

## Part XI

### **A Brief Analysis of the Recolonization and K/T Models**

In this last part, I will take a look at some of the arguments used by the Recolonization and K/T Boundary Models. These arguments have not been developed in detail by advocates. Much of the information presented in this part has been published elsewhere, so Chapters 40 and 41 will be brief summaries.

## Chapter 40

# The Recolonization Model Greatly Multiplies Problems

The Recolonization Model, as it is generally called, has recently been proposed as a biblical solution to many real or perceived enigmas in the rock record.<sup>1,2</sup> There are several variants of the model. They all contend the Flood ended either in the Precambrian<sup>2</sup> or the late Paleozoic<sup>1</sup> (see Figure 3.5 for the four main boundary locations assuming the geological column). In the Tyler model, recolonization begins after the peak of the Flood on Day 40, while Budd's model begins after day 371, although the peak of the Flood was at Day 40 and remained steady to Day 150. The post-Flood is seen as a time of "recolonization" of the earth from non-air breathing refugia, special places of protection for organisms, that survived the Flood. They were later joined by the inhabitants of the Ark, those air-breathing land animals that left the Ark and colonized the New World. Only a few young-earth creationists are advocates of the Recolonization Model.

### Why Are some Creationists Postulating Recolonization?

It is my belief that the Recolonization Model accepts too many uniformitarianism interpretations and attempts to fit them into a biblical timeframe. They assume there are processes that would take too much time for a one-year Flood, so they provide more time by placing them after the Flood. Recolonization presumes we have an accurate enough knowledge of the Flood to conclude a particular or unique process "cannot" have occurred during the Flood. I have also noticed there is a paucity of research to back up their objections to a Flood timing. To justify their view of the Flood, advocates of recolonization take certain words or phrases in the Bible and apply a unique meaning for support of their theory.

There is no doubt that young-earth creationists do have numerous challenges in earth-science, but that is no reason to rework Scripture and suggest recolonization. There are reasonable solutions, or solutions in progress, for many of the difficulties.<sup>3,4</sup> For some challenges, it may take many years to arrive at a reasonable solution since there are still so many unknowns in earth science. It took 8 years and over a million dollars to learn why most dating methods give millions and billions of years. The study concluded that there was a period of accelerated radiometric decay existed during the past 6,000 years of biblical earth history.<sup>5</sup> It is important to realize we cannot expect to solve every challenge in our lifetimes, but we have made significant progress in the last 50 years. Finally, although there are still details to work out, the Flood model is capable of explaining the vast majority of fossil-bearing sedimentary rocks (see Chapter 1).

The Recolonization Model, on the other hand, would have to reproduce post-Flood catastrophes on the scale of the Genesis Flood to account for the fossil record. Yahweh declares

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<sup>1</sup> Tyler, D.J., 2006. Recolonization and the Mabbul; in: Reed, J.K. and Oard, M.J. (Eds.), *The Geological Column: Perspectives within Diluvial Geology*, Creation Research Society, Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 73–88.

<sup>2</sup> Budd, P.G., 2014. *Earth in Cataclysm*. Self published.

<sup>3</sup> Oard, M. and Reed, J.K. (editors), 2009. *Rock Solid Answers: The Biblical Truth Behind 14 Geological Questions*, Master Books and Creation Research Society, Green Forest, AR, and Chino Valley, AZ.

<sup>4</sup> Snelling, A.A., 2009. *Earth's Catastrophic Past: Geology, Creation & the Flood*, Volume 1 and 2, Institute for Creation Research, Dallas, TX.

<sup>5</sup> Vardiman, L., Snelling, A.A., and Chaffin, E.F. (editors), 2005. *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: Results of a Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative*. Institute for Creation Research, Dallas, TX.

Noah's Flood is the *last* major event to affect the Earth. Scripture should settle the matter. Genesis 10:32 a few hundred years after the Flood declares: "These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood" (ESV). This verse does not end with "...after numerous post-Flood catastrophes." If there were numerous post-Flood catastrophes by this time, the Bible is strangely silent about them. If the K/T Boundary Model, were true, it too would require at least regional to continental scale catastrophes before the Babel dispersion. The most biblically consistent and most likely Flood model was outlined by Whitcomb and Morris.<sup>6</sup> Of course this model needs some fine-tuning, since it was first presented in 1961.

It would take many books and articles to thoroughly analyze the Recolonization Model, so I will only summarize arguments that have already been made in the creationist literature. The interested reader can check the references. It is my contention that the Recolonization Model produces many more problems than it purports to solve. This is because it must explain how the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks, along with their fossils, were deposited after the Flood. This explanation must also include why we find many "evaporites" and coal in the rocks. It is interesting to note uniformitarian science also finds it incredibly challenging to explain the existence of evaporites and coal. Although much research is still needed, the Flood is on a large enough scale to do the job (see Chapters 8 and 13). The Recolonization Model's difficulty explaining even Cenozoic evaporites and coal is greatly compounded when the Paleozoic and Mesozoic deposits are also thought to be post-Flood.

### **The Recolonization Model**

Budd's Recolonization Model is built upon the assumption that most of the continental crust, from the time between Creation and the Flood consisted of a type of lava, with 1/3 of the volume consisting of fluid-filled holes.<sup>2</sup> In Budd's model, the fluid escaped after the Flood causing continental subsidence and the subsequent collection of billions of fossils in the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic. There is little or no evidence that such a special "initial condition" existed nor is there evidence to back up the "Precambrian Flood" or post-Flood catastrophes which he uses to account for the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic layers. He does not provide in-depth research on the details of all the many events in his model, not does he present detailed research as to why we must give up the general model of Whitcomb and Morris. I will not discuss the model further.

Tyler's Recolonization Model states the early Flood was so violent that the Earth's original crust was destroyed down to at least 6 miles (10 km). Then, in the first forty days, a crystalline crust was reconstructed.<sup>1</sup> At the same time he says the majority of living land creatures died leaving few to no fossil traces at all in the Precambrian. Budd believes the same. Both agree there were small populations of marine life preserved in "refugia," places of refuge. Tyler's model says: after the springs of the great deep closed and the floodgates of the heavens were stopped on Day 40 there was a rapid recolonization of marine life from the refugia after Day 40, during the less catastrophic part of the Flood. As the Flood water receded, plants took root having survived the first 40 days as floating log and vegetation mats. Then the inhabitants of the Ark recolonized the land starting in the late Paleozoic. Biblically, this is questionable, since the Genesis record suggests the floodgates closed about Day 150. The order of fossilization during the recolonization just happens to be the order found in the uniformitarian geological column, from bacteria and blue-green algae in the very earliest rocks of the Precambrian and ends with

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<sup>6</sup> Whitcomb, Jr., J.C. and Morris, H.M., 1961. *The Genesis Flood*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI.

the animals of the Ice Age (Figure 40.1). Is this a model attempting to explain the geological column (see below)?

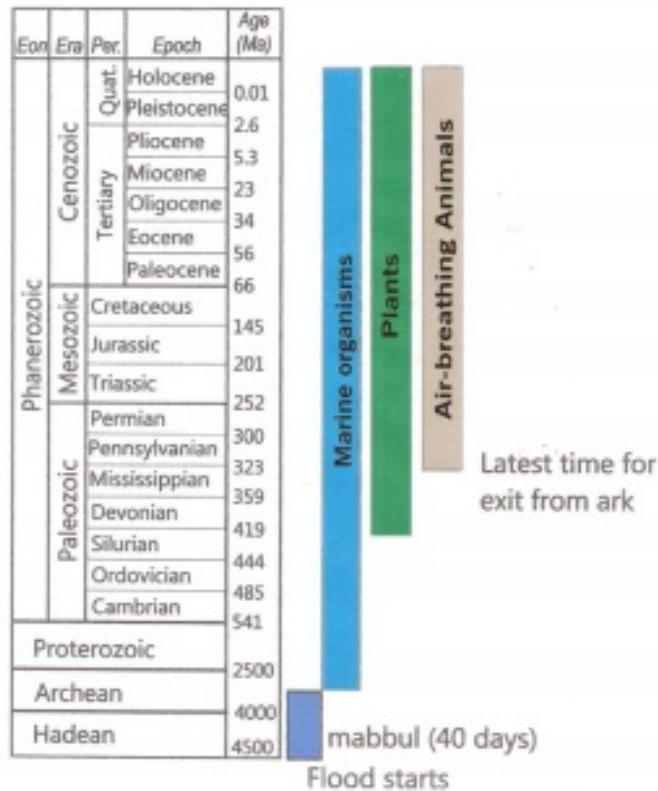


Figure 40.1. The stages of recolonization during and after the Flood arranged relative to the geologic column, with the blue column representing the approximate extents of recolonization for marine creatures and the green column the recolonization of plants. The brown column represents the recolonization of air-breathing terrestrial creatures that left the Ark. The Recolonization Model does not accept the absolute timescale of the geological column (from Reed et al., 2009, p. 30, modified from Tyler, 2006).

### Critique of the Recolonization Model

I believe the problem with the Recolonization Model began with wrong assumptions, which then spilled into their geological deductions. These assumptions were much different from those postulated by the majority of Flood geologists. From there, the model was force fitted into the Bible. So, I will discuss these three issues in order.

#### Recolonization Model Assumptions

As I have said before, the Recolonization Model simply accepts too many uniformitarian deductions, assuming it is an accurate representation of biblical earth history minus the long

ages.<sup>7</sup> With little analysis, uniformitarian paleoenvironmental interpretations are commonly woven into the model.

A typical example of what they consider an “unsolvable problem” for the Whitcomb and Morris Flood Model is dinosaur tracks, eggs, and scavenged bonebeds that are placed early in the Flood. This, they think is problematic because their activities demonstrate they were alive for at least part of the Flood. Some think it is impossible for dinosaurs to survive the early chaos of the Flood. Therefore the tracks, etc. are post-Flood.<sup>8</sup> If, the dinosaurs lived *after* the Flood, the end of the Flood would be somewhere in the Precambrian or Paleozoic. The BEDS hypothesis has a straightforward answer to this seemingly impossible problem.<sup>9,10</sup> In Tyler’s version, the recolonization of marine organisms not on the Ark begins in the Precambrian and ends in the late Paleozoic (Figure 40.1).

The geologic column is not an observational fact but an interpretation of a huge volume of sedimentary rocks with their contained fossils from all over the world. It is based on many assumptions and made to seem precise by much manipulation of the data.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup> I believe it is a general sequence but it has many exceptions.

The geological column and timescale was based on several anti-biblical presuppositions.<sup>15</sup> During the 1700s, Enlightenment intellectuals threw out the Bible and attempted to determine “truth” by man’s reason. They started to interpret geology by means of present processes. This was even before uniformitarianism became formalized as a dogma of earth sciences by James Hutton and Charles Lyell in the very late 1700s and early 1800s.<sup>16,17</sup> Unfortunately, uniformitarianism became universally accepted and has a stranglehold on geological interpretation today. It is essential that creationists remain aware of assumptions of secular geology. Sometimes it is necessary for Flood geologists to go to great lengths to filter out secular interpretation from actual data.

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<sup>7</sup> Tyler, D.J. and Coffin, H.G., 2006. Accept the column, reject to chronology; in: Reed, J.K. and Oard, M.J. (editors.), *The Geological Column: Perspectives within Diluvial Geology*, Creation Research Society, Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 53–71.

<sup>8</sup> Garner, P., 1996. Where is the Flood/post-Flood boundary? Implications of dinosaur nests in the Mesozoic. *Journal of Creation* 10(1):101–106.

<sup>9</sup> Oard, M.J., 2009. Dinosaur tracks, eggs, and bonebeds; in: Oard, M. and Reed, J.K. (editors), *Rock Solid Answers: The Biblical Truth Behind 14 Geological Questions*, Master Books and Creation Research Society, Green Forest, AR, and Chino Valley, AZ., pp. 245–258.

<sup>10</sup> Oard, M.J., 2011. *Dinosaur Challenges and Mysteries: How the Genesis Flood Makes Sense of Dinosaur Evidence—Including Tracks, Nests, Eggs, and Scavenged Bonebeds*, Creation book Publishers, Powder Springs, GA.

<sup>11</sup> Oard, M. J., 2006. The geological column is a general Flood order with many exceptions; in: Reed, J.K. and Oard M.J. (editors), *The Geological Column: Perspectives within Diluvial Geology*, Creation Research Society Books, Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 99–121.

<sup>12</sup> Oard, M.J., 2010. Is the geological column a global sequence? *Journal of Creation* 24(1):56–64.

<sup>13</sup> Oard, M.J., 2010. The geological column is a general Flood order with many exceptions. *Journal of Creation* 24(2):78–82.

<sup>14</sup> Oard, M.J., 2013. The reinforcement syndrome ubiquitous in the earth sciences. *Journal of Creation* 27(3):13–16.

<sup>15</sup> Mortenson, T., 2006. The historical development of the old-earth geological timescale; in: Reed, J.K. and Oard, M.J. (editors.), *The Geological Column: Perspectives within Diluvial Geology*, Creation Research Society, Chino Valley, AZ, pp. 7–30.

<sup>16</sup> Rudwick, M.J.S, 2005. *Bursting the Limits of Time: The Reconstruction of Geohistory in the Age of Revolution*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

<sup>17</sup> Rudwick, M.J.S., 2008. *Worlds Before Adam: The Reconstruction of Geohistory in the Age of Reform*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

In the process of accepting too much uniformitarianism, advocates of the Recolonization Model uncritically accept many uniformitarian paleoenvironmental deductions.<sup>18</sup> An example of this is in Tyler statement:

The abrupt appearance of so many phyla in low-energy environments (many Cambrian formations carry the marks of non-catastrophic deposition) makes little sense as an early (or earliest) stage of the Flood.<sup>19</sup>

Tyler believes that fine grained sediments mean low energy environments and concludes more time is need than in the one-year Genesis Flood for the deposition of the Cambrian formations. Why does he not question and check into the environmental interpretation? Do fine-grained sediments always require low energy deposition? Furthermore, the early Flood need not be chaotic and turbulent everywhere for the entire Flood. As a result there could easily be areas of fine-grained deposition in the early Flood.

It is well known among geologists that there are always alternative interpretations of sedimentary rocks:

As is usual in sedimentology, observations can be construed in alternative ways, and interpretations for these strata [with Ediacaran fossils] have historically covered the gamut of geological possibilities – from lacustrine to lagoonal, coastal and open marine.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, typical uniformitarian interpretations of slow deposition over millions of years have sometimes been overturned with further research.<sup>3,21</sup> For example, the shale and mudstone that make up 80% of the sedimentary rocks have been assumed to collect very slowly in low-energy environments on the bottom of a lake or sea. However, recent work has shown mud can be deposited rapidly in fast-flowing water.<sup>22,23</sup> Such rapid deposition of clay by flocculation has been shown to be an ubiquitous phenomena that results in larger particles that sink faster in water. Another advocate of a type of recolonization model, Steven Robinson,<sup>24</sup> also believes the numerous uniformitarian paleoenvironmental deductions, a sample from one of his articles of which is presented in Table 40.1.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Oard, M.J., 1998. Dinosaurs in the Flood: a response. *Journal of Creation* 12(1):69–86

<sup>19</sup> Tyler, Ref. 1, p. 80.

<sup>20</sup> Knauth, L.P., 2013. Not all at sea. *Nature* 493:29.

<sup>21</sup> Ager, D., 1993. *The New Catastrophism: The Importance of the Rare Event in Geological History*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.

<sup>22</sup> Walker, T., 2008. Mud experiments overturn long-held geological beliefs. *Journal of Creation* 22(2):14–15.

<sup>23</sup> Oard, M.J., 2013. Internal oceanic waves and sedimentation. *Journal of Creation* 27(1):16–18.

<sup>24</sup> Robinson, S.J., 1996. Can Flood geology explain the fossil record? *Journal of Creation* 10(1):32–69.

<sup>25</sup> Oard, Ref. 18, p. 82.

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| 1) a lacustrine environment   |
| 2) the paleoclimate   |
| 3) a terrestrial environment  |
| 4) the western interior seaway of North America during the Cretaceous |
| 5) dinosaurs died in local floods                                     |
| 6) sea level curves   |
| 7) aeolian sand   |
| 8) an upper coastal plain   |
| 9) mountain building cycles   |
| 10) plate tectonics   |
| 11) ancient seashores   |
| 12) tidal sandstone   |
| 13) prodelta shales   |
| 14) transgressive and regressive cycles of the oceans                 |
| 15) river channels  |
| 16) lacustrine limestones   |
| 17) a seasonally flooded savanna                                      |
| 18) seasonal wetlands   |

*Table 40.1. The paleoenvironmental deductions believed by Steven Robinson in his Recolonization Model.*

All of the above deductions need to be assessed within a Flood paradigm, first. Advocates may find out that there are reasonable Flood solutions. Or even in cases, where there is not a Flood solution, as yet, need to remember that the present lack of understanding of all Flood processes and rocks is no reason to uncritically accept uniformitarian interpretations of geological phenomena.

### **Geological and Logical Problems**

There are numerous geological and logical problems with the Recolonization Model, besides taking the uniformitarian geological column and numerous uniformitarian deductions at face value. I will briefly mention three.<sup>26</sup>

#### **The New Crust**

If the top of the original crust was destroyed, then the current igneous and metamorphic rocks must have formed during the first 40 days of the Flood. The heat coming from below the upper crust would have been enormous. How could refugia and floating log mats survive to repopulate the earth? The model generates vast amounts of volcanic material. How could the thick continental crust regenerate and cool quickly enough for life, assuming organisms survived the heat in the first place? The Recolonization Model produces many more problems than it solves.

#### **Refugia Issues**

Why would any refugia survive the initial destruction of the earth's crust? Since these refugia presumably were in deep water, how did they get there when everything was destroyed the first day? There are also issues of when did they know to migrate in order to recolonize the Earth,

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<sup>26</sup> Reed, J.K., Kulikovsky, A.S., and Oard, M.J., 2009. Can recolonization explain the rock record? *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 46(1):27–39.

how could they make the journey from long distance, and how could they reproduce in a matter of weeks so as to become some of the billions of fossils from the late Precambrian and Paleozoic?

Then there is the order of the geological column that must be considered. Is the order of fossilization done in warp speed along with the reproduction of organisms from the refugia? How does the Recolonization Model explain the Cambrian Explosion which marks the preservation, all over the world, of a vast number of creatures with more phyla than exist today? These animals would have had to spread all over the world, reproduce, and grow to adult size in a matter of weeks.

### **Post-Flood Recolonization?**

If the post-Flood period begins in the late Paleozoic, continues through the Mesozoic, and into the Cenozoic, marine organisms and plants had to continue to recolonize according to the order in the geological column. Terrestrial organisms then had to spread out from the Ark starting in the late Paleozoic.

This brings up a number of problems for biblical earth history. First, post-Flood organisms had to become buried in sediments that somehow turned to sedimentary rocks. Erosion, tectonics, and deposition of sediments had to take place quickly. This ebook has pointed out many of the major, multiple catastrophic events that had to occur in just the Cenozoic. If we include the late Paleozoic and Mesozoic, the catastrophic action for the first several hundred years after the Flood increases enormously. What were these catastrophes? Would not the catastrophes interfere with God's directive to be fruitful and multiply across the earth? Many deposits on the continents are widespread marine layers. The scale of post Flood flooding would have to be similar to the Genesis Flood, which God promised never to send again.

Then, there is the problem of Cenozoic regional and continental erosion of "post-Flood" sediments as evidenced by unique landforms found around the world.<sup>27,28</sup> Thousands, and in some cases tens of thousands, of feet of erosion must occur in some locations after the Flood (see Chapter 21). This also requires large-scale tectonics and transport that are more consistent with the Recessive Stage of the Flood.

The Bible is clear that the first human settlement was in the Mesopotamia, but there are vast thicknesses of Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks deposited by marine processes in this region. If they are the result of post-Flood catastrophes, how would humans have survived? The Zagros Mountains of western Iran rose very late in the geological column (Pliocene), which would be well after the Flood in the Recolonization Model. Imagine surviving that! The same would be true for other mountain ranges in the region that would impinge upon the areas first settled after the Flood.

### **Biblical Problems**

In spite of the geological considerations, the Recolonization Model tries to make a case from the Bible. Tyler has two main evidences. The first comes from Jesus's comparing the suddenness of His second coming to the judgment of Noah's Flood (Matthew 24:37ff; Luke 17:26ff). Tyler also sees an analogy with the sudden destruction of Sodom and the Flood. Because Jesus's

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<sup>27</sup> Oard, M.J., 2008. *Flood by Design: Receding Water Shapes the Earth's Surface*. Master Books, Green Forest, AR.

<sup>28</sup> Oard, M.J., 2013 (ebook). *Earth's Surface Shaped by Genesis Flood Runoff*. <http://Michael.oards.net?GenesisFloodRunoff.htm>.



coming will be sudden, in an instant, and overwhelming, he views Genesis 7:10 as the Flood coming suddenly, destroying almost everything in one day. Genesis 7:10 states: “And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth” (ESV). Although Genesis 7:10 teaches that the *beginning* of the Flood was sudden, in one day, the rest of Genesis 7 and 8 indicates the Flood was a prolonged process, lasting 371 days.