

and a temporary vast ocean.

Of course, all of this sounds familiar. Catastrophic plate tectonics has recently been proposed as a viable model for earth history (within a biblical framework),² a model which also involves planet-wide tectonism and deformation, crustal recycling (subduction), whole-mantle convection and overturn, massive (enhanced) magmatic/volcanic activity, catastrophic release of subsurface water and violent flooding. It is thus encouraging that geologists are increasingly faced with evidence of catastrophism, not only on

the Earth, but on our planetary neighbours, Mars and now Venus. Yet because of their uniformitarian, millions-of-years mindset they fail to accept a global watery catastrophe such as the biblical Flood on a planet (Earth) that is still 70 per cent covered by water. Perhaps their recognition of global tectonic catastrophes on Mars and now Venus will eventually persuade them to accept catastrophic plate tectonics here on the Earth, particularly given the similarities in the abundant evidence that is here closer to hand, and therefore potentially even more convincing.

REFERENCES

1. Strom, R. G., Schaber, G. G. and Dawson, D. D., 1994. The global resurfacing of Venus. **Journal of Geophysical Research**, **99**(E5):10,899–10,926.
2. Austin, S. A., Baumgardner, J. R., Humphreys, D. R., Snelling, A. A., Vardiman, L. and Wise, K. P., 1994. Catastrophic plate tectonics: A global Flood model of earth history. *In: Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Creationism*, R. E. Walsh (ed.), Creation Science Fellowship, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, pp. 609–621.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES: Subjectivity in Science

‘Perceptions, prejudices and preconceptions are as much a part of science as they are of other aspects of life. The donning of a white lab coat does not endow the wearer with supernatural powers of objectivity.’

‘People can torture their data until it confesses, and go far beyond the notion of objective enquiry in the attempt to confirm a hypothesis.’

‘David Kavanagh, department head in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Sydney agrees. “There is a need for scientists to be educated in how perception plays a role in their work. . . . They should be aware of the potential for errors to creep in because of their wish to find a particular result.”’

Simms, R., 1995. Subjectivity entrenched in science. **Lab News**, April 1995, p. 10.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: Cosmology

‘“Observational cosmology is different from anything I’ve ever done in that very, very basic things are simply not known,” said the University of Washington’s Christopher Stubbs. “Even the alleged facts contradict each other.”’

Cole, K. C., 1995. Cosmos yields its past. **The West Australian**, Monday April 3, 1995, ‘Earth 2000’, p. 6.