

and of the gorges of many swift rivers which plunge off the Andes Mountains of Argentina, Chili, Bolivia, and Peru into the lowlands of these countries.

Thus we are frequently able to identify a literal "record-in-stone" provided by the work of erosion in cutting through thousands of feet of hard rock--types of rock such as granite, gneiss, and schist. Since these rock types are formed under the influence of great heat and pressure, they were fully hardened before the rivers began their courses over the rock masses. This means that their erosion has always been slow, and that a reliable time record has been provided for us where such rocks have been cut to great depths by a river. Since the amount and rate of the water flow in a given river have not always been the same, the total erosion time for a canyon is very difficult to determine. But where the rocks of the canyon have been of these or other types which were fully hardened before the river waters began to erode them, there can be no doubt but that we have a true and readable time record before us. For example, the Nile River, at the Semna rapids, between the second and third cataracts, is now downcutting through gneissic rock at the relatively fast rate of about one-twelfth of an inch per year.³ The erosion rate may have been even several times this great at some time in the past, but there are very effective limits on the erosion, due to the fact that the rock has been hard and durable from the beginning, and due to the physical laws which limit the effect of water and its suspended sediments on a given amount of rock surface per unit of time. Therefore, we recognize that the natural records of erosion which God has left us are both true and reliable.

2. Fossils--These were a great mystery to man until it was discovered that the body structures of the fossils are equivalent to the body parts of related living organisms. Take the example of the muscle scars which are seen on the shells of both recent and fossil clams. If one dissects a freshly killed clam he will find two large muscles by which the clam closes the two halves of its shell for protection. Upon cutting these muscles away from the shell, one sees that there is a distinct depression in the material of the shell at the point where each of these muscles was attached. These depressions, and also a few other smaller ones to which other muscles attach, are called "muscle scars," and are seen in fossil clam shells as well as in shells of recent origin.⁴ Now we must realize that any and all such muscle attachment scars which are seen on clam shells--even if they are very old fossils--represent the points at which real muscles of real, live clams were attached. To say, as some have, that God created these shells along with many other fossils in a ready-made state, and that these muscle scars thus never had any live muscles attached to them, is to accuse God of putting deception into his creation. (It is true that few, if any, creationist leaders currently hold that God created ready-made fossils and sedimentary strata, but at the "grass roots" level this view is still popular.)

The principle just stated can be illustrated thousands of times over as we observe the intricate fossilized structures of so many kinds of animals. For example, if the fossil corals found in the