Statement

The Geological Record

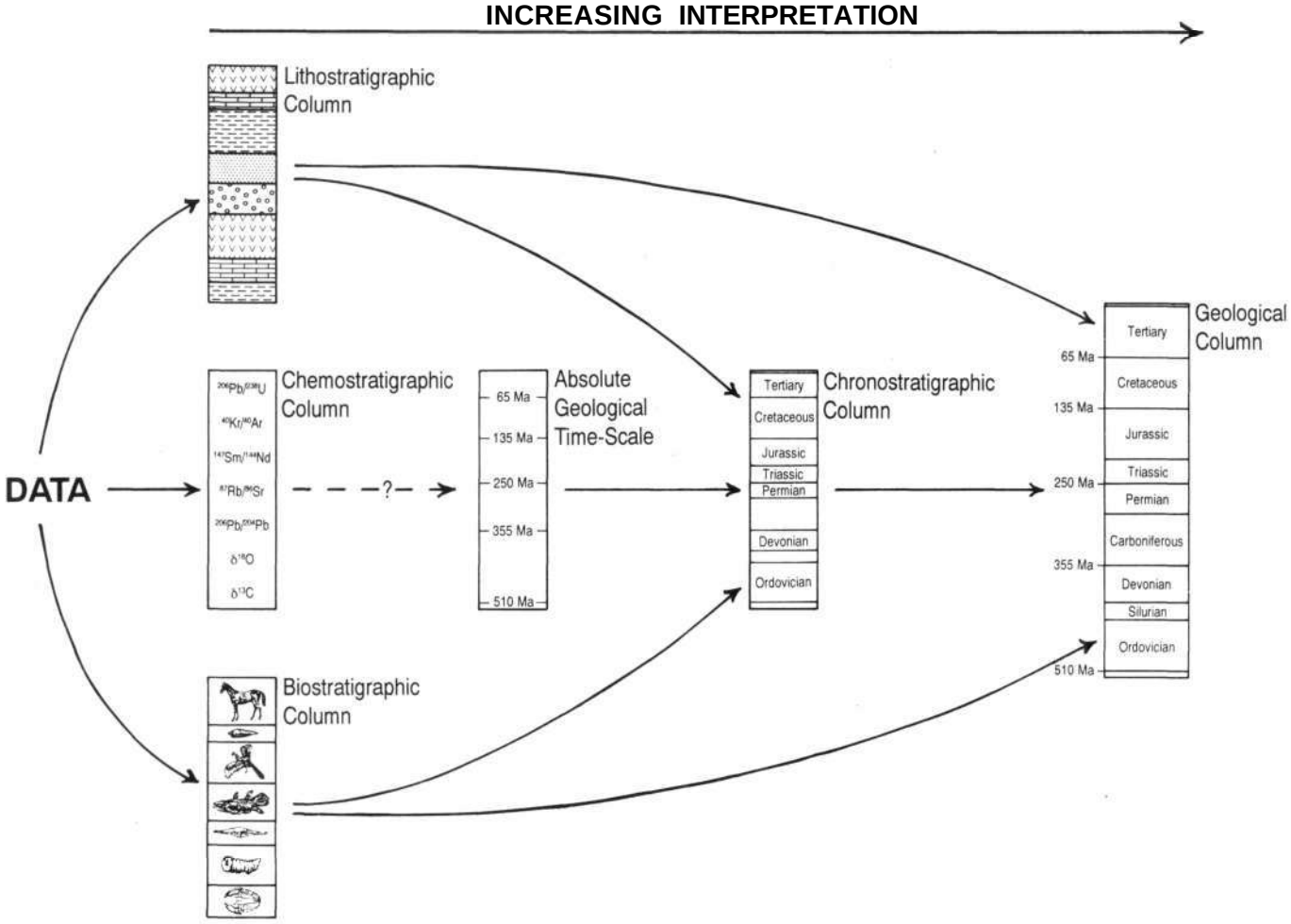
A meeting of the undermentioned was held at Bolney House, Sussex, in August 1996 to discuss various issues of Flood geology. The question of whether and how far to accept the stratigraphic column was one of those issues. The group consisted of geologists and other specialists from various countries and represented a wide spectrum of views.

We affirm that the starting point for our geological thinking is the historical record in the book of Genesis, which we accept at its face value. Of specific geological significance, we are convinced that Genesis testifies that:

(1) the Earth is young and created by God;
(2) all disease, suffering, pain, carnivory, and biblically-defined death evidenced in the fossil record post-dates man's Fall; and
(3) a year-long, universal Flood destroyed all flesh that dwelt upon the face of the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life.

As a consequence of being biblical diluvialists, we do not endorse many of the assumptions of conventional geology. For example, we reject the long time-scale. Further, we distance ourselves from the assumption that any fossil succession is the result of macroevolutionary process. Therefore, we do not necessarily accept conventional techniques of correlating rocks (for example, by means of index fossils or radiometric dating).

At the same time, it is because of our commitment to a global Flood that we would expect to be able to identify widespread evidence of catastrophism as well as global patterns of sedimentation and fossilisation. As we have gone from one locality to another looking at the rocks of the Earth, we have each individually become convinced that catastrophism is pervasive, correlations are possible, and global patterns in lithology, palaeontology and



chemistry really exist.

We wish to distinguish different concepts which are conflated within the 'Geologic Column' (see Figure 1):-

(1) a global succession of rock types (as suggested by early catastrophist geologists), represented by a lithostratigraphic column;
(2) global successions of fossils (the best known one being the succession of first fossil appearances of the fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals), represented by biostratigraphic columns;
(3) an absolute geological time-scale; and
(4) the chronostratigraphic column.

The last of these concepts, the chronostratigraphic column, is in turn actually a further conflation. In the conflation it is often assumed that any given lithologic unit in the lithostratigraphic column represents the same time period wherever found on the globe (that is, it is isochronous). Similar assumptions have been made for fossil units in the biostratigraphic column. These assumptions are then used to construct from the lithostratigfaphic column a rock-unit stratigraphic column, with its erathems, systems, series and stages. Corresponding to the latter, finally, is a succession of time intervals, represented by the chronostratigraphic column, with its eras, periods, epochs and ages. We recognise the general validity (but are cautious about the details) of the lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic columns, question the assumptions in the chronostratigraphic column, and reject entirely the absolute geological time-scale. As a consequence, we prefer to utilise lithostratigraphic terms (for example, sequences, groups, formations, beds) over time-rock terms (for example, erathem, system, series, stage, and associated upper, mid and lower) and reject entirely the use of chronostratigraphic terms (for example, era, period, epoch, age, and associated late, middle and early).

We believe this to be a sound basis for future research in creationist geology.

Andrew A. Snelling,
Brisbane, Australia.

Martin Ernst,
Kirchzarten, Germany.

Esther Scheven,
Frankfurt, Germany.

Joachim Scheven,
Hagen, Germany.

Steven A. Austin,
San Diego, USA.

Kurt P. Wise,
Dayton, Tennessee,
USA.

Paul Garner,
Soham, Ely, UK.

Michael Garton,
London, UK.

David Tyler,
Hyde, UK.