

# Light Brings Salt

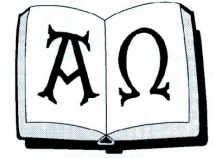
Volume 5, Issue 14

April 15, 2007



## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*



### **Flood Geology and Intelligent Design**

by William Hoesch, M.S.\*

Modern earth science owes quite a debt to both Flood geology and intelligent design. According to some, both movements had their start in the twentieth century, but actually these movements played a big role in the history of geology centuries ago and serve to inspire us today.

To make sense of the earth's past requires a linear view of history. Prior to the seventeenth century such thinking was considered rebellious, for it questioned the authority of the "Ancients," especially Aristotle (384-322 BC). Though brilliant, Aristotle had wrong ideas about geology. These included geo-centrism, the spontaneous generation of fossils, and an eternal earth that was governed only by naturalistic and gradual forces. The Roman Catholic Church gave official sanction to these ideas and had the impossible task of trying to square them with Scripture. Galileo (1564-1642) is an example of someone who got in big trouble for questioning Aristotle's authority. It took a Biblical literalist to found the science of earth history and Nicolas Steno (1638-1686) was this watershed figure. His success earned him the title of "founder" of the sciences of crystallography, paleontology, stratigraphy, and earth history, if not the father of geology itself. Steno grew up in northern Europe during the Protestant Reformation but made his mark in geology while in northern Italy, where he followed on the heels of Galileo. Steno was first and foremost a Flood geologist, who saw the earth as having a finite history dominated by creation, the flood, and coming judgment. For

him there were no "prehistoric ages," for earth and man were both created during the same six-day span only a few thousand years ago. Although it may come as a surprise to geology students, Flood geology gave to scientists what they didn't have before -- a linear view of Earth history.

Steno's geology was politically incorrect for another reason -- he incorporated intelligent design into his reasoning. He observed the remarkable similarity between the natural (inorganic) growth of crystals in the laboratory and the growth of the mineral that composes the shells of living organisms. Shell growth is controlled by an ordering principle, a *teleonomy*, by which the calcium carbonate conforms exactly to the form of the soft-bodied creature it contains; i.e., a clam shell grows in such a way as to perfectly enclose the creature inside. No such ordering principle is found in inorganically formed crystals, only repetition. When he demonstrated apparent design and purpose in fossil shells, Steno demonstrated (contra-Aristotle) that fossils are the remains of once-living organisms. He used intelligent design to do it.

In Steno's day it was considered scientific to think fossil shark's teeth "grew" within the earth and were invested with magical powers. Called "tongue stones" for their shape, Steno noted that they often showed signs of abrasion or decay. From this he implied they were not being formed at the present time but were relics of an earlier period. Processes currently acting on them were not creative but destructive. He saw what Darwin and so many others have missed. Again, he invoked intelligent design to do it.

How odd that Steno is universally praised today for his accomplishments in geology, yet spurned (on two counts) for his methods of arriving at them. Steno believed a literal Genesis.

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### **News Analysis - Our Future as a Nation**

Unless the United States, Europe and Israel awake from their numb slumber and take strong united action, the evil axis of Russia, China and Iran will tighten their noose around the free world and pull it tight so swiftly that it may be too late to counter. Russia's military spending, development and deployment has tripled in the past five years. China's military also has grown exponentially and its satellite attack capability changes the balance of world military power. Iran, with the aid of China and Russia, is expanding its support of global terrorism on a daily basis. These allies are a dynamic force that is moving ahead in their diabolical agenda faster than the West is willing to recognize.

Middle East News Line reports that Israeli military officials are expressing concern that advanced Chinese missile technology is being funneled to Iran either through China or through North Korea. They say that Iran has been financing North Korean missile and strategic weapons development based on Russian and Chinese technology. Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz is concerned that Iran's quest to acquire an independent space-launch capability, such as that displayed by China when it launched an attack against a weather satellite earlier this month, could invoke "extreme scenarios in which our space assets could become paralyzed by enemy action."

Iran's tentacles stretch far beyond supplying weapons, money and personnel to terrorists in Iraq fighting against the United States. Iran, through Syria, is supplying the terrorist group Hezbollah with weapons that are being deployed along the Golan Heights border with Israel. Iran is supplying weapons and cash to Hamas terrorists in Israel. Iran is also aiding al Qaeda in its efforts in other parts of the world. And Iran is supplying Shiite terrorists in remote places like Yemen with grenades, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

Meantime, the United States is putting diplomatic pressure on Europe to take stronger measures against Iran through economic sanctions. But European countries, led by France, do not see the need to cut off billions of dollars in trade with Iran just to slow down its nuclear development or the spread of worldwide terrorism. Indeed, the United States, Europe and Israel continue to trade with China and Russia knowing

full well that these countries are allied with Iran in its nuclear and missile development as well as in supporting terrorism. Revelation 18:17 speaks of the fall of the great trading nation Babylon, which was given over to "the hold of every foul spirit", saying "For in one hour so great riches is come to naught." Could this be a warning to those who embrace the money from these evil nations more than righteousness?

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### **Consensus is not Science!**

What drives the "Man Caused Global Warming" movement? Is it overwhelming evidence from science? As we (and others) have noted, the movement itself presents a number of features that clearly distinguish it from scientific inquiry. Consider the remarks of Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer during an appearance on Larry King Live.

"There's really a climate of hope, not fear, because we are listening to the scientists, and yes, there are always a few who are the naysayers just like there were people who said the earth is flat, but eventually there's a consensus. We know there's a consensus that has built, and I'm not going to debate anymore whether this is happening. I know it's happening" (Senator Barbara Boxer, Larry King Live, 1/31/07).

The process of Consensus building is defined as "a decision-making process that not only seeks the agreement of most participants, but also to resolve or mitigate the objections of the minority to achieve the most agreeable decision."

Simply put, consensus building is not "science," but simply the imposition of the majority opinion upon a minority regardless of the validity of scientific data presented. Although a compliant media has run a few articles protesting the "suppression" of the science "proving" global warming (with experts quoted being primarily radical believers in the same), the pressure and marginalizing of dissenters is growing.

Please note, there is no room for truth or empirical evidence in consensus building as manifested today. It is nothing more or less than a "religious belief." This is demonstrated by another guest on the same Larry King Live program. Dr. Heidi Cullen has suggested that any TV meteorologist certified by the American Meteorological Society who did not believe in manmade global warming theory be decertified. That is hardly indicative of a something supported by overwhelming scientific evidence. How does Senator Boxer know it is happening? Why, she believes it is happening!