

this great expanse of biogenic ooze came from huge, concentrated centers of origin, and was spread over the ocean bottom by unusually strong water currents. But there are numerous reasons why this could not have been. Some of these reasons are: (a) The natural habitat of these sediment-producing creatures is the open sea, so they could not congregate together and rapidly produce huge reservoirs of sediment; (b) The breadth and length of the areas of ocean bottom covered with a fairly uniform thickness of one basic kind of sediment is often thousands of miles;<sup>41</sup> (c) Any process of rapidly transporting fine-grained, microfossil sediment from considerable distances would result in a heterogeneous mixture of such components as volcanic ash, volcanic glass, and land-derived sand and silt along with the microscopic-size shells; (d) Even if there were some way for large quantities of these shells to be transported rapidly, they are so small that they could not settle out of the water rapidly, as was pointed out earlier; (e) The quantity of sediments which are composed primarily of the skeletons of microorganisms is so vast that there are no conceivable areas of water elsewhere where they could have grown and been stored; (f) The upper set of layers of these biogenic sediments, representing deposition from the present, back at least several hundred thousand years, is typical of present-day biological production at the various latitudes represented. For example, diatoms are more prevalent at the higher latitudes, in colder waters, whereas many of the species of Foraminifera thrive (and have thrived) only in the warmer waters closer to the equator.

It should be explained here that, in some locations which are from 500 to 1,500 miles from the North American continent, an occasional layer of land-derived, silty sediment is found in the upper part of the column of biologically-produced oozes. These layers are identified as belonging to the glaciation periods, when large amounts of terrigenous matter were swept out to sea. Nevertheless these layers are found to be only temporary interruptions in the normal deposition of biogenic sediments which we have been describing. That is, very much the same type of ooze usually continues below the terrigenous layer, showing that the microorganisms of that part of the ocean were much the same before the glaciation as afterwards.

This arrangement of the strata, plus the many previously cited facts concerning the sediments, can only lead us to the conclusion that there is no possibility that the deposits on the ocean floor were produced in only a few thousand years, as some theologians have unwittingly postulated. Even with the sediment-producing organisms growing at the fastest possible rate, only a very small fraction of the oozes and chalks of the sedimentary columns we have been considering could have been produced in so short a time.

#### The Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea--the "Great Sea" of the Bible--was an awesome mystery to the mariners of Bible times. It was then an abyss poorly known and greatly feared. It has now been well charted