Part 2 - Christ or Issa - The "Lost Years" of Jesus

Last issue, we looked at the evidence that Jesus went to India between the ages of 13 and 30 to learn from the Hindu masters. We discovered that the evidence was very sketchy, but leaves some possibility. This month, we See Jesus on page 3

Coconino Sandstone

The Coconino Sandstone can be found across the entire Colorado Plateau. It is visible at the Grand Canyon and is the light color rock at the top of the Mogollon Rim here in Sedona. It averages over 300 feet thick in an area of 200,000 square miles. That is more than 10,000 cubic miles of rock!

The Coconino Sandstone Formation has long been held by evolutionists as solid evidence that the earth is quite old. The reasons given are pretty good. First, strata of the Coconino Sandstone slopes at an angle that is similar to the slope of wind caused cross-currents found in sand dunes today (see side bar on page 2). Second, there are animal tracks fossilized in the rock. The tracks are of salamanders or some similar creature. Third, the sand grains are like to grains found in sand dunes today. The conclusion is that the Coconino Sandstone was once a huge blowing sand dune area that was slowly covered by water. Cementing material soaked into the sand from the sea water and it hardened into stone. If the evolutionist assumptions are true, the idea of Noah's flood would have a major problem. Of course, this was all assumption, but nobody challenged the idea until the 1979.

See Coconino on page 2

Making Opals

It has long been assumed that it takes about 5 million years to deposit 1/2 inch of material that hardens into an opal. Artificial opals have been made in much shorter time but they always are easy to identify as artificial... until recently. In Australia, geologist Len Cram earned his Ph.D. By studying opals. In fact, he now makes gem quality opals that See Opals on page 2

The Ft. Apache Member

To the right are two views of the Fort Apache member of the Schnebly Hill Formation of strata. Both shots are taken near Merry-Go-Round rock on Schnebly Hill. The bottom photo shows it well exposed so you can see the detail easily. The top photo shows the way it appears along most of its length. According to Sedona Through Time by Wayne Ranney (considered the foremost expert on the geology of the Verde Valley), this gray stripe of strata which lies between the Bell Rock and Sycamore Pass members (both red in color) of the Schnebly Hill Formation

See Ft. Apache on page 4
**Coconino** continued from p. 1

In 1979, the first real analysis was made of the Coconino Sandstone and more study followed. Let's take a look at the evolutionist assumptions and see how they stack up to actual scientific investigation:

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<td>• In 1979, Dr. Leonard Brand of Loma Linda University measured 82 fossil tracks in the Grand Canyon Coconino Formation. Then he measured 236 tracks made by reptiles and amphibians under conditions of dry and submerged sand, at different angles of slope. The final conclusion: The tracks in the Coconino Sandstone were made by creatures that were totally submerged, moving up-hill, against a current. The sand was under moving water. He and other scientists conducted further tests which confirmed the original conclusions. Results have been published in <em>Science News</em> and <em>Geology Today</em>.</td>
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<td>• The Coconino Sandstone was formed by dry, moving sand dunes like we see today.</td>
<td>• The sand in the Coconino Sandstone is of the same structure as the sand in modern sand dunes.</td>
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<td>• Visher (an old earth evolutionist) found that upon very close observation, the sand granules in the Coconino do not resemble modern sand dunes... they resemble sand moved rapidly by water. Studies by P.J. Coleman published in <em>The Encyclopedia of Sedimentology</em> indicate that Coconino sands were deposited by moving water. Please see our web site for more details.</td>
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**Conclusion**

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Notice how the strata of the rocks meets along the yellow dotted lines. We see three distinct flows in this photo. These three flows are probably three sub-currents within one flow. These cross-beds are actually part of the Hermit Formation which, like the Coconino, is full of cross-bedding, indicating it was laid down quickly, not over eons of time.

Below is a picture of curved strata on a huge scale in Utah at Mexican Hat Rock. Was the strata bent sometime after it was deposited? If it was bent (it was), this is strong evidence that the strata was soft, as it would be after Noah's flood.

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**Cross Bedding**

Cross-bedding is formed when sediments are deposited by moving water. They can be created by small floods or huge sand waves. Most geologists now believe that almost all sediments were deposited by turbidity currents. These are underwater mud or sediment flows. They were discovered less than 50 years ago, so a lot of work is still to be done in classifying the currents. Our sand wave would count as a turbidity current. The stone above and below the Coconino Sandstone also have much cross-bedding. Here is a picture taken on Cook Hill on 89A to show what a cross-bed looks like:

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**Opals** continued from p. 1

Each month we offer a photograph you can use as a desktop background on your computer. This month it is the Rocky Mountains near Denver. Photo by G. Tyler Forsythe. Download it at: http://www.cryingrocks.org.

Opals cannot be discerned from the real thing, even under an electron microscope. It takes some basic chemicals found in nature (the exact same ones that are in natural opals), and a few weeks time at normal temperature and pressure. After the opal forms, he lets it dry out which takes a few more months. He grows them in the dirt in which natural opals are found. Another assumption of millions of years turns out to be a few months.
Jesus continued from p. 1 will look at what the rest of the evidence in The Lost Years of Jesus by Elizabeth Claire Prophet.

Reporting on what Nicolas Notovich wrote, she quotes, "Little is known about him (Issa)... There have been an infinite number of Buddhists like Issa..." We have to call into question the validity of either Notovich or the Buddhist leader hosting him or Buddhism itself. Even if one believes the earth is 4.6 billion years old, there has not been time for an infinite, or even a very large number, of persons like Jesus/Issa to have lived. That the universe has to have a beginning is beyond doubt. In addition, Jesus raised people from the dead, yet little is known about him to the Buddhist leader who is speaking.

Having admitted that the Buddhist monks do not trust Westerners and like to pass along false information, the author gives us the three known translations of the Buddhist scroll or scrolls describing the life of Issa. All three are a very quick review of the Old Testament, followed by a loose version of one of the gospels as written in the Bible. All three include quotes by Issa. The main difference is that they are from a Buddhist point of view rather than a Jewish or Christian point of view. One version starts on page 212 and is 35 pages long. The second starts on page 256 and is 6 pages long. The third starts on page 298 and is 6 pages in length. They tend to have the same general flow but the wording is quite different and the difference in length should be obvious. The second and third are said to be statements from a larger work and only statements related to Issa are included. In addition, only a part of those segments were translated.

Chapter 1, verse 5 of the two versions state that what is written is from stories brought to them (the Buddhists) from merchants from Israel (the third starts at chapter IV of the text). The writings do not state they are eyewitness accounts. They may very well be the merchants' condensation of stories they heard, though the inclusion of quotes of Isa makes it appear the writings are a compilation of several writers. We do not know if the merchants are from India, Israel or another country. Regardless, merchants that know both cultures would tend to speak to the Buddhists in terms they use and understand rather than in Hebrew terms. To call these translations accurate accounts is a major stretch of research techniques.

A few quotes are given with no context and don't really seem to make any point. Origen, an early Christian leader, is then proclaimed to be the lone person who understood the true teachings of Jesus. Origen was well versed in Greek philosophy. It was not that he knew Christ's real meaning, it is that he tried to make the Bible fit into the Gnostic beliefs of Greek philosophy.

In summary, it appears that Prophet actually has very weak arguments for Jesus traveling to the East. Next issue we will take a close look at what Issa had to say about Hinduism and Buddhism. You will discover that, if Jesus went to the East, it was to teach them, not to learn from them.

They Said It, Not Me....

Derek V. Ager, Professor and head of the department of Geology and Oceanography, University College of Swansea (UK) and former head of the British Geological Association is no friend of young earth creationists as one quote below illustrates. But, read what he has to say about the geological record (all are quotes):

1. ...nothing in this book (the book this quote is in -ed) should be taken out of context and thought in any way to support the views of the 'creationists' (who I refuse to call 'scientific').
2. Uniformitarianism triumphed because it provided a general theory that was at once logical and seemingly 'scientific.' Catastrophism became a joke and no geologist would dare postulate anything that might be termed a 'catastrophe' for fear of being laughed at or (in recent years) linked with a lunatic fringe of Velikovsky and Californian fundamentalists. But I would like to suggest that, in the first half of the last century, the 'catastrophists' were better geologists than 'uniformitarians'.
3. I am coming more and more to the view that the evolution of life, like the evolution of the continents and of the stratigraphical column in general, has been a very episodic affair, with short 'happenings' interrupting long ages of nothing much in particular.
4. The hurricane, the flood or the tsunami may do more in an hour or a day than the ordinary processes of nature have achieved in a thousand years. Given all the millennia we have to play with in the stratigraphical record, we can expect our periodic catastrophes to do all the work we want of them.

Ager sees small catastrophes of an hour substituting for a thousand years. The Coconino Formation was assumed to take millions of years to form. The actual evidence indicates it took a day. So, how long do YOU conclude it took to lay down all the sediments? Did you use assumptions or facts in drawing your conclusion? Just look at the facts with absolutely no assumptions. What is the logical answer?
From the Editor: Evidence is Mounting

The old assumptions are being contradicted by real studies in geology. Old earth geologists now comfortably state that what we see in the strata is a record of catastrophe. We agree.

Strata assumed to have taken millions of years only took hours to form. It is now supported by real research DATA that all the sedimentary rocks, including in the Sedona area, were probably laid down in a few days. Jesus created it all 6000 years ago and Noah's Flood reshaped it all 4300 years ago.

Thanks for joining us! We'll keep presenting good science just for you.

Ft. Apache continued from p. 1 was formed over millions of years by the "...onlap of the sea into the dune field..." (page 27). Note the assumption that it was dune area just like the Coconino Formation was inaccurately assumed to be a sand dune area.

If we travel a few miles south to the Chapel of the Holy Cross area, we encounter a contradiction to this assumption of slow sedimentation.

In photo 2, you see several stripes that look like the Ft. Apache Member, which is the bottom stripe of light colored rocks. The color of the rock is right. The definition of the surface is the same. They all look alike and they all look just like the layer found at Schnebly Hill.

In Photo number 3, the Ft. Apache is also the bottom layer of lighter rock. The question is, why are there so many (as many as 7) layers of the Fort Apache Member spread throughout hundreds of vertical feet of red rock? At Schnebly Hill, there is only one layer. How can this be? Dr. Ranney's explanation doesn't fit the data. By his explanation we should find only one layer wherever we find the Fort Apache Member.

There is a logical answer. Read the article on the Coconino Formation and the sidebar on cross-bedding. Vish-

We must speak for silence would shame us, and the rocks themselves would cry out... You, O Lord Christ Jesus, must be praised for who You are in the world You have made.

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Our Mission... Develop relationships with Spiritual seekers to point them toward our Lord Christ Jesus.

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