

# Rocks don't lie—battling worldviews

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Naturalists often confuse their worldview invoking eons of geologic time with empirical science. Many are so indoctrinated with the concept of deep time they fail to notice conflicting evidence. A recent article, published in the monthly open-access *GSA Today*,<sup>1</sup> demonstrates this problem. The authors state:

“Astronomy and geology require contemplation of time scales and length scales far outside those of human experience. Granitic plutons are intruded and crystallized at depths ranging from a few kilometers to tens of kilometers, over durations of  $10^{-5}$  [100,000] to  $10^{-7}$  [10,000,000] years, at temperatures comparable to the melting temperature of gold, from magmas at least 10,000,000 times more viscous than water. Human experience is not relevant to these conditions and can be highly misleading.”<sup>2</sup>

This statement assumes the Genesis Flood never occurred and humans did not exist on Earth when granite formed in the subsurface or possibly later became exposed through the erosion of the overburden. Is this statement a matter of empirical science or the projection of a naturalistic worldview?

## Flood-formed granites

The formation of granite and granite landforms has been studied by many young-earth creationists (figure 1).<sup>3–11</sup> Creationist research indicates that water-enriched granitic melts can form, move upward through the crust,



**Figure 1.** The Stone Mountain Granite monadnock (east of Atlanta, Georgia, USA) rises approximately 270 m above the surrounding hills.<sup>13</sup> It is proposed that the granitic melt rapidly formed and was intruded into overlying metamorphic overburden where it quickly crystallized. In places, the metamorphic overburden was subsequently eroded away, leaving the granite exposed. All of this occurred during the Genesis Flood.<sup>14</sup>

and crystallize in days to weeks. This occurred during the Creation Week (most likely Day 3<sup>12</sup>) and also during the Flood—two periods of Earth’s past when geologic intense activity is expected based on the outline in Genesis.

The rapid creation, mobilization, and crystallization of granite would have been enhanced by aqueous conditions associated with the breaking up of the fountains of the deep with the onset of the Flood. Entrained water within the rapidly heating rocks and sediments would have decreased the melting temperature, increasing melt mobility, and enhancing its rapid crystallization.

In some instances, remaining latent heat within subsurface granitic melts/crystallized masses generated during the Flood would have allowed them to continue as heat sources up to the present age timeframe (figure 2). Today, hot springs and other geothermal areas may indicate these features.

The biblical outline of Earth’s history allows for this conceptualization and provides a framework to test our

worldview relative to the development of granite.

## The naturalistic perspective

While not within a period of time compatible with the Bible, some naturalists acknowledge the rapid formation, ascension, and crystallization of granitic melts is possible over short periods of time (<100,000 years).<sup>15,16</sup> However, with little water in the slowly forming melt, naturalists envision the entire granitic formation-to-crystallization process would extend over millions of years due to the slow-moving tectonic processes essential in melt generation, movement, and eventual crystallization. During this lengthy time interval, most of the water / hydrothermal fluids within the subsurface rocks and sediments would be driven off, thereby reducing its effectiveness in generating a more mobile granite melt at lower temperatures. The naturalistic worldview imposes limits in both the conceptualization of granitic development and the empirical methods used to test its ideas.

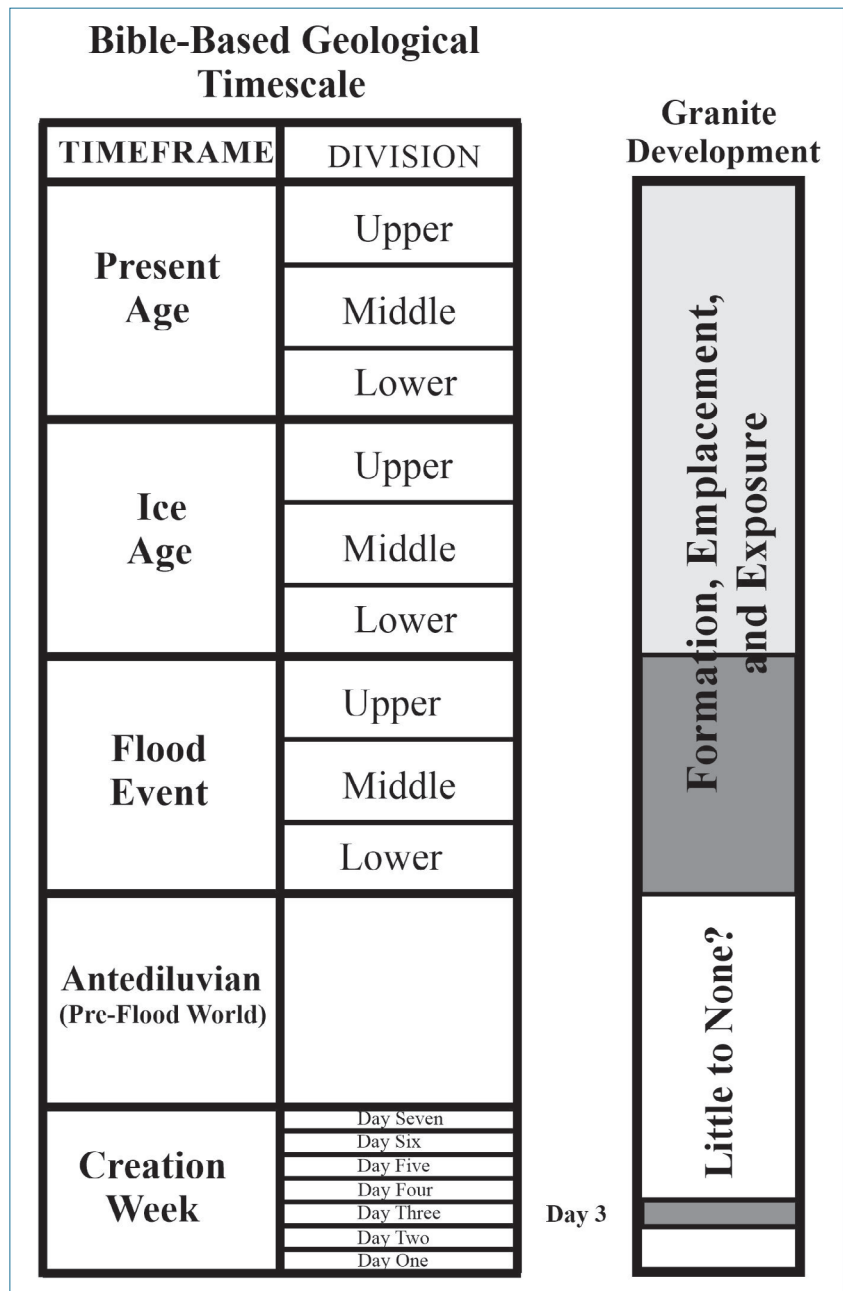
Interestingly, pegmatites that cross-cut granites (figure 3) are postulated by naturalists as having formed and crystallized rapidly—“in days to months, not in thousands to millions of years as previously believed.”<sup>17</sup> This view is not isolated, as many other petrologists invoke days to months for the formation and development of pegmatites.<sup>18–23</sup> There is no current naturalistic model that emplaces pegmatites in a water-depleted environment.<sup>24</sup> They are always associated with water-enriched feldspars, quartz, and minor trace elements within a slowly crystallizing granitic melt. Missing is the reasoning to minimize water and other hydrothermal fluids from the original granitic melt.

**Battling worldviews**

Understanding the conceptual geologic history of granites demonstrates the differences in worldviews between naturalists and Bible-supporting young-earth creationists. This is not a battle over empirical science, but rather over the framework of our ideas (i.e. philosophy/theology). These foundational assumptions drive the investigation of geologic features like granites. Oftentimes these foundational assumptions impede scientific progress because they limit possibilities in designing appropriate models for further testing.

**Conclusions**

Ultimately, through scientific testing, a dominant theory for the origin, movement, emplacement, and crystallization of granite will emerge. The naturalistic worldview rejects everything but the physical universe and its many geologic concepts operating over millions of years. Most young-earth creationists accept both the physical and the supernatural—as



**Figure 2.** A general understanding of granitic development in the geologic history of Earth can be contemplated based on the Genesis record. The darker shading indicates possible periods of abundant global granitic development. However, granitic generation, emplacement, and crystallization on Day 3 of the Creation Week may be beyond empirical determination. Granites derived at the onset of the Flood could prove easier to scientifically document.

conveyed through Scripture—in the scientific investigation of geologic features found across Earth.

The Bible is our only source of absolute Truth and the geologic history it outlines will be supported by empirical testing. Regarding

granitic development, naturalists will eventually discover what young-earth creationists have already started to demonstrate, that a catastrophic model for granitic development is defensible and scientifically consistent with the biblical history of Earth.



**Figure 3.** An aplite-pegmatite dike exposed in the Stone Mountain Granite. Naturalists contend that water-enriched pockets of feldspars and quartz within the granitic melt can very rapidly form pegmatites like this one. These features can quickly crystallize in hours or days. The width of the dike is approximately 33 cm.

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