

# **Mount Saint Helens: An Eruption of Evidence**

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God clearly lays out in the book of Genesis the creation of His world, and though His words do not have much merit in the eyes of many, His authority can't be denied and there are thousands of topics that prove a literal six day creation and a young 6,000 year old earth. Evolutionists believe that the earth was created over billions of years ago and that entities like the Grand Canyon took over five million years to form. However, the eruption at Mount Saint Helens in 1980 literally blew up the concept of billions of years, and proves that canyons can actually form in a matter of days.

Secular scientists have used the rock layers of the earth in places like the Grand Canyon as evidence of an earth that is billions of years old. Using radiometric dating (also conceitedly referred to as "absolute dating"), scientists test the decaying material of rocks to determine its age. However, the problem with radiometric dating is that it is very unreliable, and anything but absolute. "Radiometric dating methods have been unquestioned by an unknowing public but are fraught with difficulties due to faulty assumptions," (Griego 2015). Radiometric dating is very hypothesize-based. Scientists make guesses on how old the rocks are and take the most "accurate assumptions" to match their beliefs. For example, if one meteor was tested three times and even though they might have gotten three completely different dates, they manipulate the data by choosing the age that is most advantageous for their theory, and publish it as fact. It is also important to note that there are over 80 other dating methods which can be used but are just simply ignored, some of which are much more accurate than the radiometric dating method, ("Is Radiometric..."). The eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 carved out a canyon of proof regarding the erroneousness of radiometric dating.

On the warm morning of May 25, 1980, at exactly 8:32 am, the volcano called Mount St. Helens erupted, killing 57 people and costing over 1 billion dollars in damage. Despite this

tragedy, God provided scientists with many vital clues from the eruption that pointed to the worldwide flood found in Genesis, and about how it further corroborates a young earth.



Evolutionists, and even Evolutionary Creationists, believe that the earth is about 4.5 billion years old, but Creationists think it was created in six days and that it is approximately 6,000 years old. According to the genealogies recorded in Genesis, God chronicled the ages from Adam down to Noah and from Noah down to Abraham and it equaled about 2,000 years from Adam to Abraham, 2,000 years from Abraham to Jesus, and about 2,000 years from Jesus to present day. However, many disregard the Bible as being an accurate historical account and instead rely on other methods to date the earth. The eruption of Mount St. Helens substantiates a young earth, and also erodes the validity of the radiometric dating method. “A 10-year old rock sample from Mount St. Helens’ last lava flow was dated at 350,000 years old using the potassium-argon method [a form of radiometric dating],” (Griego 2015). What this means is that the method he talks about dates a ten year old rock at being 350,000 years old! Since we know that the samples from Mount St Helens were only a decade old at the time, we can make a safe assumption that the radiometric dating system is considerably flawed, if not outright fallacious.

The massive amounts of petrified wood found in the wake of the Mount St. Helen’s eruption stacks up a pile of proof which casts a long shadow over the theory of billions of years.

According to secular science:

*For wood to become petrified, it has to be buried quickly under mud, silt or volcanic ash before any rotting can set in. It needs to be buried within this for an extended period of time — usually, millions of years — and if the ground in which the wood is buried is particularly well compacted, it won't be able to interact with oxygen or organisms, so will be unable to decay. In such instances, the organic*

*material becomes fossilized* (Phelan 2022).

While most of this is true, the problem embedded in this quote is the amount of time in which it takes for this process to transpire. In Spirit Lake, the famous body of water near the base of



Mount St. Helens, researchers have found a treasure trove of literally thousands of specimens of petrified wood, which were a direct result of the immense devastation caused by the 1980 explosion. But, if the eruption would not have taken place in recent years,

they probably would have said that it took millions of years to petrify. Not only has the petrified wood formed incredibly quickly, but it has also been found sticking straight up at the bottom of Spirit Lake. While secular scientists have many problems with this phenomenon, creationists use these signs to their advantage. Creationists view these petrified examples as evidence for their theory—in fact, they can argue that those petrified logs are pointing up to their heavenly architect. In God’s Word in Genesis: “The flood was on the earth forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose up above the earth. The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. The water prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered,” (Genesis 7:17-19). Why creationists can use this evidence is simple: they believe that a global flood overtook the earth—including trees—which would mean that much of that wood became petrified during this catastrophic event. Likewise, what we see in Spirit Lake is very similar to what happened in Noah’s flood as the wood petrified in a matter of a few short

years. Again, this is evidence that it doesn't take millions of years for wood to petrify as the event at Mt. St. Helens proves that this process happens rather quickly.

Another eye-opening result from the 1980 eruption, along with subsequent earth moving events, is what many refer to as The Little Grand Canyon. A massive, nearly cubic mile rock



slide from the 1980 eruption created a dam between Spirit Lake and the Toutle River. Two years later, another volcanic blast melted a large snow mound in the volcano's crater, resulting in a menacing mudslide which dug out, "individual canyons up to 140 feet (43 m) deep," all

in a matter of one day (Snelling 2020). Then, two months later, when yet another eruption took place, another snow deposit was melted, which then proceeded to bore through basalt bedrock, and other hardened lava deposits. This quick and devastating event resulted in the formation of additional canyons, which bear a stunning resemblance to their much larger predecessor in Arizona. Not coincidentally, there are many small creeks and rivers at the bottom of the canyons at the base of Mount St. Helens, which mirrors the fact that the Colorado River flows through the Grand Canyon. For decades, scientists have assumed that the Grand Canyon was carved out by the Colorado River, over millions of years, but many are abandoning that hypothesis today. If they just focus their attention about 1,300 miles northwest, they might get a better idea about its origins. While the events at Mount St. Helens were literally earth shattering, they paled in comparison to the worldwide devastation caused by the flood described in Genesis. It doesn't take a leap of faith to draw logical comparisons between these two events, and see how canyons

can form in a relatively short amount of time.

Overall the event at Mount St. Helens has given creationist scientists a plethora of evidence that points to a young earth. From explosions and petrified logs, to canyons and Spirit Lake, the mass amount of evidence is overwhelming. So, as we dive deeper into the many signs that God has given us, we can confidently see the powerful proof of His handiwork. The constant truthfulness that God has provided for His people is amazing and Mount Saint Helens is just one of the many awesome wonders the Lord has given His followers. As stated in Romans 1, "...his eternal power... have been...perceived, ever since the creation of the world...So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God...but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." God knew that there would be many who would turn against the truth He provides in His Word, but to those who seek after Him, they will find revelation in His creation!

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