GEOLOGY

Section 3. Early Geological History of Urantia
Age of appearance of life - Archean period

Point I. Stabilization of the crust

Point A. 1,000,000,000 years ago

Point 1. Conditions During Registration of Urantia in Nebadon.
(57:8.1) 1,000,000,000 years ago the actual history of Urantia began. The planet reached approximately its current size. And about this time she was brought into the physical register of Nebadon and named Urantia.
(57:8.2) The atmosphere and the ceaseless fall of sediments helped to cool the earth's surface. Already at the early stage of the planet's existence, volcanic activity balanced the internal temperature pressure and the contraction of the crust; in this age of gradual cooling and sedimentation of the crust as volcanoes became fewer and fewer, earthquakes began.

Point 2. Hydrosphere.
(57:8.3) The true geological history of Urantia began when the crust cooled sufficiently to form the first ocean. Once begun, the condensation of water vapor on the cooling surface continued until the ground was practically filled with water. By the end of this period, the ocean became global, covering the planet with a layer with an average thickness of one and a half kilometers. At that time the tides acted much as they do today, but this primeval ocean was not salty; the water covering the world was practically fresh. In those days most of the chlorine was found in combination with various metals, but it was sufficient to combine with hydrogen to make water slightly acidic.

Point B. 950,000,000 to 900,000,000 years ago

Point 1. Urantia Conditions at the Time of Registration in Satania.
(57:8.5) 950,000,000 years ago, Urantia was one vast continent and one vast body of water-the Pacific Ocean. As before, volcanoes were a common sight, and earthquakes decreased in both frequency and strength. Meteorites continued to bombard the earth, but this became less frequent and their sizes decreased. The atmosphere was clearing, but the carbon dioxide content remained high. A gradual stabilization of the earth's crust was taking place.

Point 2. Selection of Urantia as the Sixtieth Experimental Planet in Satania.
(57:8.7) 900,000,000 years ago, the first reconnaissance party of Satania arrived on Urantia, sent by Jerusem for the purpose of studying the planet and reporting on its suitability as one of the centers of experimental life. This commission consisted of twenty-four members, among whom were the Life-Bearers, the Sons-Lanonandek, Melchizedek, seraphim, and other categories of celestial life concerned with the initial stages of planetary organization and government.

Point 3. Age of raging storms.
(57:8.11) This whole age was characterized by frequent and violent storms. The ancient crust of the earth was in a state of constant motion. The cooling of the surface alternated with a powerful outflow of lava and mixed with subsequent deposits of the ancient world ocean.

Point 4. Remnants of sub-oceanic rocks in Hudson Bay.
(57:8.12) Nowhere on the surface of the earth are such altered remains of these ancient sub-oceanic rocks to be found as in northeastern Canada along the coast of Hudson Bay. This huge granite elevation is made up of pre-oceanic rocks. Rock layers were heated, bent, twisted, wrinkled, going through these deforming metamorphoses again and again.

Point 5. Rock deposits not containing fossil remains.
(57:8.13) Throughout the oceanic age, colossal non-fossil-bearing layers of stratified rock were deposited on the floor of this ancient ocean. [Limestone can also form as a result of chemical processes; not all ancient limestone was formed by the deposition of marine life]. In none of these rock formations is it possible to find signs of life; they contain no fossil remains except in those cases where, for some reason, the later deposits of the water ages have become mixed with these ancient strata which were formed before the appearance of life.

Point C. 850,000,000 to 800,000,000 years ago

Point 1. Stabilization of the bark.
(57:8.16) 850,000,000 years ago the earth first began actual stabilization of the crust. Most heavy metals descended toward the center of the globe; the cooling crust ceased to collapse on such scales as in previous epochs. The balance between pushed land and heavier ocean bed has improved. The layer of sub-crustal lava spread practically all over the world, which compensated and stabilized the fluctuations caused by cooling, contraction and displacement of the surface.

Point 2. First great age of land formation.
(57:8.19) 800,000,000 years ago began the first great age of land formation - the active uplift of the continents.

Point 3. First climatic zones.
(57:8.22) In the conditions of the ever-increasing elevation of the land on the planet, the first climatic zones appeared. The main factors of climatic fluctuations are the elevation of the land, cloud cover and the influence of the ocean. During the maximum uplift of the land, the ridge of the Asian continental shelf reached a height of almost 14.5 km. If there were much moisture in the air surrounding these highland regions, the formation of vast ice sheets would take place; the ice age would have started much earlier than it actually did. It took several hundreds of millions of years before the secondary lifting of such a quantity of land above the water took place.

Point D. 750,000,000 to 650,000,000 years ago

Point 1. First breaks continental mass on land
(57:8.23) 750,000,000 years ago the first rifts of continental landmass appeared on the land, - a huge rift was formed in a north-south direction, which subsequently filled with ocean waters and created conditions for continental drift in a westward direction of north and south America, including Greenland. The long east-west rift separated Africa from Europe and separated the Australian land mass and the Pacific islands and Antarctica from the Asian continent.

Point 2. The continental drift.
(57:8.24) 700,000,000 years ago Urantia was approaching the period of maturation of the conditions necessary for the existence of life. Continental drift continued; the ocean increasingly penetrated the inland areas of the land as long, narrow seas, shallow and sheltered bays, which are so suitable as natural habitats for marine life.

Point 3. Increase in the salinity of the seas.
(57:8.25) 650,000,000 years ago there was a further separation of the land mass and the consequent still greater enlargement of the continental seas. And these waters were rapidly approaching that degree of salinity which was necessary for Urantian life.
(57:8.26) It was these seas, and what they became, that set forth the record of Urantia's life, subsequently found in the well-preserved pages of the stone book, of which new and new volumes appeared in succession era after era and era after era. These ancient inland seas were the true cradle of evolution.

Point II. The continental drift

Point A. 600,000,000 to 550,000,000 years ago
(58:1.5) At the beginning of this epoch Urantia was in all respects approaching a condition favorable to the maintenance of primitive forms of marine life. Physical evolution on Earth and in the surrounding regions of space was slowly but surely preparing the ground for subsequent attempts to create such life forms as, in our opinion, would be best adapted to the emerging physical environment, both terrestrial and spatially.