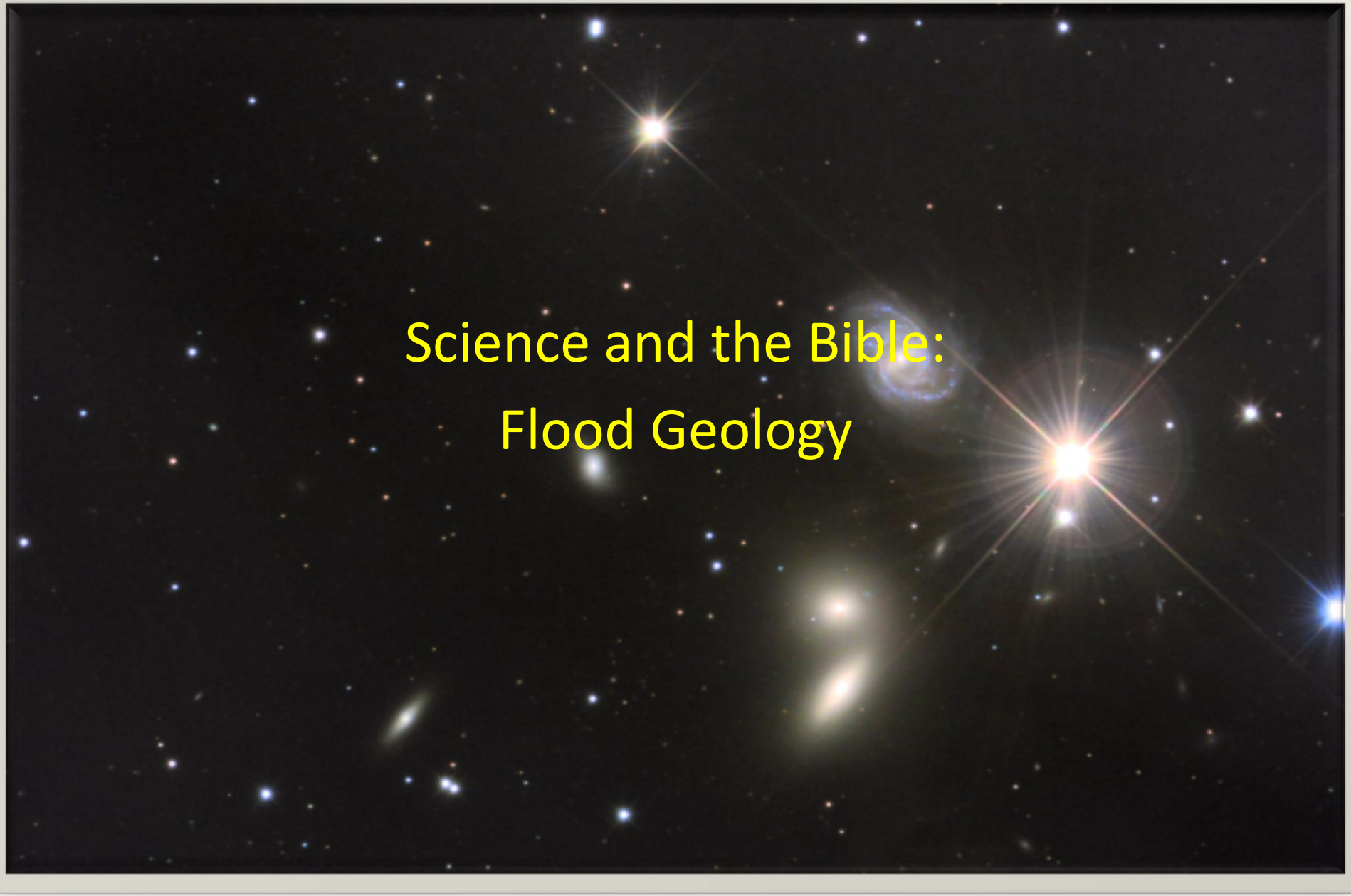
Science and the Bible:
Flood Geology

Goals

- What is Flood Geology?
- What's the point?
- What's the evidence?

What Is Flood Geology?

- Wikipedia: “The interpretation of the geological history of the Earth in terms of the global flood described in Genesis 6-9.”
- It claims that the Flood:
  - Was both global and recent
  - Was geologically violent
  - Created the geological record
- Rejects Uniformitarianism

Uniformitarianism

- Ancient earth
- Present the key to the past
  - Same processes
  - Same rates
- Thus the sediments that turned into rocks were laid down slowly over millions of years
- Will accept some catastrophic events

What's The Point?

- Controversial
  - Rejected by mainstream science
  - Among evangelicals
- Why is it only an issue among conservative Evangelicals?
- Because of Evangelicalisms' theological distinctives:
  - Inerrancy of Scripture
  - Historical and grammatical interpretation of scripture
  - The centrality of the Gospel

What's The Point?

- The Flood is the only empirically demonstrable miracle of scripture.
- At stake is:
  - The historicity of the scripture
  - The inerrancy of scripture
  - The authority of scripture
  - The relevance of the Gospel
- 2 Peter 3:4-9

Ken Ham

"I assert that many great men of God today world are contributing to a generational loss of biblical authority because of their insistence on accommodating man's belief in billions of years with the infallible Word of God. Such a loss of biblical authority is contributing enormously to a massive exodus of young people from the church (see *Already Gone*) and an increasing decline of Christian influence on the culture."

Grand Canyon as a Test Case

- Complete geological column
- Accessible and interesting
- A stress test for both sides
- Large-scale: Colorado Plateau

The Grand Staircase

An additional 10,000 feet of rock layes

The Grand Staircase

The Vermillion Cliffs at Lee's Ferry

500 million years of sediments

What’s The Evidence?

Marine Fossils

- Where do we find them?
  - On the continents
  - Even in the Himalayas
  - In Huntsville
- Conclusion: the oceans flooded the continents

Rapid Burial

- Otherwise, decomposition
- Fossil graveyards
- E.g. Dinosaur National Monument
- Wood casts at Little River Canyon
- Nautiloid fossils in Redwall Limestone of the Grand Canyon

Nautiloid Fossils in Redwall Limestone

Conglomerate

Rapidly deposited, wide-scale strata

- Rapidly deposited sediments
- Spread across vast areas
  - E.g. Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of the Grand Canyon
  - E.g. Chalk beds of England
- Transported by water
  - Cross-bedding in the Coconino Sandstone

Crossbedding

Transported Long Distances

- Grand Canyon sand sourced from northern US and Canada
- Pottsville formation in Alabama from the Appalachians
- Ripple marks show flow direction

Rapid to No Erosion

- Knife-edge boundaries
- Great Unconformity

Erosion?

The Great Unconformity

The Great Unconformity

Many Strata in Rapid Succession

- The sediments were laid down rapidly, not slowly
- Each layer was deposited shortly after the previous one
- Thus, all the layers turned into rock together
- Soft layers could deform without breaking
- Example: folding at Carbon Canyon fault

Rock Folds in Carbon Canyon

The extensive folding, with no signs that the rock strata fractured, seems best explained by the Flood geologist's claim that the rock layers were laid together and had not yet turned to stone when the fault occurred.

Conclusions

- An interesting model
- Deserves a dignified response