

75 foot surface covering of conglomeritic sandstone, which is listed in Table 4. This is sandstone with various sizes of pebbles and other rock fragments mixed in with it. Both the sand and the larger fragments are dense enough to settle out of moving water, and thus could have been deposited by the Flood. Of course we have no proof of what happened in Texas at the time of the Flood, but if any part of the present local stratigraphic column in the western edge of Pecos County was formed by the Flood it was this 75 feet of sandstone. The 125 feet of shale beneath it is nothing like what a violent, short-lived flood could produce.

Now to return a moment to the deposits which are lower down in this stratigraphic column of west Texas. Those beneath the Capitan reef are even more impressive than those which are above--at least from the standpoint of thickness. In most parts of the Delaware basin this amounts to more than 12,000 feet of sedimentary strata, and in the southeastern part it is 20,000 feet. (Table 5 shows the layers which are present in the northern part of the basin.) As is also true of most of the deposits which cover the reef, the layers in these lower deposits are usually flat and regular (even), showing that the particles settled out slowly from water which was not in rapid motion. These layers, at most levels, have a very different composition from those of the reef. They also show that they were marine, rather than freshwater, by the types of fossils preserved in them. Some of the kinds of fossils present in the strata beneath the reef are: (a) different kinds of brachiopods (a "seashell-type" of animal, some of which resemble scallops in appearance), (b) several genera, and many species, of the order Foraminifera (small, marine animals, most of which in this case had thick shells), (c) ostracods (one group of crustaceans), and (d) fossilized plant spores of the genus Tasmanites.¹⁹

The fact that these are present assures us that the deep layers we are considering were formed after these creatures had been created and had had time to multiply.

So we see that when all the main types of sedimentary strata of the Delaware basin are considered, we have an extensive record of a large part of the biological growth in the seas since the original events of the creation of life took place.²⁰ The great deposits of limestone and dolostone which lie beneath the Capitan reef (Table 5) necessarily represent immense periods of time, because of the nature of these two kinds of rock. When viewing these we must of course realize that the deepest strata were formed first, and the layers above were formed in turn at later times. (It should be obvious that, because of the law of gravity, there is no way that a new layer of sedimentary particles could be "slipped in" underneath an older layer, out across the bottom of the sea.)

Then the main intervals of time which elapsed after the laying down of these deep strata are as follows (given in the order of their occurrence as one progresses up the stratigraphic column of that locality): (a) sufficient time for the growth of the reef, (b) the many cycles of climatic change necessary for producing the 200,000