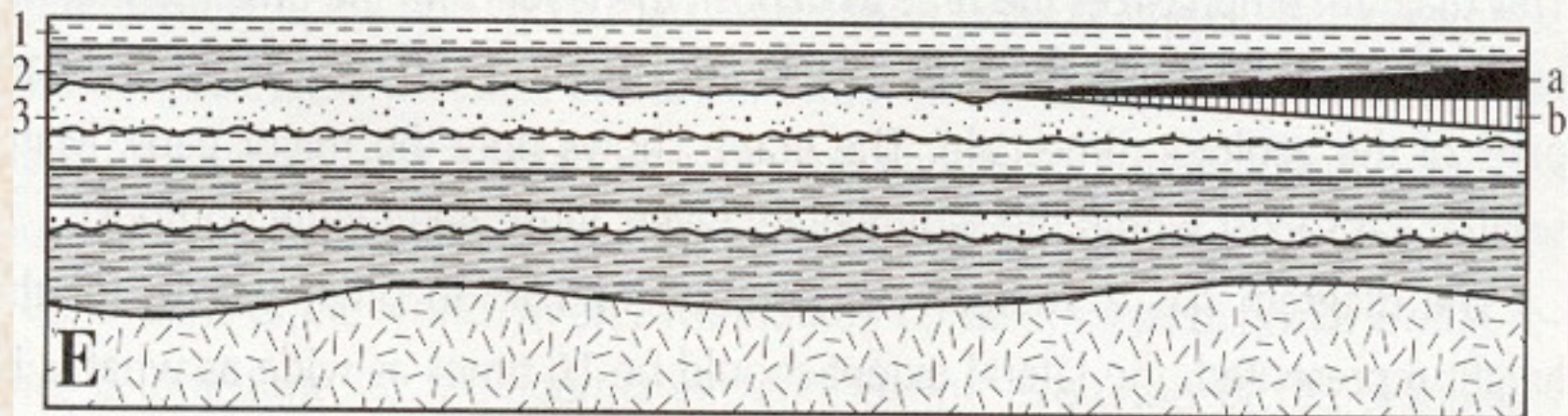
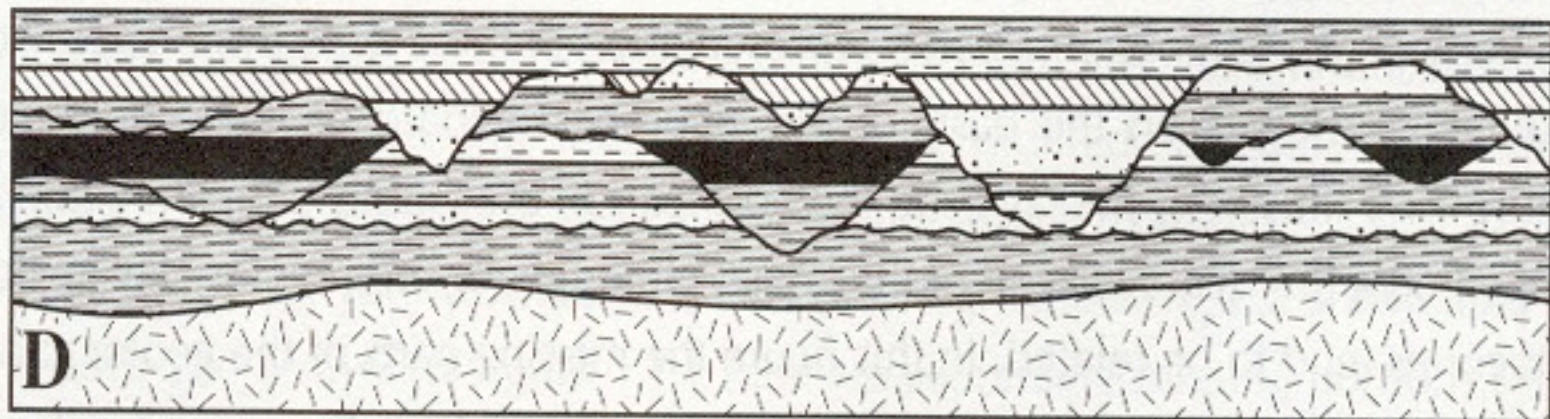
- A-D is what would be expected according to present depositional and erosional patterns
- F is what the geologic column *actually* shows





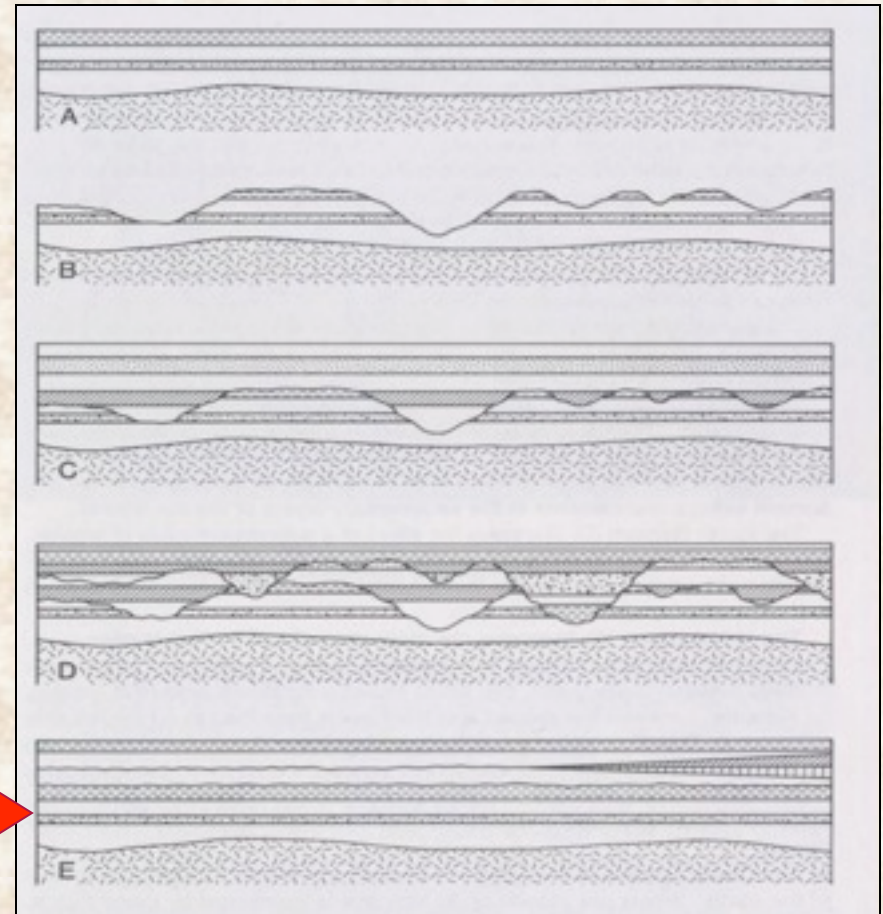




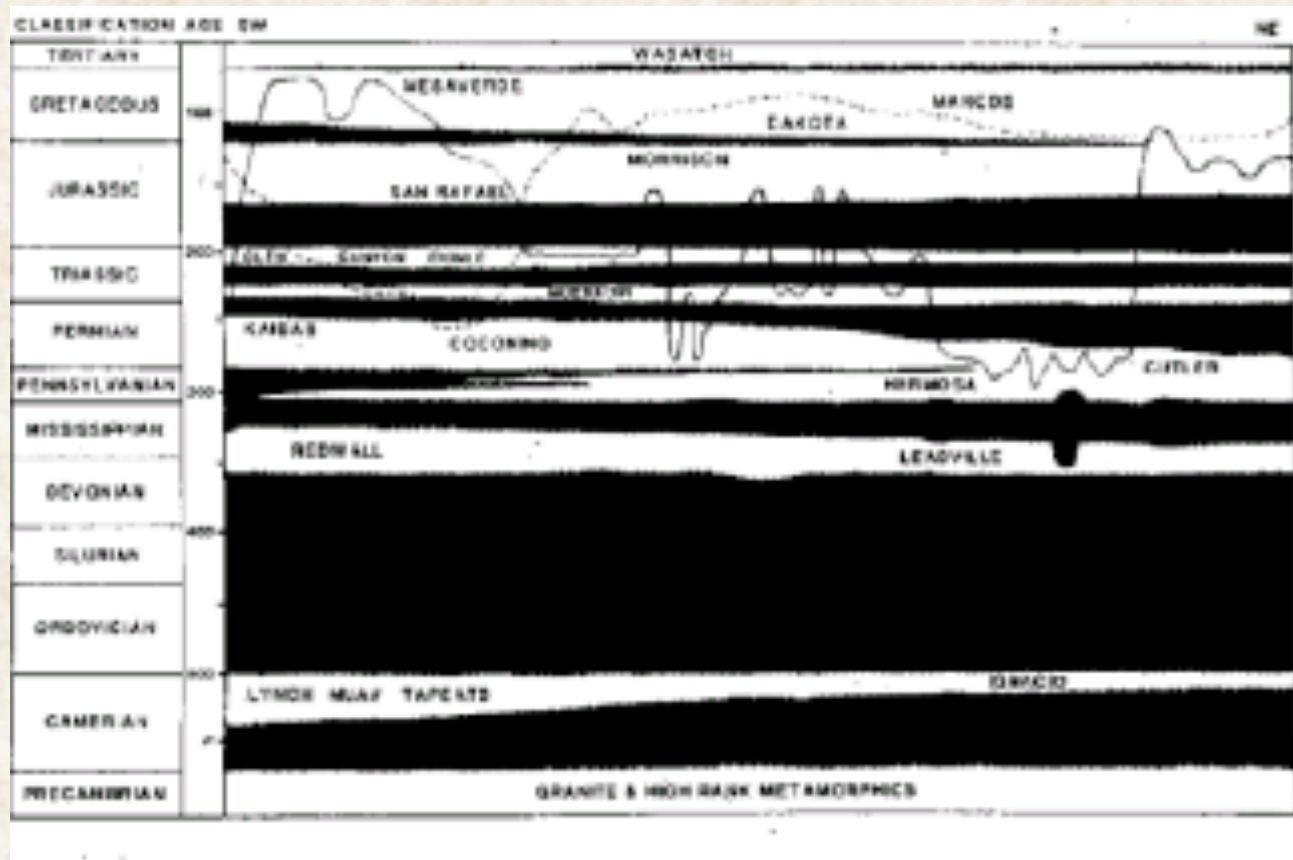


# Missing Erosional Features in the Geologic Column

- A-D is what would be expected according to present depositional and erosional patterns
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# Stratigraphic Hiatuses in SE Utah



# Dead Horse Point, Utah

Upper arrow points to 10 Ma gap; Lower arrow to a 20 Ma year gap





# 100 MY Gap at Grand Canyon

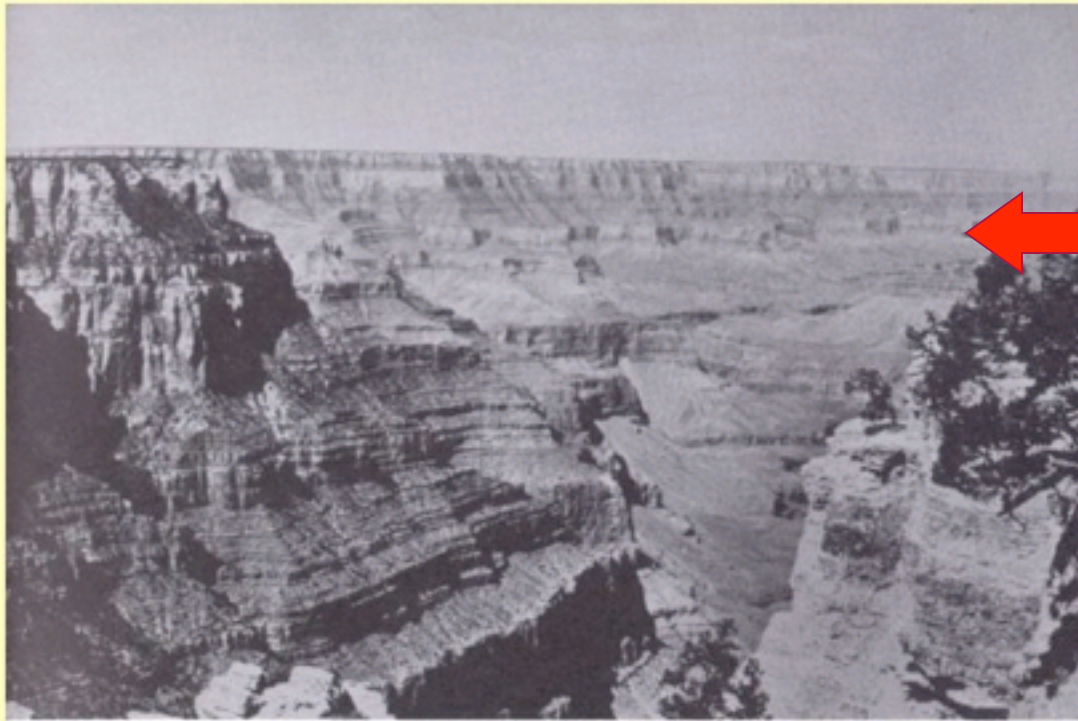


FIGURE 5. View of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado from the North Rim in Arizona. The arrow points to an assumed 100 Ma depositional gap in the layers.

# Problem of Paraconformities

Norman D. Newell. 1967. Paraconformities. In Curt Teichert and Ellis L. Yochelson (eds.). Essays in Paleontology and Stratigraphy. Department of Geology, University of Kansas Special Publication 2, p. 357.

"Search for present-day analogues of paraconformities in limestone sequences is complicated by the fact that most present configurations (topography, chemistry, circulation, climate) are strikingly unlike those that must have prevailed when the Paleozoic and Mesozoic limestone seas spread over immense and incredibly flat areas of the world (Shaw, 1964; Curray, 1964; Irwin, 1965; McGugan, 1965a, 1965b)."

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Norman D. Newell. 1967 Paraconformities. In C. Teichert and E. L. Yochelson (eds.).

*Essays in Paleontology and Stratigraphy,*

p. 364. Department of Geology, University of Kansas Special Publication 2. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas.

"The origin of paraconformities is uncertain, and I certainly do not have a simple solution to this problem."

# Problem of Paraconformities

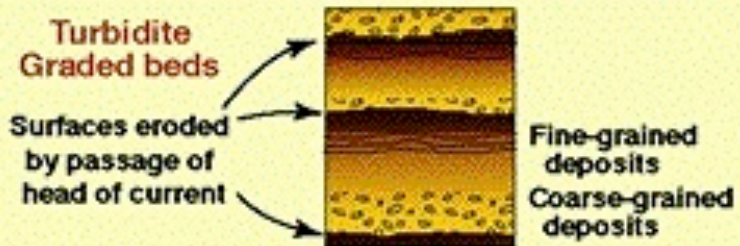
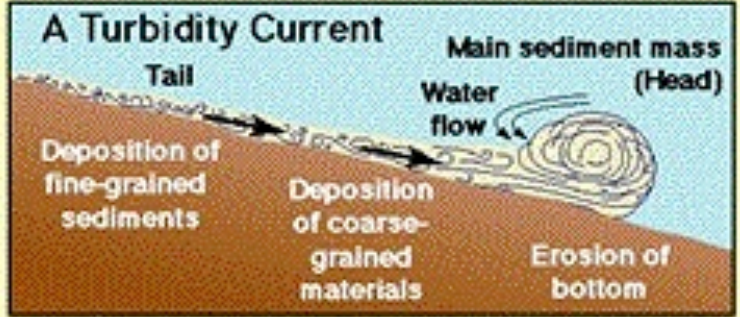
- A puzzling characteristic of the erathem boundaries and of many other major biostratigraphic boundaries [boundaries between differing fossil assemblages] is *the general lack of physical evidence of sub-aerial exposure*. Traces of deep leaching, scour, channeling, and residual gravels tend to be lacking, even where the underlying rocks are cherty limestones (emphasis added, Newell, 1967b).

# **Turbidity Currents**

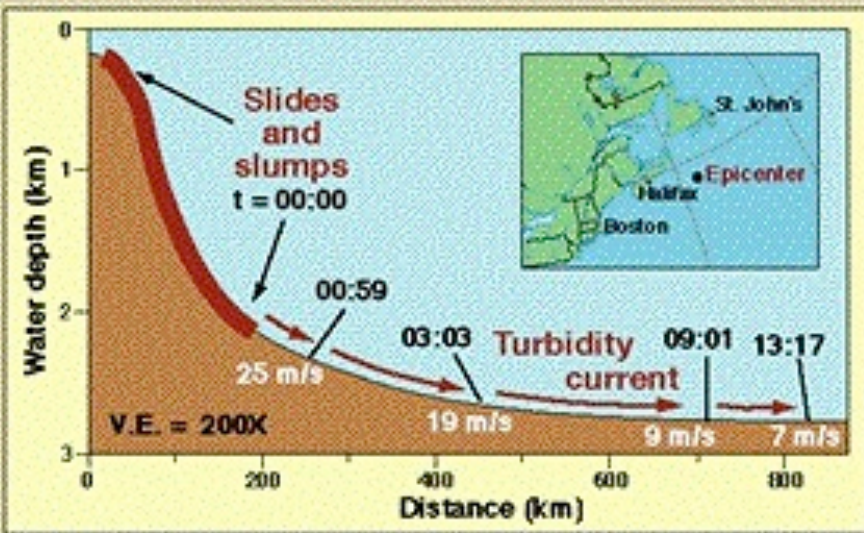
(p. 44 in notes)

- Grand Banks Earthquake, Nov 18, 1929
- Mud slid off continental shelf
- Slid 500 miles, 50 mi/hr
- Broke 13 transatlantic cables
- Covered 100,000 sq mi
- Average thickness was 2-3 ft

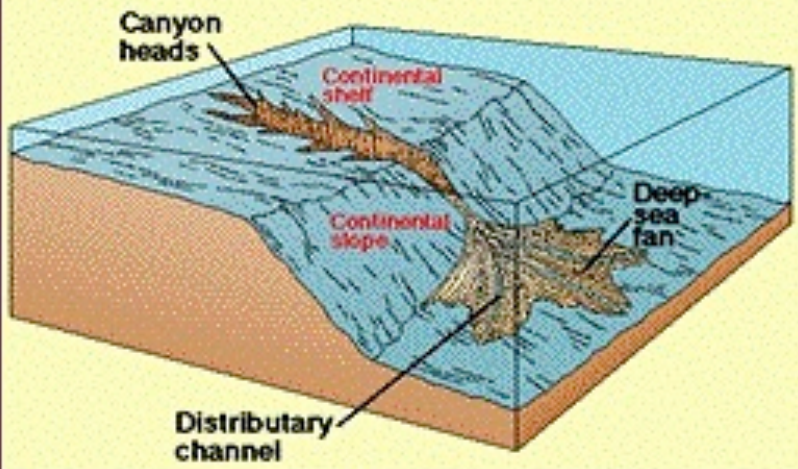




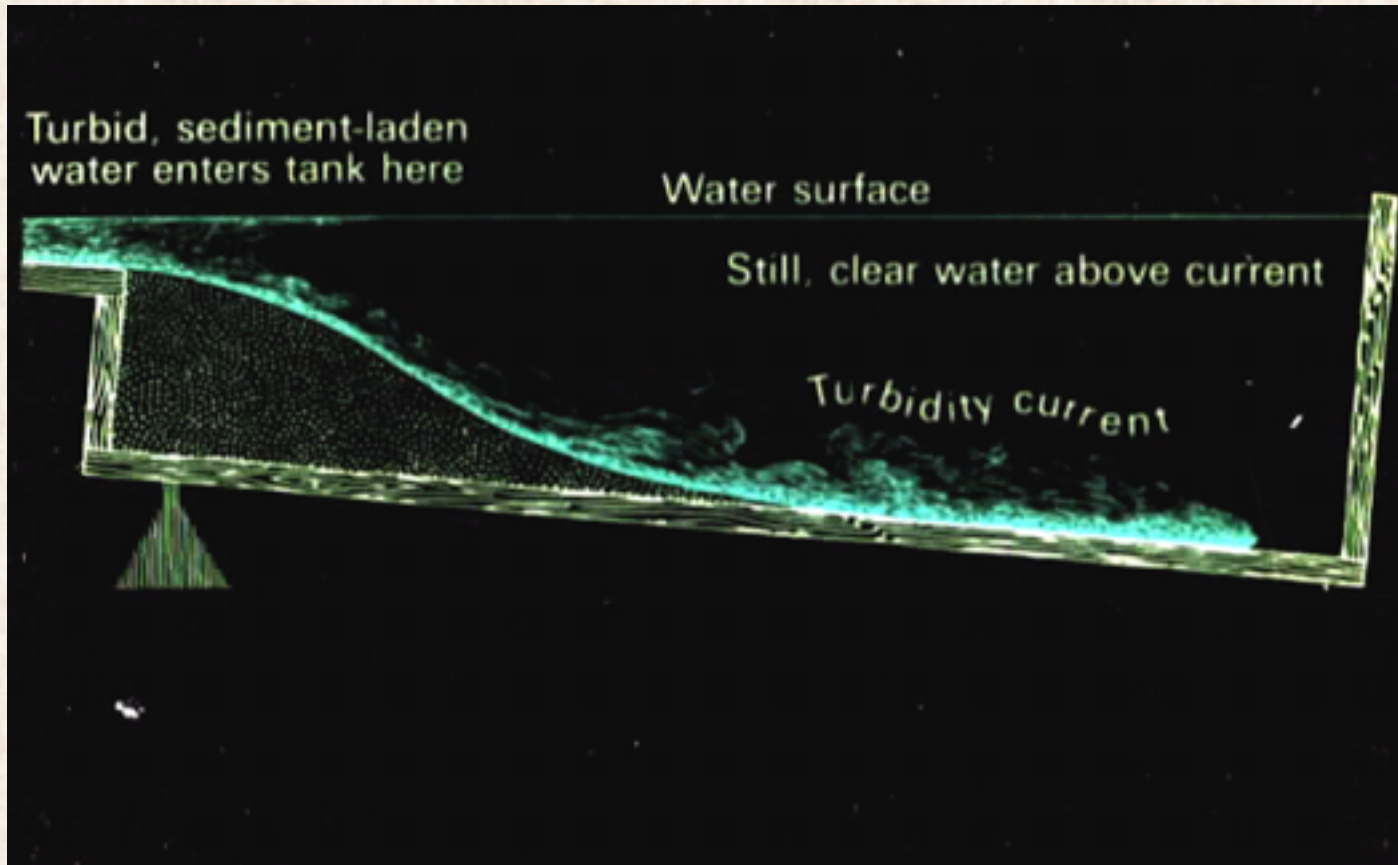
### The 1929 Grand Banks Earthquake



### A Submarine Canyon-Fan System

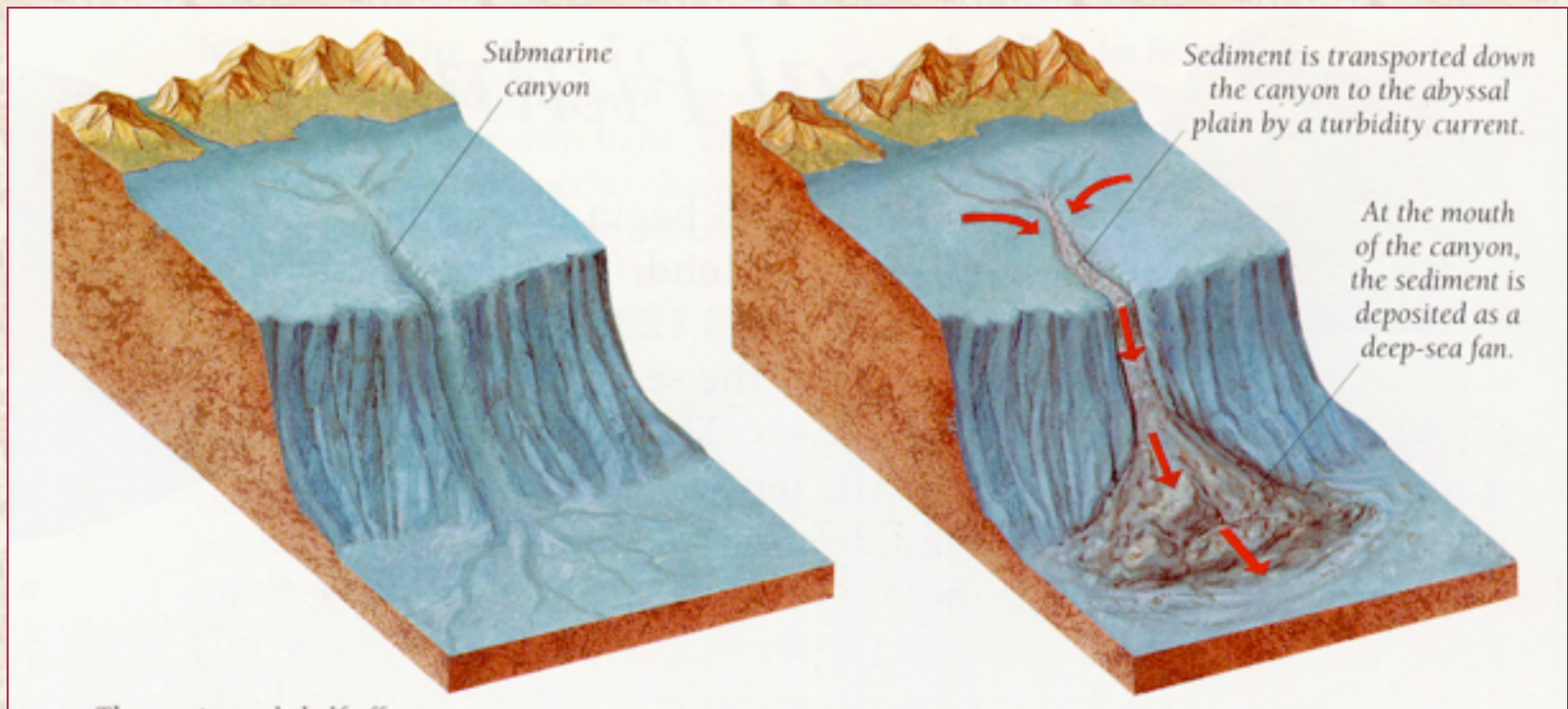


# Turbidity Currents

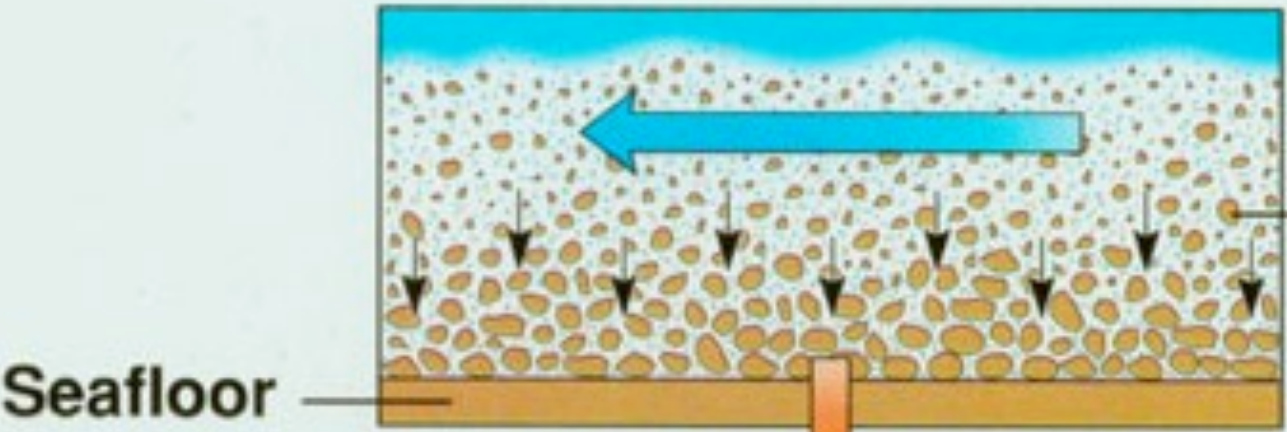




# Turbidity Currents

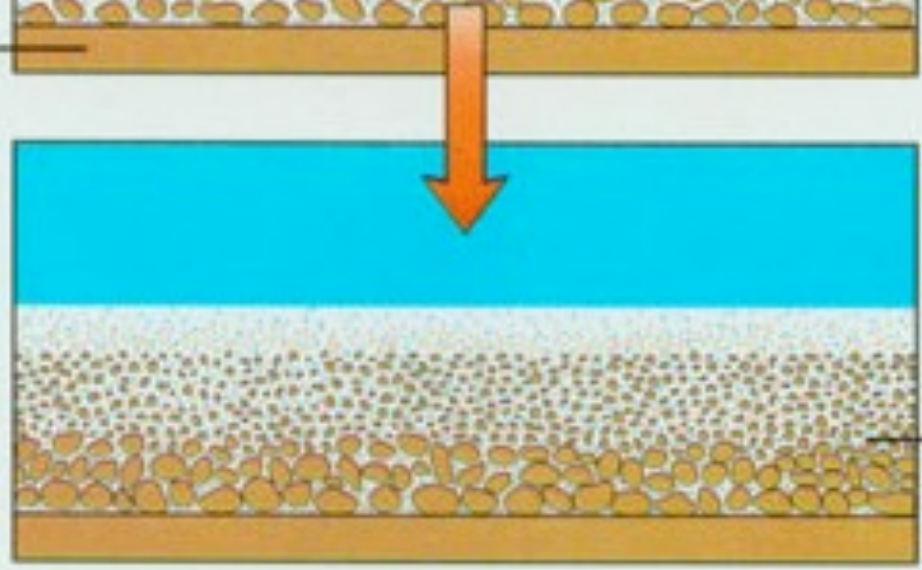


(a)



As turbidity current slows, largest particles settle followed by smaller particles

(b)



# **Turbidites Castle Point New Zealand**



# Turbidite Flow in Texas



# Paleocurrents Research by Dr. Art Chadwick

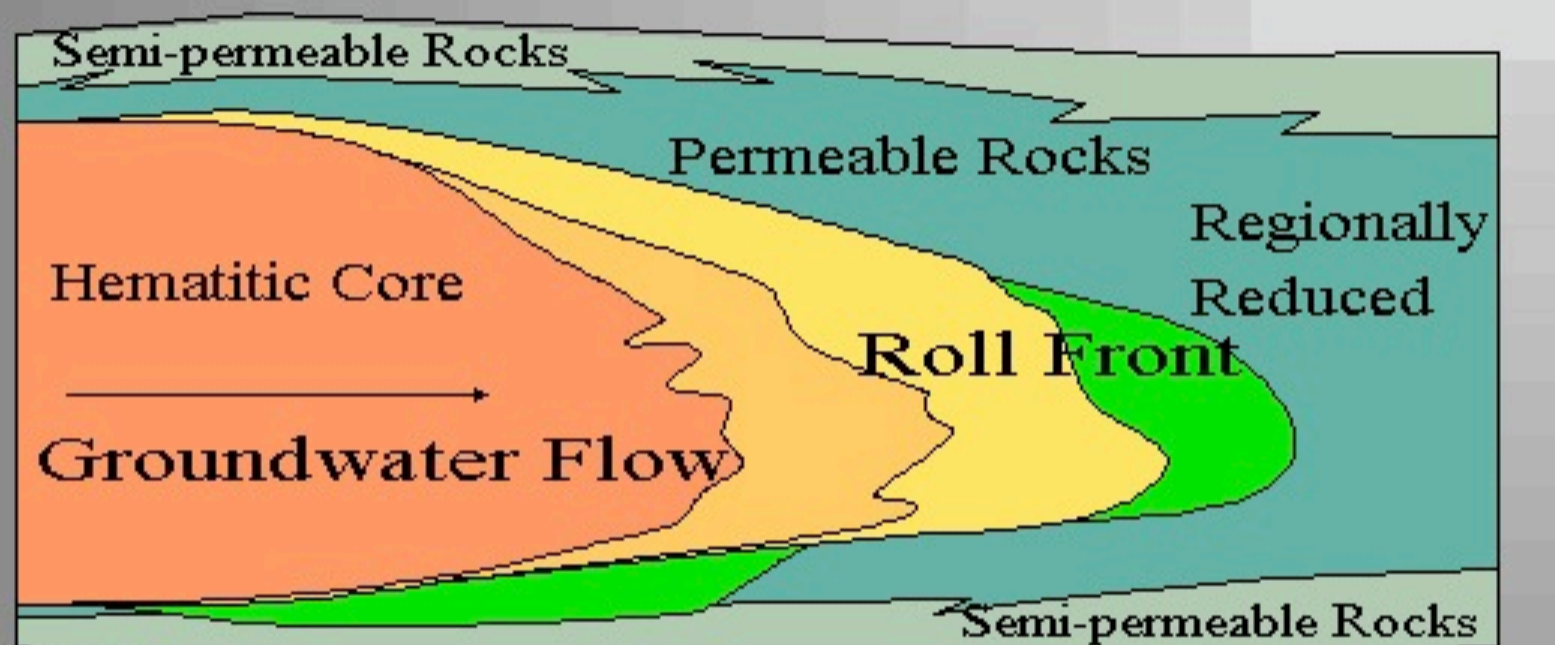


# Uranium Roll Front Deposits

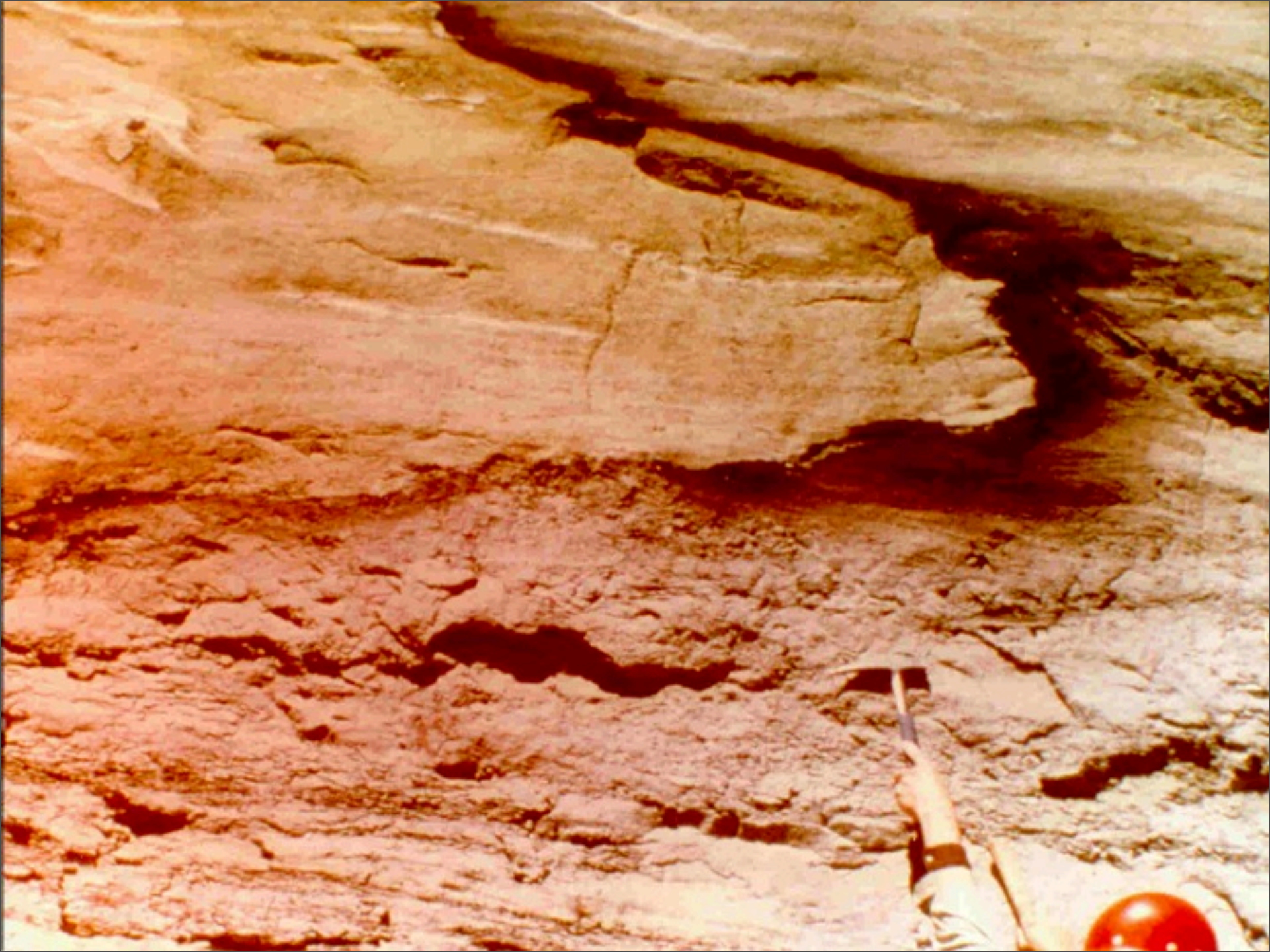
(p. 50 in notes)

- Found in middle of Geologic Column (Mesozoic)
- Assumed to take c. 750,000 years to form

# CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF URANIUM ROLL FRONT DEPOSIT (After Devoto, 1978)



Hematitic Core	Alteration Envelope	Ore-Stage Uranium	Ore-Stage Pyrite	Reduced Sandstone
Hematite Magnetite	Siderite Sulfur-S Ferroselite Goethite	Uraninite Pyrite FeS Selenium Ilmannite	Molybdenite Pyrite Jordisite Calcite	Pyrite Jordisite Calcite





# **Uranium Roll Front Deposits**

- Lab experiments were able to produce uranium deposits in as little as 6 months
- Key was presence of vegetation