

# *A Texas-Sized Challenge to Young Earth 'Creation Science' and Flood Geology*

Steve Mitchell



**GENESIS**

# Topics

- History of Young Earth Creationism
- YEC predictions in geology
- YEC predictions in Study Area
  - Flood Deposits
  - Post-Flood Deposits
- So what?

**GENESIS**

The image features a desert landscape with a prominent, jagged rock formation in the center. In the foreground, an open book is shown, with the word "GENESIS" written in large, bold, red letters across its pages. The background is a clear blue sky, and the overall scene is set in a dry, rocky environment.

# Perspectives of Genesis

Young Earth  
Creation

Old Earth  
Creation

Theistic  
Evolution

Naturalism

Intelligent  
Design

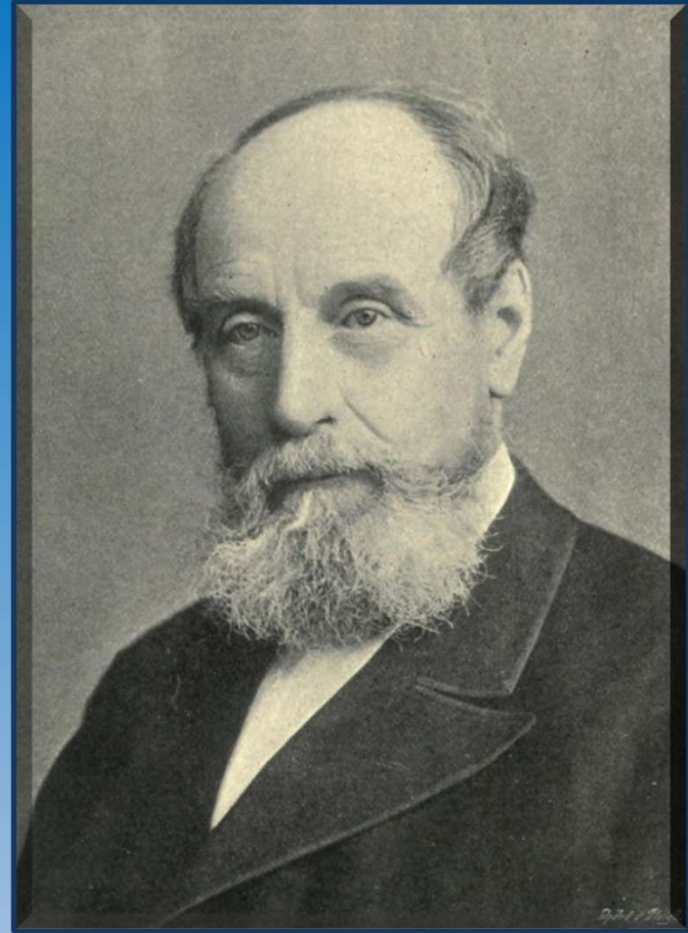
Earth  
~6-12,000  
years old

Earth  
Billions of  
years old

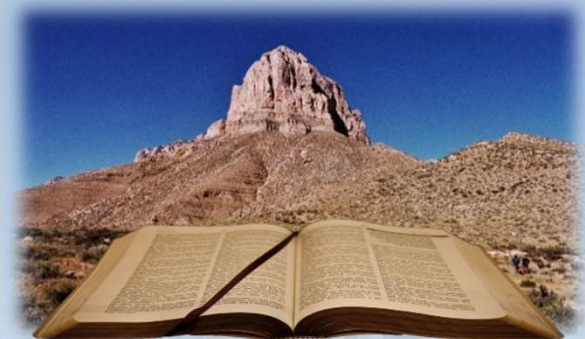
Many evangelical Christians  
accept each of these views



James Dwight Dana  
(1813 – 1895)



John William Dawson  
(1820–1899)

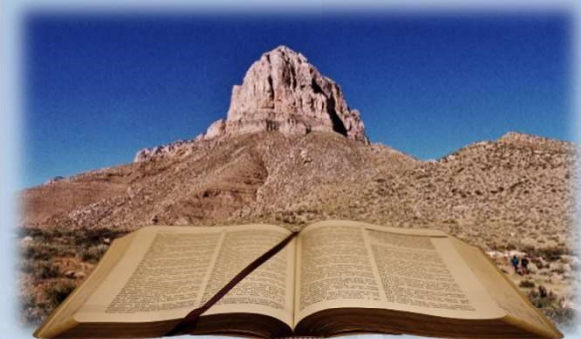
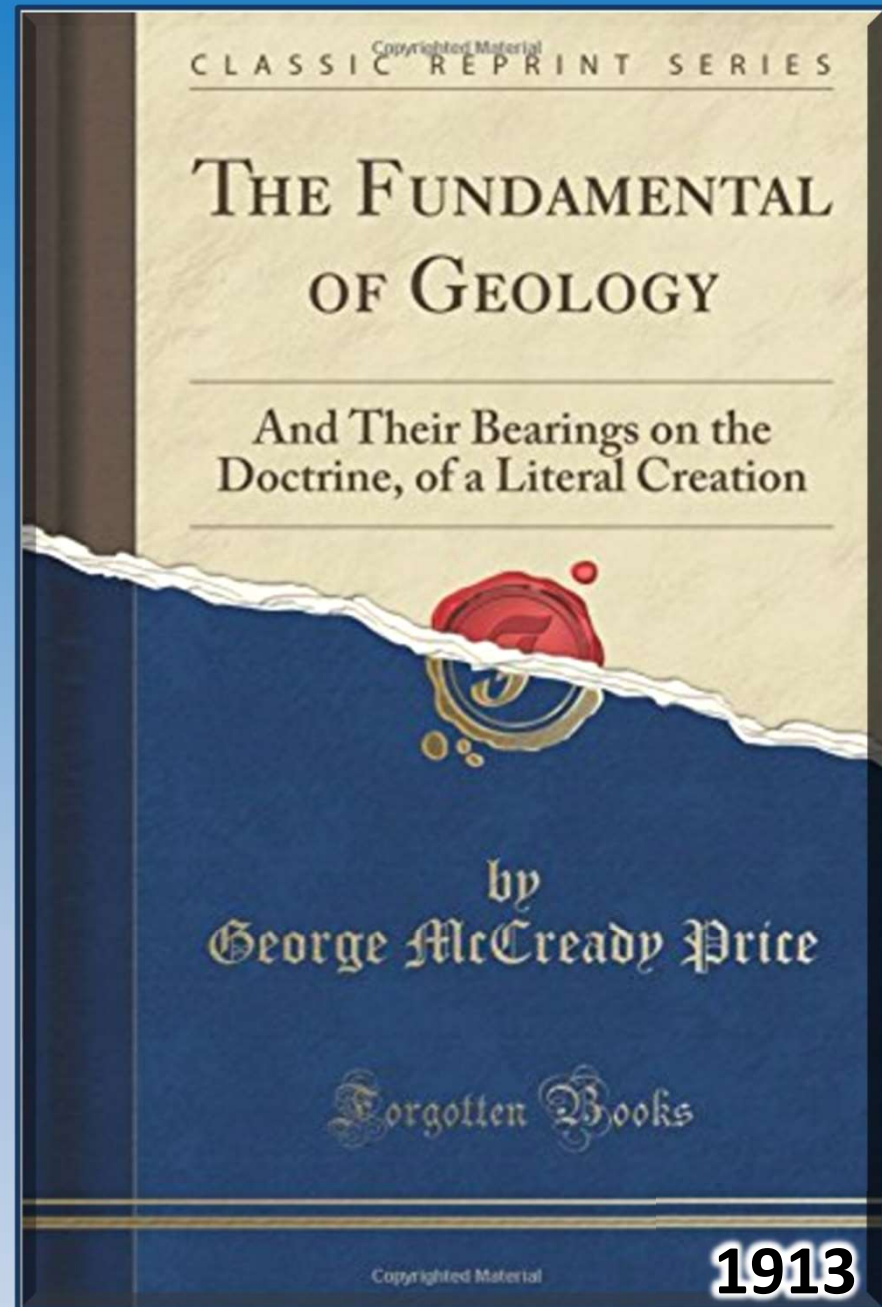


# Key Idea Development

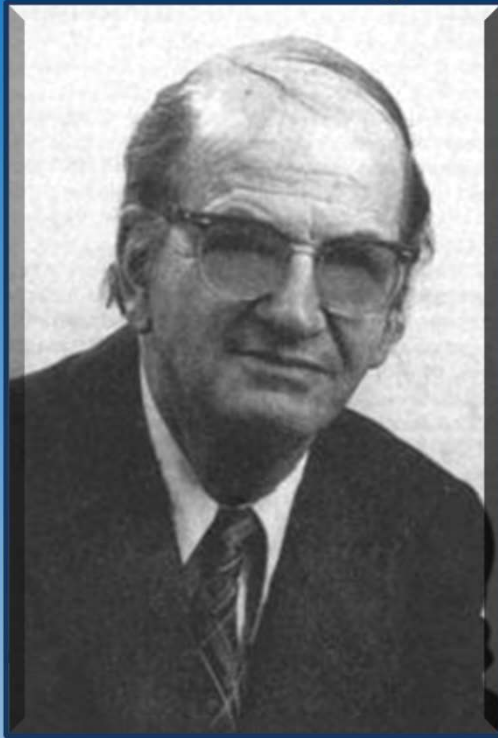


George McCready Price  
(1870-1963)

- Canadian Seventh-day Adventist
- Self-taught writer and teacher at Adventist schools

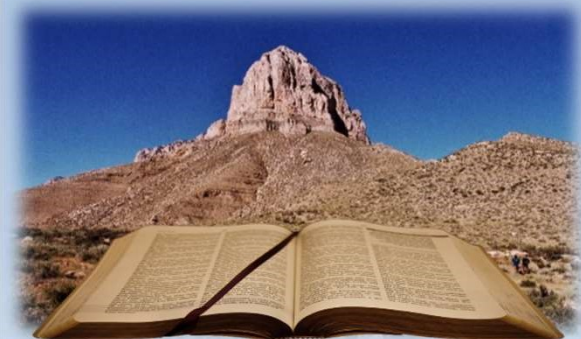
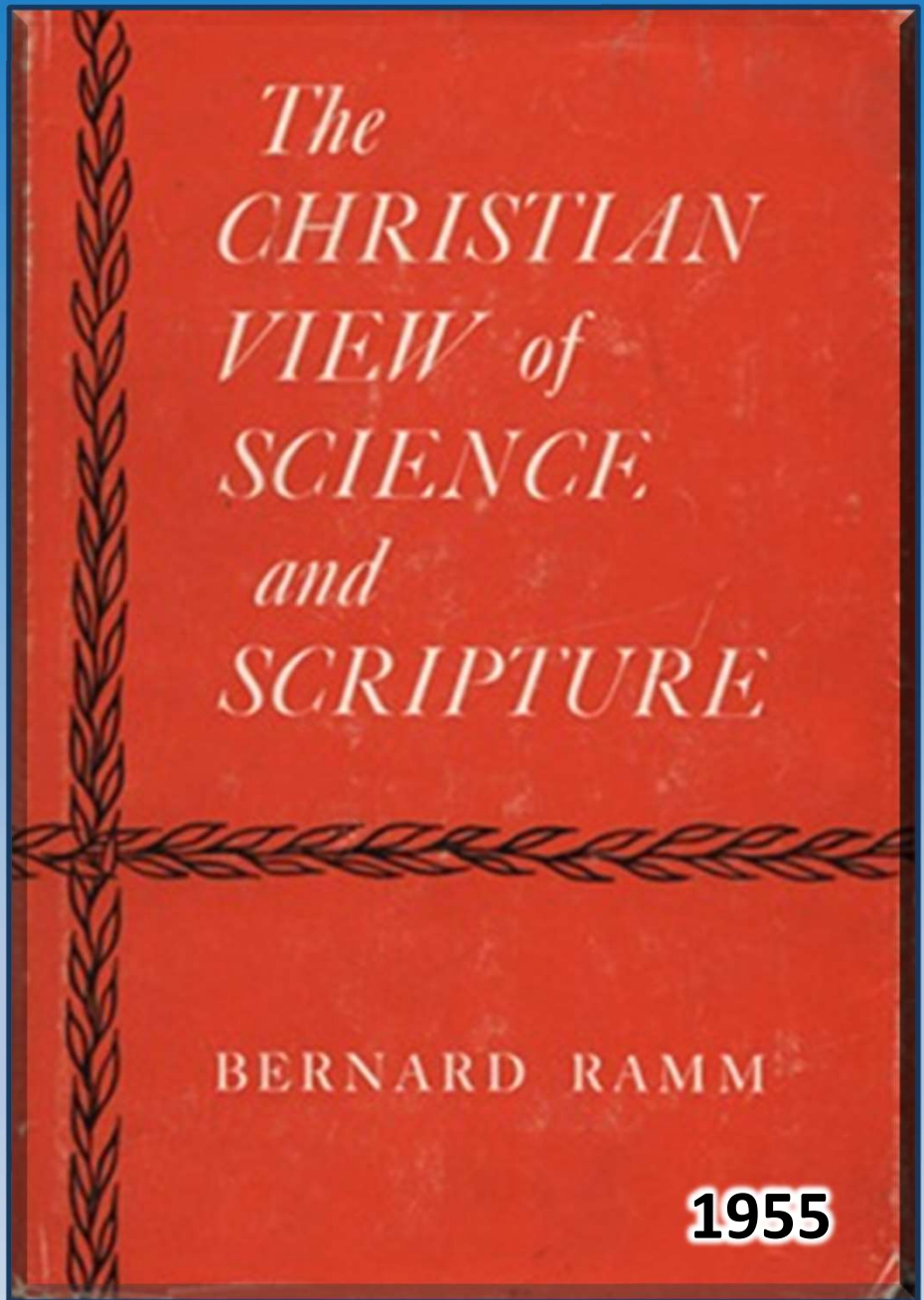


# Key Idea Development



Bernard Ramm  
(1916-1992)

- Baptist theologian and apologist
- Professor of Systematic Theology, American Baptist Seminary of the West at Covina, California,

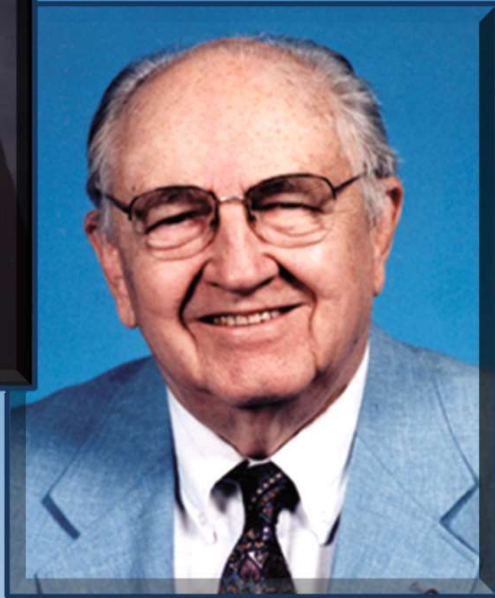


# Key Idea development



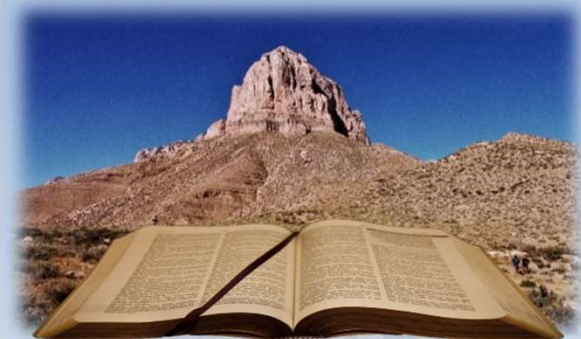
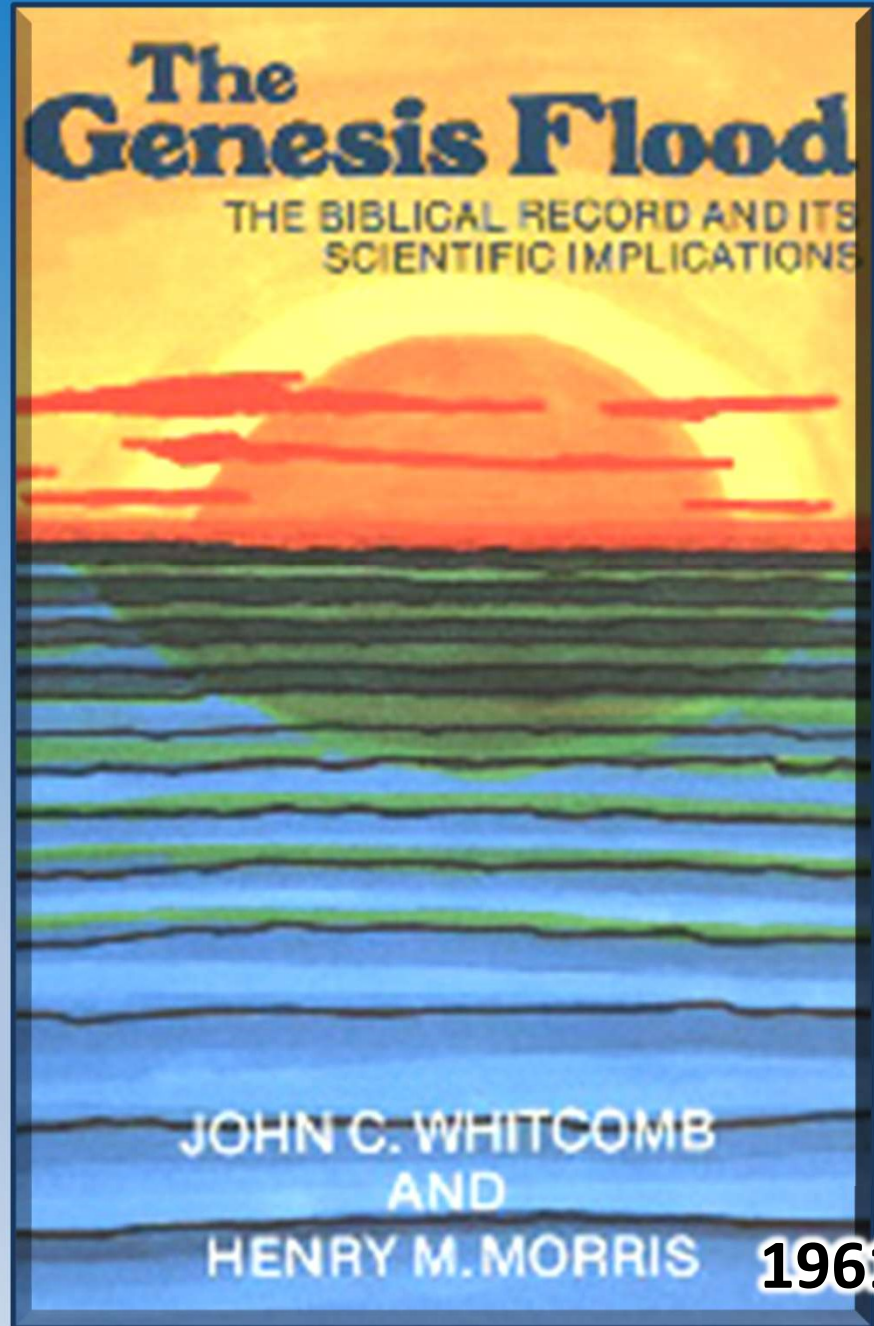
**John C. Whitcomb**  
(1924-2020)

- Brethren O.T. scholar
- Professor at Grace Theological Seminary's Old Testament and Christian Theology



**Henry M. Morris**  
(1918 - 2006)

- Hydraulic engineer and professor
- A founder of Creation Research Society
- A founder of Institute for Creation Research (ICR)

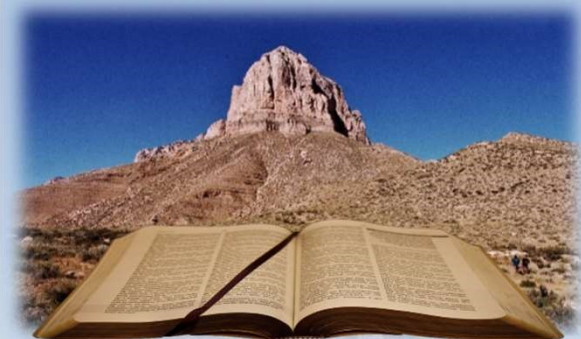
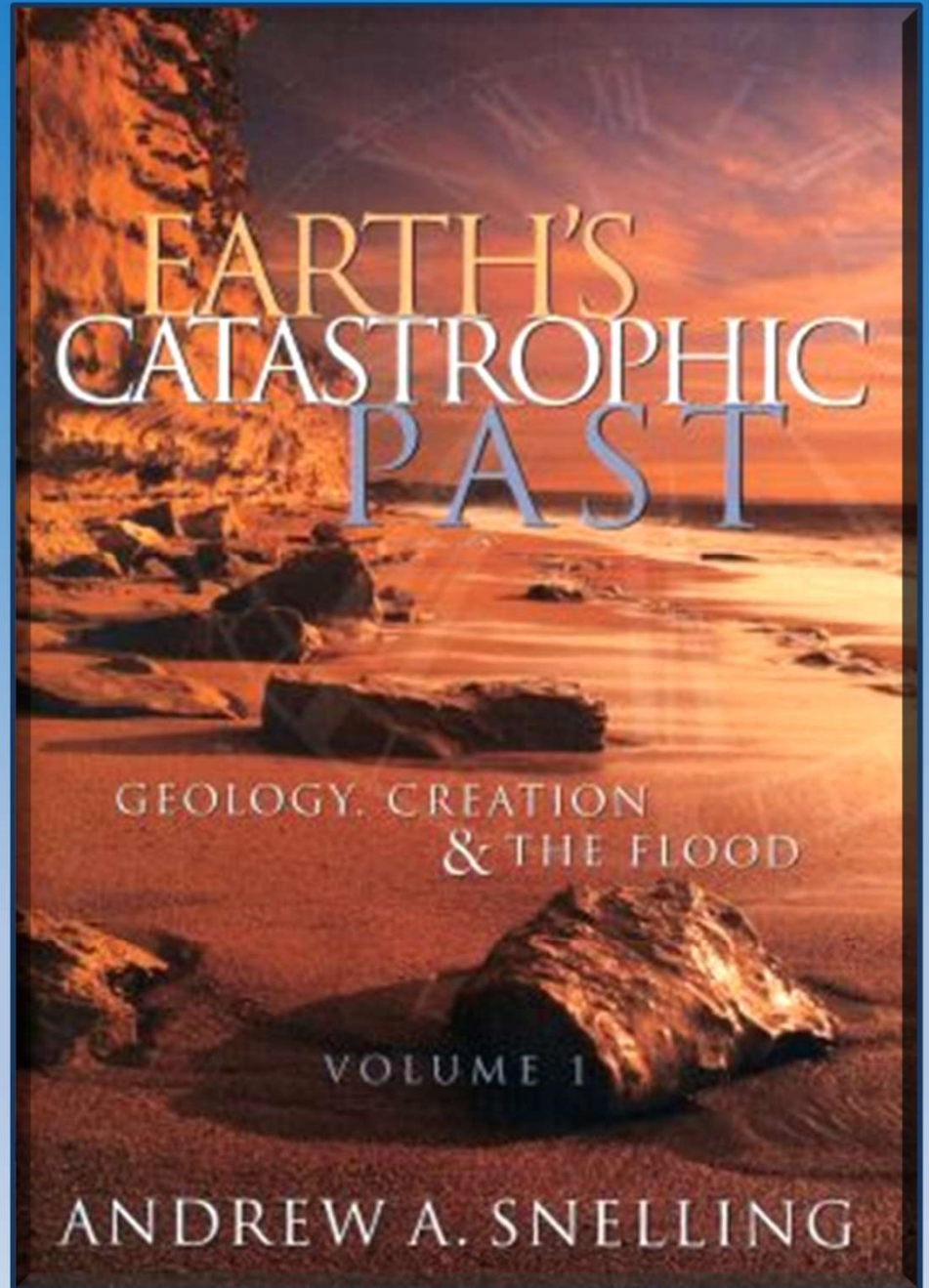


# Key Idea development



Andrew A. Snelling

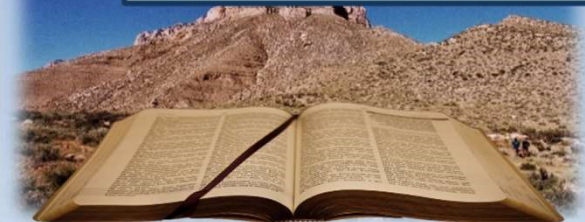
- Creationist geologist
- Ph.D. in geology from the University of Sydney
- Director of Research, Answers in Genesis





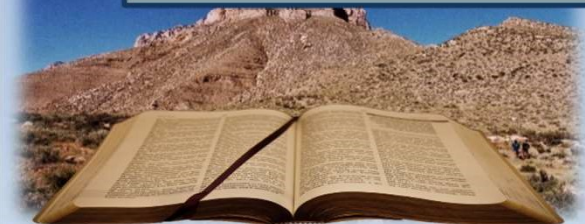
# Young Earth Assumptions of Geology

1. Earth created mature and complete
2. Creation took place over six 24 hour days
3. The date of creation is indicated or at least limited by the genealogies of the Old Testament
4. Life created on day 3 for plants and day 5 for animals. (No life prior to that)
5. No death prior to Adam's sin (the Fall)
6. Animal life was created vegetarian and began to eat meat as a result of the fall
7. No rain before the flood
8. Noah's flood was global

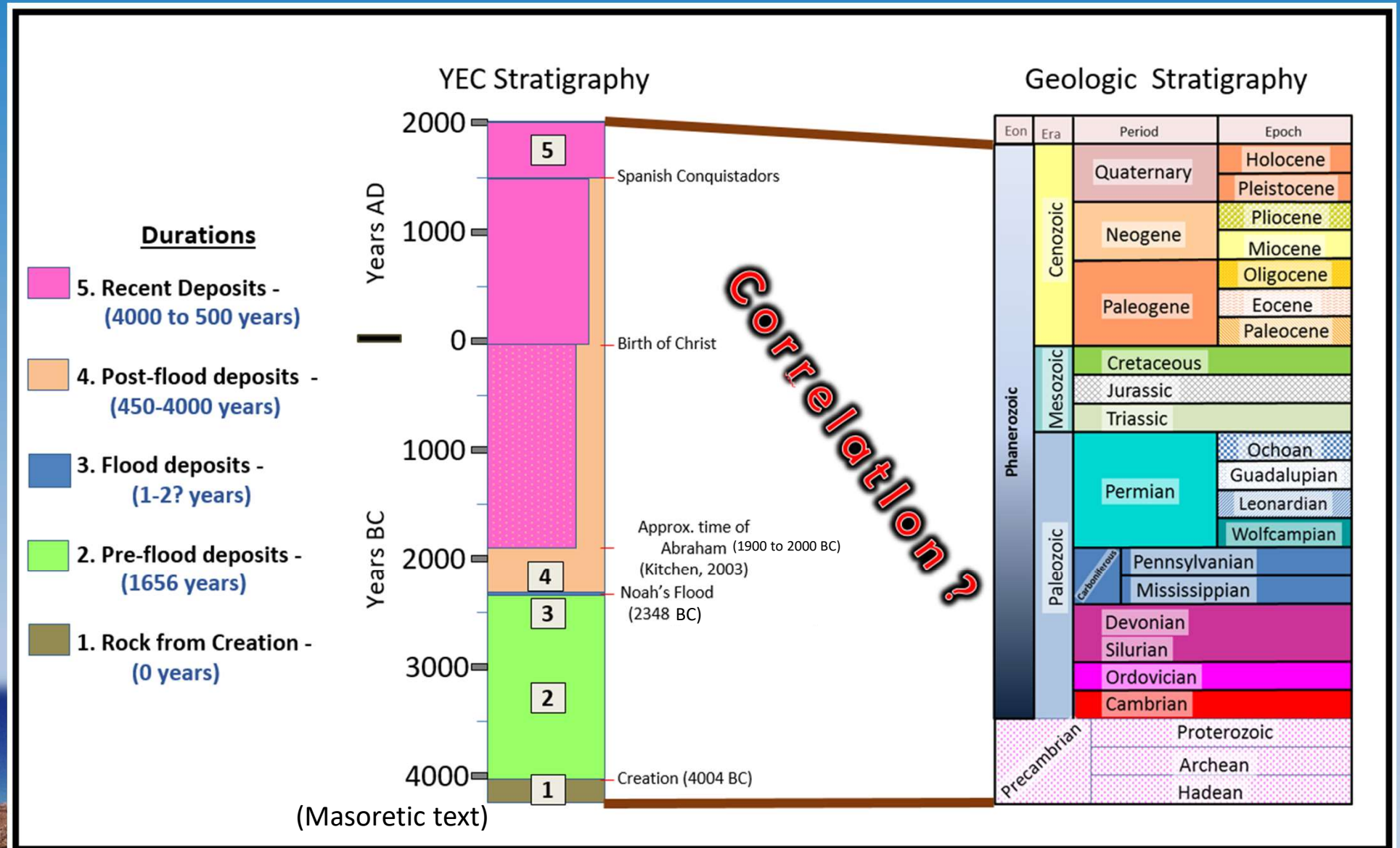


# Young Earth Assumptions of Geology

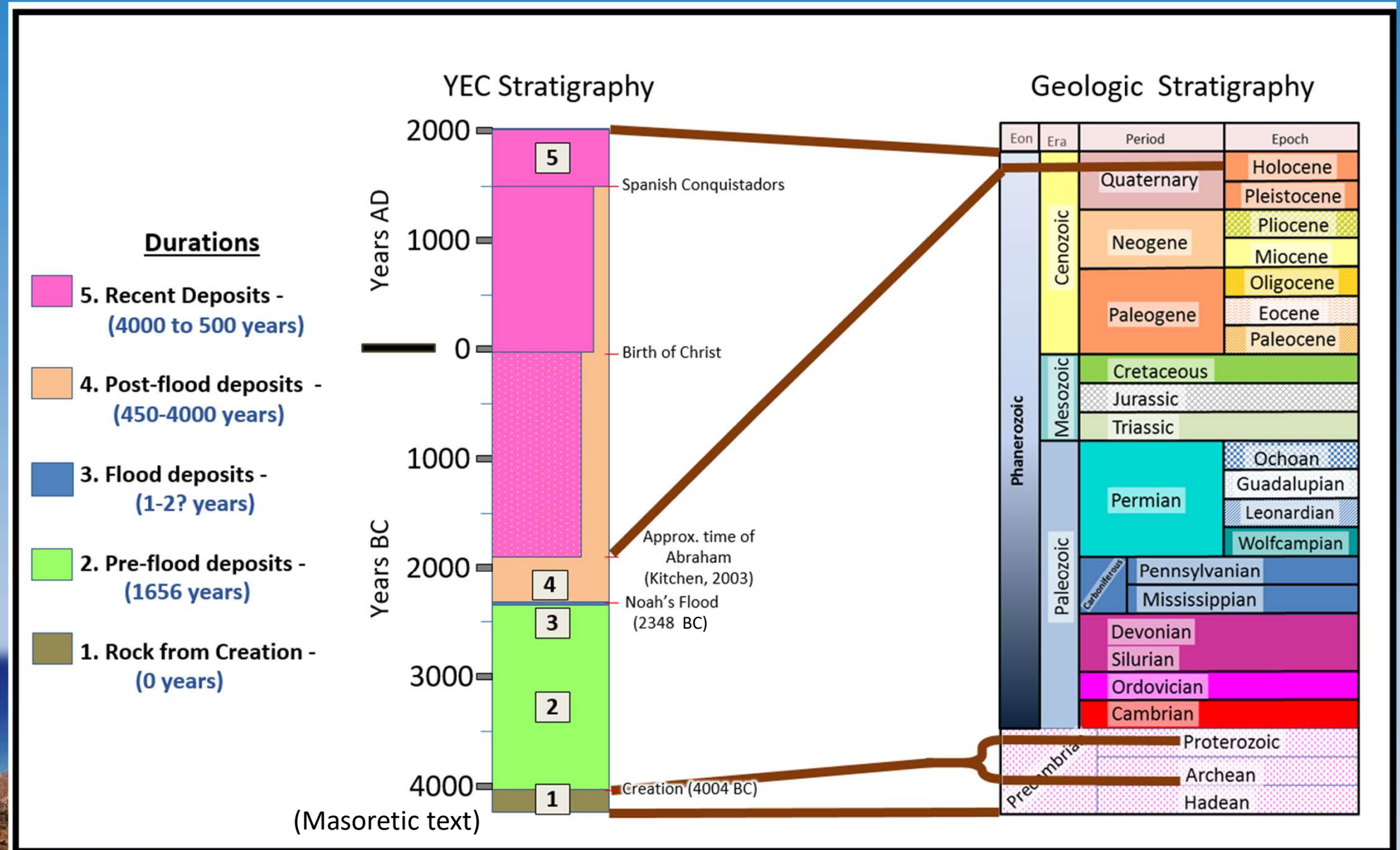
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  4. Life created on day 3 for plants and day 5 for animals. (No life prior to that)
  5. No death prior to Adam's fall
  6. Animal life was created without meat as a result of the fall
  7. No rain before the flood
  8. Noah's flood was global
1. All of the rocks deposited since creation were deposited in a few thousand years.
  2. Large amounts of the rock record were deposited by a global flood that laid down its deposits over a one year period.
  3. All of the rocks deposited since the flood were deposited in a very limited time.



# Young Earth Geologic Column

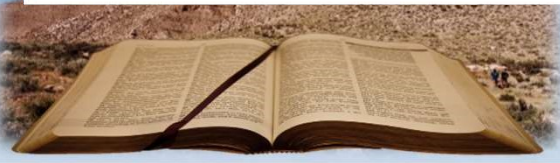
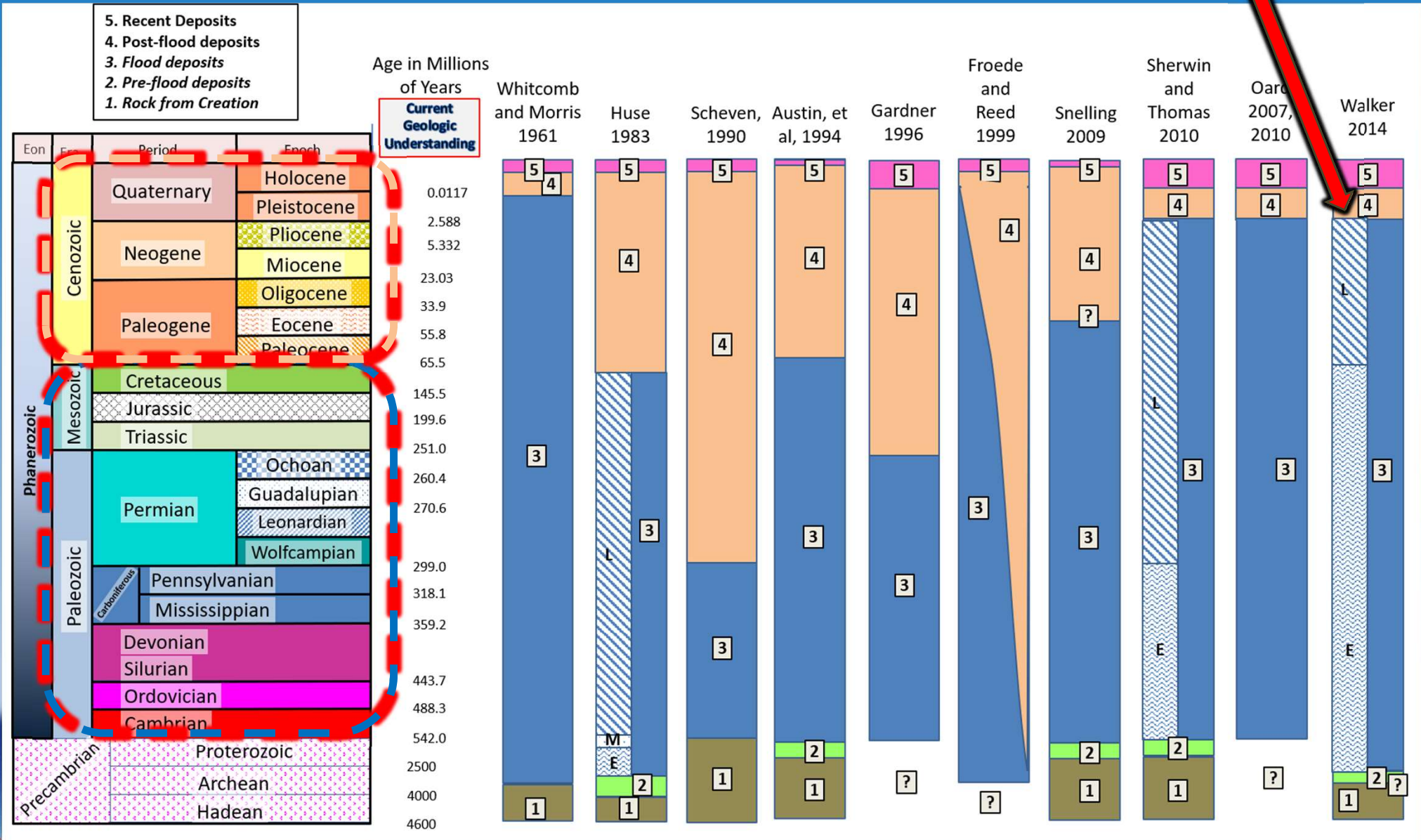
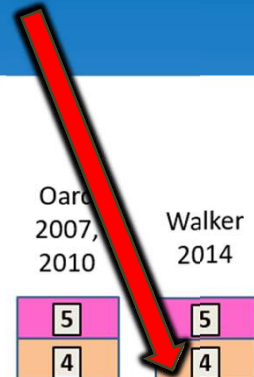


# Young Earth Geologic Column



# YEC Interpretations

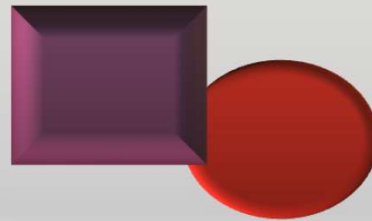
Clarey and Werner, 2019



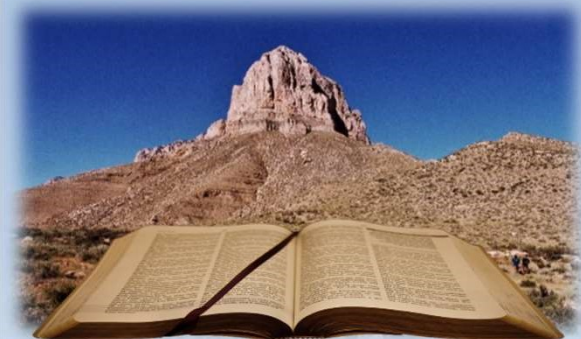
# Geologic Issues with YEC model



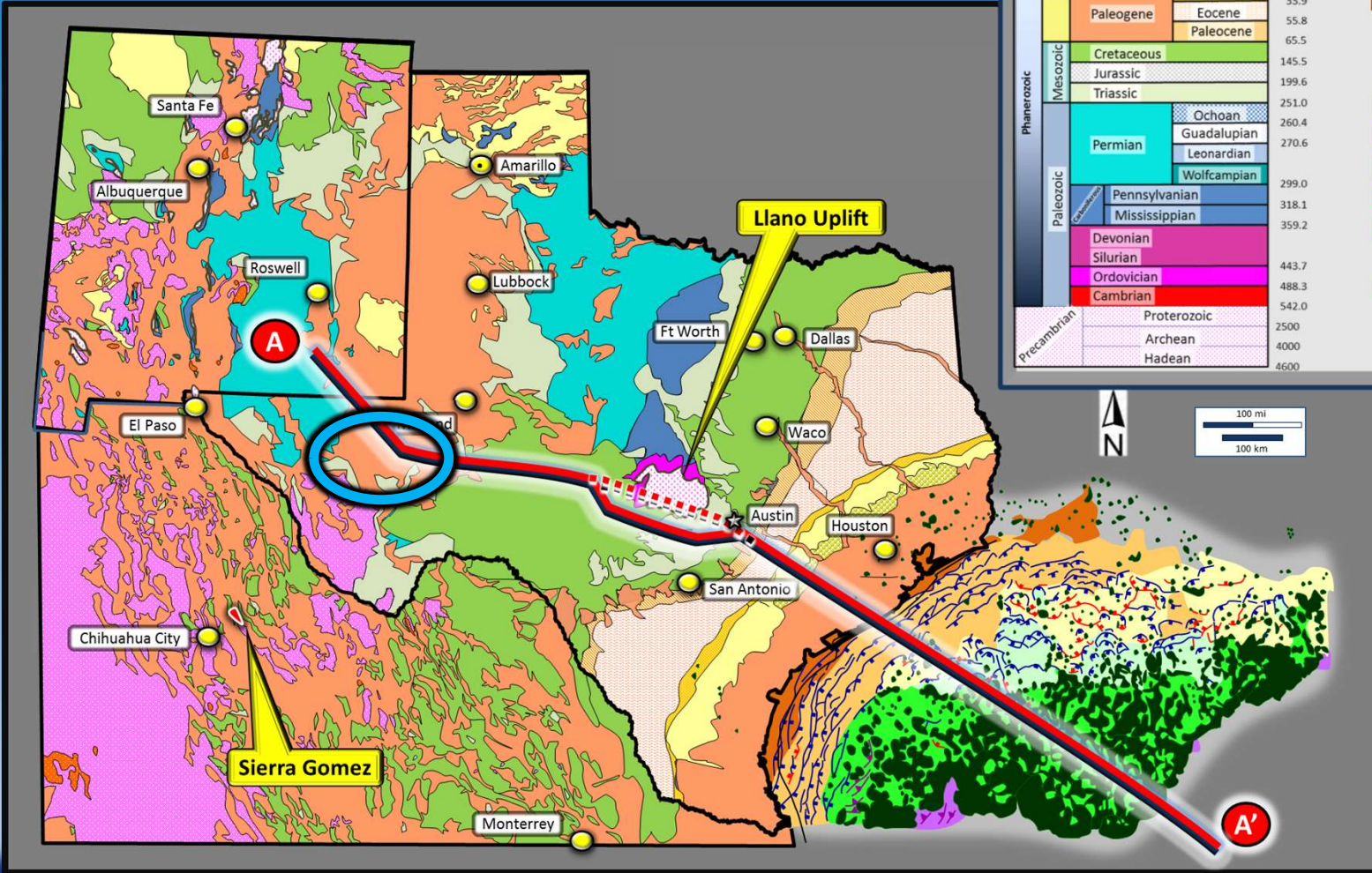
**1. Too many events - too little time**



**2. Incompatibility issues**



# Geologic Map



## Explanation for Geologic Maps and Cross-sections

### Onshore

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	Age in Millions of Years		
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	0.0117		
			Pleistocene	(11,700 years ago)		
		Neogene	Pliocene	2.588		
			Miocene	5.332		
			Oligocene	23.03		
		Paleogene	Eocene		33.9	
					55.8	
			Paleocene		65.5	
		Phanerozoic	Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145.5
				Jurassic		199.6
Triassic				251.0		
Phanerozoic	Paleozoic		Permian	Ochoan	260.4	
				Guadalupian	270.6	
				Leonardian		
			Wolfcampian		299.0	
					318.1	
			Pennsylvanian		359.2	
			Phanerozoic	Paleozoic	Devonian	
Silurian		488.3				
Ordovician		542.0				
Cambrian		2500				
Phanerozoic	Precambrian	Proterozoic		4000		
		Archean		4600		
		Hadean				

### Offshore

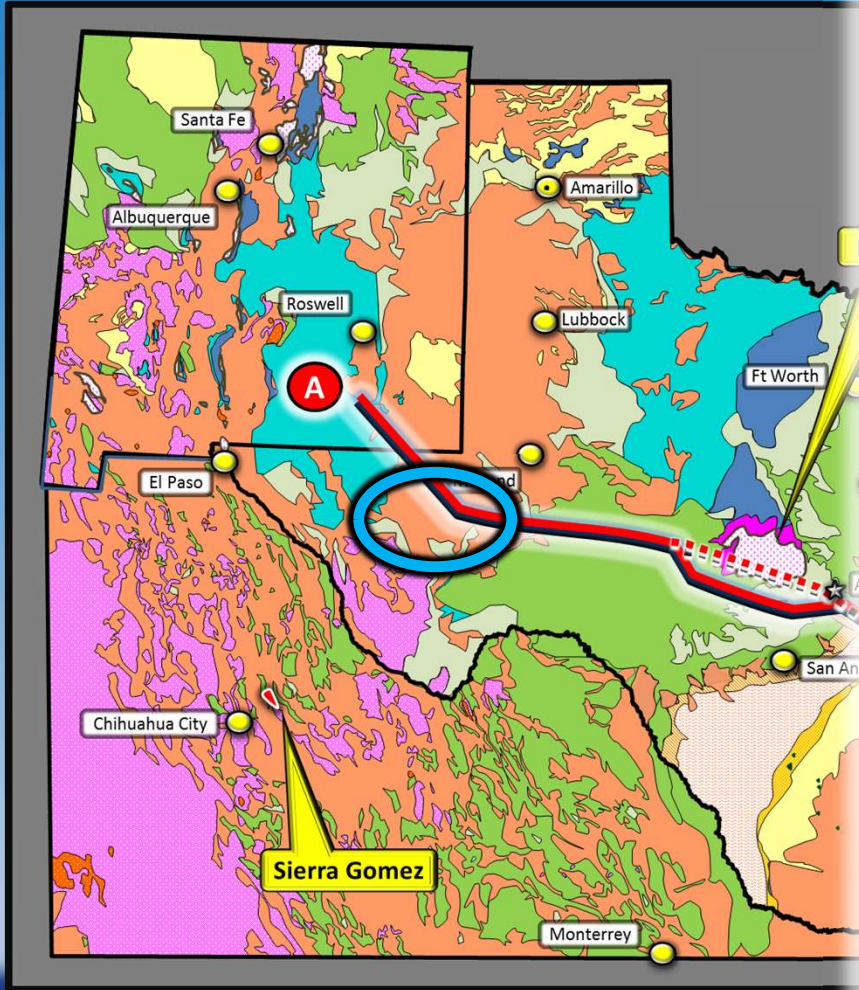
- Salt Dome / Minibasin Province
- Oligocene - Miocene Detachment Province
- Plio-Pleistocene Detachment Province
- Tabular Salt/ Minibasin Province
- Perdido and Mississippi Fan Fold Belts
- Salt domes and sheets
- Faults**
- Normal
- Thrust faults



**Geologic Maps of New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico and Structural Summary Map of Gulf of Mexico Basin**

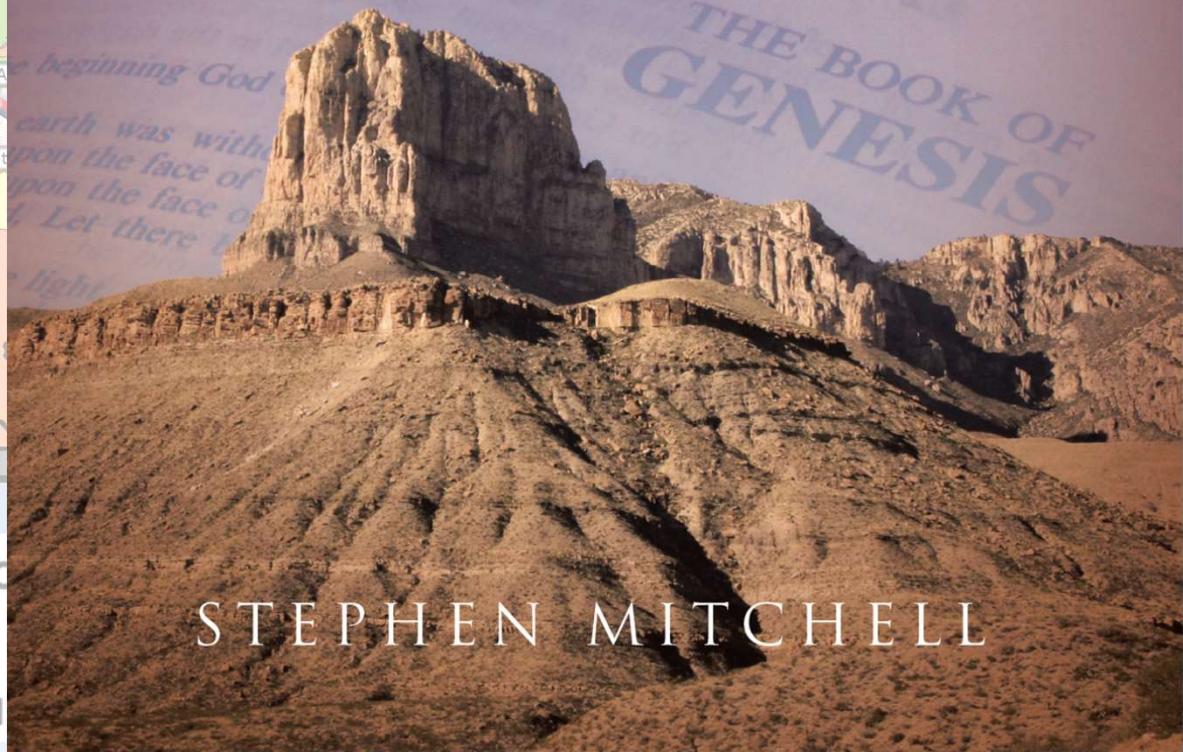


# Geologic Map



# A TEXAS- SIZED CHALLENGE TO YOUNG EARTH CREATION AND FLOOD GEOLOGY

*A Christian Geologist Looks for Answers*



Geolo

Stru

STEPHEN MITCHELL







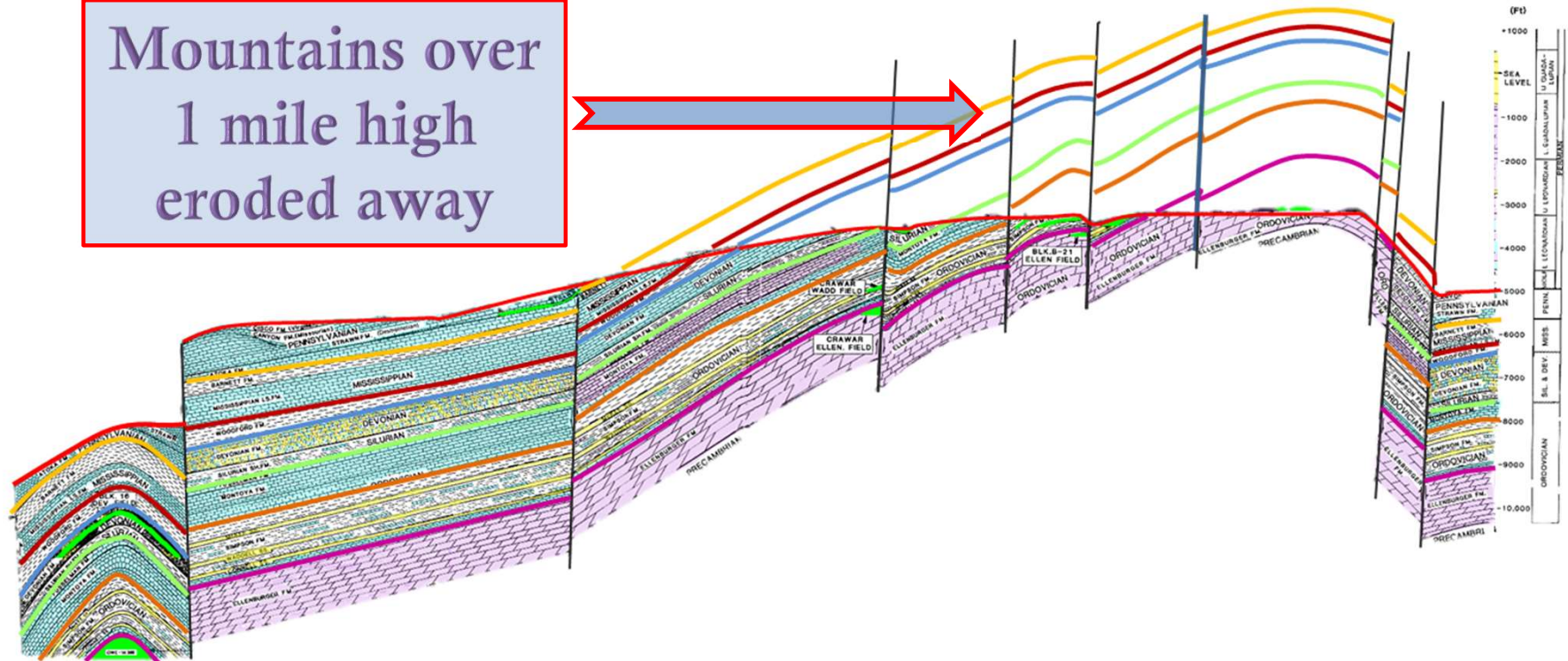
# Cross-section before the Permian Period 300 Million Years ago



*Too many events - too little time*

*Incompatibility*

Mountains over  
1 mile high  
eroded away



*Too many events - too little time*

Unconformity

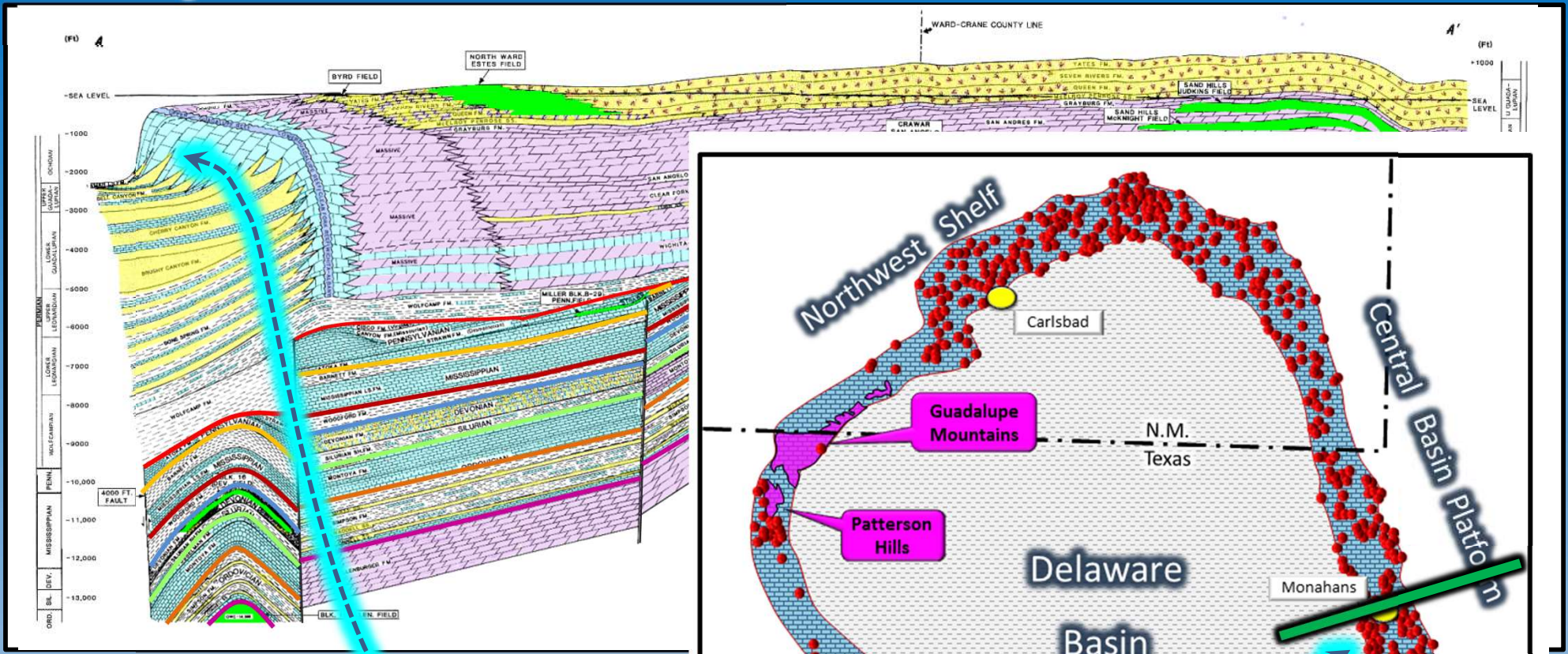
Cretaceous

Pennsylvanian

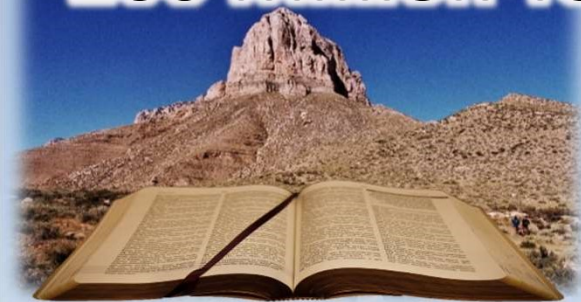




# Too many events - too little time

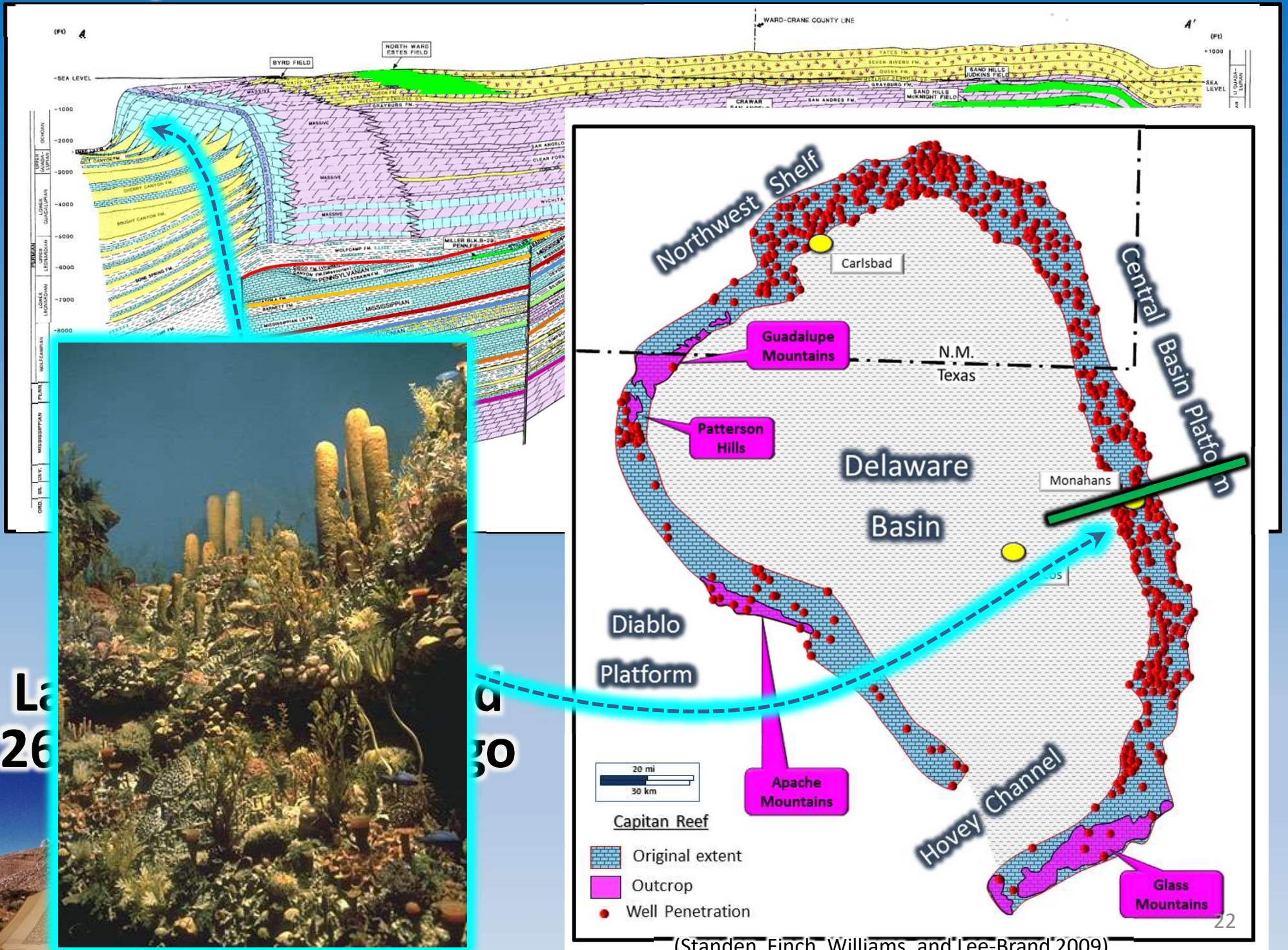


**Cross-section in  
Late Permian Period  
260 Million Years ago**



(Standen, Finch, Williams, and Lee-Brand 2009).

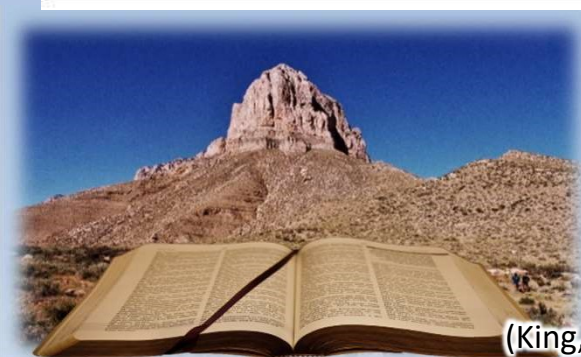
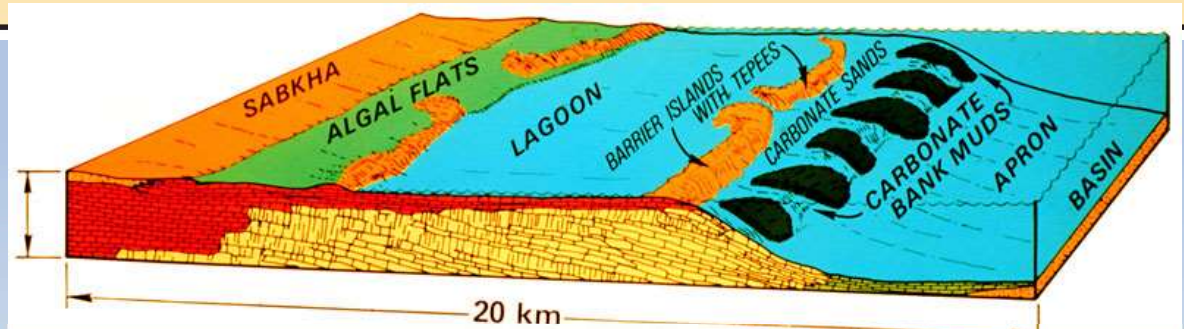
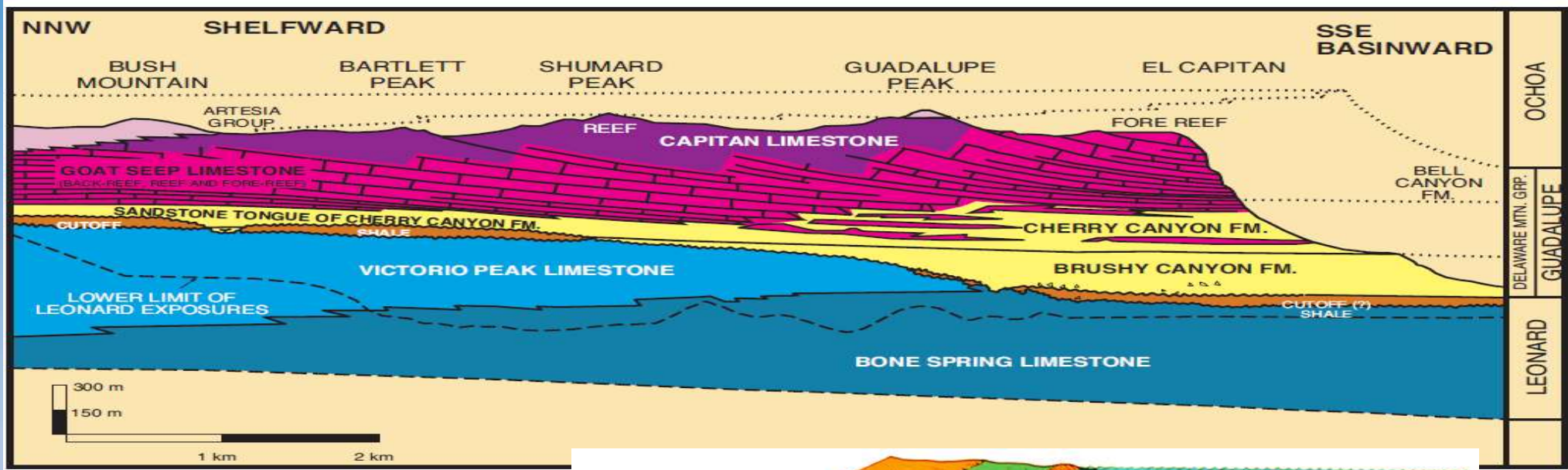
# Too many events - too little time



# Formed during a flood?

*Too many events - too little time*

*Incompatibility*

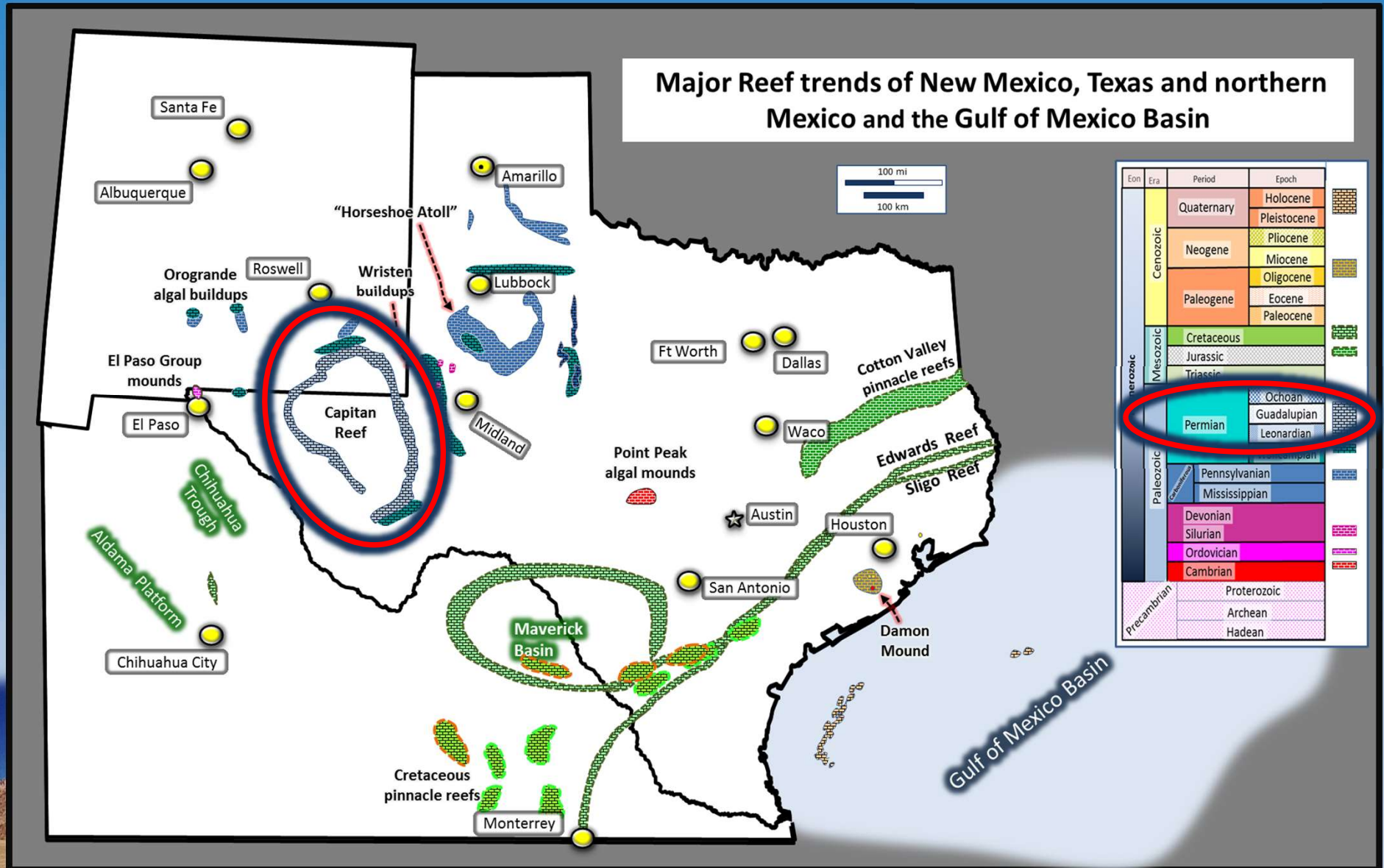


(King, *Geology of the Southern Guadalupe Mountain, Texas*, 1948); Model: Christopher G. St. C. Kendall (2005).

# Reefs through Time

*Too many events - too little time*

*Incompatibility*



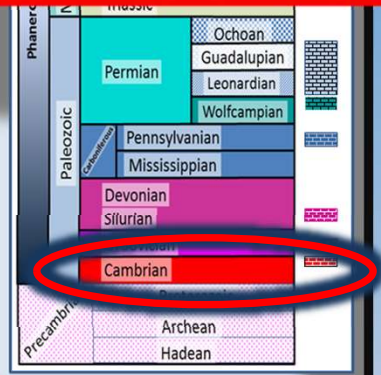
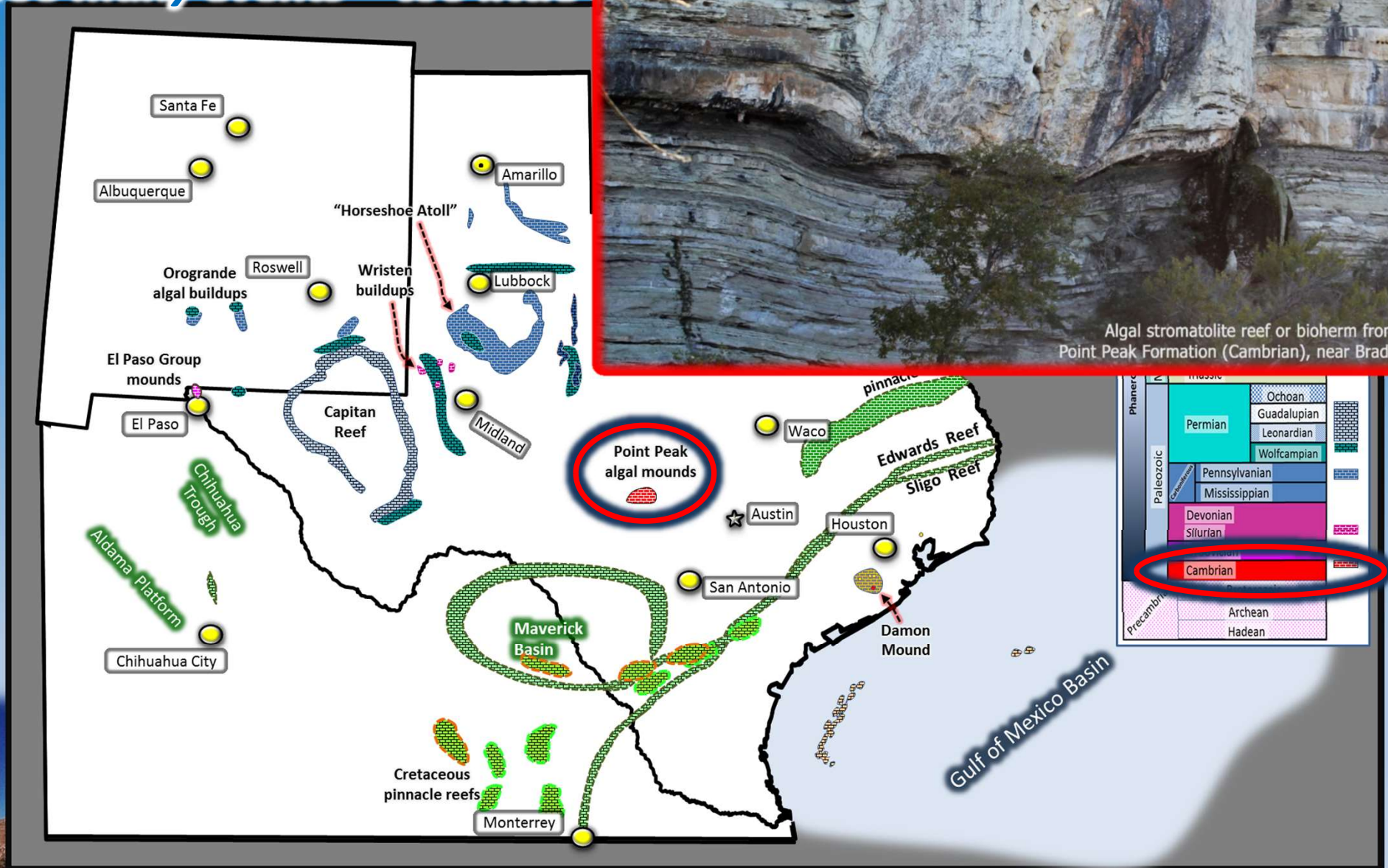


# Reefs to

*Too many events - too little*



Algal stromatolite reef or bioherm from Point Peak Formation (Cambrian), near Brady, Texas

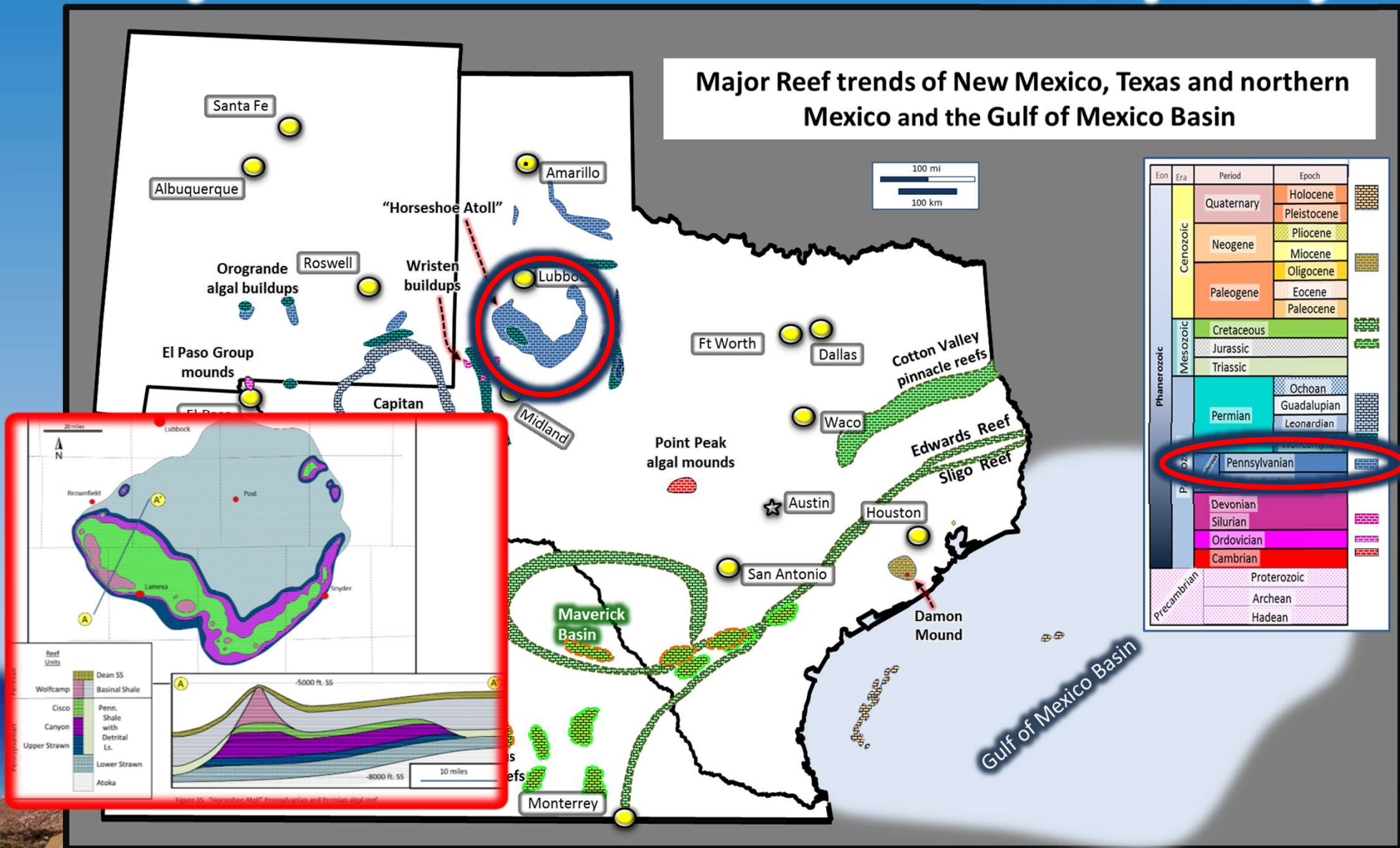


# Reefs through Time

*Too many events - too little time*

*Incompatibility*

Major Reef trends of New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico Basin



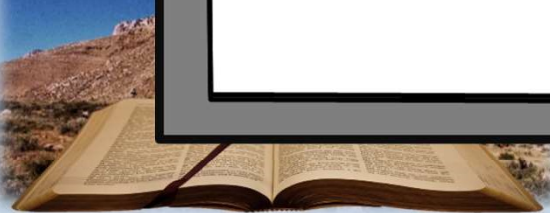
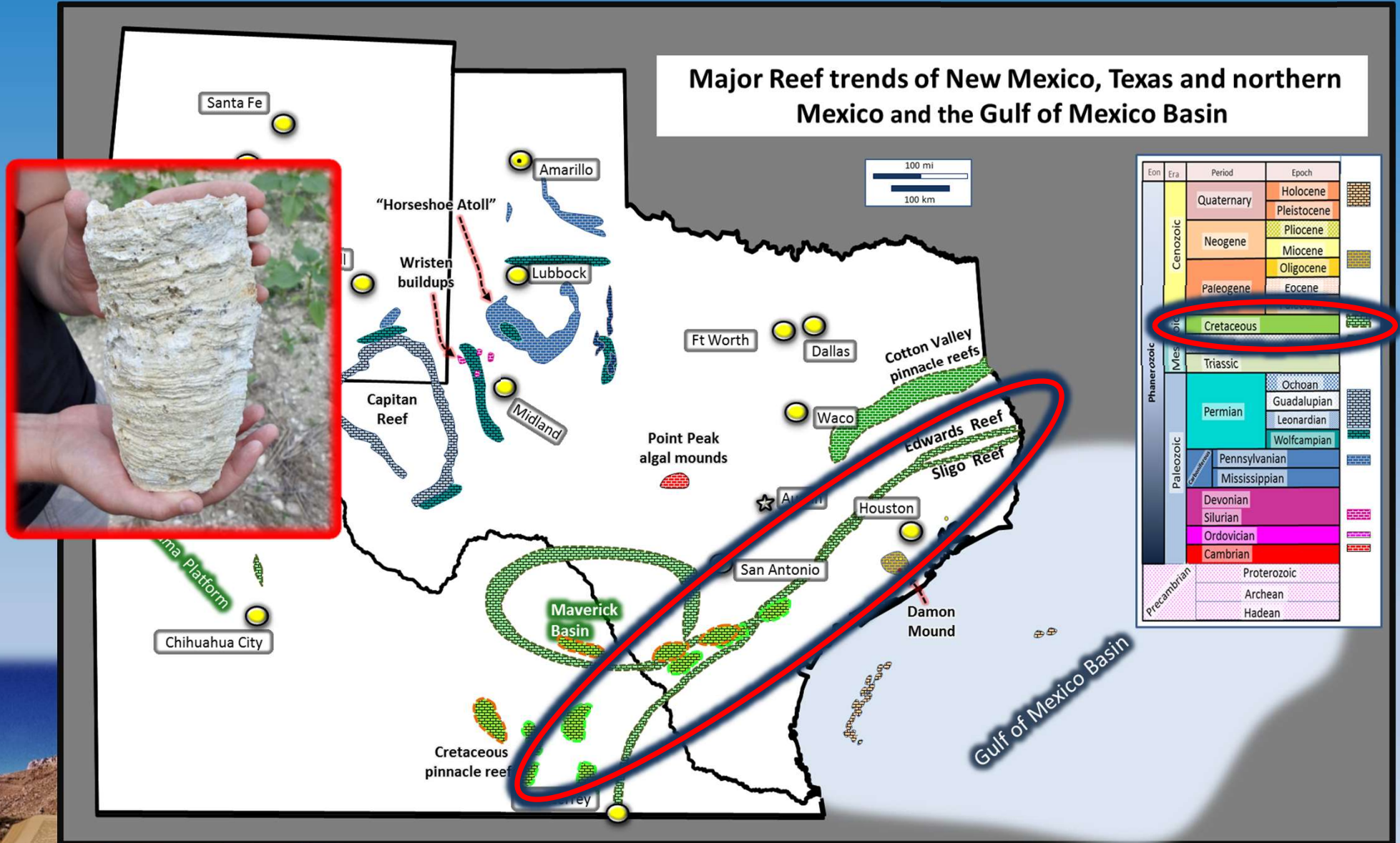
(Wilson 1975)

# Reefs through Time

*Too many events - too little time*

*Incompatibility*

Major Reef trends of New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico Basin



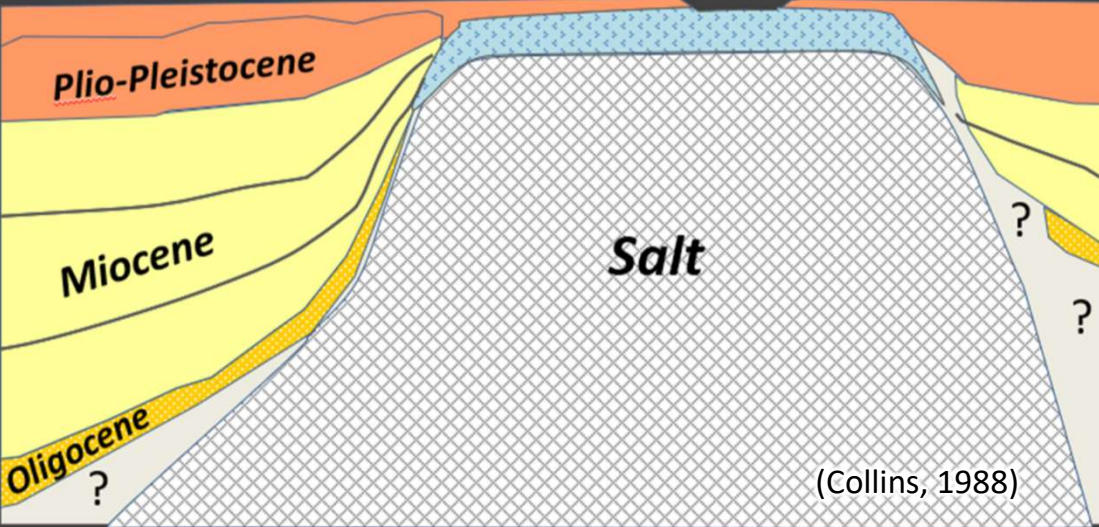
# Reefs through Time

*Too many events - too little time*

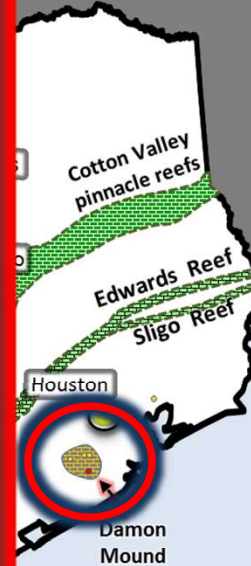
*Incompatibility*

ends of New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico Basin

Coral Reef



(Collins, 1988)



Eon	Era	Period	Epoch
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene
			Pleistocene
			Pliocene
			Oligocene
	Mesozoic		Paleocene
		Cretaceous	
		Jurassic	
		Triassic	
		Permian	Ochoan
	Paleozoic		Guadalupian
		Leonardian	
		Wolfcampian	
Carboniferous		Pennsylvanian	
	Mississippian		
Precambrian		Devonian	
		Silurian	
		Ordovician	
		Cambrian	
	Proterozoic		
	Archean		
	Hadean		

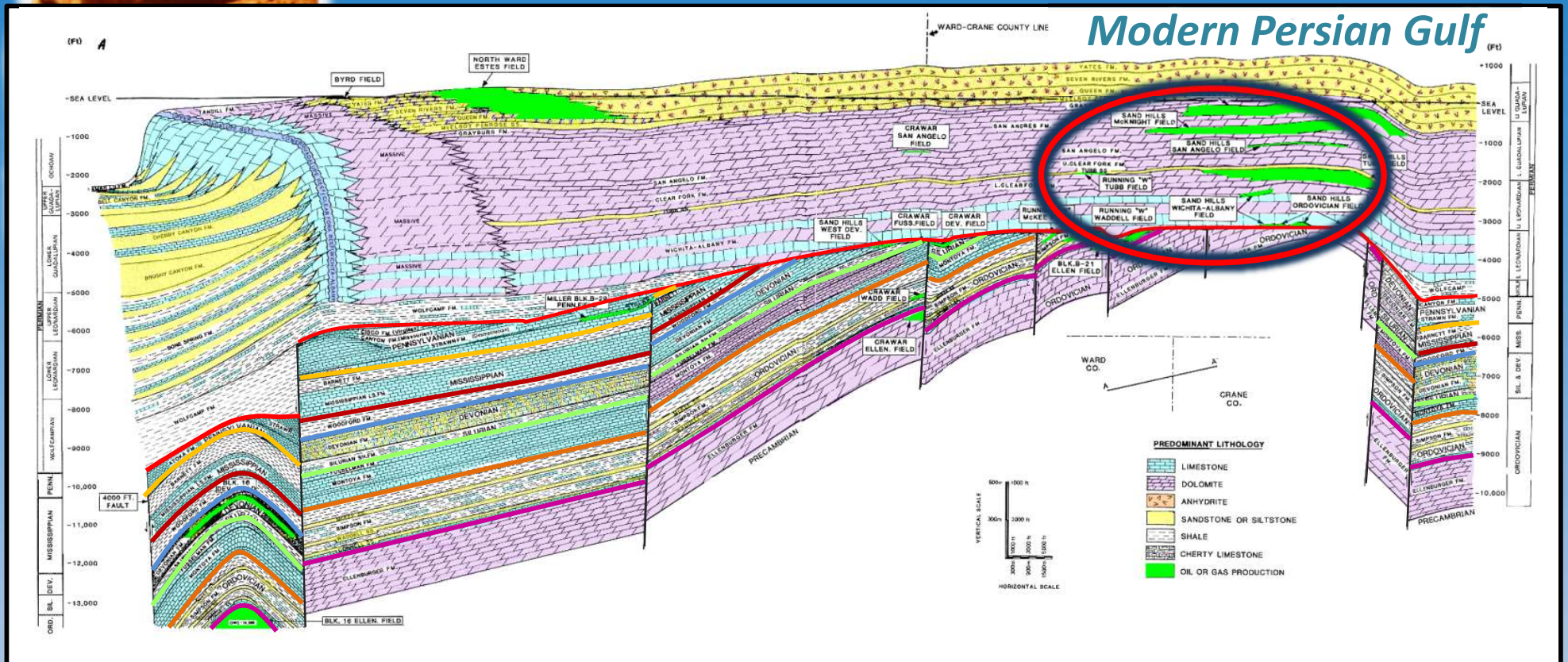
Cretaceous pinnacle reefs

Monterrey

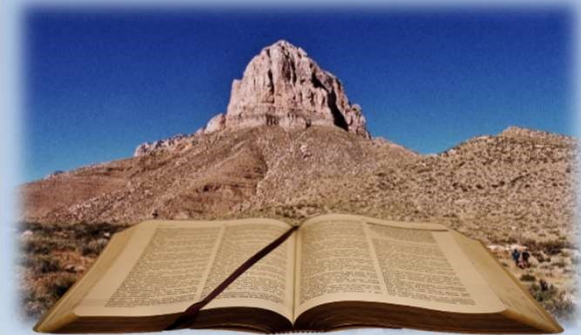
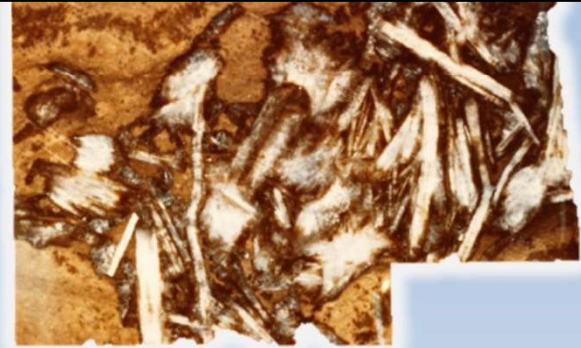
Gulf of Mexico Basin



# Formed during a flood?



RESIDUE RIM



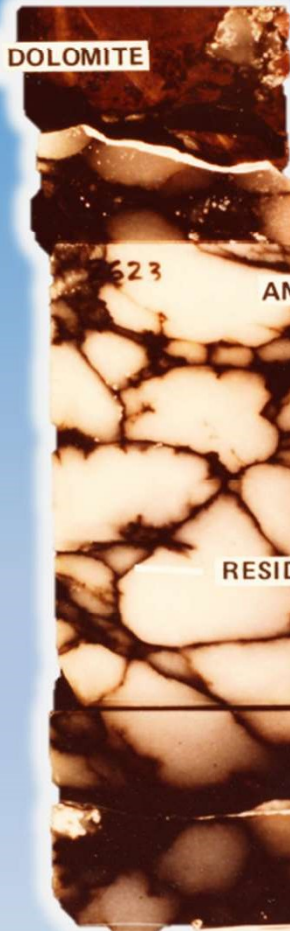
# Formed during a flood?

*Incompatibility*



RIPUP CLAST

EROSIONAL SURFACE



DOLOMITE

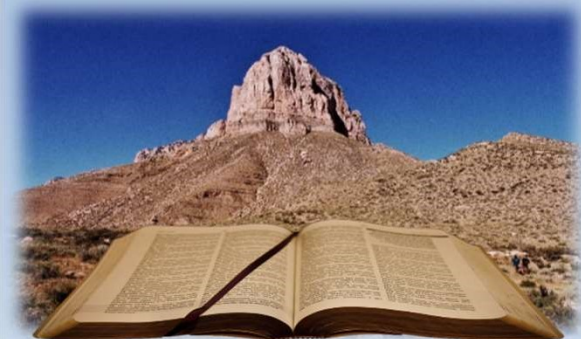
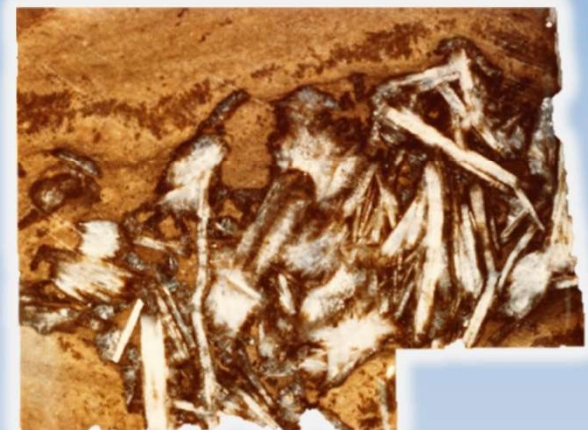
ANHYDRITE

RESIDUE RIM

*Modern Persian Gulf*

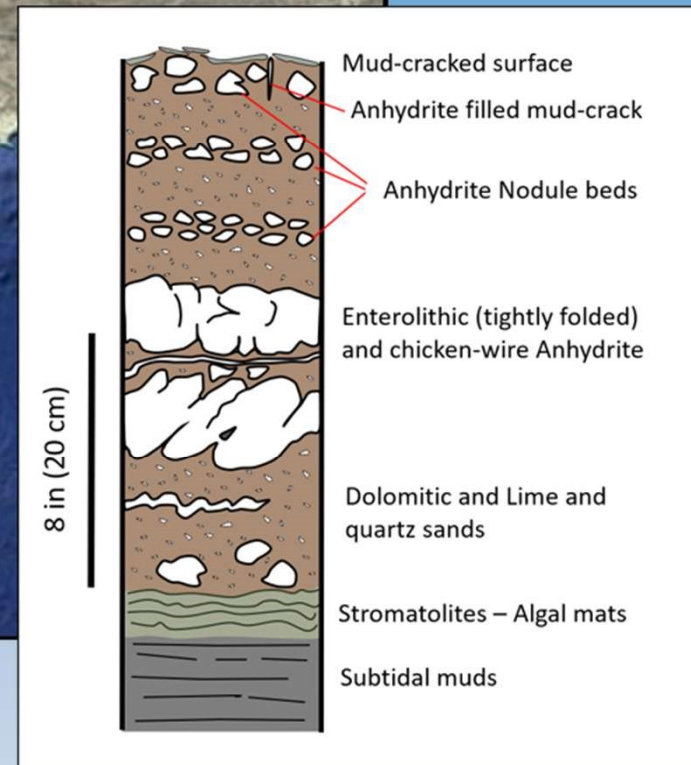
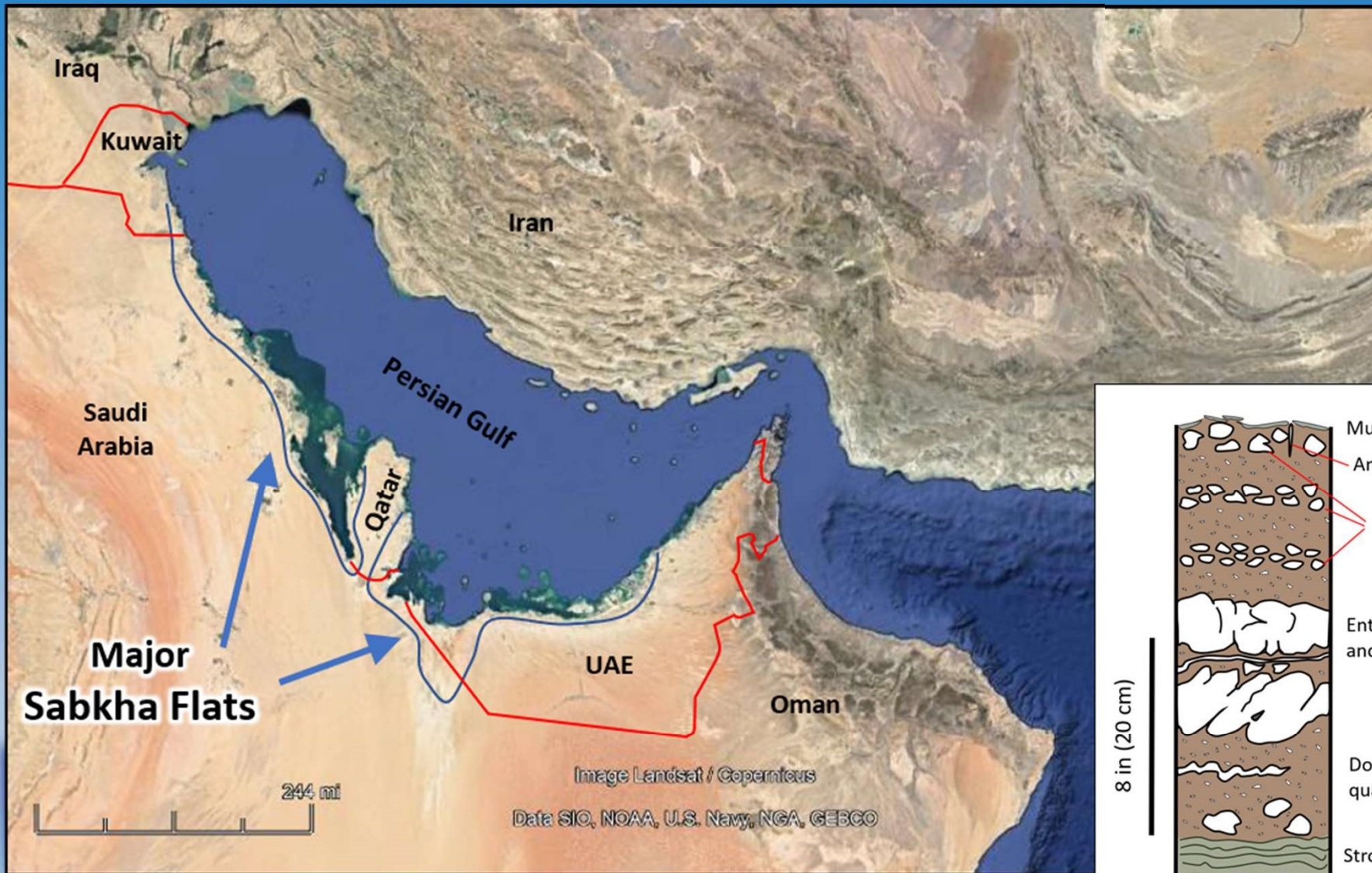


Evaporative nodules of anhydrite have formed in the muddy sand of the capillary zone a few centimetres beneath the thin, surface halite crust the margin of the Dubkan Sabkha. These are modern analogues for the anhydrite nodules that are common in ancient evaporite deposits.



# Modern Sabkha Deposits

*Incompatibility*



(Sherman 1966; Kendall, 1984; Akili 2004)





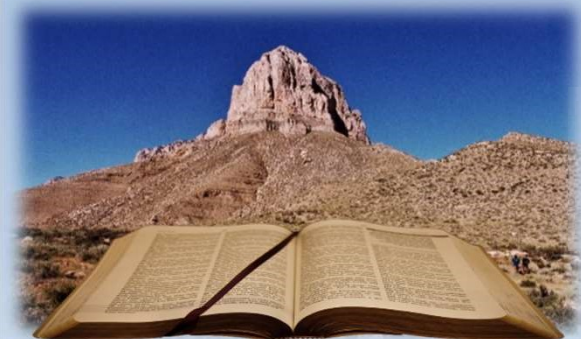
**Young Earth Creationist identify different deposits as from Noah's global flood, but ....**

***Too many events - too little time***

- ***Sediments buried and turned to rock***
- ***Solid rock folded into mountains***
- ***Mountains eroded away and buried***
- ***Reefs grew, died and buried***

***Incompatibility***

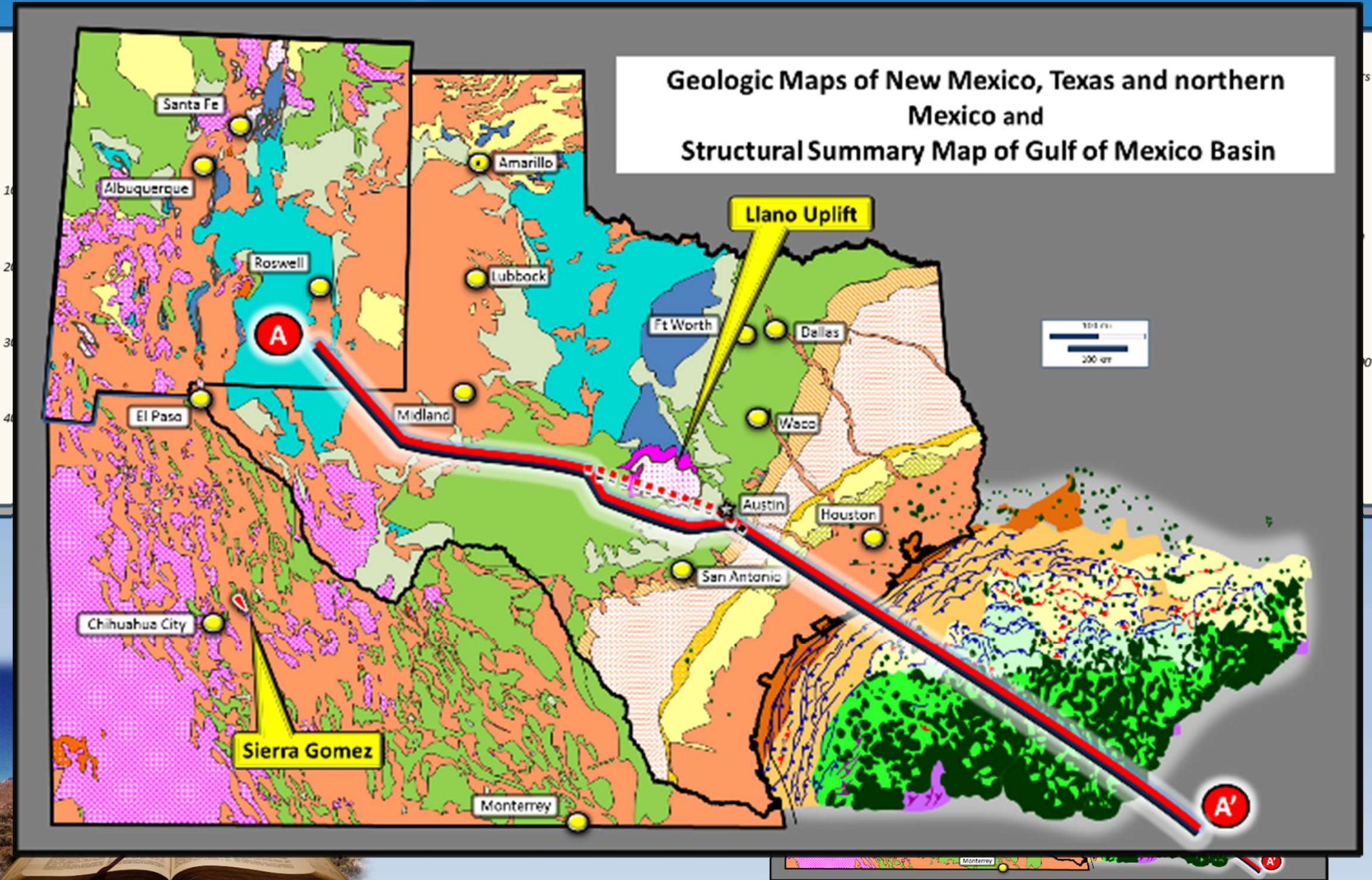
- ***Arid desert deposits in a flood?***



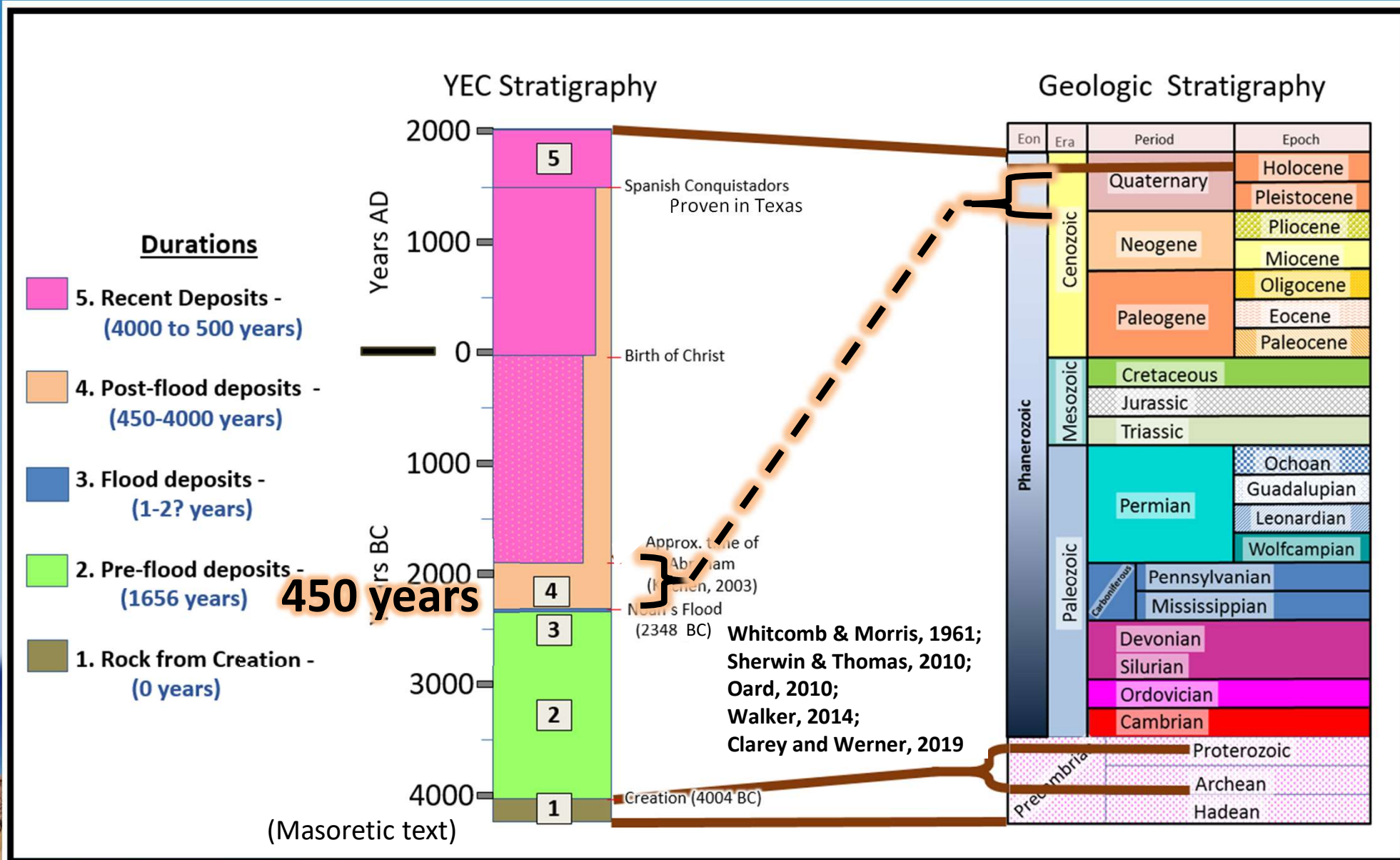


# Geologic Cross-section A-A'

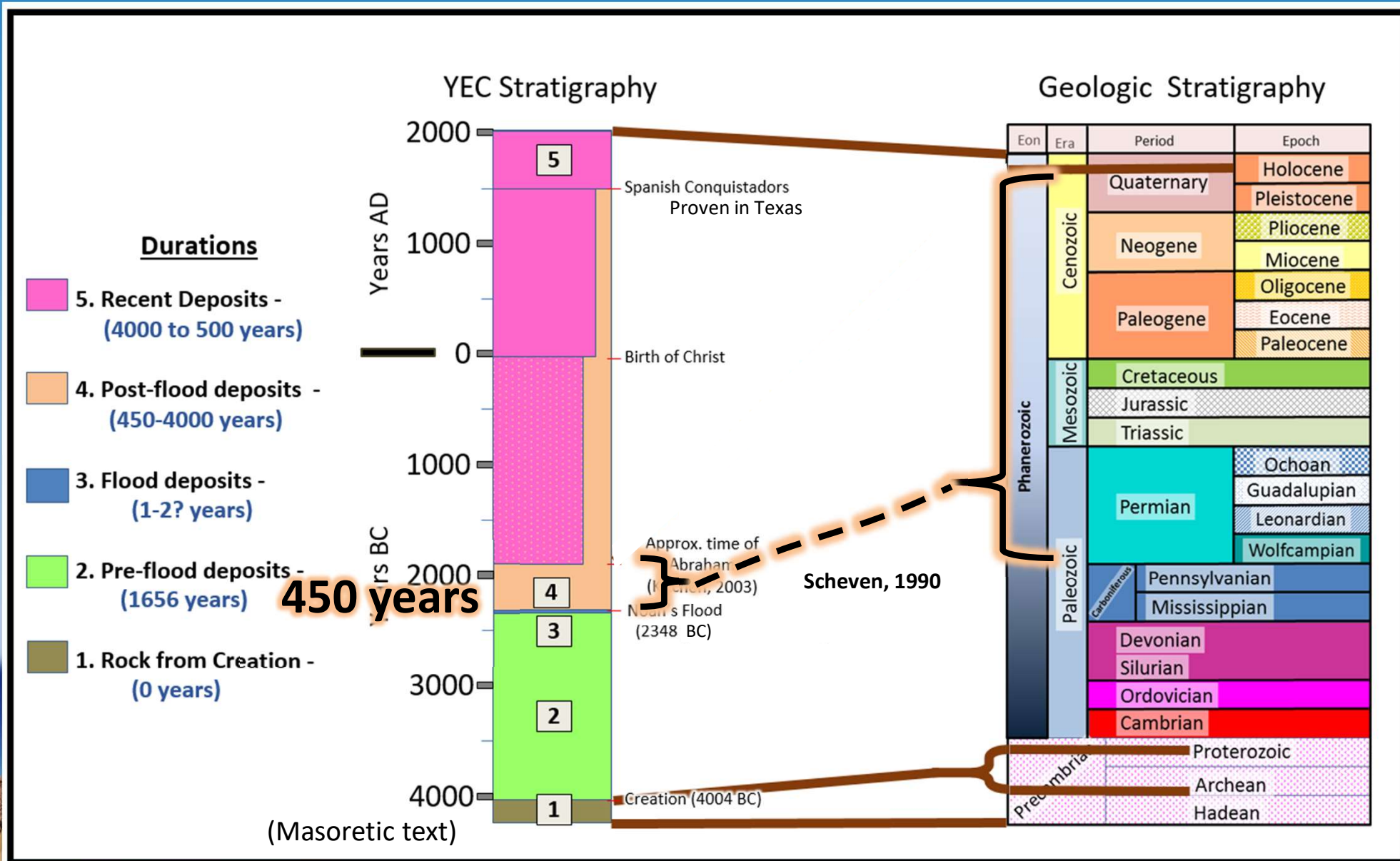
Geologic Maps of New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico and  
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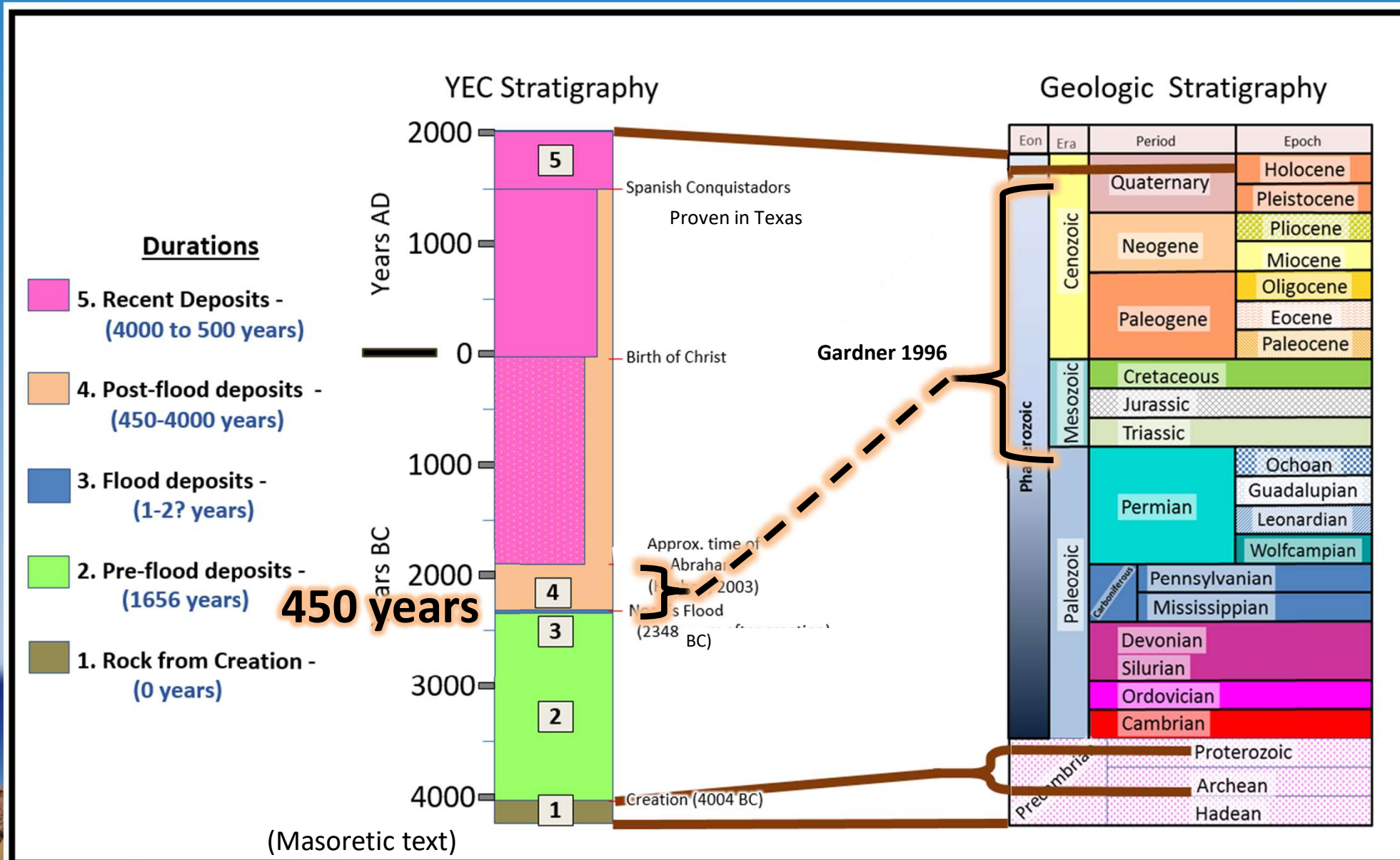
# Young Earth Geologic Column



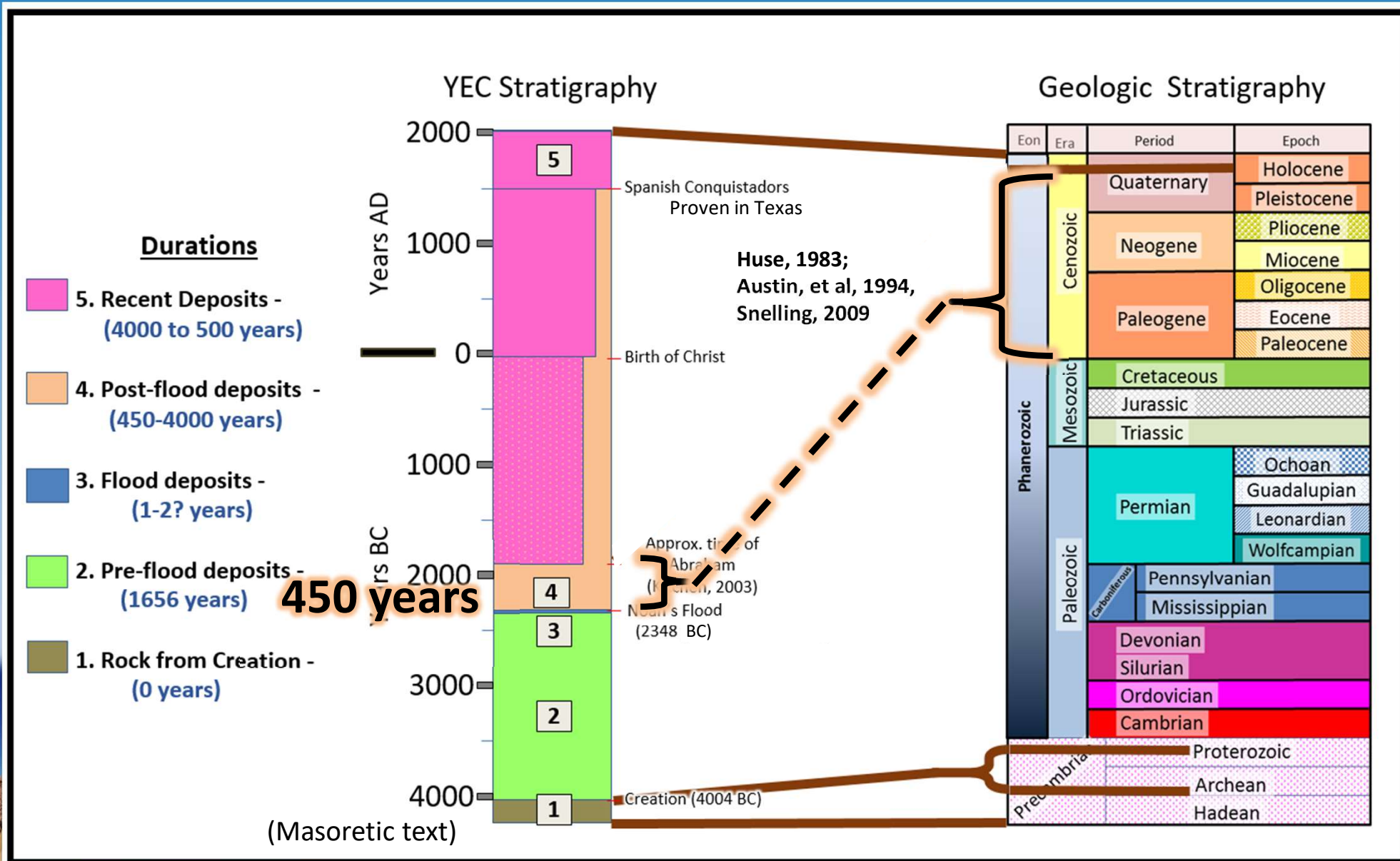
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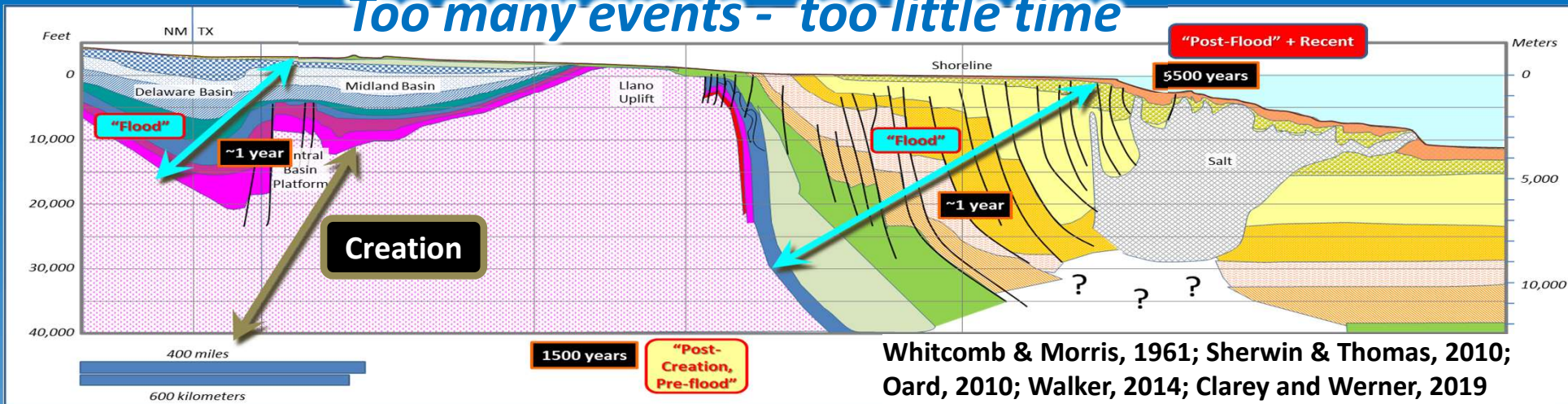
# Young Earth Geologic Column



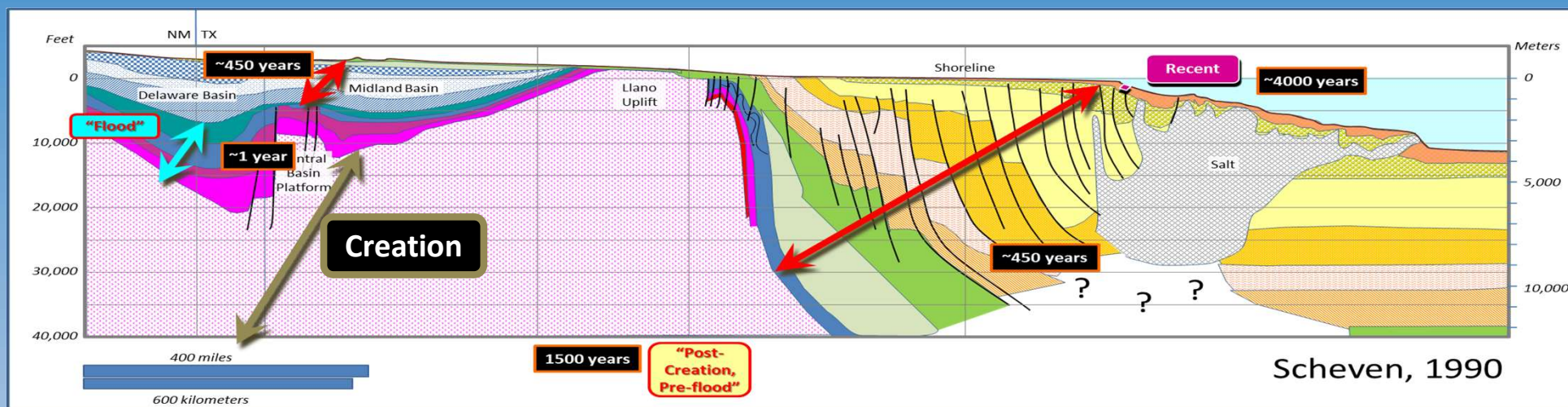
# Young Earth Geologic Column



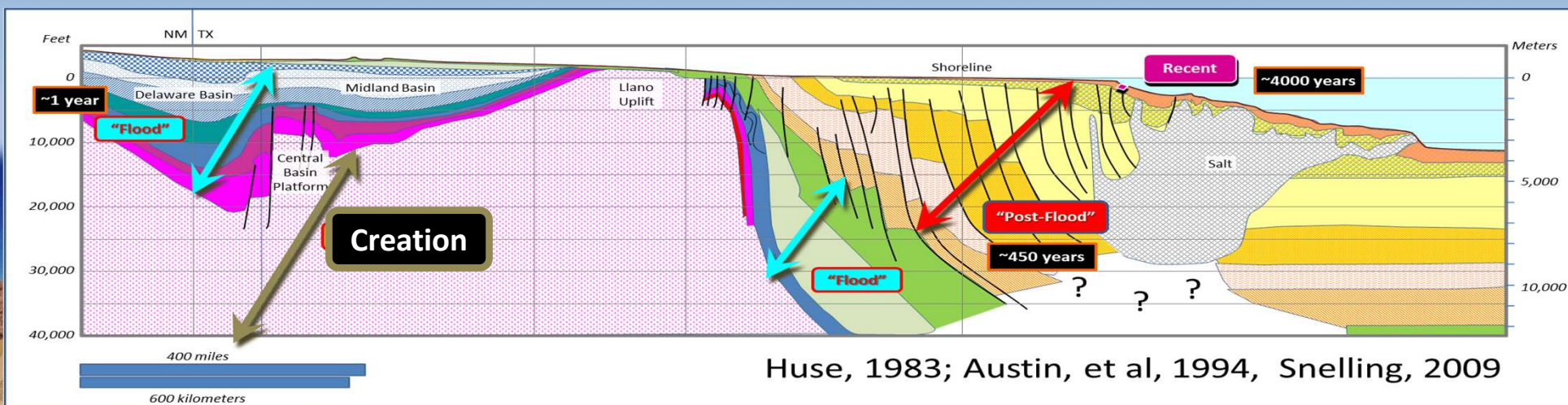
# Too many events - too little time



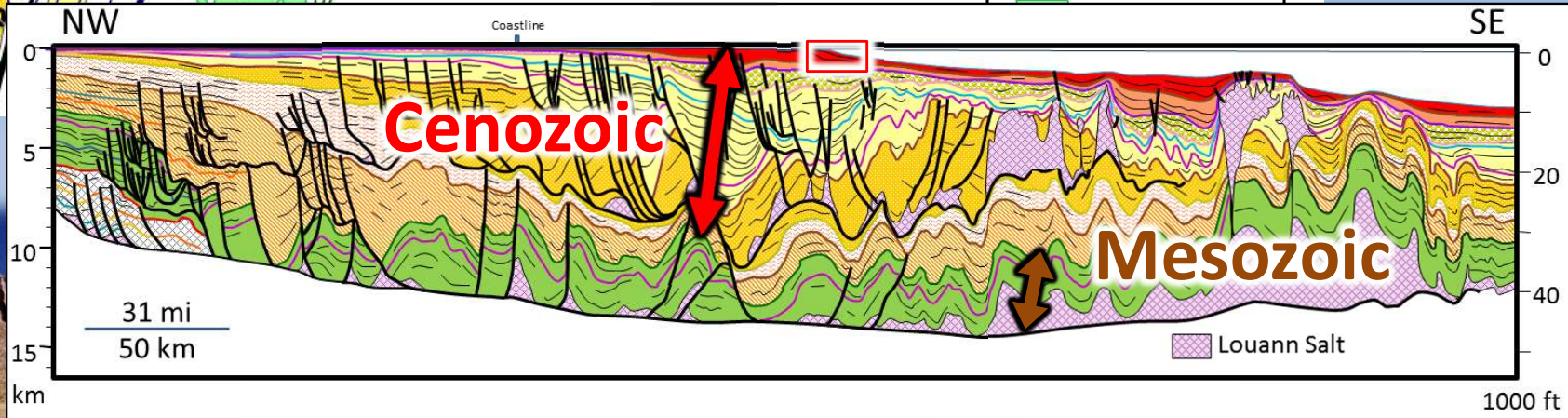
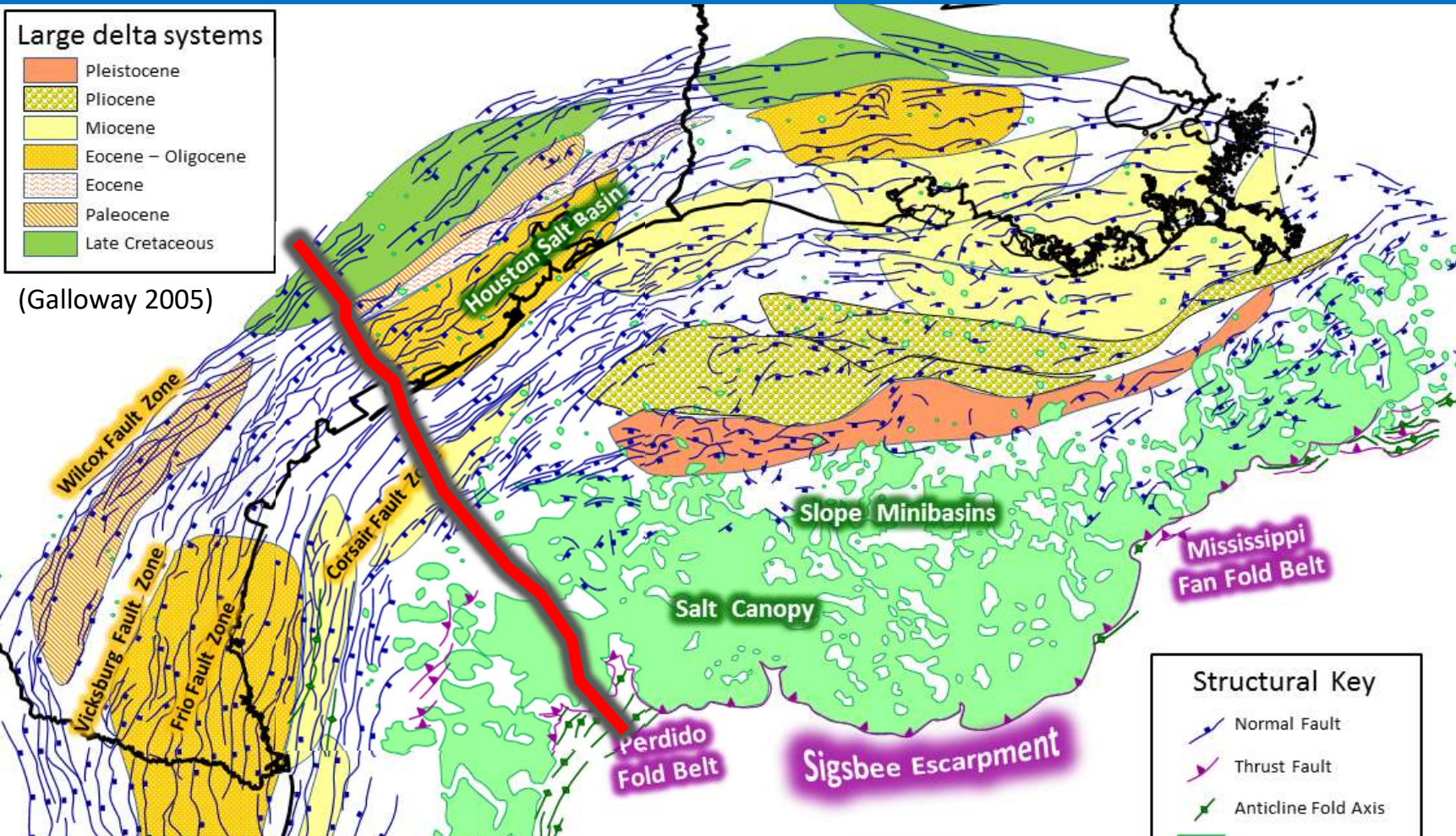
Whitcomb & Morris, 1961; Sherwin & Thomas, 2010; Oard, 2010; Walker, 2014; Clarey and Werner, 2019



Scheven, 1990

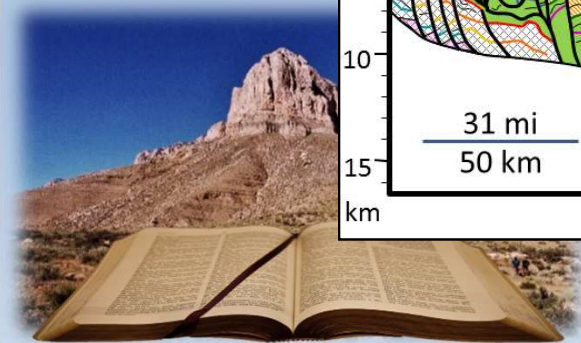


Huse, 1983; Austin, et al, 1994, Snelling, 2009



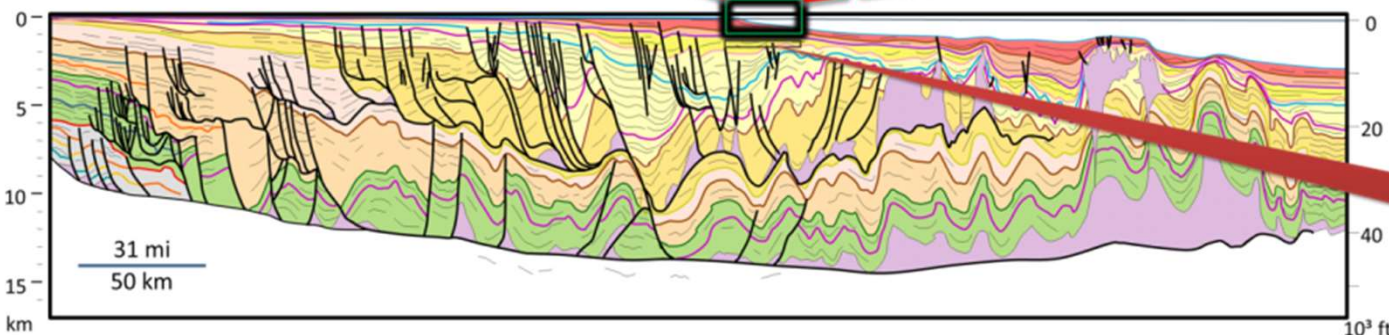
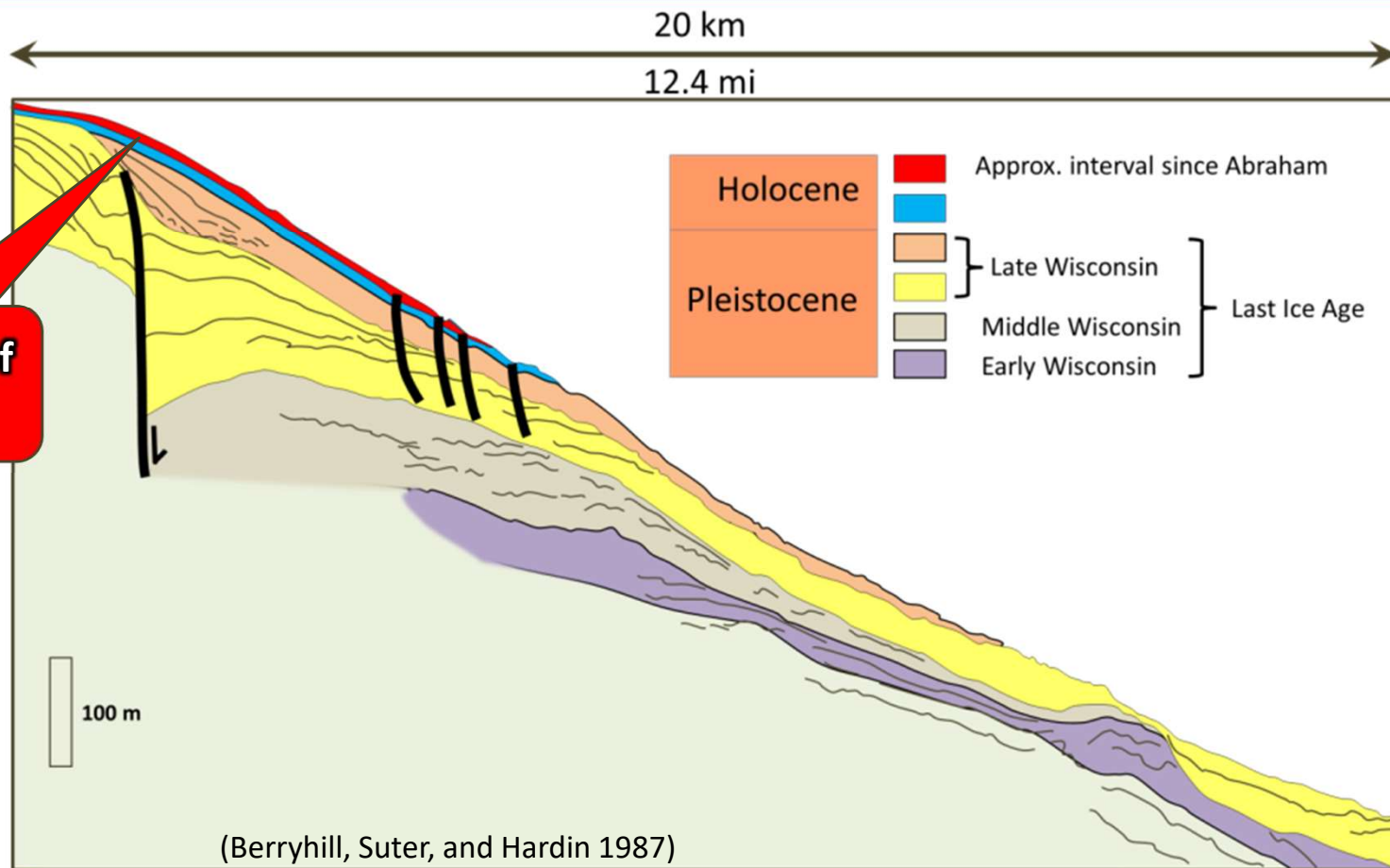
*Too many events - too little time*

(Radovich, et al. 2007)



# Too many events - too little time

**4000 years of Deposition**



**Projected position on Figure 54 for scale**

(Radovich, et al. 2007)

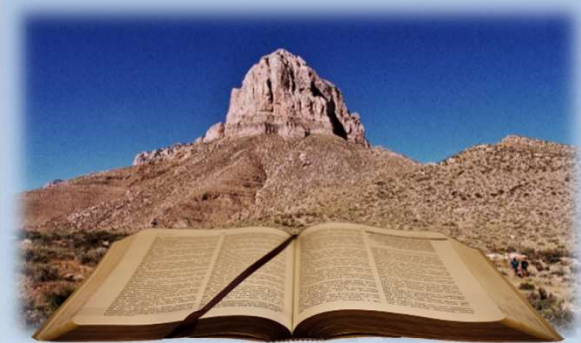
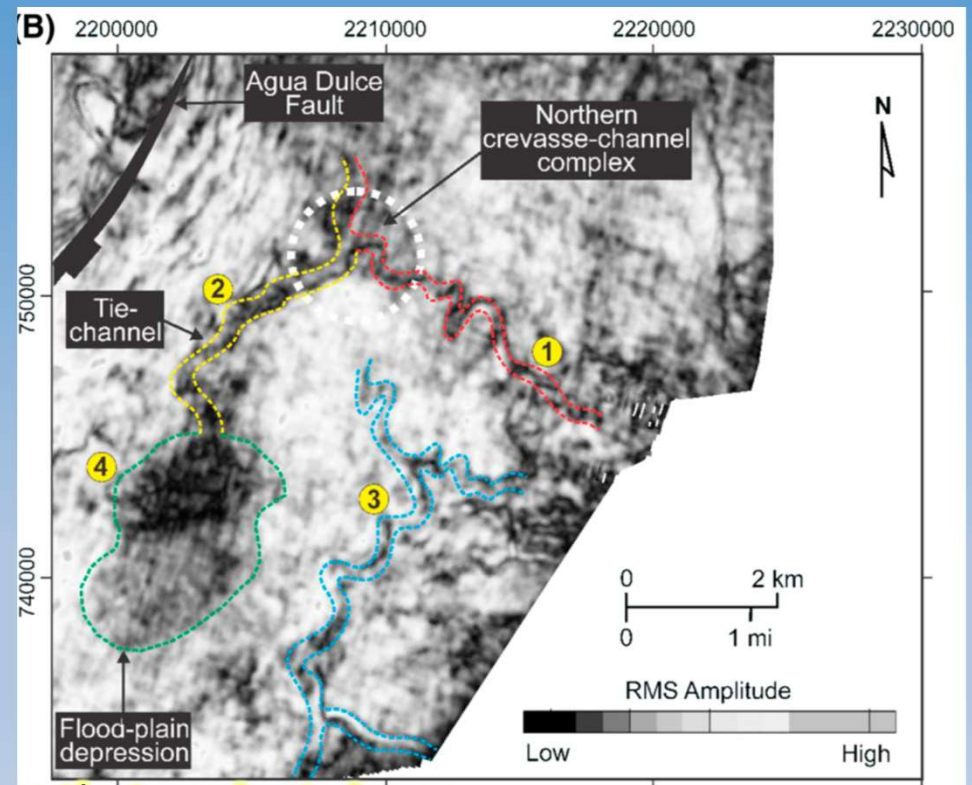
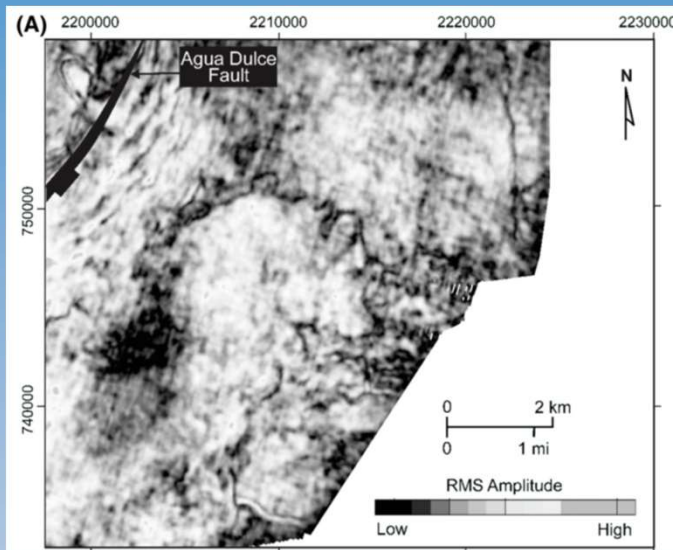


# Incompatibility

# Ancient rivers

One YEC theory: After the flood, the sediments were soft and easily eroded, so the sediment could be eroded and deposited more quickly than today.

For the sediment to have been moved and deposited thousands of times faster than today, would have required much, much larger rivers...



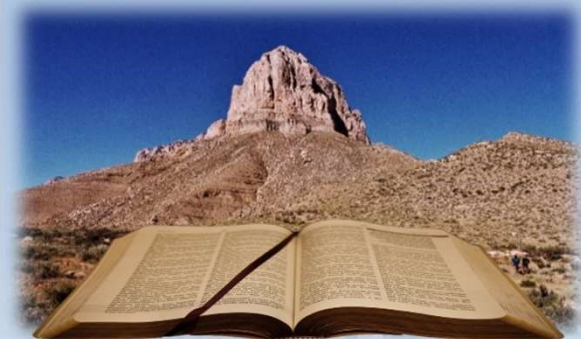
Modern seismic shows that ancient rivers were very similar sized to modern rivers

# Other examples from this area

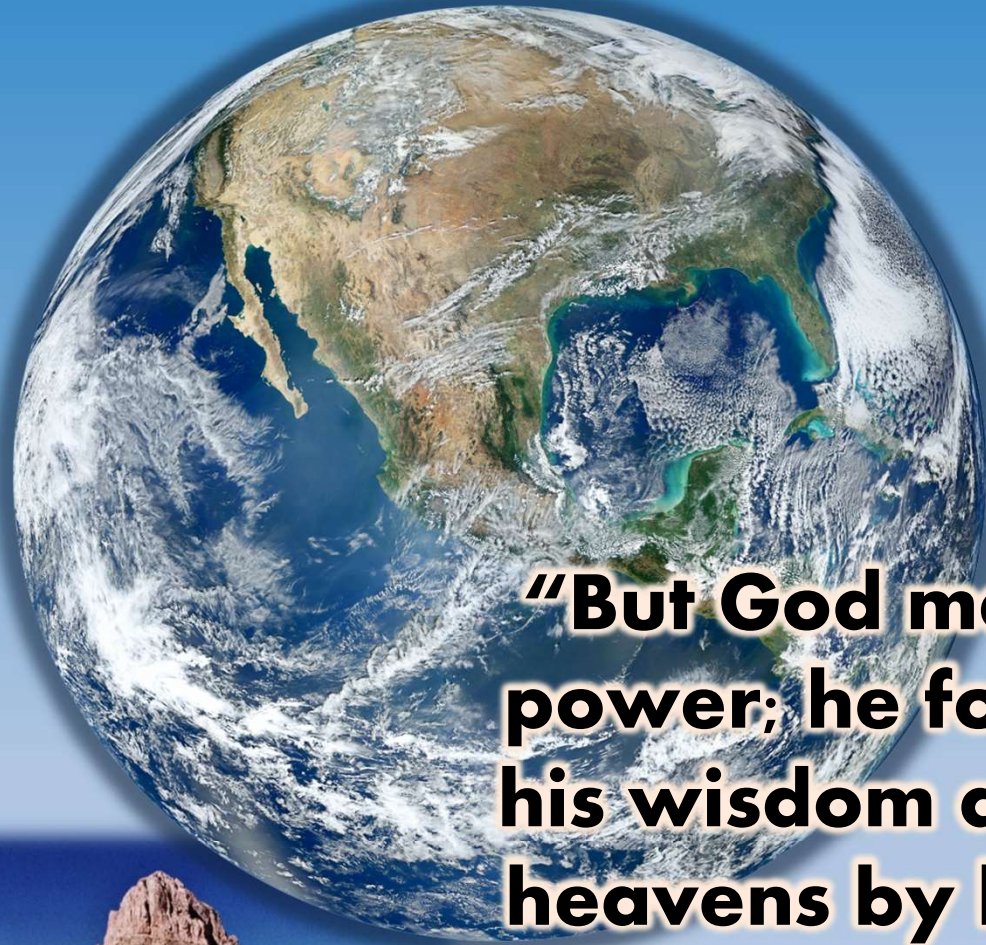
*Too many events  
—  
too little time*

- Subaerial Volcanism
- Swamp Deposits
- Thick shale units
- Paleokarsts
- Footprints
- Paleosols
- Fossil Evidence
- Tectonic Rates

*Incompatibility*



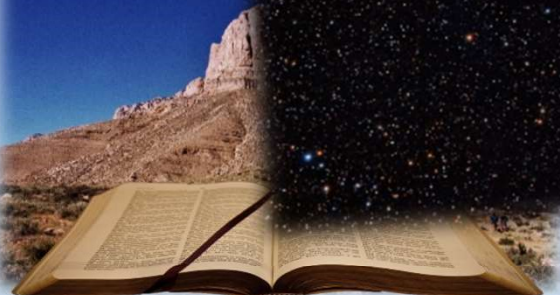
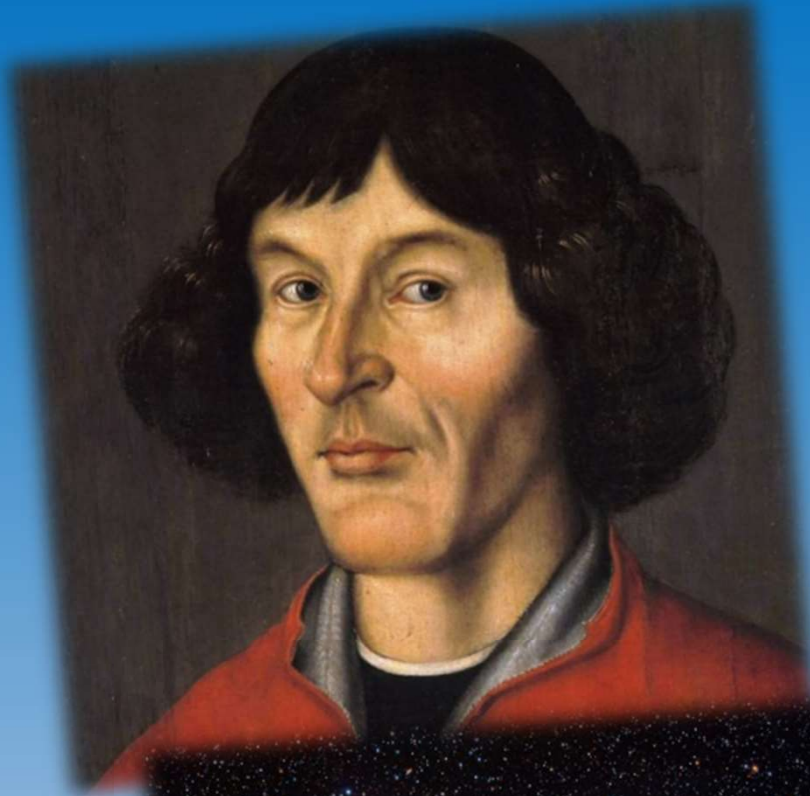
# An Ancient Earth... So what?



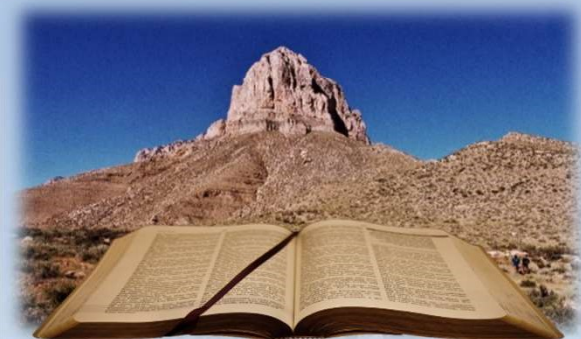
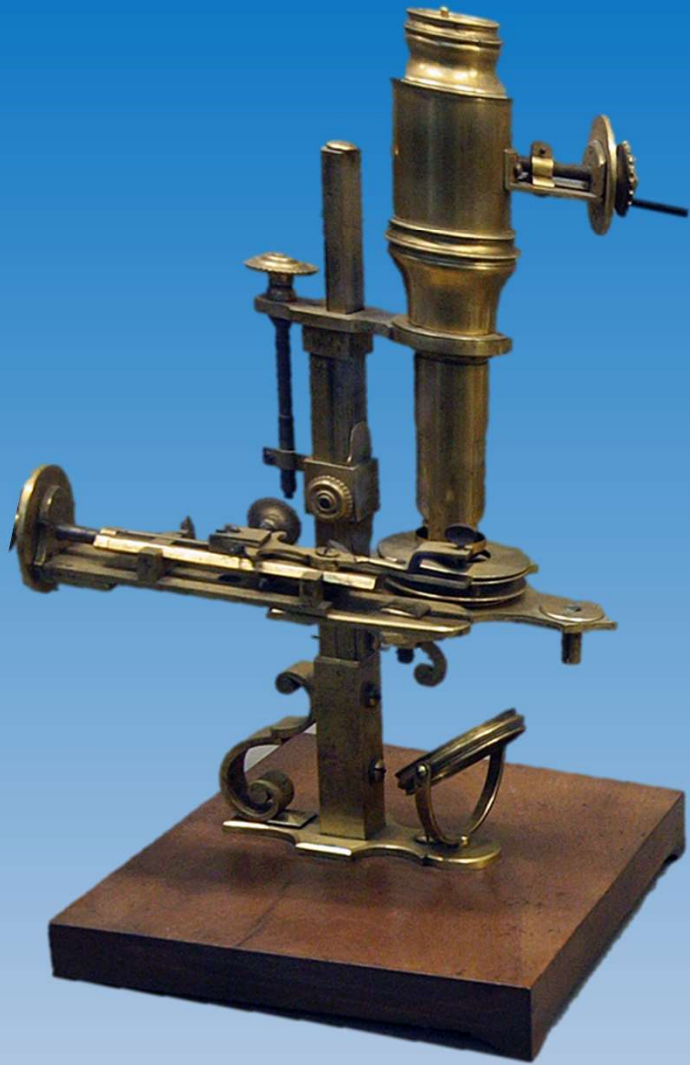
**“But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding”**

**Jer. 10: 12**

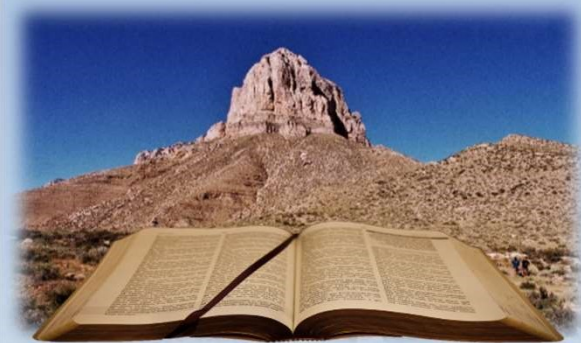
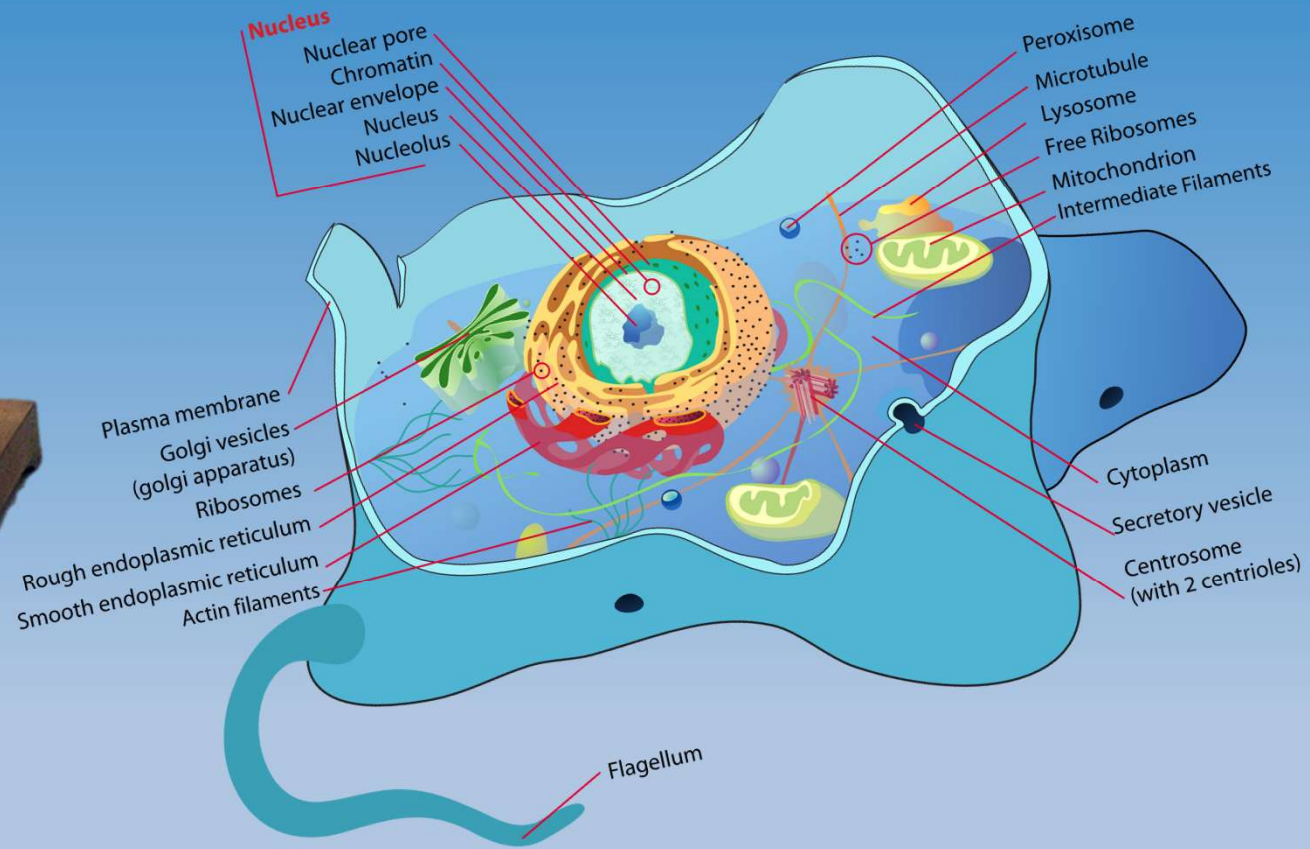




By Adam Evans - M31, the Andromeda Galaxy (now with h-alpha)Uploaded by NotFromUtrecht, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12654493>



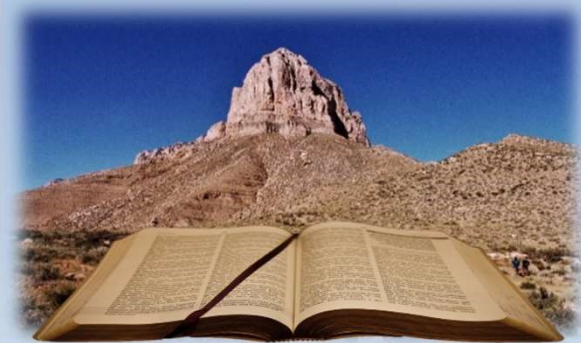
By User:Yzmo - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2246091>



By LadyofHats (Mariana Ruiz) - Own work using Adobe Illustrator. Image renamed from Image:Animal cell structure.svg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4266142>



“Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath” (Ps. 39:4–5).



<https://jesusinhistoryandscience.com/>



ΝΙΣΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΙΑΝ ΟΥΚ ΕΒΕΝΟΙΣ ΤΑΛΑ ΟΥΝ  
ΟΥΤΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ ΟΥΚ ΕΤΙΡΡΕΤΑΙ ΤΑΛΑ  
Ε ΠΛΗΡΟΝ ΕΛΛΑΝ ΕΒΕΝΟΙΣ ΤΑΛΑ  
Α ΟΥΩΝ ΕΜΟΙ ΟΥΜΗ ΠΕΡΙ ΤΑΛΑ  
ΕΤΗΚ ΟΤΙ Α ΔΑΧΕ ΕΤΙ ΦΩΣΤΗ  
ΜΗ ΕΙ ΠΟΝΟΥΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΟΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑ  
ΟΙ ΟΥ ΠΕΡΙ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΟΙ  
ΤΤΡΙΑΣ ΟΥ ΟΥΚ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΑΛΙΘΟΣ  
ΕΤΙ ΘΗΙΣ ΚΑΙ Ε ΠΕΝΑΥΤΟΙ Σ ΚΑΙ  
ΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΙ ΠΕΡΙ ΟΜΑΤΟ Σ ΚΑΙ  
ΕΣΤΙΝ Η ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑ ΜΟΥ Σ ΚΑΙ  
ΕΝ Η ΔΟΧ ΚΑΙ ΝΟ Υ ΠΑΡΩ Υ ΜΕ  
ΔΕ ΟΥΚ ΟΙ ΔΑΤΩ ΠΟΒΕΝ ΕΡ ΚΟΛΑ  
Η ΠΟΥ ΧΝΑΓΩ Υ ΜΕΙΣ Α ΤΑ ΤΗΝ  
ΕΑΙ ΚΑ ΚΡΙ ΝΕ ΤΑ Ε ΡΩ Τ ΚΡΙ ΝΩ Ο  
ΔΕ ΝΑ ΚΑΙ Ε Μ ΚΡΙ ΝΩ ΔΕ Ε Ρ Ω  
Η ΚΡΙ ΕΙΣ Η Ε Χ ΑΛΘΗ Σ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΟΤΙ  
ΔΕ ΕΙΣ Ε ΟΥ ΤΗ ΜΑΙ Α Δ Ε Ρ Ω ΚΑΙ Ο

# Jesus in History and Science





