David Warner Mathisen

The Mathisen Corollary

Connecting a Global Flood with The Mystery of Mankind's Ancient Past

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Mount Everest (left peak) in the Himalayas, the "roof of the world," the highest point on earth. According to the hydroplate theory of Dr. Walt Brown, the cataclysmic events surrounding the global flood produced the tremendous buckling and thickening of the continental plates, and the thickest place on earth is right here. The ten highest peaks on earth are located in the Himalayas.

The creation of the Himalayas acted like a large rock or weight being slapped onto the side of the globe of the earth, and centrifugal force acting on them as the earth spins caused them to want to move towards the equator, initiating a roll in earth's attitude in space. This tremendous displacement would have severely altered the heavens, and would have been noticed by any human survivors of that event, who would probably have studied the skies even more intently after that than they ever did before.

If such heavenly displacements were caused by the events surrounding a cataclysmic flood within human memory, then it would not be surprising to find that the most ancient humans whose records and buildings still exist noticed this phenomenon and recorded it in their monuments and mythologies, and in fact that is exactly what we do find.The pillar atop the chorten in the foreground probably represents the axis of heaven, which features prominently in the mythologies of the world.

image: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nepal_-_Sagamartha_Trek_-_057_-_chorten_silhouetted_by_Lhotse_%26_Everest.jpg

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Introduction

Detective stories, from Sherlock Holmes to Scooby Doo, usually follow a very familiar pattern. The plot almost invariably features an apparent solution that seems to be justified by a superficial reading of the facts. The "experts" or "authorities" are certain of their reading of the situation and confident that their thesis is the most likely explanation. The hero, invariably a marginal figure, arrives on the scene and is able – partially by virtue of that very "outsider" status – to see through the explanation that seems so obvious to everyone else, and to offer a surprisingly different explanation. The outsider (or outsiders, in the case of the Scooby Doo series) startles everyone when he shows how the framework of the conventional thesis is fatally flawed, and in fact explains the mysterious clues that the "experts" or "authorities" mis-read. Often, it turns out that the establishment figures had motives of their own in promoting their thesis, and they are furious at the reversal of their plans, which seemed to be going so well.

There is a growing chorus of voices – generally outsiders or marginalized figures, just as in the detective-story scenario described above – annoying the "authorities" by pointing out larger and larger holes in the consensus explanation of man's origins and distant past. The evidence from archaeological sites around the world – from India to Giza to Europe, Central America, South America and the remote islands of the Pacific – becomes harder and harder to shoehorn into the conventional thesis. The ongoing discovery of new evidence that does not fit into the accepted and interconnected timelines of geology, biology, and anthropology (such as man-made ruins submerged beneath the ocean at great depths) are so upsetting that they are generally ignored by the keepers of the conventional narrative, and those who refuse to politely ignore them as well are generally ridiculed, marginalized, and suppressed.

In fact, the evidence of an advanced, ancient civilization is all around us. Abundant evidence of the level of understanding that it achieved remains in the myths and legends of many cultures, both familiar and unfamiliar, and in the ancient archaeological

sites around the world. This book will examine that evidence. It will also bring in evidence from geology and the clues we find all around the world in geological formations and features which indicate that the explanations currently in vogue are incorrect as well. The proper understanding of earth's ancient past and mankind's ancient past are interconnected, as we will see.

It is my belief that the evidence clearly shows that a cataclysmic global flood took place within the timeline of human history, and that human knowledge of this event is encoded in ancient myth and archaeology. This cataclysmic flood caused a change in the orientation of the earth and would have completely altered the view of the heavens for observers on earth. The evidence shows that ancient civilizations were aware of the connection between the flood event and the major change in the celestial sphere, and the very earliest records we have indicate an understanding of the phenomena which is quite remarkable.

This theory completely changes our understanding of mankind's ancient past. It argues that our extremely ancient ancestors – those who lived even before ancient Sumer, Babylon, and dynastic Egypt – possessed knowledge and understanding of astronomical details that conventional historians argue were not understood until the first or second centuries BC, and even then only imprecisely. And yet the preponderance of evidence argues that our ancient anscestors were far more accomplished than we have been led to believe – were far more accomplished than even the most advanced civilizations that came afterwards, such as the Greeks and Romans. We will see that these ancients were not only able to create monuments of great precision using enormous stones and dressed rock but that they understood sophisticated mathematical concepts, the size and shape of the earth, and even how to navigate the oceans and travel between the so-called Old World and New World, which they did frequently.

Such a view of ancient man raises serious questions, such as where these advanced ancients disappeared to, and how their knowledge slowly died away. However, nobody will ever ask these important questions if the very existence of these ancient ancestors is denied and if those who point out the clues that they left behind are ridiculed whenever they do so.

The introduction of geology and earth science into this discussion is an important aspect of this book. The dominant geological model today, the plate tectonics model, while taught as if it were proven fact, may be completely incorrect. Tectonics is really only the most recent incarnation of a larger geological paradigm known as *uniformitarianism*, a framework which argues that almost all the features we find on the earth around us were formed over eons of gradual accumulated changes by forces no different from those going on now.

Uniformitarianism is central to the conventional timeline, because it provides (and actually requires) the hundreds of millions of years that the theory of Darwinian evolution also requires for its assumptions. Thus, the suggestion that catastrophic events could better explain the features we find on earth threatens not only geological models but also biological models. And if these biological models are wrong, then the idea that the most ancient civilization was more advanced than civilizations that followed it becomes more feasible. The conventional timeline of man's slow progression from hunter-gatherer to primitive civilization may in fact be completely incorrect. The geological model and the biological and anthropological models are closely connected.

The evidence we find irrefutably argues that the current geological and anthropological model is wrong. For example, it is easy to see that the ancient pyramids found throughout the world are aligned with celestial phenomena such as the location of important stars on certain dates – often with great precision. Some, such as the Great Pyramid, are also aligned quite precisely with the cardinal directions. The pyramids of Giza are not the only examples of this practice of alignment, but they are certainly the most widely known and heavily studied of the pyramids with celestial alignments.

Descriptions of the Great Pyramid, even by scholars who subscribe to and defend the conventional timelines and anthropological assumptions (of man's slow rise from primitive hunter-gatherer to primitive agricultural villager to eventual civilization and more advanced technological capability), now agree that the pyramid's features point to exact locations of important stars in Orion and Draco.

What is amazing about this piece of evidence is the fact that nobody ever seems to point out how devastating it is for the proponents of plate tectonics. Plate tectonics posits the ongoing movement of huge tectonic plates, upon which the continents and seabeds rest. These plates "drift" atop a semi-molten mantel, causing motion of a little more than an inch per year.

If the plate carrying the pyramids at Giza (or any of the other pyramids located around the world, which remain perfectly aligned with the stars and with the cardinal directions) has been drifting by as much as 30mm or a little over an inch per year, then even using the accepted dates of the most conservative conventional scholars which place the pyramids and the Sphinx in the epoch of 2600 BC, we would expect the Earth to have carried them well over 4,600 inches (383 feet) from their original positions, eliminating any trace of their original alignments. And yet the alignments remain as precise today as when they were built. This fact argues strongly against the tectonic theory, and yet the divide between geology and anthropology appears to have prevented scholars on either side from making the connection.

Note that "drift" of even a few inches could destroy the precise star alignments which are present in the pyramids, to say nothing of hundreds of feet. Also note that it is not only the pyramids of Egypt which contain star alignments, but also those of Central America, along the "ring of fire" (where plate movement should be quite significant, according to the tectonic model). And while those pyramids are supposedly more recent than those at Giza, most scholars believe that Stonehenge is far older – dating to 3000 BC or earlier. Yet Stonehenge still retains its own precise stellar and solar alignments, although it should have drifted even farther than Giza. The fact that these star alignments are still present in all these varied places indicates that we should be open to other models besides tectonics for explaining the geological features of our planet.

These examples indicate the importance of examining the anthropological frame or paradigm in light of the geological frame or paradigm, and the geological in light of the anthropological. Such a unified approach is sadly lacking in the examination of many of the amazing clues on our planet's surface and of the equally

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The Hydroplate Theory of Dr. Walt Brown

There is extensive evidence that the conventional explanation of history is fatally flawed, but that its proponents are strongly biased towards the dominant theories of anthropology and geology because these theories are critical reinforcements for the Darwinian theory of evolution in biology.

We will see that not only does the conventional self-reinforcing framework of biology-anthropology-geology contain fatal flaws, but that an alternative catastrophic geological framework fits the existing evidence much better. Other challengers to the conventional explanations have put forward catastrophic explanations involving near-collisions from Venus, or the "slippage of the earth's crust like the skin of an orange that somehow came loose" (in the "Earth-crust displacement theory" of Charles Hapgood described in his 1966 *Maps of the Ancient Sea-Kings,* page 187, and also in Graham Hancock's 1996 *Fingerprints of the Gods,* page 10) but these speculative explanations do not solve many of the geological problems presented by the physical evidence in the world around us. In contrast, the theory put forward by West Point graduate Dr. Walt Brown is backed by rigorous scientific explanations for the extensive evidence in the geological record, which he documents in his text, *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*, currently in its eighth edition.

While the evidence Dr. Brown has mustered from the geology of the earth (as well as from certain phenomena in the solar system, including the asteroid belt, and the characteristics of comets, and even the presence of water and ice on the moon and Mars) makes his theory worthy of consideration, the thesis of this book is that

there is further supporting evidence to be found in the clues left to us from ancient civilizations. Specifically, there are clues in the mythologies of ancient cultures that are a kind of "literary artifacts" every bit as important as the physical archaeological artifacts remaining from the ancients. Beyond these mythological clues, there are the physical archaeological artifacts themselves, and together these clues from myth and from ancient archaeology provide additional strong support that the current uniformitarian models built upon tectonics are incorrect, and that the earth did experience a catastrophic event similar to that described by Dr. Brown.

Before we begin to examine the evidence from myth and from archaeology, a brief overview of Dr. Brown's hydroplate theory is in order. We will return to it in greater detail later, after some of the evidence from myth and archaeology has been discussed.

In sum, the hydroplate theory posits a global flood originating with water that was trapped beneath the earth's surface (while this may sound like an astonishing starting point, Dr. Brown provides extensive evidence for just such a catastrophe, and amazingly, world mythology not only tells of a global flood but often insists that the waters came from under the earth).

As difficult as this starting point may be for those who have been told since grade school that plate tectonics explains all of the features we see in the earth around us today, it is important to keep in mind that the theory of plate tectonics itself was ridiculed and viewed as a "fringe theory" from the time of its invention in the early decades of the twentieth century until its adoption by the mainstream in the late 1960s. Its acceptance came as a result of the observations of the deep ocean floor which were not made possible until the 1950s and 1960s. Alfred Wegener (1880 – 1930) who is credited with the championing the theory of tectonics and continental drift beginning in 1912 was fiercely ridiculed for it and did not live to see its later acceptance by the academic world.

As a child growing up in the early 1970s, I was taught the theory of plate tectonics by my forward-thinking teachers, but at that time it was still a fairly novel theory and children were by no means

exposed to it everywhere. Today, the theory of plate tectonics is taught as though it is the only possible explanation, and anyone who questions it is subject to ridicule. This is ironic, since its proponents were subjected to the same ridicule for many decades, during which the proponents of the then-reigning paradigm were absolutely certain that they were the keepers of the true explanation, and the upstarts who dared to challenge them were vehemently opposed by the highly respected and heavily published defenders of the old order, who held all the posts of importance in the geological community.

This history as a fringe theory does not, of course, provide actual evidence that tectonics is not correct, but it should offer cause for some humility from its current proponents, who now find themselves in the position that their theory's opponents once occupied.

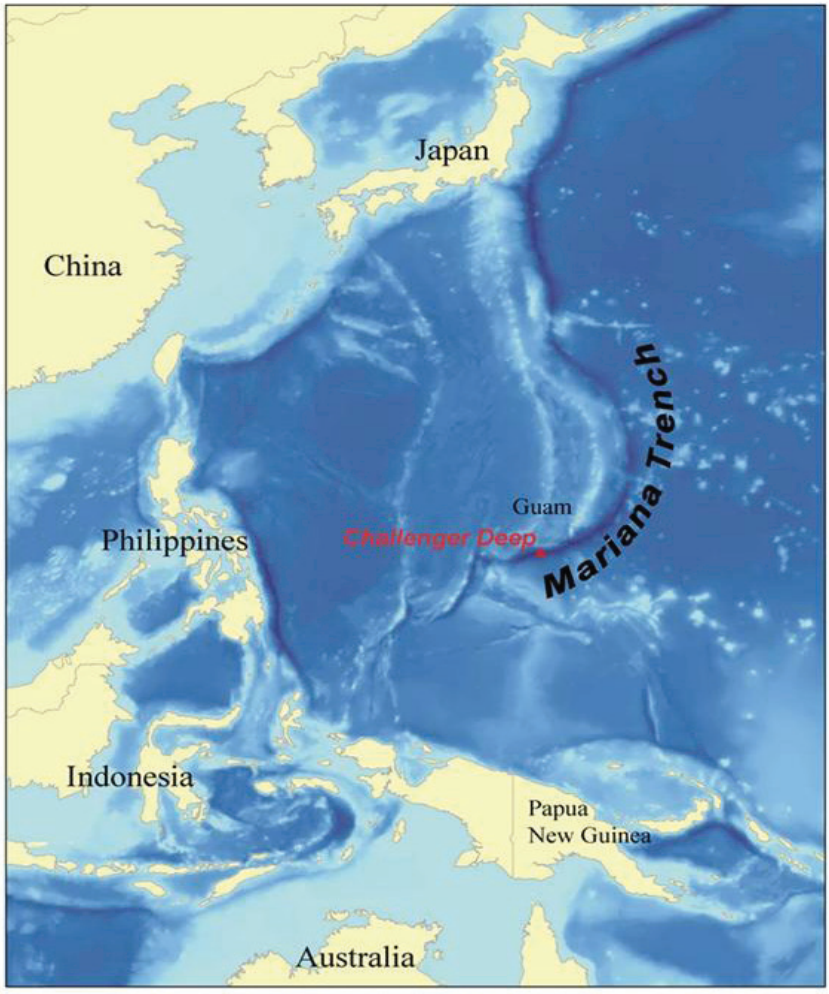
Dr. Brown offers several pieces of evidence for the position that the current tectonic paradigm, while an improvement over previous theories, is flawed and in need of major surgery. First, the features of the deep ocean floors, which were so persuasive in the eventual adoption of the theory of plate tectonics, actually argue for catastrophic explanations and not for the gradualist mechanisms of tectonics.

The original opponents of tectonics, most of whom could be categorized as "fixists" who believed that the continents never moved from their current location, largely argued that the ocean floor was too solid and too strong to allow continents to wander about the way Wegener and his followers proposed. When technological advances during and after the Second World War enabled scientists to map the ocean's bottoms, and to take readings of the magnetic fields over various submarine features, the ridges and chasms that were discovered destroyed the main objection of the fixists, and seemed to confirm the predictions that Wegener had made decades earlier (see the discussion of "The Continental Drift Debate" by Henry Frankel, in Hugo Tristram Engelhardt and Arthur L. Caplan's *Scientific Controversies: Case Solutions in the Resolution and Closure of Disputes in Science and Technology*, 203-248).

Dr. Brown points out, however, that many of the seafloor features

that at first led to the widespread adoption of the tectonic theory actually argue against it. For instance, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an extremely important feature running north-south through the center of the Atlantic Ocean, and which actually runs for over 46,000 miles around the earth, intersecting itself "in a Y-shaped junction beneath the Indian Ocean," contains numerous "fracture zones" that are offset in ways which make it extremely difficult to explain how separating, shifting, or colliding tectonic plates could have caused them. The fracture zones overlap, curve, and intersect in ways that cannot be explained by the movement of plates (Brown 87-90).

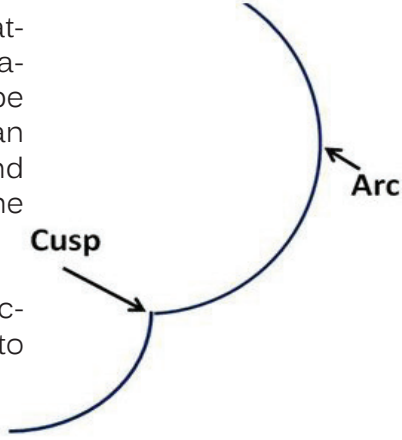
Similarly, Brown points out that the deep ocean trenches that ring much of the boundaries of the Pacific basin "are often shaped like long arcs that connect at sharp cusps" (121). The plate tectonic theory has a very difficult time explaining deep ocean trenches shaped in great sweeping arcs that join other arc-shaped trenches at a sharp point or cusp. The conventional tectonic explanation for the origin of such deep trenches involves the subduction of one massive plate beneath another, which could perhaps explain a long straight trench (although Brown provides convincing arguments from physics that the pressure required to subduct a miles-thick plate below another miles-thick plate is beyond even the forces that proponents of the tectonic theory propose for these plates). However, the tectonic theory would have tremendous difficulty explaining a highly-curved trench, and especially a curved trench next to another curved trench that come together in sharp cusps, as illustrated on the following page.



wikimedia commons: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Marianatrenchmap.png

The characteristic arc-and-cusp pattern of deep ocean trenches in the Pacific is illustrated above, and can be seen on any map of the Pacific ocean floor. Notice the Mariana Trench and the cusp at the southwest end of the trench, west of Challenger Deep.

Dr. Walt Brown observes that this arc-and-cusp pattern is very difficult to explain using the tectonic theory.



The hydroplate theory of Dr. Brown argues instead that the globe-encircling scar known as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in its Atlantic segment is actually the remnant of an enormous rupture which released water which had been trapped beneath the pre-flood globe at great pressure, causing a global cataclysm. This water blasted upwards with tremendous force, eroding the edges of the continental plates above the rupture, for a distance of about 400 miles. The physics associated with this globe-encircling rupture caused a period of rapid continental drift. Dr. Brown explains:

> Eventually, the width [of this rupture] was so great, and so much of the surface weight had been removed, that the compressed rock beneath the exposed floor of the subterranean chamber sprang upward.
>
> As the Mid-Atlantic Ridge began to rise, creating slopes on either side, the granite plates (which we will call hydroplates) started to slide downhill. This removed even more weight from what was to become the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. As weight was removed, the floor rose faster and the slopes increased, so the hydroplates accelerated, removing even more weight, etc. The entire Atlantic floor rapidly rose almost 10 miles. 102.

Dr. Brown argues that this process would have taken place all along the entire rupture of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, causing the continents to accelerate away from the ridge in both directions, lubricated by the water "still escaping from beneath them" (102). However, as the water lubricant beneath each plate was depleted, or the plates ran into something on their forward edge, "each massive hyrdroplate decelerated" and experienced "a gigantic compression event – buckling, crushing, and thickening each plate" (102).

The rapid compression caused mountains to form and overthrusts to occur, generally along north-south axes perpendicular to the motion of the plates as they slid away from the original rupture. Magma created from the tremendous heat along the leading edges of the sliding plates also spurted out in many places, creating volcanoes and other formations found today in areas that experienced the most friction. The thickening that took place when

the plates ground to a halt caused the water to run off to the ocean basins, which were far lower than they are today. Later, the weight of the continents caused them to sink lower and force the rise of the ocean bottom and the ocean level to its present height, as well as causing the rise of the extensive plateau areas found adjacent to the earth's mightiest mountain ranges. Previous to this sinking, the ocean levels were lower (and warmer, due to the energy released during the cataclysm), and the continents relatively higher, creating wide land bridges between continents, and also setting the conditions for an ice age (warm oceans generated more clouds and precipitation, and high continents meant that the precipitation was often snow and ice).

The upward movement of the floor of what today is the Atlantic Ocean following the initial rupture, particularly the upward movement of the enormous submarine mountain range that is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, caused an opposite movement on the other side of the globe, sucking the floor of what is today the Pacific Ocean basin towards the earth's center. This force created the arc-and-cusp trench patterns and the many amazing features peculiar to the Pacific Ocean, including its "ring of fire" of volcanic activity around its borders, and the periodic settling of the continents towards this vast abyss continues to be felt as earthquakes around its perimeter (and below its surface) to this day.

According to the theory, when the water was running off the continents into the oceans (which initially had lower levels than they do today, due to a process explained later), the massive flows often carved enormous canyons in the continental shelves, now submerged in water after the continents sank and the oceans rose centuries later. These massive submarine canyons can still be seen today (often beginning at the mouths of mighty rivers where they enter the sea, such as the Amazon or the Ganges or the Hudson) but are now covered by water since the ocean levels have risen significantly. Brown notes that it is very difficult to explain these massive canyons in the sides of the continental shelves under conventional theories (92). Carving such canyons under water is very difficult to explain, but runoff from the continents before the oceans rose to their current levels would explain these enormous canyons quite satisfactorily.

Also according to this theory, while most of the water flowed off of the thickening continents, initially some of it was trapped in various geographic areas and uplifted into high-altitude lakes with tremendous potential energy. In some places, subsequent precipitation and runoff caused these lakes to increase in size and some burst their boundaries, causing violent and massive flows of cascading water which carved distinctive geologic features as they sought the ocean, as well as creating unique formations within the former lake boundaries as the water level fell rapidly. Brown compares this explanation for the formation of the great canyons found next to major plateaus – such as the Grand Canyon next to the Colorado Plateau or the Jhelum River canyon emanating from the Kashmir Basin in the Tibetan Plateau – to the explanations of uniformitarian theories, and finds that the hydroplate theory explains numerous geological features that the uniformitarian theories cannot explain.

In other places, where no violent breaching of uplifted lakes took place, such as in regions where there was little precipitation, the trapped water slowly evaporated over centuries, leaving dry lake-beds such as are found around Lake Titicaca in the region of Peru's border with Bolivia near La Paz, or the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

In some places, Brown explains, the path of the globe-encircling rupture was later over-ridden by a sliding continent, for example along the forward-sliding edge of the North American continent. Today, that rupture line is beneath the portion of North America stretching from California to Alaska, but its path can be traced by drawing a line along the ancient volcanoes that also stretch from Southern California to Alaska (some of which, such as Mt. St. Helens, are still active in our time; Brown 113, note 31).

Dr. Brown labels the phases of the cataclysmic events described above as the rupture phase, the flood phase, the drift phase (culminating in a massive compression event), and the recovery phase, the last of which continues today. He demonstrates how this series of events provides a better explanation for numerous features in the world which are difficult or impossible to explain by conventional uniformitarian theory. A key point that Dr. Brown

argues is that such a flood would, by the principles of liquefaction, create the sorting and layering of the strata that are found around the world, as well as other liquefaction features such as Ayers Rock in Australia.

The mistaken belief that the strata were laid down over hundreds of millions of years forms a key argument in the conventional paradigm for both biology and geology. However, the uniformitarian processes of the conventional theories have a very difficult time explaining the actual details of the strata (such as the presence of polystrate fossils which pierce through several strata, or the fact that the strata generally have sharp and well-defined boundaries, which is not what we would expect if each layer was exposed to erosion for millions of years before the deposition of the next layer). The hydroplate theory provides a much better explanation for the actual details that are found in the strata, as Brown details in his text.

The conventional framework depends quite heavily upon the mistaken identification of the strata as indicators of great ages of earth's past. In fact, conventional biology and geology use a very circular argument based on these strata. The biologists argue that Darwinian evolution took place over great ages as evidenced by fossils found in various layers, which are held to have been laid down during certain successive periods of hundreds of millions of years. However, if asked how we know when those ancient strata were laid down, the age of the fossils found in those layers will often be used as an argument for their age. In other words, the fossils must be ancient because of the age of the strata in which they are found, and the strata can be known to be of that age because of the age of the fossils which are found therein!

Brown's theory explains the origin of the strata found around the world quite differently. The initial rupture would have eroded tons of sediments, making the waters that covered the earth during the flood extremely sediment rich. The action of powerful waves would create the conditions for a phenomenon known as liquefaction, which takes place even today under certain conditions, including when powerful waves pass over the sandy ocean floor. Liquefaction involves sediments falling down through water (and

water rising upwards past sediments), which would have sorted the sediments by type. Dr. Brown argues that the flood phase would have tended to sort both the various types of particles and the various types of buried organisms.

Such an explanation would explain the origin of all of the world's fossils. Note that fossils do not form under normal circumstances (a powerful clue that uniformitarian explanations of geology may be flawed). Animals and plants which die at sea or on land do not

image: Wikimedia Commons http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Folding_Gasteretal.jpg

Swiss mountainside showing a graceful curving pattern in the strata. The theory of Dr. Brown argues that the strata found around the world were laid down during the flood phase by the process known as liquifaction and were still soft during the compression event at the end of the continental drift phase which was initiated by the rupture and the flood.

usually leave any remains which can form a fossil. The sudden onrush of sediment-infused water, however, could have buried plants and animals and sealed them off from the bacteria which under normal circumstances would break down even the bones to nothing.

This explanation would also explain fossils which have been found penetrating multiple strata (polystrate fossils, such as fossil tree trunks going through dozens of layers), or the presence of the anomalous quartzite block which can be found above the "Precambrian-Cambrian" interface in the layers of the Grand

Canyon, in the middle of a completely different sediment and layers above the quartzite layer that is generally considered to be Precambrian (145). Dr. Brown also observes that the many places on earth which display severe buckling of an entire series of strata are very difficult to explain if those strata were laid down over several hundred million years, hardening each time (see the illustration from Gasteretal, Switzerland). Instead, he says, "the layers had to have been soft, like wet sand, at the time of compression" (94). He also notes that strata seldom show signs of millions of years of erosion between them, but rather demonstrate crisp clear borders between each layer of the strata (30).

Several of the features of Brown's theory, if correct, would also help to explain the many anomalous clues left to us by ancient civilizations in their mythologies and their ancient architecture. Although Brown does not generally go in this direction, it is the thesis of this book that these pieces of evidence from myth and ancient archaeology not only support many aspects of Brown's theory but also find their most compelling explanation when fitted to the cataclysmic events Brown describes, and the conditions which would have prevailed upon the world in the aftermath of such an event.

The few places in his text that Brown addresses anthropological matters can give a hint at the value of such application of his theory. He argues that the lower sea levels that prevailed for some centuries would have provided many migration paths for men and animals to populate today's continents and islands, and notes that the oral history of the Hopi as told to Frank Waters in the *Book of the Hopi* recounts:

> After a gigantic flood, their ancestors used many family-sized rafts and "island hopped" for many years north and east to the Americas. The steep coast line [today's continental slope] forced them along the coast until they could land. Rising water later drowned the chain of islands. 255 (explanatory material in brackets is Walt Brown's observation in his original text).

This application of the hydroplate theory to the evidence from humanity's past is tantalizing. What other mysteries could the

hydroplate theory explain if it were applied to anthropological questions as well as to the largely geological questions Brown treats in his work?

We shall examine many of them in this book. As a prelude, it would certainly provide an explanation for the sunken archaeological remains found in the Maldives, as well as those found along the coast of India, and off some of the islands in Japan, ruins which Graham Hancock discusses in his book *Underworld*. Other sunken archaeological remains have also been attested off the coast of Cuba and in other parts of the Western Hemisphere as well.

The hydroplate theory would also clear up a mystery which I have never read anyone discussing, the mystery of how – if the tectonic theory is correct – the ancient monuments of the world such as the Great Pyramid, the Sphynx, the Sun Gate of Tiahuanaco, and the numerous pyramids of Central America are still aligned with astonishing precision to the rising of the sun and the angles of specific stars. Brown's theory argues that the theory of slow and ongoing continental drift is incorrect. There was a period of massive drift, which left geological evidence that has been wrongly interpreted to be evidence of ongoing drift. Instead, there is ongoing *shifting*, rather than drifting. Brown explains shifting by introducing the metaphor of a large cargo truck hastily packed with heavy boxes stacked on top of one another. Occasionally, the motion of the truck will cause the boxes in the back to shift to find a position of lower potential energy (Brown 121). Occasional shifting may explain some earthquakes, but unlike the mechanism of drifting which the tectonic theory relies upon, it does not have difficulty explaining why extremely ancient monuments are still fairly well aligned with their intended astronomical targets.

Finally, the hydroplate theory proposes, as we will discuss in greater detail in chapter seven ("Precessional Numbers"), that the orientation of the earth – and hence the orientation of the sky – was ominously altered when the massive Eurasian plate thickened and the Himalayas were pushed upwards. According to the hydroplate theory (which, like other catastrophic theories, does away with the need for long ages of slow change that the Darwinists find

so comforting as supporting arguments for their theories), these events took place during human history. If so, then this theory would explain the world-wide mythological evidence linking the chopping down of the celestial axis with the initiation of a massive flood, and explain the ancient understanding of precession which goes against all the timelines held by the keepers of the conventional paradigm. Conversely, the worldwide myths would provide supporting evidence that this cataclysmic event took place within human history, just as Walt Brown's theory says that it did.

Ruamahanga Woman (stay away from me)

In October of 2004, a young local of New Zealand's rural Wairarapa Valley was taking a walk along the Ruamahanga River with his two dogs. The sixteen-year-old was surprised to find the crown of a human skull protruding from the gravelly river sand that had recently been under the flood waters not uncommon for the river, particularly at that time of year.

If New Zealand shares many geographic features with California, as some have observed, in spite of the fact that New Zealand is surrounded on all sides by ocean and cut in half by the water of the Cook Straight, the Wairarapa in shape and size might in many ways resemble the northern reaches of California's great Central Valley, although abbreviated by the presence of the strait that divides the northern and southern islands of Aotearoa.

The Ruamahanga is a broad, meandering river that plows its way through the very center of the wide Wairarapa, a valley of farms, dairies, vineyards, and sheep pastures stretching between the Rimutaka Ranges on the west and the Tararua and Aorangi Ranges to the north and east. Almost exactly 100 miles in length, it is fed by major tributaries including the Waiohine, Tauhereniku, Waipoua, Waingawa, Kopuaranga, Whangaehu, Tauweru, and Huangarua Rivers.

Monthly flow in the Ruamahanga River in its southern reaches, near Pukio and Featherston where the skull was discovered, typically varies from a low of about 40 cubic meters per second in January and February, to around 120 cubic meters per second in August, September and October, with a high of up to 140 cubic meters per second in July (the heart of winter in the Southern Hemisphere).

October is typically the wettest month in the upper reaches of the Tararua Ranges, where the Ruamahanga has its origins, and that spring (October being in the spring in the Southern Hemisphere) the river had run high for several days near Sam Tobin's family farm in Pukio. When the youth told the authorities about the human skull he had found, the subsequent investigation ultimately led to the shocking conclusion by forensic scientists that the skull had belonged to a European woman, aged 40 to 45 years, who had died around the year 1654, plus or minus another thirty-five years (a bracket from 1619 to 1689).

The presence of a European woman in New Zealand in that period of time causes major problems for conventional historical timelines, which credit the first European contact in New Zealand to Dutch explorer Abel Tasman (1603 – 1659), who in 1642 sailed from the west (in fact, from Tasmania) and skirted along the western coast of the northern portion of the South Island and the southern portion of the North Island before leaving New Zealand and proceeding north to Tonga and Fiji. No other European ship is known to have returned to New Zealand for over a hundred years.

If the analysis of the skull's ethnic characteristics and date of origin is correct, it creates a very difficult situation for those who would explain its presence in the quiet Wairarapa along the banks of the Ruamahanga. There were no women recorded as being part of Tasman's expedition, and indeed it would have been remarkable had there been any women on board such an expedition in the first half of the 1600s.

Further, Tasman's actual physical contact onshore was limited, due to the incident which took place the first morning that they determined to "get ashore and find a good harbor" (J.E. Heeres, *English Translation of the Journal of Abel Janszoon Tasman*). Tasman's two ships, the *Heemskerk* and the *Zeehan*, anchored about a half mile off the coast of what is now Golden Bay, in 13 to 15 fathoms of water, were preparing to go ashore, while the inhabitants of the islands (the Maoris) headed out into the waters around the anchored ships with first one war-canoe (or *waka*) and then seven more. According to Tasman's journal (translated into English and

available online), one of the wakas had seventeen "able-bodied men in her" and another had thirteen.

As the cock-boat of the *Zeehan* headed towards the *Heemskerk* with the quartermaster, the men on one of the wakas began paddling furiously in unison and rammed the cock-boat with terrific force. One of them struck the quartermaster in the neck with a long Maori paddle so violently that he fell overboard, after which the other men in the waka leapt into the cock-boat and began to bludgeon the Dutch sailors. Those who could get away leapt into the water and swam to the safety of the *Zeehan*, where they were hauled aboard. Three Dutchmen were killed and a fourth mortally wounded.

After that, Tasman and his men concluded that "we could not hope to enter into any friendly relations with these people, or to be able to get water or refreshments here." They proceeded up the coast and attempted twice to put in for water, sending the cock-boat of the *Zeehan* and the pinnace of the *Heemskerk* and arming the rowers with pikes, muskets and side-arms, but found that both places they tried were too difficult to approach due to large surf and dangerous rocks, and also due to the presence of Maori warriors whom they had seen standing as lookouts along the high ground all along the Dutchmen's voyage northwards.

They decided to get fresh water later and proceeded north to Tonga, where they found the inhabitants less violent.

This visit is the only known contact with New Zealand by any European vessels until the first voyage of James Cook (1728 – 1799), who reached New Zealand from the east (sailing from Tahiti) in 1769 and mapped its complete coastlines. One hundred and twenty-seven years had passed since the abortive encounter by the expedition of Tasman.

From the record of Tasman's journal, even had his expedition had women or a woman on board (which it did not), it would have been extremely unlikely that a woman would have been included in the heavily-armed watering party that was sent towards shore after proceeding up the coast of the North Island from Murderer's Bay (as Tasman called the magnificent bay at the north end of

the South Island, now known as Golden Bay, where his four men were killed).

Even assuming that somehow an unrecorded woman was on the Tasman expedition, and that she had somehow been selected for the arduous landing in heavy surf to fill the heavy water-casks in enemy territory (an unlikely assumption), Abel Tasman's journal records that the watering party never made landfall due to the concerns of the pilot-major, who feared that an attempt to land on the rocky shore would wreck the boats or result in the smashing-in of the water casks.

However, since Tasman's expedition was the only known European expedition to reach New Zealand in the entire century of the 1600s, there remain few other possibilities within the conventional framework of human origins and history.

Perhaps an unrecorded ship from another European country was blown so far off course that it reached New Zealand, and that unrecorded ship somehow had a European woman or European women aboard, in spite of the fact that no women are known to have been taken on any such expeditions. However, no expeditions exist which can be offered as possibilities for such an "off-course" New Zealand contact.

The only other explanation for a woman of European ethnicity being present on the North Island of Aotearoa in the century of the 1600s is that Europeans were somehow present there prior to the voyage of Tasman. Since no New Zealand inhabitants of European ethnicity prior to Tasman are known to recorded history, this explanation raises the specter of a lost history, and the crossing of the oceans by members of the "Old World" long before the keepers of the current storyline will allow.

Thus the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman is a very important data point for any rigorous analysis of the question of mankind's ancient past, and ignoring a data point of this significance can lead to dangerously flawed conclusions.

In the world of investment research, prior to committing millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars, or hundreds of millions of

dollars of capital to a company (through the purchase of stock issued by that company, or through the purchase of that company's bonds), thorough research and analysis and the consideration of every available data point is imperative. Ignoring a piece of information about that company – especially one which has been written about in respectable publications, and especially one that could have serious implications, such as a report of unethical behavior in the CEO's past, or evidence that the company's business model is vulnerable to a rising alternative means of delivering that company's good or service to customers – could very well lead to a flawed investment thesis and to serious losses.

Analysts have an expression for the kind of thorough investigation and analysis that is required in order to mitigate against a mistaken investment thesis, a level of analysis they call "due diligence." The word "due" means "deserving" – the level of research and analysis that a subject of that importance deserves. Thus the word "due" in English also implies payment – the wages which are "due" a worker, which he has earned by his labor. For those whose entire profession is anthropology or ancient human history, to ignore the information provided by the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman when formulating a thesis about the history of mankind would be as egregious as it would be for an analyst at a major investment firm whose entire profession is investment research to ignore a glaring piece of evidence that provides a window into the leadership or business model of the company he is researching, and to ignore it because it contradicts his personal investment thesis on the company.

Similarly, in the world of military tactics and military intelligence, when officers of a combat unit are formulating their plan for an operation, every available piece of relevant information about the disposition and possible actions of the enemy must be analyzed carefully. Unlike the situation in investment analysis, in which millions of dollars might be on the line, in a military operation men's very lives are on the line. If there are reports available from the scouts, for example, of enemy activity in a certain area, and the commander insists that the enemy could not possibly be coming from that direction (because that would conflict with the commander's favored theory of what the enemy was planning to do), such negligence could very well have tragic consequences.

However, in the academic world where theories of mankind's ancient history are cultivated, the immediate consequences of faulty analysis or for holding on to an incorrect thesis do not generally entail the loss of millions of dollars, as it does in the investment world, or the loss of the lives of those the theorists know well (or loss of the lives of the theorists themselves), as it does in the military world. On the contrary, in the academic world, challenging a well-entrenched theory can lead to the loss of money, status, even livelihood.

From the perspective of a military tactician or an investment analyst, the implications of the Ruamahanga Woman are enormous. If a data point of its size were to drop into the lap of a military intelligence officer while participating in the military decision-making process before a battle, he would have to immediately and urgently seek to corroborate whether it was creditable, and if it led the leaders of that unit to throw out the entire previous plan and switch to a new one, so be it.

If while conducting due diligence before committing capital to a company an investment manager were to stumble across something as damaging to the investment thesis as the existence of the Ruamahanga Woman is damaging to the conventional historical thesis, that manager would immediately put his plans of committing capital to that company on hold while he looked into it further, and if it appeared at all possible that the information it was telling him could be true, he would change his investment thesis and even abandon plans to commit capital to that investment without any hesitation.

Naturally, two lines of investigation for "due diligence" would be the evidence supporting the conclusion that Ruamahanga Woman was in fact a female of European origin, and the evidence supporting the conclusion that the owner of the skull ceased living between 1619 and 1689.

Certainly, skulls themselves by their physical features can indicate both the sex and ethnic characteristics of their owners. The scientific fields of forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology study the morphology of human skeletal remains to enable analysis of sex,

ethnic category, pathology (the impact of disease and sickness), and the cause, manner, and mechanism of death from those most physically durable members of the human body, the bones.

There are morphologies in the skull which can be measured to distinguish between the skull of a male and the skull of a female. While the differences in the pelvic bone are the most obvious indicators of whether a skeleton belonged to a man or a woman, there are differences in the skull as well, including differences in the supraorbital margin (the lower edge of the frontal bone, a piece of the skull which makes up the forehead area and terminates at its lower margin in the upper arches of the eye sockets or orbits, the actual bony edge of which will be more rounded in a male and more sharp like a knife-blade in a female), the glabella (another portion at the lower front edge of the frontal bone, between the two arches of the eye sockets, and tending to be flatter in the skull of a woman), the gonial angle (or *angulus mandibulae*, the angle formed by the lower jawbone or mandible, which has one branch or *ramus* ascending towards the ear on either side and a more horizontal portion which runs around the chin, and the angle between these on either side, below the ear, is known as the gonial angle and is typically closer to a right angle in the skull of men and a more obtuse angle in the skulls of women – the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman, however, lacked a mandible when discovered), the shape and curve of the palate (also not present in the remains of the skull of Ruamahanga Woman), the size of the mastoid process (the portion of the skull where it dips down below and behind the ear, tending to be larger in males), and at places where muscles attach, such as the occipital bone (males tending to have more pronounced muscle attachments than females).

In the case of the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman, forensic anthropologist Dr. Robin Watt, of Wellington, NZ, examined it in 2004 and stated that it was probably of a woman of European descent. Dr. Watt, who has practiced for over thirty years, has examined and analyzed more early prehistoric Maori skeletal material than anyone else, according to an extensive 2009 article in *New Zealand Geographic* authored by Vaughan Yarwood. Dr. Watt's determination that the skull probably belonged to a woman and conformed to a European ethnic pattern is significant, because he himself

does not admit to the possibility that the skull could point to the presence of people of European ethnicity on the island prior to Tasman.

In spite of the fact that he had only a partial skull to work with, Dr. Watt's conclusions about the sex and ethnicity of the owner of the skull were later validated by the examination of mitochondrial DNA.

The DNA found in the nucleus of every cell is a combination of DNA from the father and the mother. However, within the cell but outside of the nucleus in a cell are varying numbers of mitochondria, small organelles which perform a variety of important functions, including furnishing energy for the cell by generating the nucleotide adenosine tri-phosphate, or ATP. DNA is found in the mitochondria as well as the nucleus, and unlike the DNA in the nucleus, mitochondrial DNA comes only from the mother (men do not pass on any mitochondrial DNA to their children). Thus, the mitochondrial DNA does not change from one generation to the next, the way the nuclear DNA, mixing the genes of the two parents, changes not only from each generation but even between two siblings of the same generation and parentage.

This fact makes mitochondrial DNA an extremely useful tool. One other important fact makes mitochondrial DNA even more useful, and that is the fact that mitochondrial DNA does change occasionally through mutation. Without this fact, the mitochondrial DNA of every person on the planet would be identical. As it is, there are vast groups of people whose common parentage can be traced by their identical mitochondrial DNA, and other groups whose mitochondrial DNA points to their descent from a mother whose mitochondrial DNA had a small genetic deviation from her mother's at some point in the distant past.

Because of these characteristics, mitochondrial DNA can be used as a very important data point in attempting to identify membership in these broad families, and because scientists can extract and amplify mitochondrial DNA even from bones as old as the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman, mitochondrial DNA is very useful indeed for analysis.

The various groups who share a single common mitochondrial DNA pattern are known as haplogroups (from the Greek word *haplo* or "single," because they share the same gene sequence). At some point far back in the family tree of women in the western Eurasia region, a variation in the mitochondrial DNA of a mother created the haplogroup N, which would then be passed on to all her descendents. Subsequent variations within this broader N haplogroup produced the haplogroup H, which unites a group of descendents of the N-group most common in the region of southern Scandinavia and Jutland.

When cells from the skull of the Ruamahanga Woman were studied, they confirmed the conclusions that forensic anthropologist Robin Watt had made using bone morphology – the skull had belonged to a woman of the H haplogroup. The H haplotype is distinctly European.

Because mitochondrial DNA is only passed from the mother, the presence of the H haplotype rules out any speculation that a male European on one of Tasman's ships had somehow gone ashore and produced a child with a Maori woman, because their child would inherit only the mitochondrial DNA of the Maori mother, which would be the B haplogroup (and specifically the B4a1a1a or "CCGT" haplotype) (Miles Clifford Benson, *Mitochondrial Genome Variation and Metabolic Traits in a Maori Community*).

Of course, judging from the entries in Tasman's journal, such a liaison would be speculative almost beyond possibility, as the European ships were clearly viewed as hostile and armed warriors were stationed along the heights of the western shore to watch their progress and warn the populace (as well as probably to summon a force to repel them) should they have decided to land, which they declined to do. Allowing one of them to even see one of their women, let alone spend some time alone with her, was probably out of the question. In any event, such speculation is cut off by the mitochondrial DNA analysis identifying Ruamahanga Woman as the European daughter of a European mother (her mother could not have been Maori).

Thus, due diligence suggests that the skull is actually that of a

European female, but what of the assertion that this female died during the 1600s?

The dating of the skull to the period between 1619 and 1689 was done at the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory, the world's oldest continuously running radiocarbon lab and the first in the southern hemisphere to use carbon-14 analysis. Carbon-14 dating measures the percentage of carbon-14 (also known as radiocarbon, because it is radioactive, decaying with a half-life of 5,730 years).

The vast majority of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere is regular non-radioactive carbon-12. However, some nitrogen-14 atoms present in the atmosphere are converted into carbon-14 by the cosmic radiation striking the upper atmosphere. If an energized neutron (knocked free by incoming cosmic radiation and known as an alpha particle) strikes a nitrogen atom, with seven protons and seven neutrons, a proton will be knocked loose (creating a hydrogen atom) and the former nitrogen atom will capture the neutron, creating a radioactive carbon-14 atom (with six protons and eight neutrons).

Over time, carbon-14 atoms, which are unstable, will undergo beta decay wherein one of the neutrons will split, emitting one electron (a beta particle) and an anti-neutrino, and becoming a proton in the process. This leaves seven neutrons and seven protons, which forms a stable nitrogen-14 atom. Physicists have determined that any quantity of carbon-14 will decay into half of that quantity over a period of 5,730 years, which is the half-life of the radiocarbon.

The earth's atmosphere contains carbon dioxide, which is absorbed by plants during photosynthesis. Some of the carbon they absorb will be carbon-14, in the same proportion as the ratio of radioactive carbon-14 to stable carbon-12 that is found in the overall atmosphere during the time the plants are absorbing carbon dioxide (during the plants' lives). Plant-eating animals will also incorporate carbon into their bodies in the same proportions, through the plants that they eat. Meat-eating animals will incorporate the same ratios into their bodies, from the animals they eat. The ratio is currently about a trillion to one of regular carbon-12 to radioactive carbon-14.

Radiocarbon dating uses this knowledge to extrapolate the age of the remains of plants and animals by measuring the carbon-14 in their remains. Once a plant or animal ceases to live, it ceases to incorporate additional carbon-14 into its tissues through photosynthesis or digestion. The carbon-14 it absorbed in life slowly decays through the process of beta-decay described above. By estimating what ratio of carbon-14 was present during the lifetime of the plant or animal, and by comparing that ratio to what remains today, the rate of decay (or half-life) of the radiocarbon can be used to estimate the amount of time that has passed since the plant or animal ceased absorbing new carbon.

Radiocarbon dating must necessarily make assumptions about the ratios of radiocarbon to regular carbon-12 present in the atmosphere in past centuries. There have been significant atmospheric events which have altered the ratios in recent centuries. Most significant of these were the atomic tests conducted during the first decades of the atomic age, during which actual nuclear weapons were detonated in the atmosphere, releasing significantly more radiation than the earth receives from cosmic rays, and thereby producing higher levels of carbon-14 (by a factor of about 100% greater than normal). This "bomb carbon" began with tests in 1955, and peaked in the years 1963-1964 (later in the southern hemisphere than in the northern). All plants and animals alive at that time, as well as all those which have lived since, have absorbed greater ratios of carbon-14 than were present before the atomic testing took place, resulting in a "signature" that marks them as having lived during or after the age of nuclear weapons.

Other changes to the carbon ratios came from the increase in the burning of coal and oil in the Industrial Revolution, during which old coal and oil (in which the radiocarbon had significantly decayed) were burned and their carbon atoms released into the atmosphere, diluting the ratio and lowering the incidence of carbon-14 atoms, thus reducing the amount of carbon-14 absorbed by plants alive after the year 1890 by a measurable amount. Thus, organic material measured after 1890 has less carbon-14 than might be expected, leading to the appearance of greater age (it appears as though more time has passed allowing greater beta

decay, whereas in reality the organisms simply absorbed atmospheric levels of carbon that were lower due to the Industrial Revolution).

Certain marine conditions and certain aspects of active volcanic activity also appear to alter the absorption of carbon-14 by plants and animals living in certain niche environments on the globe, leading to unexpected dates in the radiocarbon dating of grasses growing near an active volcano (within 200 meters) or organisms shielded by deep ocean waters or old limestone formations.

All of these examples illustrate the important truth that radiocarbon dating is not a black-and-white, cut-and-dry process that yields an automatic readout, but rather that it – like any other form of analysis – requires the construction of a thesis based upon the available information and certain underlying assumptions. Further, as will be discussed later, there is the possibility that other significant geologic events in the distant past (in particular, the events surrounding the worldwide flood described in similar details by widely dispersed people-groups throughout recorded history) could have altered the carbon-14 ratios in ways that conventional radiocarbon dating assumptions do not incorporate.

However, for organic tissues which ceased to be alive within the past few hundred years, such possible distant events are not a significant factor (since the global flood we will discuss, if it took place, was many thousands of years earlier). Thus, the radiocarbon dating done on the Ruamahanga Woman should produce a fairly reliable date of death. The findings of the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory, which uses an extremely accurate method involving an electrostatic Van de Graaff accelerator to separate the atoms of varying molecular weights and which allows the scientists to count the individual carbon-14 isotopes versus the stable carbon-12 and carbon-13 isotopes, discovered that the skull had no bomb carbon signature, meaning its owner ceased to absorb new carbon prior to 1955. Further, the ratios indicated that about 296 years of beta decay had taken place prior to the radiocarbon base date of 1950, plus-or-minus thirty-five years.

Because the science behind radiocarbon dating (at least for dates within the past 5,000 years – more on that subject later) and behind

mitochondrial DNA analysis are both so well established, those who wish to contest the conclusion that a woman of European ethnicity was present in New Zealand between 1619 and 1689 do not typically dispute that the skull itself belonged to a European woman who died between those years. That would be a frontal assault on a position that is too well defended. Instead, they have been reduced to completely speculative suggestions with absolutely no historic evidence behind them at all. In fact, the only thing they can offer to support these fantastical theories is their confidence that "Europeans could not possibly have been present in New Zealand" prior to Tasman – their entire framework does not admit to such a possibility.

The leading speculative theories fall into two categories – the first being that an unknown shipwreck must have taken place, during which some female European survivors remained in New Zealand. No record of such a shipwreck currently exists.

The second is that some scientific cadaver or skeleton from the 1600s must have been brought to New Zealand during subsequent centuries and then lost, the skull of which traced an unknown odyssey that ended along the banks of the Ruamahanga in the year 2004. Again, no record of such a missing cadaver exists. Further, the region through which the Ruamahanga River flows is very rural, and sparsely populated, and it is difficult to concoct a scenario by which a scientific cadaver would be lost upstream from the discovery point. The Ruamahanga flows down from some very rugged and wild mountains before entering the broad Wairarapa Valley, but none of these areas are home to a museum or university. Further south and to the west, the city of Wellington might be a candidate for a cadaver for study, but such a cadaver would very likely have arrived on a ship from the south, and if lost the skull would certainly not have rolled to the north, over the steep Rimutaka Ranges, and into the Wairarapa. Thus, even these speculative theories (with no historical evidence to back them up whatsoever) come apart under closer scrutiny.

If there were no other archaeological and anthropological evidence that "Old World" people-groups had been to New Zealand before the Maori arrived sometime in the thirteenth century (roughly

between AD 1200 and 1300), then such flights of speculative fancy might possibly be justified to explain away a single outlier, even an outlier that is as full of indisputable evidence as the Ruamahanga skull. However, there are many other corroborating data points that can be piled up, and that we will examine in this book. There are so many that we will not be able to examine them all, but we will examine enough to exhaust the likelihood that our thesis is mistaken. In fact, the Ruamahanga Woman is just one of countless pieces of evidence – very strong evidence – from around the world that the current conventional framework of anthropology, biology, and geology is wrong.

The Hydroplate Theory and the Mysteries of Mankind's Ancient Past

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We have now spent considerable time examining the extensive evidence pointing to the likelihood that the conventional theories of anthropology and ancient history are incorrect. If this were a crime novel, the analogy would be that the authorities and the community at large have convicted the wrong suspect, and are doggedly sticking to their incorrect thesis because of some kind of prejudice or another. More evidence – perhaps some of the most shocking evidence – will be forthcoming, but first it is time to pause to lay out the alternative thesis, having already seen enough evidence both from archaeology and from the tattered remnants of human literature and myth to declare the "official story" fatally flawed.

Earlier in the book, we examined the hydroplate theory of Dr. Walt Brown, a graduate of both West Point and MIT and a former professor at the US Air Force Academy. Dr. Brown begins with one very unconventional assumption – that prior to an ancient cataclysmic global flood, there was salty water trapped in a layer underneath the earth's crust, under great pressure – and from this single assumption he proceeds to examine the evidence all over the globe which supports his theory that the violent escape of this trapped subterranean water led to the features we see on the earth today.

Dr. Brown's extensive array of evidence – all of which can be better explained by his theory than by the reigning uniformitarian geological theories, including the widely-accepted theory of plate tectonics – is almost entirely geological in nature. He

does occasionally venture into anthropological evidence, such as when he examines briefly the oral traditions of the Hopi people, but in general his writing is concerned with the physical features of the earth (and the solar system) which support his explanation (and which pose tremendous problems for the currently-dominant paradigm).

It is my belief that the evidence presented so far in this book, examining in greater detail the surviving mythology from man's ancient past, as well as the surviving archaeological structures such as the pyramids of Egypt and the Americas, the stone circles, mounds, and other megalithic structures found throughout the world, and the other anthropological evidence that exists, is also explained far better by Walt Brown's theory than by the currently-accepted paradigm of geology. In other words, the anthropological evidence provides a powerful support of his theory, and is explained better by his theory than by some of the other alternative theories which those who have also noticed the anomalous evidence tend to put forward (alternative theories such as the idea that the planet Venus brushed close to our earth in the distant past, causing massive crustal displacement that left the geological features we see today).

Dr. Brown's theory flies in the face of uniformitarian geologic theories that have dominated academia since the 1800s. Uniformitarian theory is so named because it posits that all or almost all of the features we find in the geology on earth today can be explained by processes which are for the most part still going on – in other words, processes that are "uniform," as opposed to catastrophoc. It looks for the same forces going on today but acting over long periods of time, rather than unusual forces which shaped the earth with processes dramatically unlike those we still see in operation today.

The introduction of uniformitarian geological theories in the early 1800s was almost as revolutionary as the introduction of Darwinian theories of evolution a few decades later, and in fact the two theories are closely related and their principal proponents knew each other well and discussed their mutual work together in person. Uniformitarian theories had been proposed earlier than the 1800s,

most notably by pioneering Scottish geologist James Hutton (1726 – 1797), who published two texts entitled *Theory of the Earth* and *Concerning the System of the Earth* in 1785. In these works, Hutton outlined his arguments that processes like those going on today could have shaped the features we find today, given enough time (and he proposed vast eons of time stretching so far back that we can today find "no vestige of a beginning, -- no prospect of an end").

This suggestion was a radical departure from the prevailing theories of the day, which were (at least in Europe, the United States, and other Western nations) based primarily upon the Biblical account in Genesis, relying upon the forces of the Biblical Flood (this is the source of the term "antediluvian," or pre-Flood, for anything considered extremely ancient) and positing a relatively young earth created some thousands or perhaps tens of thousands of years ago, rather than the endless millions posited by Hutton.

While Hutton's work laid an important foundation for uniformitarianism, it was really the work of Charles Lyell (1797 – 1875) which vaulted uniformitarianism into the popular consciousness, primarily with the publication of his *Principles of Geology: an attempt to explain the former changes of earth's surface by reference to causes now in operation* (1830), a book which would be so popular that it supported twelve more editions over the course of Lyell's life (the twelfth being published posthumously in 1875). His other major works included *Elements of Geology* (1838), *Travels in North America* (1845), and *Geological Evidences for the Antiquity of Man* (1863).

The very first quotation in the first edition of *Principles of Geology* was a quotation which reads:

> Amid all the revolutions of the globe the economy of Nature has been uniform, and her laws are the only things that have resisted the general movement. The rivers and the rocks, the seas and the continents have been changed in all their parts, but the laws which direct those changes, and the rules to which they are subject, have remained invariably the same. Playfair, *Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory.*

This quotation can be seen as a uniformitarian manifesto – the declaration that all the changes which have worked over the earth are the result of natural forces that are unvarying: uniform. It is simultaneously a rejection of the idea of extraordinary or even supernatural forces resorted to by churchmen of the time to explain the features of the earth around them. A more succinct encapsulation of this fundamental uniformitarian assumption is Lyell's own phrase, "The present is the key to the past."

Uniformitarian theories inevitably require extremely long periods of time. If features as enormous as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, for instance, were created not by catastrophic forces but instead by the same forces of erosion that the Colorado River is exerting today, then tens or even hundreds of millions of years must be added so that those much milder uniformitarian forces can have any hope of doing the job.

Conversely, catastrophic theories undermine the need for vast ages which have dominated the prevailing theories since Hutton and Lyell. This is a very important point. If enormous geological features such as the Grand Canyon could have been formed by catastrophic forces in relatively short periods of time (in other words, not requiring millions of years but perhaps only months or even weeks), then the need for endless rolling millions of years marching off into unknowable antiquity is seriously compromised. If the Grand Canyon and other natural features could have been formed in weeks or months, then it is possible that they were formed last month – or rather, since they are populated with trees and bearing some signs of age, at least only a few thousands of years ago instead of millions.

It should be obvious, then, that uniformitarian geology, by its reliance upon and assertion of endless millions of years of time, is a strong and natural ally of Darwinian evolution, which also relies upon vast amounts of time to produce mutations as complex as spiders spinning webs that are stronger than an equal volume of steel and yet far more flexible, or bats which can negotiate a dark room strung with a complex tangle of piano wire at high speeds, and unerringly catch a flying moth in the process.

And in fact Darwin and Lyell were friends, sharing long conversations about their respective theories. Lyell was reluctant to accept all of the implications of Darwin's theory, particularly Darwin's assertion that man is descended from apes and the specifics of natural selection, but the two were close friends and there is some evidence from Lyell's writings over the decades that he became more and more amenable to various aspects of evolutionary theory, even if he never fully accepted Darwinism in totality.

The obvious synergy between the geological theories of uniformitarianism and the biological theories of Darwinism mean that any geological theory which challenges uniformitarianism (as Dr. Brown's hydroplate theory clearly does) will be violently attacked not only by those who have a stake in preserving geological uniformitarianism but also by those who are devoted to Darwinian evolution. Any threat to theories which require hundreds of millions of years of geological shaping will necessarily pose a threat to the hundreds of millions of years required by Darwin's theory as well. Like the authorities in a crime novel who are motivated by their own prejudices to accept an explanation that is obviously flawed, the adherents of the conventional worldview are predisposed to explain any evidence from the perspective of their own assumptions, and to reject explanations coming from assumptions which threaten their own core beliefs. This bias can operate almost entirely below the level of conscious thought, so that those who misinterpret the evidence think they are being completely impartial, much like a referee at a sporting event who believes he is making an unbiased call but is really being unintentionally harder on one team for some reason.

When first encountered, Brown's hydroplate theory may be difficult to accept as well because of the startling nature of his first assumption, that water had been trapped beneath the crust under high pressure prior to the global flood – so much water, in fact, that its volume makes up roughly half of what is now in the oceans. Remember, however, that numerous flood legends which remain to us as artifacts from humanity's past seem to include water coming up from below to flood the earth. Most notable of these, of course, is the Genesis passage which relates that "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the

seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened" (Genesis 7:11).

The order here is interesting, in that it was the "fountains of the great deep" (whatever that means) which were broken up, followed by the opening of "the windows of heaven." According to Brown's theory, it was the rupture of the crust which enabled the explosive escape of the water under the earth, some of it jetting as high as twenty miles into the atmosphere, which was then followed by torrential downpours as the water came back down.

Another passage from the Hebrew Scripture worth noting is that of Job chapter 38, in which the Almighty finally answers Job with a string of questions that leave Job in awe-stricken silence:

> "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measure thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the cornerstone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or *who* shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, *as if* it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, and brake up for it my decreed *place*, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Job 38:1-11.

Here we find the rather startling imagery of the sea being described as breaking forth as if "it had issued out of the womb" (when it burst forth out of its boundaries, before later being confined to its "decreed place" which the Almighty "brake up for it"). We have already seen that the legends of the Cuna tribes of what is today Panama in Central America describe the flood as "being due to breaking of the great water jars of the underworld by a god" (Keeler 60).

Brown's hydroplate theory involves the eventual runoff of the floodwaters into the great basin of the Pacific and Atlantic, and according to his theory the Pacific basin was in fact "broken up" by the chain of events set into action by the original rupture: the water jetting out eroded tons of earth from the sides of the original crust, widening the crack and reducing the weight above until the basement rock that had been below sprang upward (and producing the massive volumes of sediments which would be sorted by the water's action into the sedimentary layers found all over the earth today).

This upward springing of the basement crust caused the initiation of the sliding of the "hydroplates" (still lubricated below by the water that had not escaped) away from what is today the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. At the same time, this action also caused an oppo-

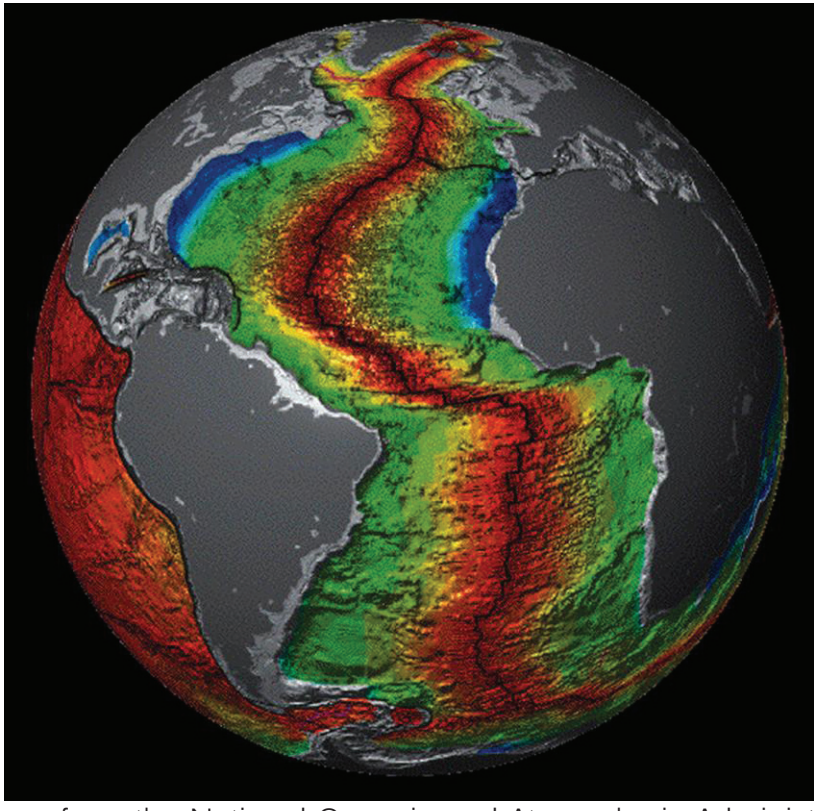
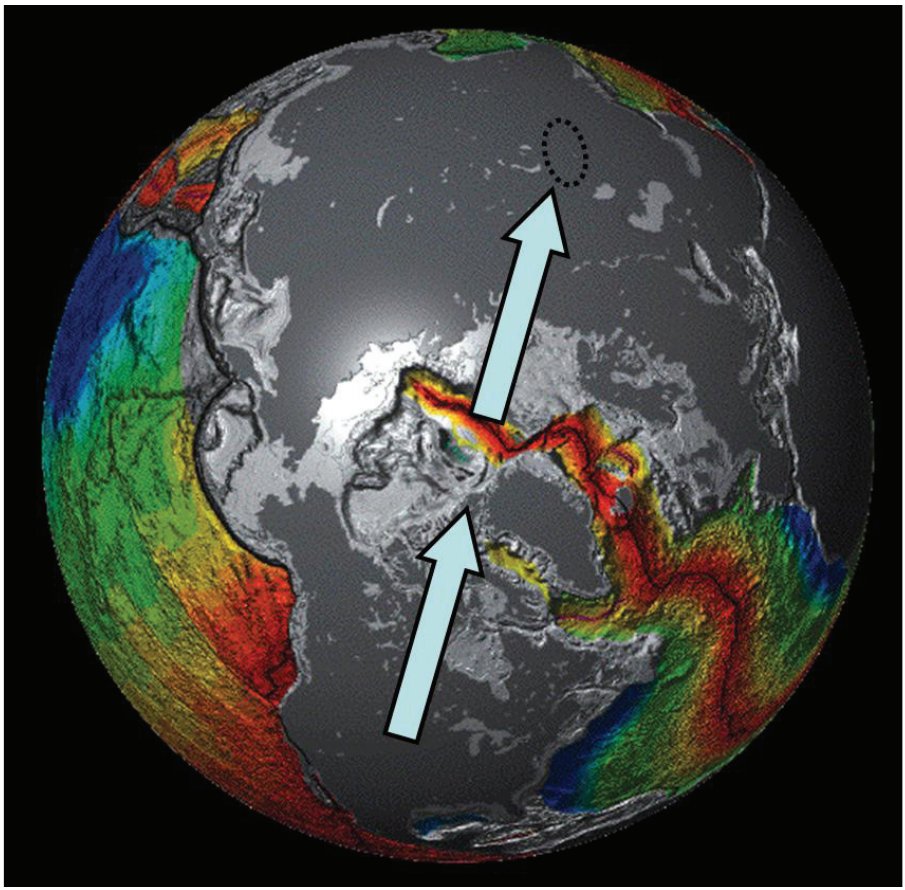


Image from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), clearly showing the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the continental shelves which (according to the hydroplate theory) were formed by the violent escape of massive flows of water.

site reaction on the other side of the globe as the upward movement of mass on the Atlantic side of the globe caused a giant downward suction of mass on the Pacific side, breaking up the crust and plate that were there and creating the violent cusps around the depression that resemble more than anything the crater that is caused if a man presses his thumb into the side of a ping-pong ball. The hydroplates slid toward this new abyss, eventually grinding to a stop due to friction, buckling in the process like the front of a big truck when it hits a wall. Along their front edges in particular, the incredible heat and friction produced magma as the plates themselves melted underneath, which explains the volcanic formations found around the edge of the Pacific on all sides. The violent breaking up of the crust that now forms the ocean floor of the Pacific also released magma and heat, which is why the "Ring of Fire" can still be traced around the edge of the Pacific. Today, although the sliding action has largely ceased, there is ongoing shifting and settling of the mighty plates towards the direction of the Pacific abyss, resulting in earthquakes – which remain most common in the Pacific and the continents around its boundaries.

Difficult as such a paradigm-shifting theory may be to accept among those of us who have been conditioned our entire lives to believe in uniformitarian geology (by educators at all levels), Brown's hydroplate theory appears in many ways to have greatly superior explanations for the evidence we find around the world, including not only the arc-and-cusp shapes of the trenches in the Pacific, but also the salty water found by miners when they dig very deep shafts miles down into the crust, or the remains of masses of temperate trees and vegetation in the very high latitudes on the globe which today could not possibly support growth of that size and volume (and are today covered with permafrost and support only the barest lichens and mosses). As we have already seen, Brown's theory posits that the rapid buckling that led to the most massive mountain ranges on earth (the Himalayas and surrounding chains) caused a change in the actual center of gravity of the globe, such that it rolled between 35^{o} and 45^{o}, bringing the previous north pole of the earth down to the region of Manchuria, and bringing regions that once were in more temperate latitudes up to the new north pole (and down to the new south pole on the other side of the sphere as well).

Brown's theory, in fact, explains literally hundreds of geological phenomena on earth in ways that he shows to be much more plausible and in line with the principles of physics than the prevailing explanations. One prominent example is his theory's explanation of the formation of the Grand Canyon (that outstanding laboratory for geology and geological theory). The uniformitarian theory, of course, holds that the enormous Grand Canyon was carved out by erosion through the action of the Colorado River over millions of years. This is what park rangers confidently tell visitors, and what numerous official-sounding movies and geographic specials state as settled fact, without the slightest hint that anyone could ever doubt such an explanation.

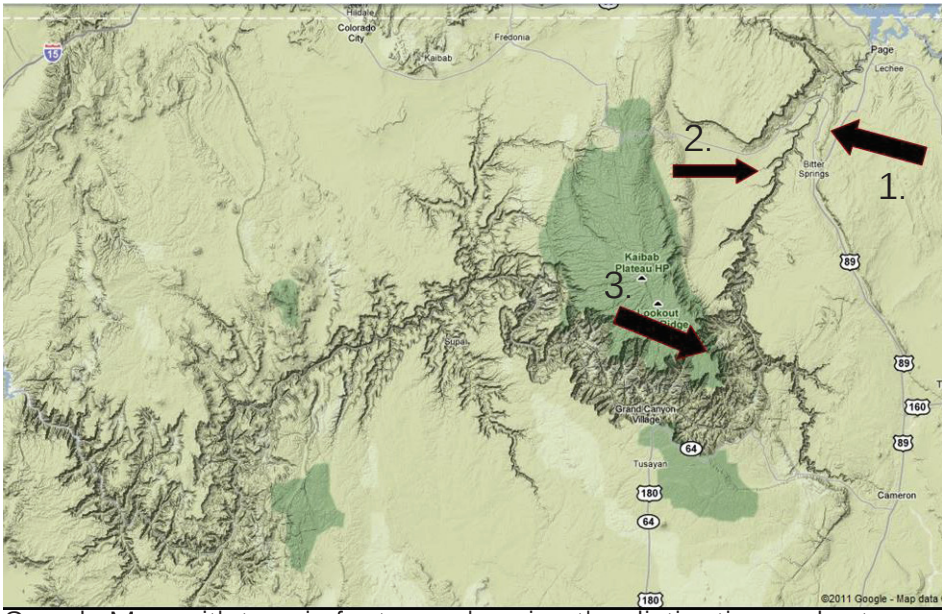


The roll of the earth caused by the thickening of the Asian plate at the Himalaya region. This image looks down on the current north pole, which rolled up to its present location from the bottom of the lower arrow. The former north pole rolled to the area indicated by the dotted oval, which moved along the path indicated by the upper arrow.

In fact, however, this explanation is ludicrous, and runs into numerous king-sized problems when it is forced to account for the actual evidence on the ground. For starters, Dr. Brown notes that all conventional theories have to explain how the Colorado River, which flows generally southward on the eastern side of the high Kaibab Plateau, suddenly took a hard right turn to the west and flowed up and over that plateau, eroding a mighty canyon right through the middle of it. The diagram below makes this problem clear.

Dr. Brown points out:

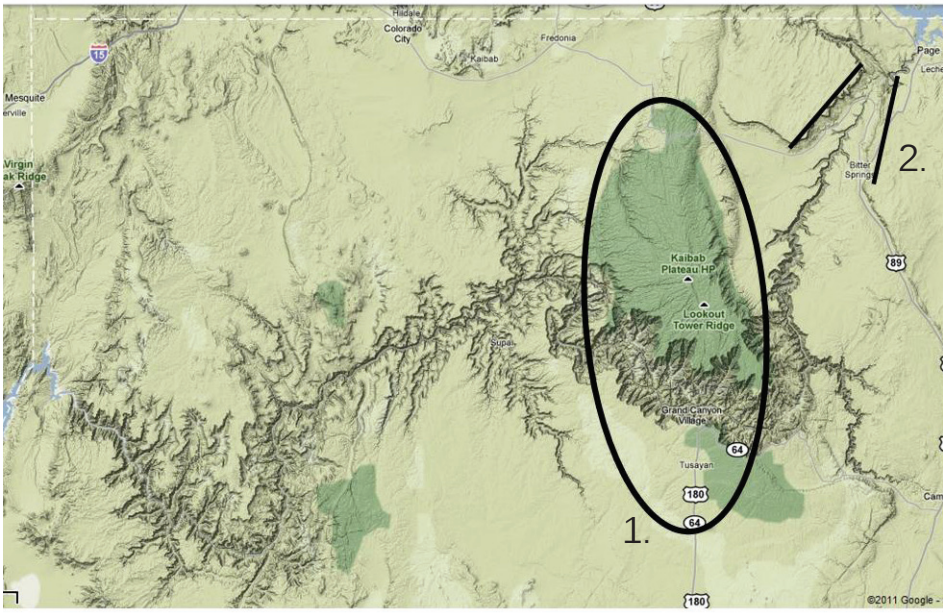
> All explanations for the Grand Canyon's origin try to answer this question. Some say that the river was once a mile or



Google Map with terrain features showing the distinctive and extreme terrain of the Grand Canyon. This view is particularly useful because it clearly illustrates the obvious "funnel" blasted out of the high cliffs above Bitter Springs (arrow 1). The distinctive "barbed canyons" emanating from the direction of water travel along the Colorado River are clearly seen near the funnel feature. One such barbed canyon is marked with arrow 2. Tributary streams do not typically enter a larger river from this direction -- undermining the conventional theory that a normal river carved the Grand Canyon over millions of years. Finally, the conventional theories have tremendous difficulty explaining why and how the Colorado River turned and flowed right through the massif of the Kaibab Plateau (at arrow 3).

more higher, and the land it flowed over eroded away. As it did, the river settled down on top of the Kaibab Plateau and cut through it – a process called *superposition*. Others say the river cut through the Kaibab Plateau along a fault (or crack). However, faults [in the Kaibab Plateau] are generally perpendicular to the Colorado River, not parallel. Some believe that the land under the river rose, forming the Kaibab Plateau. As it did, the river cut down through the rising plateau. Two theories say that a stream flowing down a western slope of the Colorado Plateau continually eroded *eastward* 130 miles and eventually cut through the Kaibab Plateau – a process called *headward erosion*. (Notice how dependent these explanations are on millions of years of time, and how many untestable explanations can be proposed if millions of years are imagined). *In the Beginning*, 8th ed. 187ff.

Other features Brown discovered that provide powerful support for his explanation include the massive "funnel" shaped feature



To ensure the reader sees the funnel and the Kaibab Plateau being described in the text and in the previous diagram, the same terrain map of the Grand Canyon is reproduced here. This time, the Kaibab Plateau is marked by the general shape of the ellipse at 1. The funnel feature above Bitter Springs is marked by two lines at 2.

that can be clearly seen in the map at right, as well as the "barbed canyons" which flow in the opposite direction to the direction water typically flows into a river.

The features are shown again in the image below, with the Kaibab Plateau outlined in the large ellipse, and the funnel shape feature outlined with diverging lines.

Dr. Brown piles on other additional clues from the Grand Canyon that all point to the hydroplate theory as the best explanation, evidence which give conventional explanations considerable difficulty. Among these are the features of Marble Canyon, Nankoweap Canyon, and many aspects of the famous layering visible in the Grand Canyon itself (among them the question of why erosion would cut down so deeply into harder and harder layers of rock, instead of eroding primarily horizontally in softer upper sedimentary layers before carving down deeper).

Perhaps most striking is the evidence from the regions to the east and northeast of the Grand Canyon, where Brown proposes the enormous lakes lay before breaching their western wall and emptying their contents. Brown suggests that after the sliding North American hydroplate came to a halt (a violent event that created the buckling of the Sierras and the Rockies), much of the floodwaters ran off into the basins of the Atlantic and Pacific, but huge reservoirs were trapped in areas that later became California's Central Valley, the salt flats of Utah, and in two large lakes Brown calls Grand Lake and Hopi Lake east of today's Grand Canyon.

The sinking action of the heavy Rockies created a corresponding rising action of the Colorado Plateau (just as the sinking action of the Himalayas created a corresponding rising action that formed the Tibetan Plateau). Grand Lake and Hopi Lake were raised up by this action to an elevation of nearly 6,000 feet above sea level, and covered vast portions of the American Southwest, with Hopi Lake stretching across much of northeast New Mexico and the larger Grand Lake stretching east to the Four Corners region and northeast across the entire southeast corner of Utah and into Colorado.

Brown explains how this theory solves not only the mystery of the Grand Canyon's origins (and its many features that conventional theories cannot satisfactorily explain) but also the many amazing geological wonders of the American southwest, including the gathering of huge petrified logs (jumbled in shattered heaps, which is difficult to explain with other theories but which can be readily explained if those logs were petrified at the bottom of a warm mineral-laced inland sea which then drained rapidly, sucking them violently into a corner of the erstwhile lake and moving with enough force to shatter even those huge stone logs), the majestic mesas and buttes and spires of Arizona's Monument Valley (featured in numerous Western movies and also explained by the rapid draining of Grand Lake, within whose ancient boundaries these remnants are primarily found), the incredible features of Bryce Canyon (located along the ancient edge of Grand Lake and also formed by the rapid emptying once it breached), and many others.

Dr. Brown's examination of the evidence at the Grand Canyon (which we have only touched on here in cursory fashion) is just one of many examinations that he performs on terrain features from around the world, all of which can be better explained by the impact of a catastrophic flood and its after-effects than by conventional theories.

Others include:

- The fossil evidence of mighty forests and swamps on Canada's Ellesmere Island (located north of 79° north latitude), where very little vegetation can survive today. As we have already seen, Brown's theory argues that the rapid creation of the Himalaya region during the compression event that ended the sliding of the hydroplates caused a roll in the earth such that the previous north pole rolled about 35° to 45° in that direction, and that modern-day Mongolia was once at the north pole. Brown finds other supporting evidence that this roll of the earth took place, primarily the existence of the undersea ridge known as 90 East Ridge (88, 117).

- The frozen mammoths found preserved in recent centuries in northern Siberia and Alaska. Brown explains that, contrary

to depictions in many children's books of prehistoric animals, mammoths could not have been arctic creatures. The food and water needs of modern elephants (330 pounds of forage and 30 to 60 gallons of water every *day*) would be nearly impossible to obtain in the frozen tundra. The stomachs of intact mammoths frozen in the far north contain ripe fruits, herbs, shrubs, tree leaves, bean pods, and flowers such as buttercups – most of which are very difficult to explain. How such massive animals could have obtained sufficient food and water especially during the dark Arctic winters is a major problem for conventional theories. Further, elephants cannot sustain extreme cold temperatures, primarily due to the massive heat loss through their long trunks. Brown provides several other arguments pointing to the conclusion that mammoths were not originally Arctic animals but rather lived in temperate latitudes prior to the flood event. Even more difficult to explain is the fact that these huge animals were frozen so completely and so rapidly that not only was their flesh, skin, and hair preserved, but also the contents of their stomachs. Dr. Brown's theory explains that some of the jetting water and sediments from the world-encircling rupture would have achieved high altitudes and frozen, falling as tons of muddy ice crystals and hail, suffocating and freezing many animals very rapidly. The roll of the earth discussed previously would have carried the mammoths from their previous temperate latitudes to the far north. In Dr. Brown's words, "As the flood waters drained off the continents, the icy graves in warmer climates melted, and the flesh of those animals decayed. However, many animals, buried in what are now permafrost regions, were preserved" (169).

- The formation of the sediments and fossils themselves. The hydroplate theory argues that the sedimentary layers were the product of the masses of eroded material from the original rupture, which were then sorted into layers by the phenomenon of liquefaction, in which sediment particles are surrounded by water and begin to behave more like a liquid than a solid. This process sorted both the sediments and the rapidly buried animals into the layers that are

today wrongly interpreted by conventional Darwinian and uniformitarian assumptionsas representing various epochs of millions of years each. The conventional assumptions have been repeated so many times that most people accept them without much critical thought, but they contain many obvious problems. As Dr. Brown points out, the creation of fossils requires very unusual circumstances, since dead animals and plants are typically eaten or else decompose fairly quickly, leaving no fossils behind. Fossilization requires rapid burial in something that can prevent bacterial decay – for instance, rapid burial in thick moist mud. The fossil record contains abundant evidence of rapid burial – for instance, the numerous fossils of fish caught in the act of swallowing another fish. The numerous examples of such fish-eating-fish fossils is consistent with almost instantaneous death and burial, rather than normal causes of death. Further, Brown notes that fish fossils are often found "flattened between extremely thin sedimentary layers. This requires squeezing the fish to the thinness of a sheet of paper without damaging the thin sedimentary layers immediately above and below" (143). He notes that even dumping tons of sediment through water onto fish would not produce such

National Park Service image of a fossil of a fish swallowing a fish (many other images of fish preserved in the act of swallowing another fish exist -- this is by no means a unique or isolated example). For a fossil to be preserved at all, the animal or plant must be rapidly buried in a sealant (such as heavy mud) to prevent being eaten by scavengers or bacteria. Note that fish fossils are often paper-thin, which is consistent with the explanation of Walt Brown's hydroplate theory but very difficult to explain using most conventional theories.
image: Fossil Butte National Monument, Wyoming

an effect, but liquefaction explains it quite well (143). It also explains the fossilized outlines of soft, rapidly-decomposing animals such as jellyfish.

- The nature of the sedimentary layers and evidence that they were soft when they buckled. Dr. Brown observes that: "Sedimentary layers usually have boundaries that are sharply defined, parallel, and nearly horizontal. These layers are often stacked vertically for thousands of feet. If layers had been laid down thousands of years apart, erosion would have destroyed this parallelism" (142). The very nature of the sedimentary layers – particularly their sharp edges and well-defined parallelism – argues for their rapid creation, rather than their production via millennia as in conventional theories. Further, there are many places on earth where these strata are violently buckled but not shattered. If they had been laid down over successive millions of years, most of the strata would have been hard

Folded sedimentary rocks at St. Anne's Head, Wales. Folds like these indicate that the sediments were still pliable when the force was applied. Today they are brittle. This accords with the hydroplate theory. Examples similar to this can be found around the world.
image: Wikimedia commons. Photograph: Rodney Harris.

and brittle. However, the folding patterns we can see today suggest that the strata were soft and pliant when bent into their current shapes, and later hardened (see images below for example; there are many more around the world).

There are literally hundreds of other geological examples in Dr. Brown's work, from volcanic activity to comets, and I would encourage the reader to explore them in the original, but at this point it is worthwhile to consider whether the hydroplate theory can explain the extensive evidence we have considered prior to this chapter from man's ancient past.

At this point, having read the assertion that the strata were laid down in a fairly recent cataclysmic event (10,000 years ago or less), some readers may be wondering about radiocarbon dating, which purports to find great ages on certain ancient artifacts. We have examined radiocarbon dating already in some detail, in conjunction with the dating of the skull of Ruamahanga Woman. From that discussion, it is clear that radiocarbon dating can only measure carbon-14 in things that were once alive, since the dating method compares the amount of unstable carbon-14 in the sample to the amount assumed to be present in the atmosphere when the sample was part of a living organism absorbing carbon from the atmosphere (or by eating things which had absorbed carbon from the atmosphere).

The key word in the foregoing sentence is "assumed" – radiocarbon dating depends upon an assumption of how much carbon-14 was in the atmosphere at remote dates in the past. In fact, it assumes that the level of carbon-14 is fairly constant, and that there was as much in the atmosphere tens of millions of years ago as there is today (with some fluctuation due to the advent of the industrial age and the detonation of powerful nuclear bombs during the 1960s).

Walt Brown's hydroplate theory, however, challenges this assumption, noting that a massive eruption of underground water would release vast amounts of carbon dioxide but that this new carbon would contain little or no radiocarbon (carbon-14) due to the fact that it had been underground and not subjected to cosmic and solar radiation. Afterwards, the ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12

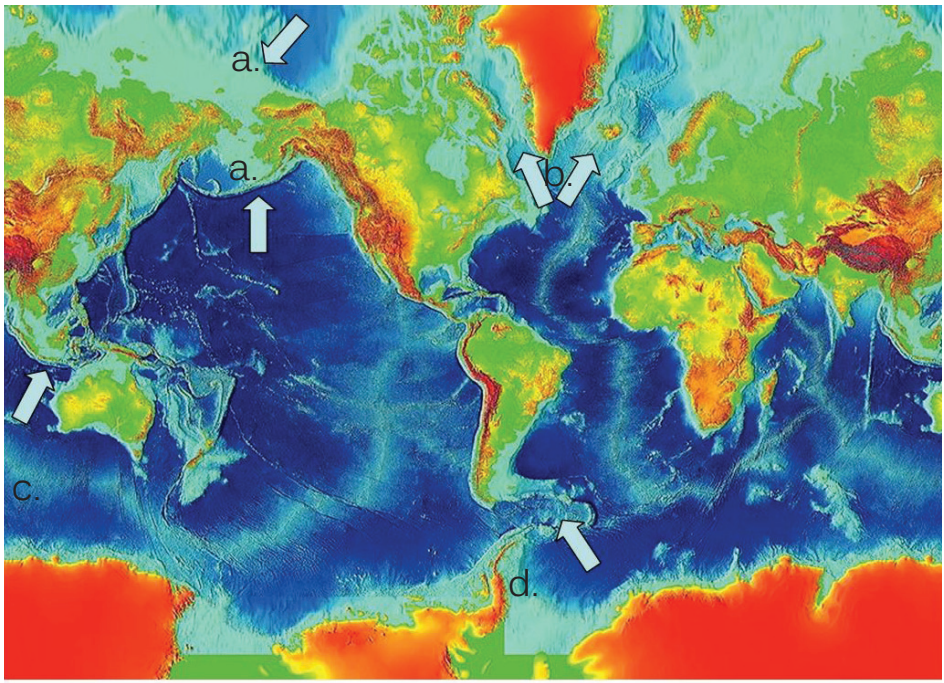
would rise rapidly (assuming that carbon-14 forms more rapidly than it decays, based on its long half-life). This rapid rise would eventually taper off to a relatively constant ratio, where it is today. Dr. Brown provides arguments that this equilibrium was achieved about 3,500 years ago, which means that radiocarbon dating back that far will be relatively accurate.

However, prior to reaching this level of equilibrium, the actual levels of radiocarbon in the atmosphere were much lower than radiocarbon dating assumes. This means that specimens that lived prior to 3,500 years ago would have absorbed lower levels of carbon-14 during their lives, and that radiocarbon dating will yield an erroneously higher age when analysts detect the remaining carbon-14. Using their assumption of constant carbon-14, they will assume that many more half-lives of decay have taken place to reduce the levels of carbon-14, when in fact the organism did not absorb the carbon-14 during its lifetime in the first place. Because the increase in carbon-14 was rapid prior to reaching equilibrium, this error gets increasingly larger the further back one goes. Also, because scientists are using the half-life of carbon-14 in their calculation, the erroneously old dates that they calculate will grow exponentially the older the specimen actually is.

Thus, radiocarbon dating – while valuable for dating organic material from 3,500 years ago or less – is not a valid counterargument to the hydroplate theory, because if the hydroplate theory is correct, then the levels of radiocarbon in ancient atmospheres would have been vastly lower.

One of the important aspects of Dr. Brown's theory is his description of the chain of events that led to the filling of the oceans. After the rupture and flood phases of his theory, the hydroplates began sliding away from one another after the basement rock sprang upwards in response to the removal of massive amounts of sediments by the jetting escaping waters. When they buckled and thickened due to friction and the laws of physics, the floodwaters poured off into the deep ocean basins (carving massive canyons in the sides of the continental slopes that remain to this day but which are very difficult for conventional theories to explain).

The oceans at that time were much lower relative to the continents,



NOAA map of the earth showing ocean floor depths. The hydroplate theory argues that after the initial rupture and flood event, the continents accelerated away from the rupture, then compressed and thickened when they ground to a halt due to friction or collision. Floodwaters drained down the steep continental slopes into the ocean basins. For several hundred years, ocean levels were much lower than they are today, and continents were much higher relative to the oceans, exposing land bridges between the continents, at the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska (arrows a.), between Europe Greenland and North America (b.), between Australia and Southeast Asia (c.), and even between South America and Antarctica (d.). In some cases, a small channel of water might have been present as a minor obstacle, but in general, land migration was possible.

which had only recently thickened and had yet to sink under their own weight downwards into the basement rock below. Because of this fact, several important land bridges connected the continents, as shown in the diagram above. Men and animals were able to migrate between continents (and to the Galapagos Islands, which at that time were a peninsula extending from South America, which would later be swallowed up as the seas rose, leaving only the isolated tips protruding as the islands we see today).

However, due to the laws of physics, the thickened continents slowly sank downwards, causing the ocean floors to rise and the ocean levels to become much higher relative to the land. Also, large trapped inland seas which we have discussed earlier in conjunction with our examination of the Grand Canyon breached over the centuries (due to rainfall and icemelt) and dumped their contents back into the oceans.

Dr. Brown explains the physics of this sinking of the continents and rising of the seas: "Because the thickened hydroplates applied greater pressure to the floor than the water, the hydroplates slowly sank into the basalt floor over the centuries, causing the deep ocean floor to rise. (Imagine covering half of a waterbed with a sheet and the other half with a thick metal plate. The metal plate will sink, causing the sheet to rise)" (106).

Thus, the hydroplate theory provides a clear explanation for lowered ocean levels immediately after the flood followed by rising ocean levels over the next few centuries which eventually covered the large land bridges and also submerged islands which once were above water, as well as much of the land around existing islands and island chains including the Maldives, the Galapagos (which was likely once a large peninsula extending from the coast of Chile), Malta, Japan, Cuba and elsewhere.

This theory explains – in ways that conventional theories do not – the evidence of human architecture standing on the ocean floor at depths of hundreds of feet. Much of these underwater cities have only recently been discovered, and more are being discovered each year. The guardians of the conventional framework often feel very threatened by these discoveries and do their best to ignore or discredit them.

The prime example of undersea megalithic ruins is the site located off the shores of the island of Yonaguni near Okinawa, Japan. The site was not discovered until 1995, when a diver accidentally strayed off course and saw huge blocks lying in apparently regular patterns at depths of forty feet. In his book *Underworld*, Graham Hancock chronicles his own dives at the site, as well as at other less well-known sites around the world, particularly off the coast of India at depths of over a hundred feet of ocean water.

The hydroplate theory's assertion that the ocean levels were once far lower and then rose with the sinking action of the continents also explains the migrations of peoples across the vast abyss of the Pacific to the Americas. It of course provides a mechanism whereby the land bridge across the Bering Strait would have been above sea level, which is more plausible than the conventional argument that the reduction of sea levels is due to ocean water being trapped as ice in previous Ice Ages, but it also provides an explanation as to how the ocean itself could have been crossed even by peoples who did not have the nautical ability to circumnavigate the globe. If the ocean levels were much lower, there would have been more islands above the surface to provide "stepping stones" for island hopping across the Pacific.

As Dr. Brown's book points out in a footnote on page 255 of the 7th edition, the oral history of the Hopi people supports just such

Undersea ruins at Yonaguni. This formation is known as "the Turtle." Defenders of the conventional orthodoxy are at pains to argue that these formations are the product of natural wave action.
Image: Wikimedia commons Photograph: Masahiro Kaji.

an explanation for the original migration of their ancestors across the ocean from the east to the west. In the *Book of the Hopi* (1962), Frank Waters (1902 – 1995) recounts the worldview and history of the Hopis of northern Arizona, as it was told to him by thirty elders of the tribe.

The account first tells of the creation of mankind – interestingly, the creation account explains that Taiowa, the creator deity who is also associated with the sun, created a nephew named Sótuknang (note the telling linguistic similarity between the name Taiowa and the covenant name of the Creator revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures). This nephew then began to order the universe and created someone to help him, Kókyangwuti or Spider Woman. When these two had created a world ready for human life, Spider Woman proceeded to make mankind. The account is very interesting, for it shows awareness of the various races of mankind, which seems anomalous for an ancient people living in the desert of Arizona. The account as recorded by Frank Waters is as follows:

> So Spider Woman gathered earth, this time of four colors, yellow, red, white, and black: mixed with *túchvala*, the liquid of her mouth; molded them; and covered them with her white-substance cape which was the creative wisdom itself. As before, she sang over them the Creation Song, and when she uncovered them these forms were human beings in the image of Sótuknang. Then she created four other beings after her own form. They were *wúti*, female partners, for the first four male beings. 5.

Clearly, either the legends of the Hopi were altered after Europeans arrived on the scene after the time of Columbus and the Hopi were exposed to other races, or else the Hopi have preserved with great accuracy the knowledge of the existence of people of other races from before the arrival of Columbus (possibly from pre-Columbian visits from other continents). The only other possibility is that the Hopi legends just randomly tell of people being made in four races of four colors, even though they had never themselves met anyone of other races, and that they just happened to coincidentally select the colors yellow, red, white and black.

That different races are being described by this creation account is made clear by later passages, such as the account in which Spider Woman and her helpers (two twins who are stationed at the north pole and south pole to keep the world properly rotating on its axis!) summon Sótuknang to help give the first people the power of speech. The account relates: "So Sótuknang gave them speech, a different language to each color, with respect for each other's difference" (7). Later in the account, a disruptive being comes in the form of a bird called Mochni (who is like a mocking bird) whose deceptive talking began to convince the first people of differences between them – "the difference between people and animals, and the differences between the people themselves by reason of the colors of their skins" (12). Still later, a deceptive and handsome serpent shows up who further leads them away from the wisdom of their creation state and stirs up more suspicion between different people, leading now to actual violence and warfare (12).

Even more amazing, the Hopi account tells of the destruction and recreation of three successive worlds, just as the legends of the ancient Maya and ancient Hindu legends do. Frank Waters records that the Hopi elders recounted the destruction of the first world by fire, the second by ice, and the third by water. The Hopi believed that they were now living in the fourth world, just as other cultures also believed. The account of the destruction of the second world by ice is particularly noteworthy: just as before, the people who are to escape destruction are led underground to the kiva of the Ant People, and then:

> When they were safely underground, Sótuknang commanded the twins, Pöqánghoya and Palongawhoya, to leave their posts at the north and south ends of the world's axis, where they were stationed to keep the earth properly rotating. The twins had hardly abandoned their stations when the world, with no one to control it, teetered off balance, spun around crazily, then rolled over twice. Mountains plunged into seas with a great splash, seas and lakes sloshed over the land; and as the world spun through cold and lifeless space it froze into solid ice. 16.

The connection of destruction with the unhinging of the world-axis is stunning. The understanding of the world as a globe is equally startling. The connection with legends we have seen from around the world is more astonishing still.

It is after the destruction of the Third World by water that the account of the Hopi people coming to their present home takes place. First, Sótuknang instructs Spider Woman to seal up the people who are to be saved inside a vessel made of hollow reeds. Then: "he loosed the waters upon the earth. Waves higher than mountains rolled in upon the land. Continents broke asunder and sank beneath the seas. And still the rains fell, the waves rolled in" (18). Then, they landed upon a little piece of land that had once been the top of one of the highest mountains. Led by Spider Woman, the people make rafts of hollow plants and sail to one island after another, leaving their rafts at landfall and traveling by foot eastward to the other side, only to be told they must make rafts again and continue "east and a little north" (18-19). Over and over this goes on, through rich islands filled with seed-bearing and nut-bearing trees, but each time Spider Woman tells them that this land is not for them. At last, they reach "a great land, a mighty land" with towering walls so steep they cannot land, "stretching from north to south as far as they could see" (20). They go north, they go south, but they cannot find a break in the mighty walls (Dr. Brown's theory explains that these were the slopes of the continental shelf, which are now under the ocean). At last, they "stopped paddling, opened the doors on the tops of their heads [the elders earlier explained that man has "several vibratory centers" along the axis of his body, just as the "living body of the earth" does; these correspond remarkably to the *chakras* of Hinduism, and the highest and most important of these is at the crown of the head, see Waters 9-10] and let themselves be guided" (20). The elders recount that when they did this, they were swept up in a gentle current that deposited them at last in the Fourth World, their new home.

Sótuknang directs them to look back, and they are able to see "sticking out of the water the islands upon which they had rested" on their long journey. The elders recount:

> "They are the footprints of your journey," continued Sótuknang, "the tops of the high mountains of the Third World, which I destroyed. Now watch." As the people watched them, the closest one sank under the water, then the next, until all were gone, and they could see only water. 20.

This account is remarkable, all the more so because it accords very closely with the mechanics proposed by the hydroplate theory. As Brown explains in his footnote, he was not originally aware of the Hopi legends – a reader brought the close correlation to his attention after Brown had originally published his theory (255). The existence of a myth or oral tradition (a myth of which Colonel Brown was unaware when he first published his theory) which appears to confirm the assertions of his theory must be counted as yet another "data point" in the hydroplate theory's favor.

There are more fascinating connections to be found in Waters' priceless account of the traditions of the Hopi as related to him by the elders themselves some fifty years ago, among them the prominent place held by the Parrot clan, which "began their migration in the warm country far to the south," and the history of the Condor clan, which according to legend had moved along the high mountains of South America and there "built up a great city of stone" (54-56). Also noteworthy is the belief among the modern Hopi that the serpent mounds found in Ohio and the eastern US might have been built by their ancestors, as the symbology of a serpent swallowing an egg is very familiar to them (40-41). The clues left to us from the ancient traditions of the Hopi are all consistent with the other clues we have seen in other parts of the world, namely that there were trans-oceanic migrations long before traditional recorded history, that ancient people had knowledge of the shape of the earth and facts about its rotation, that an ancient cataclysm or cataclysms were known to man and recorded in his oral histories, complete with the connection of such cataclysms to the unhinging of the earth axis, and that there was some connection between the civilizations that built the ancient monuments that still stand at important archaeological locations around the globe today. All of these clues support the explanation of events in the hydroplate theory, and cast doubt upon uniformi-

tarian theories that rely on hundreds of millions of years and slow processes acting long before the arrival of mankind (including the tectonic theory).

Another important feature of the hydroplate theory in regard to human anthropology is its explanation of the sedimentary layers forming via a mechanism not involving tens or hundreds of millions of years between each layer. Many alternative archaeologists or authors who have questioned the conventional paradigm nevertheless accept the uniformitarian geological framework and its explanation of the ages of the strata. Because of this, when human artifacts are found in strata that the conventional timeline dates at tens of millions or hundreds of millions of years ago, these alternative authors leap to the conclusion that modern man must have been around tens or hundreds of millions of years ago.

For example, the groundbreaking 1995 work of Michael A. Cremo and Richard L. Thompson, *Forbidden Archaeology*, provides massive evidence and documentation of human fossils, footprints and artifacts in geological layers commonly dated as hundreds of millions of years in age. While applauding their willingness to boldly challenge the conventional framework (and endure the withering counterfire of the rabid defenders of Darwinian evolution), if the accepted paradigm for the age of the strata is seen to be built upon a fabric of incorrect assumptions, then the voluminous evidence in Cremo and Thompson's 914-page work can be seen as further anthropological support for the hydroplate theory. Instead of arguing for an emergence of mankind in present form hundreds of millions of years ago, the "anomalous" fossil evidence instead argues for a strata-forming catastrophe that took place while man was on the scene – perhaps only thousands of years in the past.

This explanation accords with the existing Native American legends which describe the carving of the Grand Canyon during the days of their ancestors, or the ancient Hindu scriptures describing the formation of the Jhelum River gorge from the discharge of an ancient lake in the Kashmir Basin, as Dr. Brown describes in his book (110). As Brown explains, modern science has recently concluded that the Kashmir Basin was once filled with water. The existence of an ancient record stating such long before modern

science reached the same conclusion could be mere coincidence, or it could be further evidence that man had begun to repopulate the earth after the global flood by the time these mighty inland seas finally breached. These same humans could also be responsible for the evidence Cremo and Thompson cite in their work.

It would not be surprising to find ancient human archaeological evidence buried under the ice of Antarctica in the future, if the hydroplate theory is correct and the earth experienced a great roll after the flood event, and that after this flood the warm oceans and cold continents set the stage for the precipitation that later blanketed earth in an Ice Age.

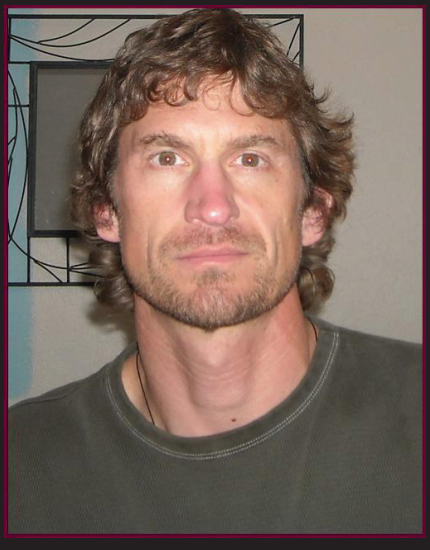
We have seen that the hydroplate theory provides powerful corroboration for the Hopi's own history of their arrival in the Americas over sea from the west, and that it explains the existence of broad land bridges between all the continents for some centuries after the great flood, which enabled migration and then later disappeared beneath rising seas, isolating many people groups.

But such migration would have still taken a long time over land, and does not explain the incredible shared features we have seen in archaeology across the continents that appear to be descended from a single original cultural source. It is possible that migrating peoples carried with them very deeply ingrained legends relating to precession and the heavenly phenomena, and that they preserved these carefully through the millennia, with inevitable alterations between the isolated groups over time, though still distinguishable as belonging to a common source.

However, the technology of the buildings and astronomical angles and symbols that we find on widely separated continents argues for continuing contact by people who were able to cross the oceans after the land bridges were covered by water. In the next chapter, we will examine evidence for such ancient seafarers.

"Mathisen is not afraid to challenge the standard evolution-based stories of early man that universities have taught for over a century. He marshals a wealth of evidence with the logic and clarity you would expect of an English professor, with the knowledge and depth of a full-time researcher in anthropology, and with the intensity and conviction of an Army Ranger and skydiver -- all his accomplishments. This book shows the skills and sophistication of our early ancestors and is a challenge anthropologists must address."

-- WALT BROWN, Colonel, USAF (Retired), Ph.D., author of
In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood.



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He believes that good analysis is critically important, whether analyzing a tactical situation, a work of literature, a crime scene, a potential investment in the securities issued by a corporation, or the geological features in the world around us.

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