

of their chemical composition, and by correlating the thicknesses of the series of couplets immediately above and below. The mean thickness of the couplets was found to be 1.1 to 2.0 millimeters.<sup>13</sup> This is surely a highly significant series of deposits which those who hold to the idea of a young earth must take into account. Of very special significance are the following additional features: (a) The great contrast between the two main, distinct layers of each couplet ( $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), the one being only slightly soluble, and the other highly soluble, and (b) the very thin, but distinct, "third layer" of organic matter in most of the couplets. These demand not only a definite change of salinity, but also many quiet periods of settling.

*changed*  
~~It should also~~ *be remembered* that this thick deposit of "banded anhydrite" extends over almost the entire Delaware Basin. Large areas in the central part of the Basin have over 1600 feet thickness of banded anhydrite, with thick beds of ~~salt~~ *salt* ( $\text{NaCl}$ ) and of limestone intercalated between, in certain areas. (Perhaps it should be explained that, while this Castile anhydrite covers the lower parts of the Capitan reef, the evaporites which buried the upper parts of it often belong to the Salado and Rustler Formations, which are above the Castile. However, this only adds to the necessary age of the entire area.)

It is impossible to explain such a series of layers as this *in* terms of the Biblical Flood, because ~~the~~ *flooding* ~~turbulent waters of a flood~~ do not lay down deposits of highly soluble minerals such as anhydrite and salt. If one should postulate that there were numerous periods of quietness during or following the Flood, we are still faced with the problems of: (a) the very short duration of the Flood as declared in ~~Gen~~ Genesis 8:13-14, (b) the need for time for the alternating concentration and dilution of the sea water for the formation of each of the micro-layers, and (c) the need for the thousands of periods of complete non-turbulence for the settling of the precipitate into thin, uniform layers. It must be remembered that the calcium carbonate, the anhydrite, and the organic matter of each couplet are highly contrasting substances, so had to be precipitated or settled,