

Guest Speaker: John Williamson  
Genesis 6-9 and Flood Geology  
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Dean Bible Ministries  
[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)  
John Williamson

# GENESIS 6–9 AND FLOOD GEOLOGY

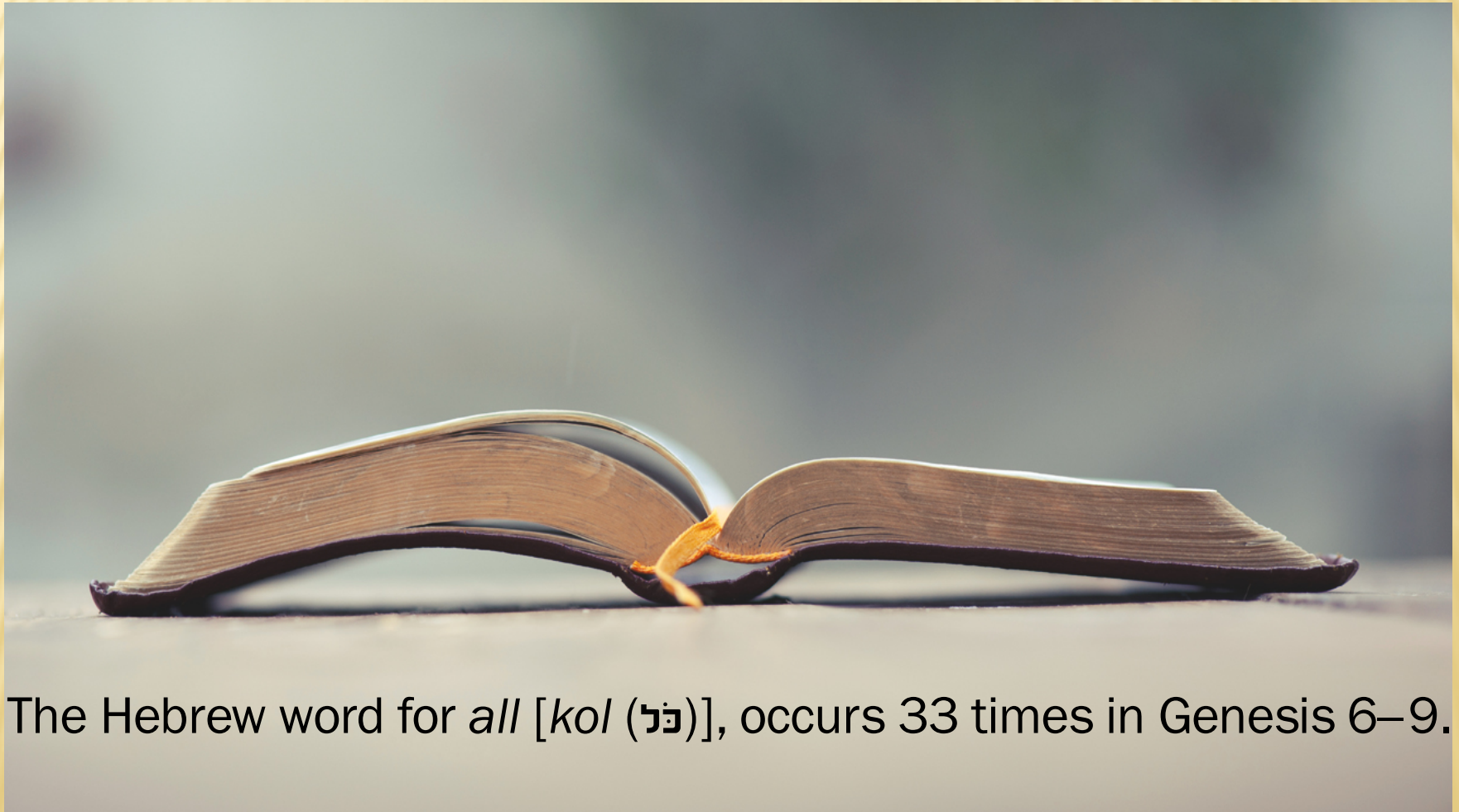
- 1) Does Genesis 6–9 teach a universal flood?
  - 2) Why the controversy?
  - 3) Modern “Science” and Biblical Interpretation
  - 4) A Proposed Local Flood of the Mesopotamia Valley
  - 5) Flood Geology – The Catastrophic Plate Tectonics Model
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By John Williamson



# DOES GENESIS 6–9 TEACH A UNIVERSAL FLOOD?

Let's read it and find out! Genesis 6:5–8:19



The Hebrew word for *all* [kol (כָּל)], occurs 33 times in Genesis 6–9.

Dr. Gleason Archer, Noted Old Testament Scholar:

From a superficial reading, the impression received is that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author (a questionable deduction, as will be presently shown), ***this seems to run counter to modern scientific research***, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago.

Gleason L. Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1985), p. 187.



Dr. Pattle Pun of Wheaton College:

It is apparent that the most straightforward understanding of Genesis, ***without regard to the hermeneutical considerations suggested by science***, is that God created the heavens and the earth in six solar days, that man was created on the sixth day, and that death and chaos entered the world after the fall of Adam and Eve, and that all fossils were the result of the catastrophic deluge that spared only Noah's family and the animals therewith.

## **Uniformitarianism – “The Present is the Key to the Past”**

The concept that the earth's surface was shaped in the past by gradual processes, such as erosion, and by small sudden changes, such as earthquakes, of the type acting today rather than by the sudden divine acts, such as the flood survived by Noah (Genesis 6–8), demanded by the doctrine of catastrophism.



# James Hutton (1726–1797)

The “Father of Modern Geology”

Proposed Uniformitarianism  
in his 1785 Publication of  
*Theory of the Earth*.

Religion: Deist

“The past history of our globe must be explained by what can be seen to be happening now. No powers are to be employed that are not natural to the globe, no action admitted except those of which we know the principle.”

~James Hutton *Theory of the Earth*, 1785







## Charles Lyell (1797–1875)

Popularized Uniformitarianism, through his 1830–1833 publication of the three volumes of *Principles of Geology*.

Close personal friend of Charles Darwin whose ideas greatly influenced Darwin in rejecting the God of the Bible and developing his idea of biological evolution by means of natural selection.

Religion: Deist



## Charles Lyell on His Regard for Moses

I am sure you may get into Q.R. [*Quarterly Review*] what will **free the science from Moses**, for if treated seriously, the [church] party are quite prepared for it. A bishop, Buckland ascertained (we suppose [Bishop] Sumner), gave Ure a dressing in the *British Critic and Theological Review*. They see at last the mischief and scandal brought on them by Mosaic systems . . . .

I conceived the idea five or six years ago [1824–25], that if ever the Mosaic geology could be set down without giving offence, it would be in an historical sketch, and you must abstract mine, in order to have as little to say as possible yourself. Let them feel it, and point the moral.

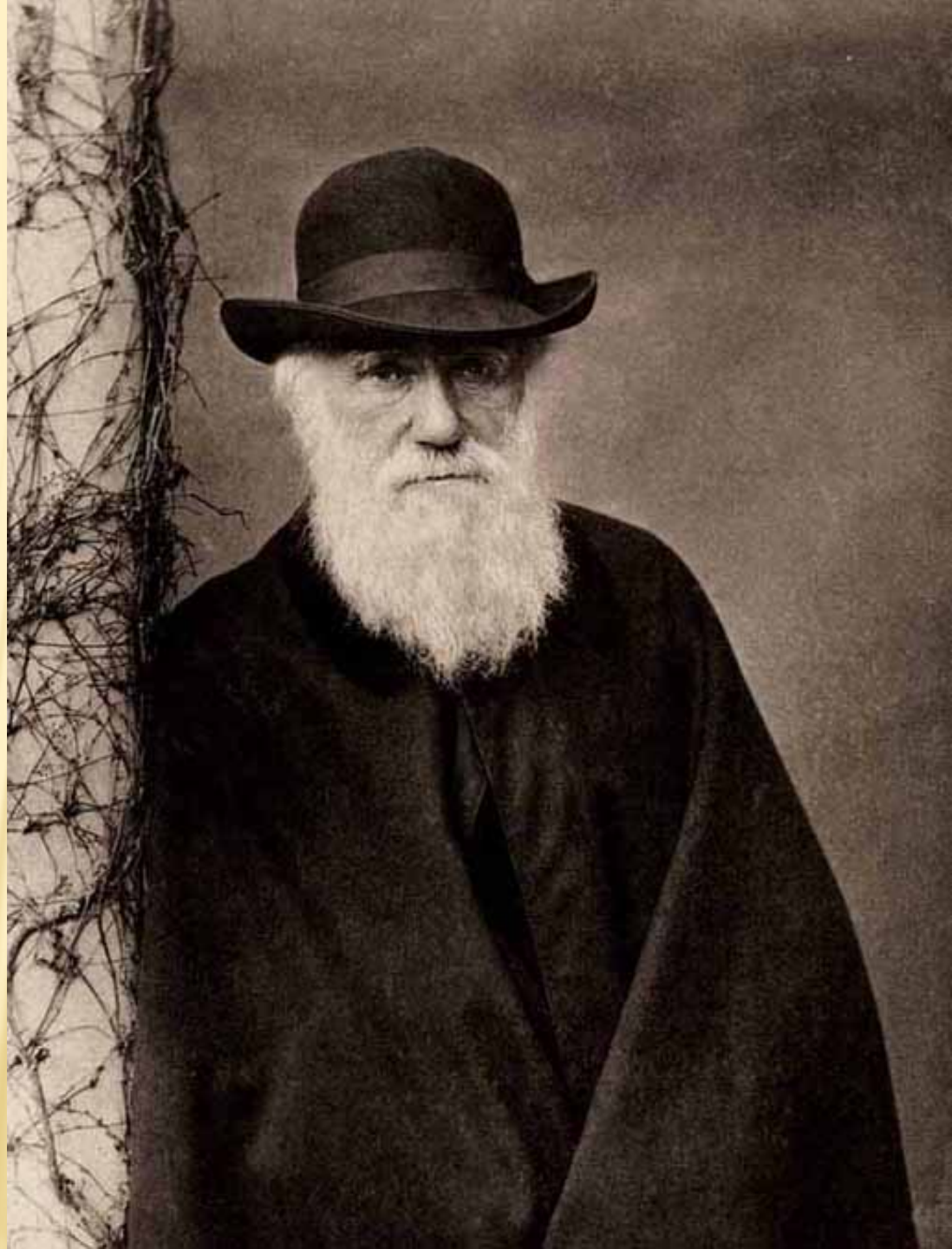
# Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Proposed Darwinian Evolution through Natural Selection in his 1859 Publication *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*.

Religion: Agnostic

“I have never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God. – I think that generally ... an agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind.”

Darwin, C. R. to Fordyce, John,  
7 May 1879





God's commentary of Uniformitarianism and Evolution:

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation. "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. (2 Peter 3:3–6, NASB)







# PROBLEMS WITH A LOCAL FLOOD

- 1) The ark's resting place in the Mountains of Ararat.
- 2) Mesopotamia valley cannot hold water for a year.
- 3) The sign of the rainbow.
- 4) 2 Peter 3:5–7 compares the judgment by water, which destroyed the ancient world, to the future judgment by fire, which will destroy the present world.
- 5) The purpose of the flood was to destroy all men and beasts in whom was the spirit of the breath of life. A local flood does not accomplish this.
- 6) If the flood was local, why not migrate?

A local Flood which covers all the high mountains?





Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them **with the earth.**” *Genesis 6:13*

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the **fountains of the great deep burst open**, and the **floodgates of the sky were opened**. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. *Genesis 7:11-12*

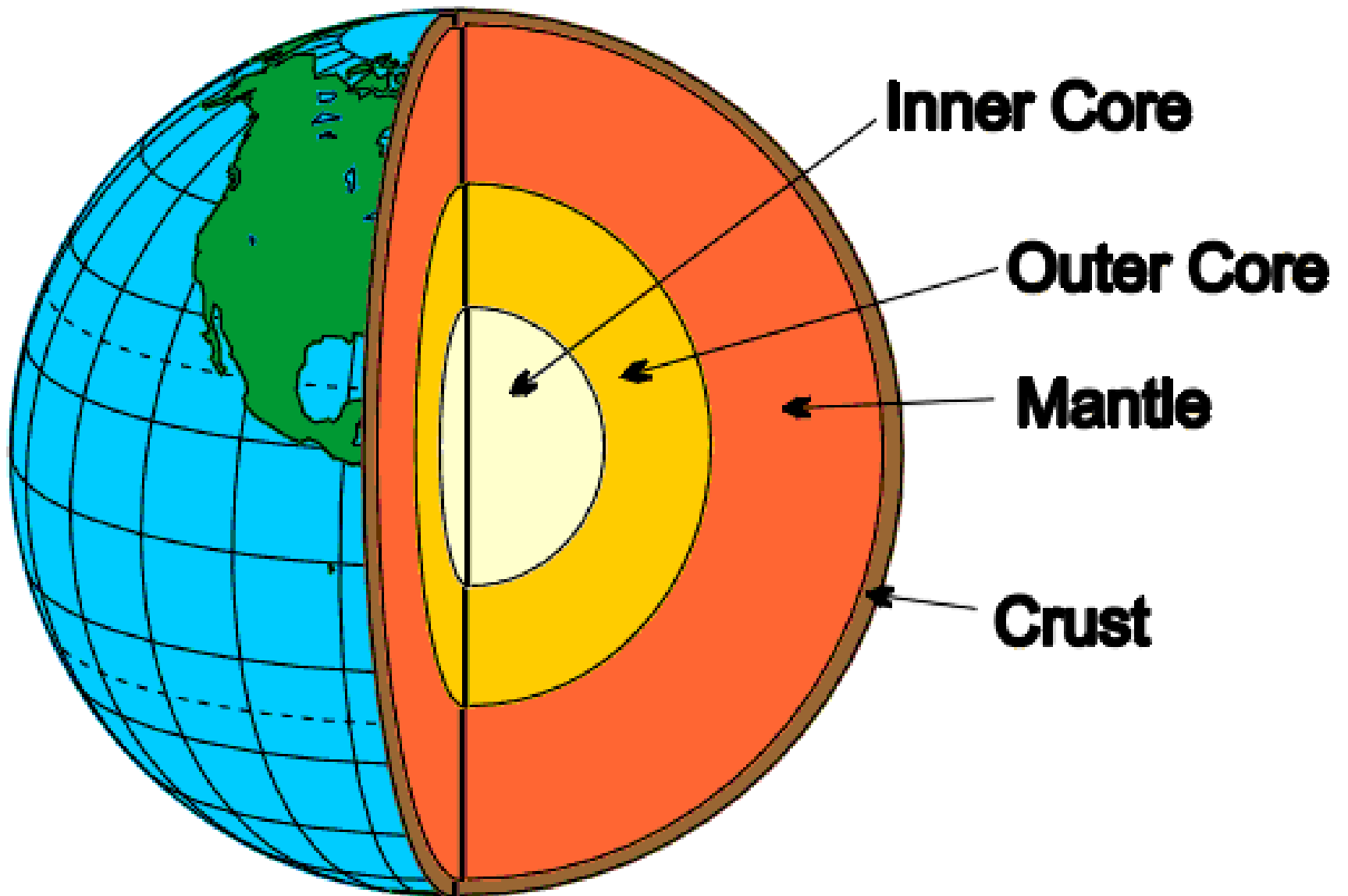
<sup>5</sup> He established the earth upon its foundations,  
So that it will not totter forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
The waters were standing above the mountains.

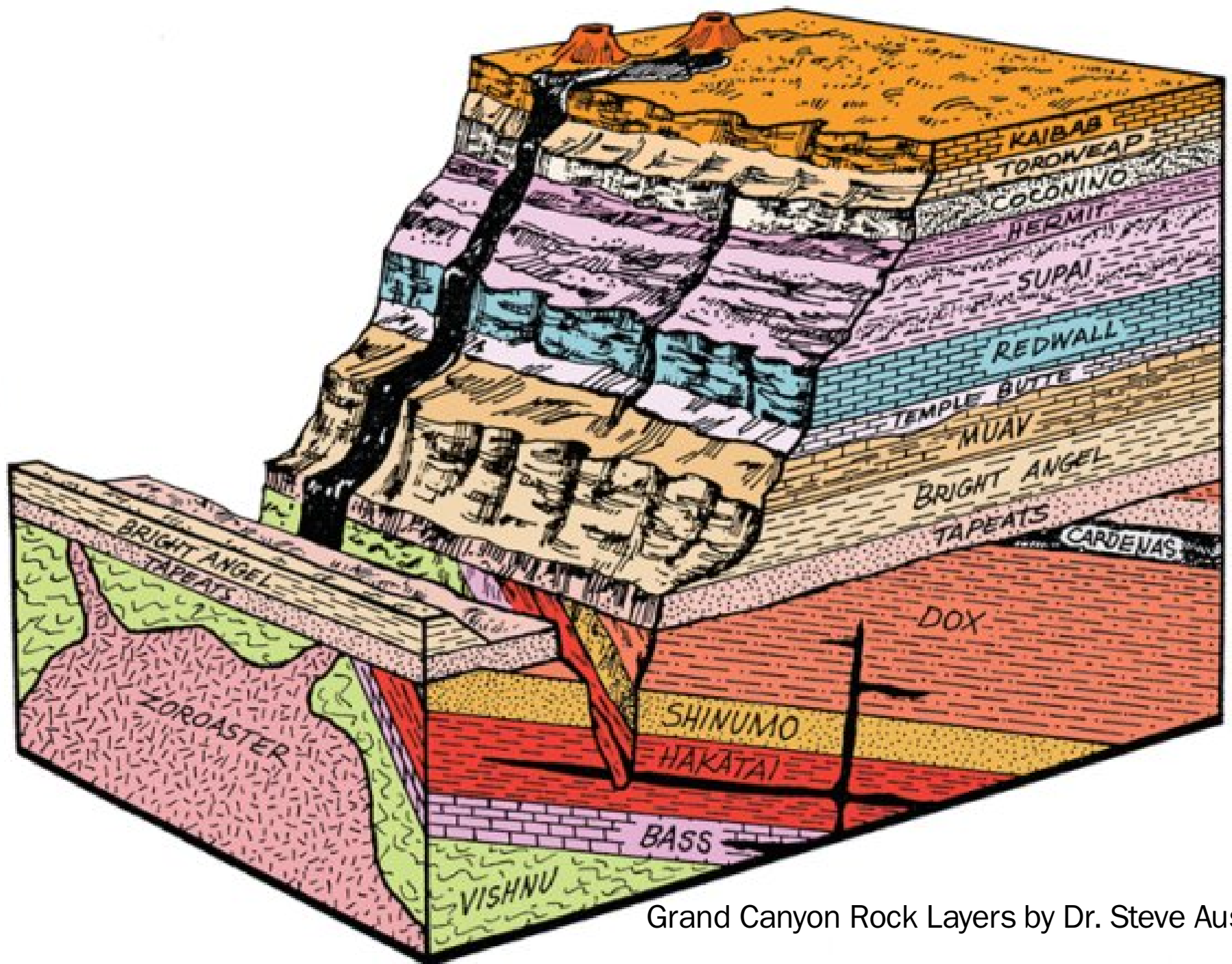
<sup>7</sup> At Your rebuke they fled,  
At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.

<sup>8</sup> **The mountains rose; the valleys sank down**  
To the place which You established for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not pass over,  
So that they will not return to cover the earth. *Psalms 104:5-9*







Grand Canyon Rock Layers by Dr. Steve Austin



# The Great Unconformity



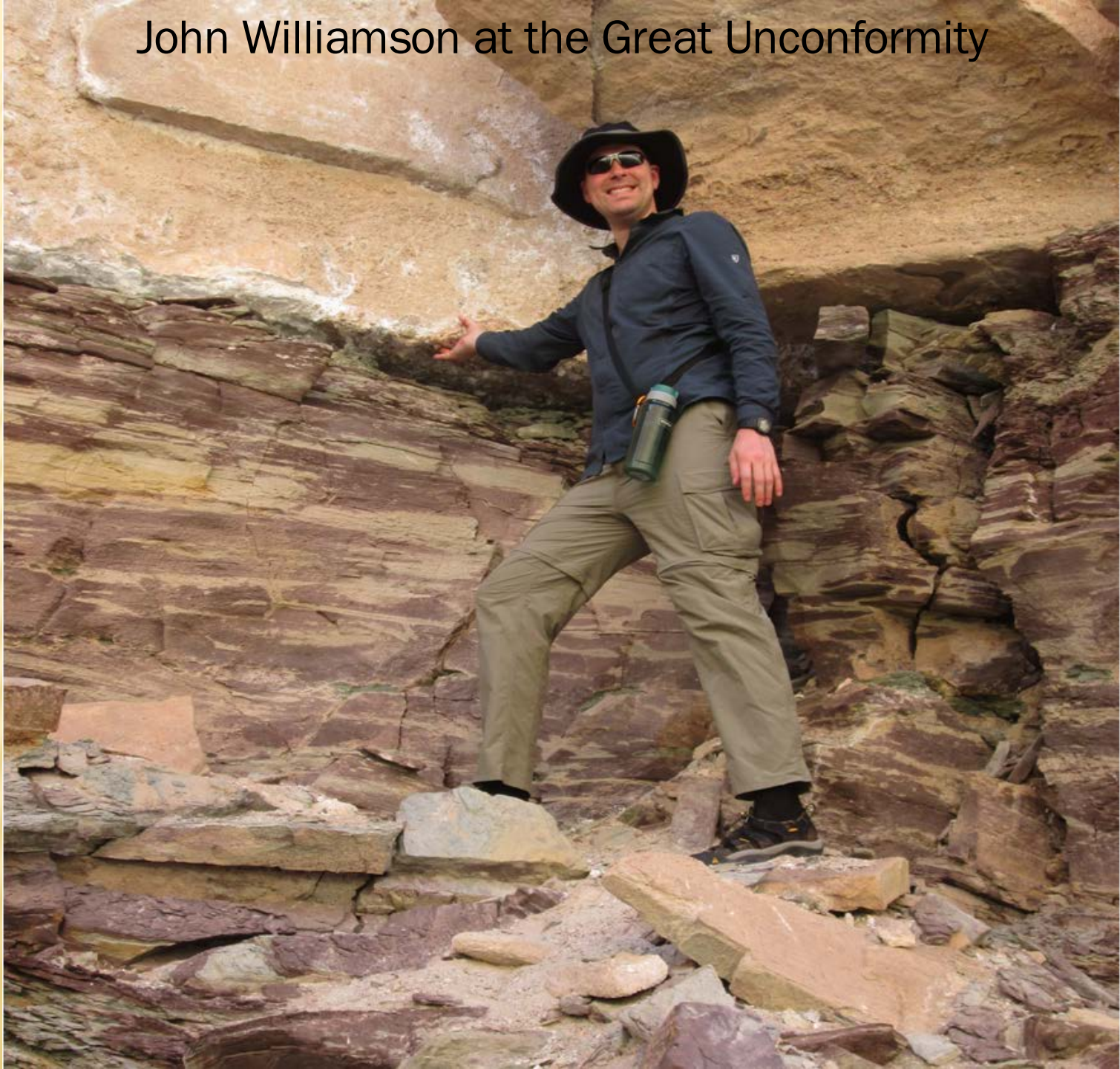


Dr. Steve  
Austin with his  
Grand Canyon  
Diagram at  
the Great  
Unconformity





John Williamson at the Great Unconformity





## Distribution of Tapeats Sandstone Across America

