

*See to it that no one
takes you captive through
philosophy and empty
deception, according to the
tradition of men, according to
the elementary principles of the
world, rather than according to
Christ. – Colossians 2:8*

GRAND CANYON

a different view



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Back cover image (center) — Marble Canyon
(Courtesy of Arizona River Runners)



Grand Canyon

A DIFFERENT VIEW

The Grand Canyon is an awesome display of God's creation. Carved through limestone, sandstone, shale, schist, and granite, this great chasm stretches 277 miles through the Colorado Plateau. It descends over a mile into the earth and extends as much as 18 miles in width. The Canyon holds within its walls mountains that are taller than anything east of the Mississippi River. Grand Canyon National Park encompasses both Marble Canyon and Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is also a place to find and explore the wonders of His creation. When viewed from a biblical perspective, the Canyon has "God" written all over it, from the splendor and grandeur of the Canyon walls, to the intelligent design of the Creator displayed in the creatures that inhabit this magical place.

Not only is the Canyon a testimony to creation, but it also presents evidence of God's judgment of the world, as told in the book of Genesis. It was a judgment by water of a world broken by the sin of man known as "the Fall." (See the Genesis account of the Days of Creation, the Fall, and the Flood on pages 10-11.) The Canyon gives us a glimpse of the effects of a catastrophic global flood, as well as an appreciation for the scale of the biblical Flood of Noah's day. And

yet, at the same time, we see God's handiwork in the beauty and majesty



(Left) The tranquil falls of Elves Chasm

(Bottom Left) Desert bighorn sheep, common visitors to the Canyon's depths

(Below) Chuckwallas can reach 16 inches in length.



of the earth that we live in today.

Visitors to the Grand Canyon generally find it to be awe inspiring, but at the same time, too overwhelming to be fully understood on its own, for the Canyon can't tell us about itself. As humans, we tend to ask two questions as we view this vast, mysterious



hole in the ground: how and why. With the help of some of the top creation scientists and theologians from around the world, we hope to at least scratch the surface of these questions and provide you with some resources to “dig deeper” if you wish.

If we visit the Canyon, or read the prevailing interpretive literature about it, we will find that the views presented are predominantly based on evolutionary theories. For the Canyon, this means that the rock layers were laid down a particle at a time over literally hundreds of millions of years and that the Canyon was later carved slowly by the Colorado River. These theories tend to deny God’s involvement and often His very existence.

As you read this book, you will see that we look at the Canyon from a biblical worldview. With that in mind, there is one basic premise, or framework, used as a starting point. That premise is: the Bible, in its original form, is the inerrant Word of God.

Therefore, there are three truths that should be clarified. First, in Genesis a “day” is a day, which means a literal 24-hour period of time (technically a “solar day” which is approximately 24 hours). Genesis 1:5 says “... *And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*” Second, there was no death before sin. The first death came as a result of initial sin

Marble Canyon



A DIFFERENT VIEW

in Genesis 3:21: *“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”* And third, Noah’s flood was an actual historical global event. Genesis 7:19-20 says, *“The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. The water prevailed fifteen cubits [about 20 feet] higher, and the mountains were covered.”*

If we accept those truths, then Scripture tells us that God created the heavens and earth, and everything in them in six literal days. Based on the lineages laid out in the Bible and other historical documents, this occurred about 6,000 years ago. The vast majority of the sedimentary layers we see in the Grand Canyon, and in the rest of the world for that matter, were deposited as the result of a global flood that occurred after, and ultimately as a result of, the initial sin that took place in the Garden of Eden. And the fossils found in the rock layers are remnants of the plants and animals that perished in the Flood.

Other interpretations — that there was a “gap” early in Genesis 1, that creation days were “long periods of time,” or that it was just a

“local flood” — are compromise positions, compromises made in an attempt to fit man’s fallible ideas into what God has told us in His Word. Deuteronomy 4:2 says, *“You shall not add to the Word which I am commanding you...”*

Unfortunately, these compromises do just that. They add to God’s Word in an effort to fit man’s millions-of-years evolutionary theories into the Bible. This compromise in turn calls into question the authority of Scripture, beginning in the first verse of Genesis right through the last verse of Revelation.

Some will say that the age of the earth is not important, that it is a “non-essential,” but what is vital is a belief in and a personal relationship with the living God. To some degree that is true. The gates to heaven will not be closed to



(Above) Fluting in the Vishnu Schist along river’s edge

(Left) Grand Canyon rattlesnake

(Bottom Left) Sacred datura

us for believing in millions of years. But it is important! Why? Because adding millions of years to the Bible undermines the authority of the Word of God. If we can’t believe the accounts of Genesis, which are foundational to the entire Bible, why would

we believe the rest to be truth? If the Word doesn't really mean "in six days," then maybe it doesn't really mean "thou shall not..."



(Above) Polished Redwall Limestone

Realize also that the age of the earth is the cornerstone of evolution. Without an earth that is millions of years old, the entire molecules-to-man theory of evolution falls apart. Without millions of years of supposed mutations and adaptations, reptiles can't grow feathers and "learn" to fly. Without millions of years, the human eye, with all its complexities, does not have time to evolve. Without millions of years, man is then forced to consider a Creator, a Creator to whom he just may be accountable.

The evolutionist will read this and say, "That is *just* a religious point of view." Not true. It is a world view. Religion, as defined in the dictionary, is "any system of belief, practices, ethical values, etc.... (humanism is a religion)." By that definition, both humanism and evolution are as much a religion as Christianity. They are all systems of belief. The issue at hand is not what "religion" we believe in, but rather how it affects our view of the world in which we live.

Both groups, the evolutionists and the creationists, look at the same data, only from a different perspective or world view. The creationist assumes a young earth as God's Word indicates, versus the evolutionist who assumes an earth millions of years old based on man's theories. When we break down the two theories of how the Grand Canyon was formed, it seems that the biggest difference is the amount of time and water. The evolutionists' view is that a little bit of water eroded the Canyon over a long period of

time through hard rock. The creationists' view is that a whole lot of water over a relatively short amount of time cut the Canyon through layers laid down by the Flood. But the bigger difference is in how the layers were formed in the first place. Was it millions of years of slow, particle-at-a-time deposition, or catastrophic deposition during a global flood?

What it really comes down to is whether we put our faith in the book given to us by God, or in the books written by man.

May you find this look at the Grand Canyon, from *A Different View*, to be a blessing and a window into His world.

(Right) Four-inch fishhook cactus crowned in blooms



(Below) Day's light in Marble Canyon



THE DAYS OF CREATION

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light...God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."...God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so...And God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

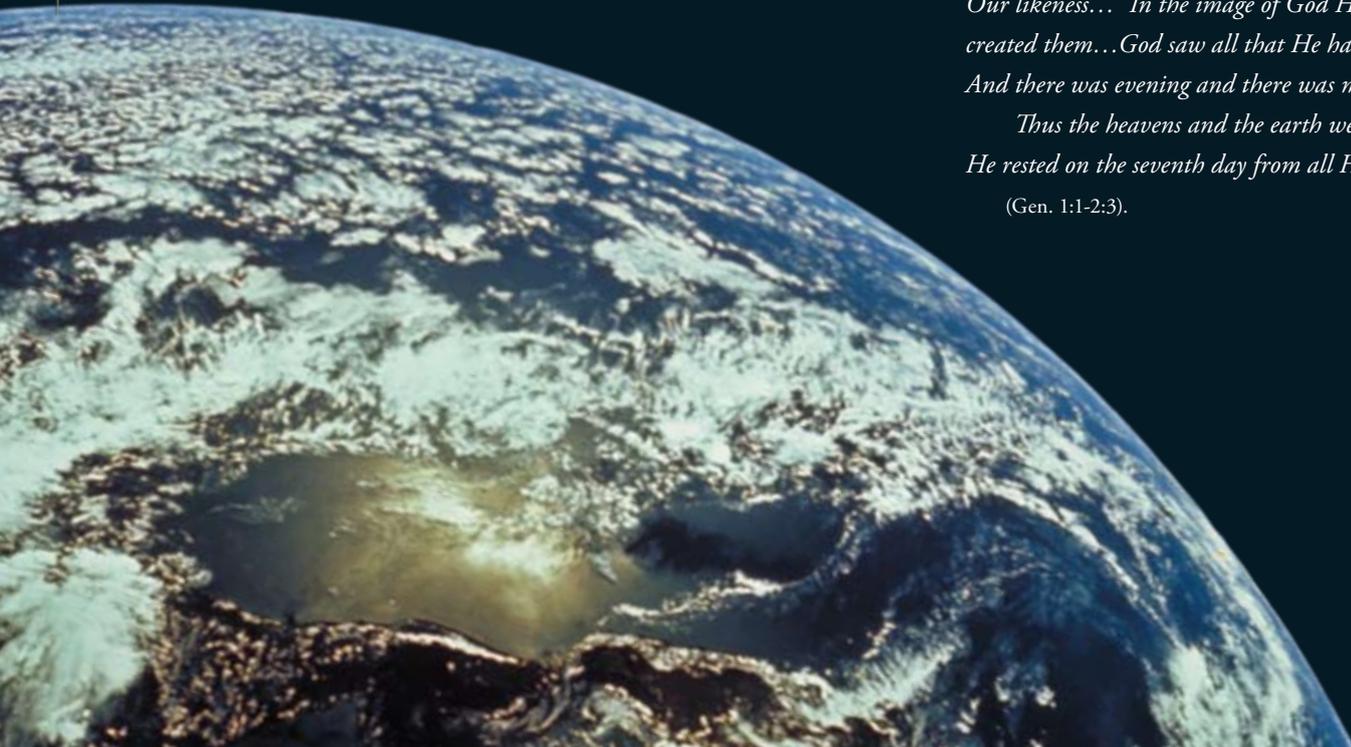
...Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens..."...God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also...And God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth..." And God saw that it was good...There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so... Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them...God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts...and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done

(Gen. 1:1-2:3).



THE FALL

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." ...When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she

gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened...The Lord God said..."Because you have...eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 2:15-3:19)

THE FLOOD

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS

[About 1,500 years later.]

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth...The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth...The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

...Then God said to Noah..."Make for yourself an ark...the length of the ark [shall be] three hundred cubits [450 feet], its breadth fifty cubits [75 feet], and its height thirty cubits [45 feet]...Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female." ... Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him.

...It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth...All the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights...The water

prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.

...But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided...Also the fountains of the deep and the floodgates of the sky were closed... In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

...Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you... that they may...be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

...Then Noah built an altar to the Lord...and the Lord said to Himself; "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth..."

...Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying... "I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." God said..."When the bow [rainbow] is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." (Genesis 6:5-9:17)



I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. – Genesis 9:13-15

Many in the secular and Christian worlds have claimed that the Flood described in the Bible in Genesis 6-9 was just a local event (or even myth). Not only does the language of the Bible describe a global

cataclysmic event (the highest hills under the whole of heaven were covered by water), but the covenant of the rainbow dictates that this event of Noah's day was not just some local inundation.

Since the time of Noah, there have been *thousands* of local floods. In fact, numerous such local events occur every year in most countries. However, the God of the Bible made a covenant between Himself and the Earth. He promised that whenever a rainbow appeared, it would be a reminder that He would never again bring such a flood (a global flood) on the Earth. If Noah's flood was just a local event, then it means that God breaks His promise every time a flood occurs somewhere on the earth.

Although we don't have to be concerned about another global flood, we do have to be ready for another global catastrophe, which will be by fire. In 2 Peter 3, Peter warns that just as God judged with a flood, one day there will be a final judgment by fire. One day, God will again destroy the Earth, but He will remake it to be perfect once again. Those who have put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will live forever with the God of creation in the new heavens and earth.

KEN HAM

God's promise over the Canyon

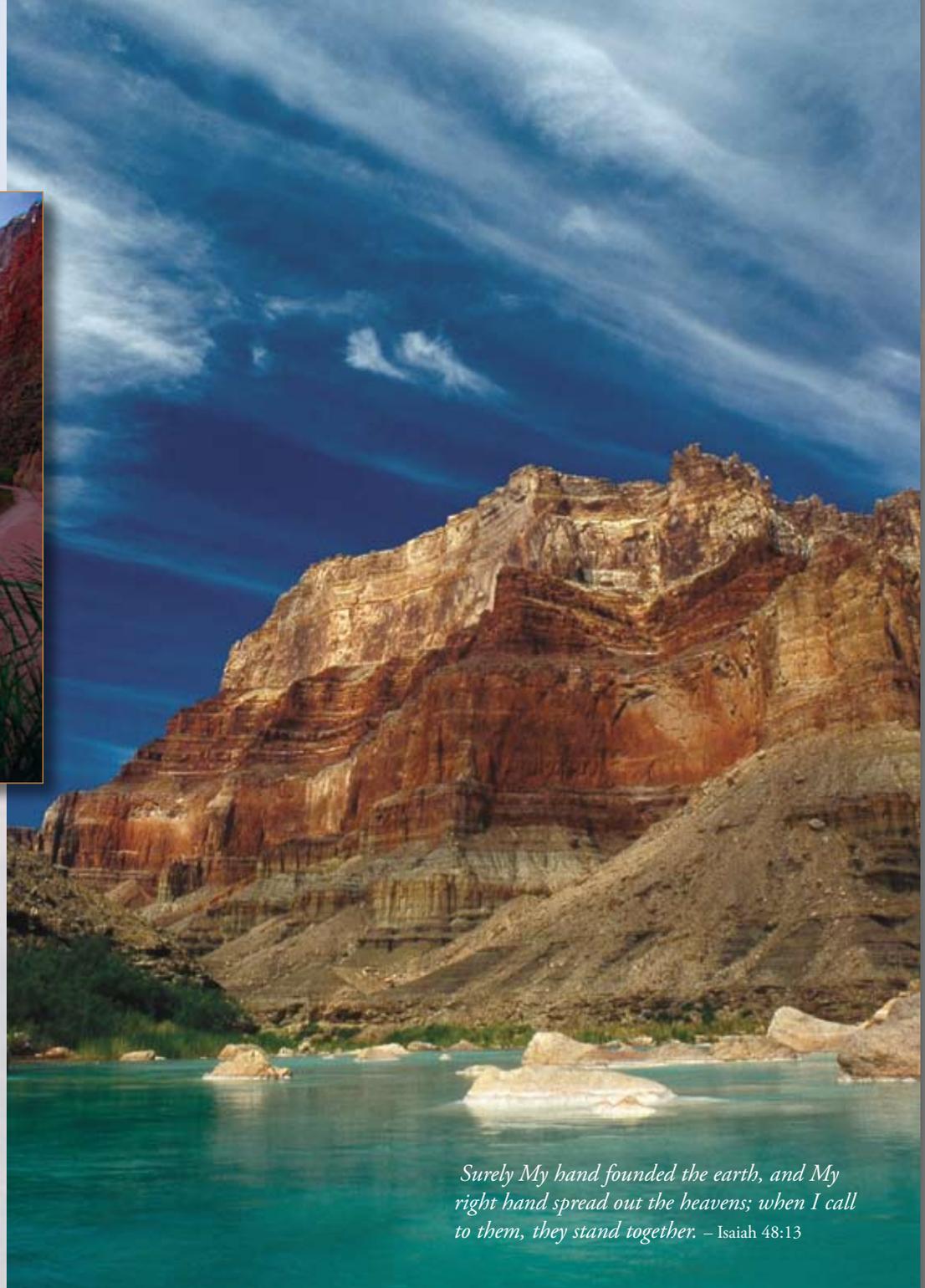
I set My bow in the cloud . . .

– Genesis 9:13



(Above) Calm, reflective waters of the Little Colorado River (Bill Hoesch)

(Right) Turquoise water at the confluence of the Little Colorado River



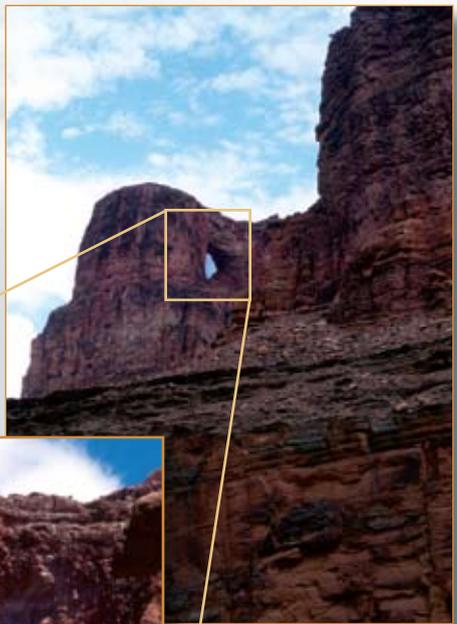
Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand together. – Isaiah 48:13

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a sea of white clouds stretching to the horizon. In the foreground, there are rocky outcrops and patches of snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

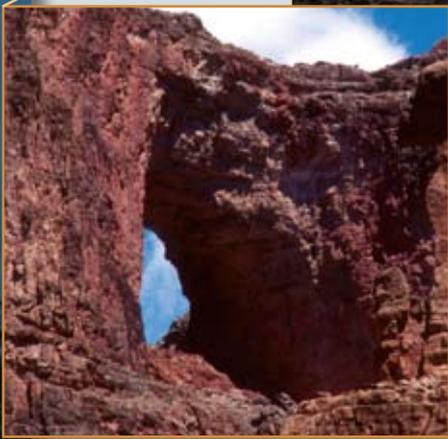
*Behold, He comes with the clouds, and
every eye will see Him . . . — Revelation 1:7*



(Left) Winter clouds from Maricopa Point, South Rim (David Toney)



Fern Glen Arch (Joe Pollock)



The Bible says that the evidence of God's existence is seen in the things that He has made, and I confirm that in my studies as a scientist.

ANDREW SNELLING

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. – Romans 1:20

(Right) The growth of these six-inch "dog-tooth" calcium carbonate crystals in a geode-like solution cavity in the Redwall Limestone displays God's creative genius. (Jacque Kewalramani)





*And God called the light day, and the darkness He called
night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

– Genesis 1:5



The dating of rocks by the radioactive decay of certain minerals is undoubtedly the main argument today for the dogma of an old earth.

But the Bible clearly teaches a recent creation of both the heavens and the earth, so Christians have often tried to reinterpret this doctrine to accommodate the long ages required by radioactive dating. For those Christians who believe that Genesis (like the other historical books of the Bible) should be understood as literal history, it has therefore been necessary to show the fallacies in the so-called “scientific proofs” of an old earth.

HENRY MORRIS

17

On the glorious splendor of your majesty and on your wonderful works, I will meditate. — Psalm 145:5