

Preface

Do not glorify and copy the knowledge of ancient times, but try to solve the mysteries of nature by your own investigation. (Leonardo da Vinci, Trattato della pittura, 1682)

Two years ago, the world was shocked by an enormous oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. An explosion on an oil platform caused a drill rod to break. At least 5,000,000 barrels of crude oil leaked freely into the ocean, with catastrophic consequences for the oceanic flora and fauna.

About a year afterwards, the north-eastern coast of Japan was caught by several severe earthquakes. One of these was accompanied by a tsunami that caused great losses of human lives and an inconceivable damage. Three nuclear facilities built on fault lines, got into big trouble. It appears that a melt-down was barely prevented.

These are two serious warnings that mankind are failing in their guardianship of the earth we live on.

It is rather short-sighted to pretend that these catastrophes are occurring very occasionally, so that we may risk them. Mankind should not be allowed to gamble with so many innocent lives. One catastrophic disaster is one too many. When there is any risk of even the slightest calamity, this should be sufficient reason for not starting a careless project. The future of our children should not be put at stake.

We can not feign that we did not receive any previous warnings. In the past, there have been several worldwide catastrophes. The best known is the catastrophe that occurred about 65 million years ago. An enormous cosmic object crashed down into Yucatan, Mexico. The impact caused the dinosaurs to become extinct.

The last terrific change occurred around 11,000-10,000 before Christ. Many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occurred in those days. The ice age period came to an end. Large animal species, like the mammoths, the mastodons, the sabretooth cats, woolly rhinoceroses, giant sloths, giant beavers, toxodons, glyptodons and many others suddenly became extinct. In North and South America about 90% of the animal species perished.

Nevertheless, this catastrophic period is almost unanimously neglected by contemporary scientists. Most scientists postulate that these mass extinctions were caused by other reasons, like human hunting.

It is highly debatable whether this majority of scientists are right.

Many inexplicable artefacts of remote ancient times have been found, which seem to point to unknown advanced civilizations. There are no

written accounts on these civilizations. But the impressive silent remains and the astonishing oral traditions are witnesses of ancient knowledge which we do not understand nowadays.

In the myths of many nations and in several religious books like the Bible we come across descriptions of a great disaster that occurred in a distant past. We read about hurricanes, volcano eruptions, earthquakes, a worldwide deluge, and civilizations that perished due to these calamities. Presumably these accounts describe the very same catastrophe as mentioned above.

I always considered the Biblical story of the deluge an appealing fairy tale, because of the message that good deeds will be rewarded and bad deeds will be penalized. Of course it was impossible that the deluge ever occurred: where did all the water come from and whereto did it go? However, during my research for this book I came to understand that the Noah story most probably was an accurate report of a terrible disaster that did occur in the past. As all facts are so obtrusively and frequently clear, objective readers and spectators cannot do anything else but reflecting on the evidence, drawing conclusions, or at least searching for the truth.

It is surprising that most of these perceptible remains of lost ancient civilizations are neglected by the historians. The artefacts do not fit in the commonly accepted believe that mankind started civilizations in Sumer and Egypt after living through Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. It seems that all archaeological finds that do not support this view, are systematically put away into the cellars of our museums.

Related to this phenomenon is the apparent arbitrariness with which some theories of the most brilliant scientists are either accepted or rejected. Does a new idea suit the accepted system, it is welcomed cordially. Does the new idea conflict with the accepted system, it is neglected, or, at best, sharply attacked.

An example of this is the ice age theory of Agassiz. With his new theory he was able to explain all sorts of phenomena, like boulders and other sediments which were moved by glaciers, but he could not provide any plausible cause.¹ Nevertheless, his theory was commonly accepted. It fitted in the late 19th century's common thinking that all geological changes came about gradually.

The theory that the three great pyramids of Giza in Egypt were built by the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, is based on a few wafer-thin clues. Nevertheless, Egyptologists and historians accepted this theory without any complaints, although no satisfactory answers were provided to the many remaining questions and queries. But the theory fits well in the consensus that Egypt was one of the first civilizations, if not the very first.

In 1955, Charles Hapgood very accurately developed a new theory about earth crustal displacement. One of the many advocates of this theory was

Albert Einstein, who wrote an inspired introduction to Hapgood's book *The Path of the Pole*. Hapgood was able to explain many facts which could not be clarified until then, but he did not succeed in indicating a plausible cause for the crustal slide. Nonetheless, his theory was not examined seriously, but mostly neglected or even ridiculed instead, because a catastrophe did not fit in the commonly accepted view that all changes should come about gradually.

Actually, it is rather curious that mankind maintains existing theories full of flaws, and invents the strangest possible explanations for all conflicting facts, rather than examining alternative theories which might harmoniously explain all phenomena which were until then hardly explicable. We should find out what *really* happened in the past – that is the only thing that matters. Old theories may have to be improved or even abandoned. Of course this might be uncomfortable to the designers of these now outdated theories, as they dedicated great parts of their lives to enthusiastic and earnest research to find ultimate truth. But they will not be forgotten. They contributed such important bricks to our ever-growing building of knowledge and did yeoman service in forwarding science to humanity.

The course of events is discovered step by step. Mankind may only take a next step when the former one is completed. Especially in the modern computer age, mankind can easily and gratefully make use of research reports, accomplished by their predecessors.

Man is curious. Man wants to examine everything. He does not accept anything unthinkingly. So he is a scientist by nature, and he rather not accepts magical or religious explanations. Therefore he should be prepared to put aside his fears and uncertainties. He always did alike. By his natural inquisitiveness man has come thus far in his technological development.

The apostle Paul postulated in the Bible: "Test everything. Hold on to what is good." ² We should have the courage and intention to examine everything, including new possibilities and theories, and the wisdom to wisely select all things that turn out to be worth keeping.

Well, as a member of mankind I am curious too. Since the eighties I have been very interested in these ancient periods of human history. Out of my fascination this book gradually evolved. It all started with reading and studying a lot of books.

Only since I read the book *When the Sky fell* of Rose and Rand Flem-Ath, I started to trace a clear line in the many perceived facts. Rose and Rand Flem-Ath sketched a brilliant hypothesis about the lost civilization of Atlantis, which may be found in Lesser-Antarctica near to the South Pole, hidden for contemporary human eyes because it is covered by ice. During a horrible disaster the earth crust shifted, causing the complete Antarctic

continent to be situated within the southern polar circle, whereupon the empire of Atlantis disappeared under the ice and out of history.

In my opinion, this startling hypothesis did not fully correspond to the perceived facts, but it hit me upon a new, but still tender, idea. So I started to thoroughly re-read the many books I read before, and accurately noted all the facts which were mentioned in these books. I read many other books as well and traced a lot of scientific publications. I intended to develop my ideas after collecting as many facts and clues as possible, for if there were any clues that contradicted my thoughts, I should better know beforehand. For several years I was busy examining all kinds of sources of information. Sometimes I desperately wondered what I had myself in for, but especially my parents and my sisters encouraged me to go on.

In my book I take the view that the earth crust shifted, causing the catastrophe which happened about 13,000 years ago. Scientists like Eddington, Pauly, Velikovsky and Hapgood thus suggested in the past, but science did not take sufficient notice of this. However, my hypothesis literally goes beyond the ideas of these scientists. I agree with Eddington and Hapgood that a place in Davis Strait, near to the western coast of Greenland, probably might have been the former pole in ancient times, but the many clues that I collected in my book, did provide an amazing alternative view.

The hardest task was searching for the cause of the worldwide catastrophe. The American physicist and astrophysicist Paul Alex LaViolette pointed at the possible consequences of an eruption of the core of our galaxy. In my opinion it must have been a specific but momentary effect of the last giant eruption of the galaxy core that caused a gigantic destruction on earth.

If my hypothesis is correct, it will have quite some significance. A catastrophe like the one mentioned above could happen again, however probably not very soon. Several worldwide catastrophes occurred in earth's geological history, but between them it was quiet for many millions of years. However, we cannot predict the exact moment in which the quietness may be disturbed. It may be next week, but it equally may be in fifty million years.

As a custodian of this planet it is mankind's responsibility to take care of the quality of live on behalf of our earth and its present and future residents, man, animal and plant. As I point out in my book, it is very unwise to proceed developing and exploiting nuclear plants, oil platforms and other extremely risky enterprises, with which we risk the future of our offspring in behalf of shallow and short-noticed profit motives. We should better act like the American Indian people or like many other indigenous peoples in the world, who are living close to nature. For instance, while considering fateful decisions the Indians first figured out whether there might be any negative consequences for the next four or five generations to come.

Mankind would act wisely banning all dangerous activities and developing methods to exploit clean and safe energy as soon as possible.

For more than 40 years our governments have been calling to start developing alternative energy sources instead of oil, natural gas, hard coal and nuclear energy. Until now they did not go much further than calling.

Of course there are useful alternatives and they turn out to be very safe.

Solar energy and wind energy are exploited on a small scale. In California a project of renewable energy is running since about 30 years. It has a temporary maximum output of 350 MWe (electric megawatt, so it is 350 million Watt), which is sufficient to provide about 350,000 American families with their entire yearly energy demands. If a power plant of this magnitude existed in Spain, it would easily meet the energy demands of up to 900,000 Spanish families.

The area of the horse latitudes, between 30° and 35° north and south, is defined by a nearly total absence of wind. Because of this there are hardly any clouds. In these areas we therefore come across the main deserts. If we would cover an area of 50,000 km² in the Sahara with solar cell panels, we could easily provide for the entire energy demands of all people in the whole of Europe. We have got the techniques, we have got the ways and means to realize such a project. Moreover, the energy is completely free. But it seems that we do not have any intention to accomplish such a task. Do we really think that the issues of the big oil companies are more important than the liveability of our planet?

I surely hope that the ideas I am working out in my book, may contribute to a closer serious scientific survey.

At last I want to thank everybody who helped to realize this book. My parents and sisters for their persistent support. Mr. Rand Flem-Ath for his comments on my first ideas and his encouragement to examine them further. Mr. Andrew Collins who put me on the right track when I was stuck for a moment. Mr. Wil Tirion for his design of a special star map. Mr. Willem Kuurstra for copying the first concept of this book. Mr. Ferry Daamen, Mr. Jack Ruijs and my uncle Leo Smit, for their reflections. Joke Smit-Beersma and Sjanien Smit for their reflections and their translation work. Maria Smit for her many determined efforts to arouse the interest of publishers. Mr. Paul LaViolette, Mr. Bert Thurlings and Mr. Ron Manley for granting permission to publish some of their graphics in this book. All anonymous contributors who put their graphics, images and photographs to everyone's disposal through Wikimedia Commons.

I dedicate this book to my father, Jan Smit, who so eagerly wanted to read it, but did not live long enough.

Helmond, September 2012

Scheme of the book

A large amount of clues and descriptions of finds are noted in this book. Especially Chapters 2 and 22 are considerably extensive. However, the reader may skip parts of these lengthy chapters and read the conclusions at the end of these chapters instead.

The first six chapters are concluded by an overview of conclusions. In this overview the most important clues, mainly geological and paleontological, are mentioned, which I use for my new hypothesis. Chapter 7 is also necessary for the scheme of the book. Only after these introductory chapters I can start explaining my theory in Chapter 8.

Chapter 10 handles myths. I thought it essential to put this chapter in this not too logical place, as in the following chapters many myths are quoted, which may support the newly proposed theory.

Starting from Chapter 11, all kinds of phenomena are combined with my theory, leading to new concepts. There are aspects of geology, climatology, astronomy and archaeology. Also some myths are interpreted in an entirely new way.

At last, Chapters 27 and 28 are about the presumable cause leading to the catastrophic events. Subsequently, an imaginary Egyptian priest closes the book.

An archaic civilization is regularly mentioned in ancient traditions. At four continents they are called the Uru. Some ideas on the Uru are added in the appendices.

Chapter 1 – Uniformitarianism and catastrophism

When we accept the views of the modern geologists, we learn that geologic history of our planet is characterized by gradual evolvement.

Very slowly life developed on our young planet. Plants and animals mutated step by step. Ever more sophisticated life forms came into existence. Finally, after several billions of years, man arose, considered to be a crown on earth's evolution.

Ancient geologists cherished another view. Christian dogma teaches differently: the Lord created Earth. Devout priests were sure to know when the creation occurred. In 1654 A.D. the Irish archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656) established the date of the creation as October 23rd 4004 B.C. The first dinosaur bones were discovered in 1808 A.D. These finds did not fit in the accepted picture of the earth history. Since then many more bones of enormous animals have been found, so the geologists had to conclude that there were separate eras in earth history, which had been concluded by enormous catastrophes, destroying nearly all life forms on earth.

The French geologist George Cuvier (1769-1832) was a strong pioneer of the catastrophist school of geology. Most scientists, who believed that worldwide catastrophes occurred, had a Christian background. They did not accept the estimated dates of the oldest finds, as they insisted that all geological events should have occurred after 4004 B.C. To these creationist geologists it was obvious that the many discoveries of mammoth remains in Siberia and Alaska proved that these animals succumbed by the Deluge of the Genesis.

Eduard von Suess (1831-1914), Professor of Geology in Vienna, showed in his four parts work *Das Antlitz der Erde* that many deluges occurred in earth history.¹ He supported the view that a shrinking earth, which caused the earth crust to wither, created lower parts which were flooded to become oceans.

In 1795 A.D. the Scottish geologist James Hutton (1726-1797) designed a new theory, which he called uniformitarianism. He explained that life on earth develops gradually, despite some small disasters that sometimes occur.² Hutton rejected all catastrophistic ideas. He was of the opinion that it could not be possible that God would allow His works to be ruined by some worldwide deluge.³ According to his views one should not explain a phenomenon by a catastrophic cause when a step-by-step cause is available.⁴

The uniformitarianism theory was adopted by many geologists like Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875) and Charles Darwin (1809-1882). Lyell refined the theories of Hutton. He thought it illegitimate to accept a catastrophic

solution for a phenomenon without knowing a possible cause for that catastrophe. It was the duty of the scientists to keep looking for realistic solutions.⁵

Subsequently the uniformitarianism theory gradually prevailed, mainly due to the examinations of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) and Darwin. The marvellous conclusions of the catastrophic school geologists of the early twentieth century fell into oblivion. Palaeontologist Derek Victor Ager (1923-1993), Professor of geology at University College Swansea, UK, noticed that geology has been brainwashed by the predominant uniformitarianism ideas for the past hundred and fifty years. It was only during the final years of the 20th century that some scientists dared to challenge this taboo and breathed new life into the old catastrophic ideas.

Darwin was rather confused for not being able to prove his evolutionary theory. According to Darwin the development of a species was a lengthy and gradual process. Therefore a great number of evolutionary stages of plant species and animal species must have existed. However, Darwin was embarrassed he had to ascertain that these links were never excavated. He proposed that the proofs of his theory undoubtedly would be found in the future.⁶ In 1978 Professor Niles Eldredge (*1943) confirmed that nobody ever discovered any in-between stages or missing links until then. In the midseventies Eldredge and his fellow scientist Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002) developed a theory about *punctuated equilibrium*. All kinds of species do not experience any evolutionary changes during a long time, but a species may change considerably in a relatively short period. This may occur during periods of large ecological change, like an impact of a comet or meteorite.^{7,8}

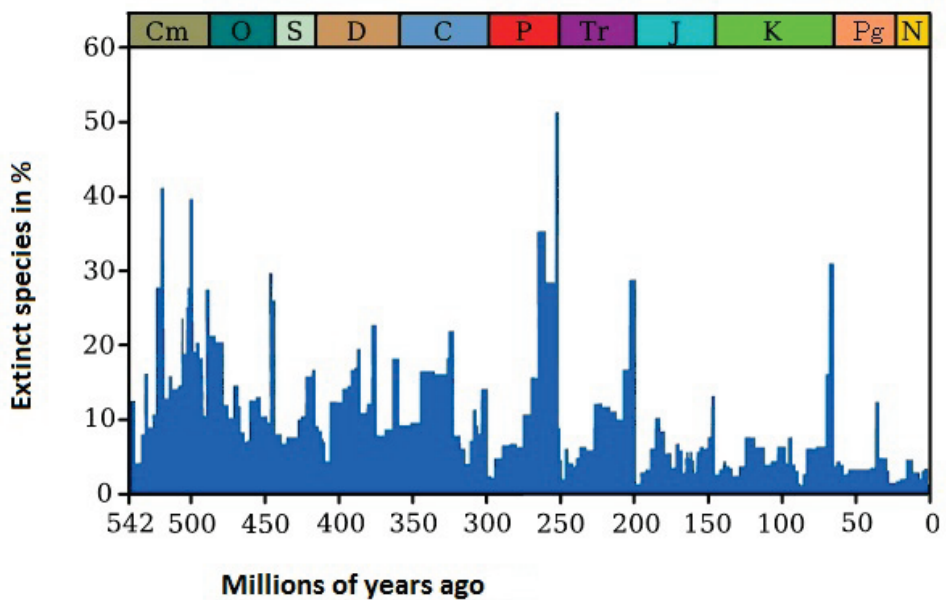
By ample research it was demonstrated that both the Darwin model and the Eldredge and Gould model are correct. Many examples have been found that fit in one of these models. On the other hand, there are species that did not evolve during hundreds of millions of years, like the oyster, which has existed unaltered for 400 million years; or the coelacanth, thought to have become extinct some 300 million years ago until some living specimens were caught in the last century; or the shark (unchanged for 150 million years), the sturgeon, the tortoise, the alligator and the tapir (each of them unaltered for 100 million years); the palm trees; the water cypress *dawn redwood* in China that was thought to be extinct for 10 million years; the tuatara of New Zealand (an almost exact copy of the sphenodon that became extinct some 60 million years ago); the horseshoe crab (the only living species of xiphosura) which has existed unaltered for 360 million years; the scorpion; and many more species.

Remarkable is the find of fossilized human footprints that turned out to be more than 500 million years old. In 1968 William J. Meister (1904-1987) discovered a print of a sandal in a piece of shale rock near Antelope Spring

in Utah. A trilobite was found being crushed into the sand by the front part of the shoe. Another trilobite was found on top of the print of the heel without being crushed, so it must have arrived there later on.⁹

It is obvious that the assumed step-to-step evolution repeatedly had been disturbed in the remote past. However, the geologists do not consider it to conflict with the principles of uniformitarianism.

In 1984 David Malcolm Raup (*1933) and Joseph John Sepkoski (1948-1999) of Chicago University stated that several enormous disasters occurred at about 65, 200, 250, 360 and 440 million years ago. Without exception these cataclysms took place at the end of a long era in which life was able to evolve gradually.¹⁰ This statement corresponds to the conclusions of Cuvier, who proved that the fauna of two successive eras differed significantly.



Source: D.Raup & J.Sepkoski, 1982; Rohde & Müller, 2005

			from ...kyr in the past	till ... kyr in the past	
Archean			3,800,000	2,500,000	
Proterozoic			2,500,000	542,000	
Paleozoic	Cambrian		542,000	488,300	
	Ordovician		488,300	443,700	extinction 1
	Silurian		443,700	416,000	
	Devonian		416,000	359,200	extinction 2
	Carboniferous		359,200	299,000	extinction
Mesozoic	Permian		299,000	251,000	extinction 3
	Triassic		251,000	199,600	extinction 4
	Jurassic		199,600	145,500	
Cenozoic	Paleogene	Paleocene	65,950	55,800	
		Eocene	55,800	33,900	
		Oligocene	33,900	23,030	
	Neogene	Miocene	23,030	5,332	
		Pliocene	5,332	2,588	
	Quaternary	Pleistocene	2,588	11.7	extinction 6?
		Holocene		11.7	now

Sir Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) and Chandra Wickramasinghe (*1939) of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge mention several other periods in which many species of animals became extinct: one was around 94,5 million years ago and another was around 36,9 million years ago.¹¹

Some 444 million years ago about 50% of all life forms became extinct during an event that closed the Ordovician era. The warm climate came to an end as the Hirnantian ice age started. As a result the sea level dropped considerably and the habitat of many species disappeared.

According to Adrian Lewis Melott (*1947) the consequences of a supernova caused this extinction.¹²

At the close of the Devonian era two extinction events occurred within a short period. About 40% of sea life vanished. This was likely caused by a cooling of the climate.

The Permian era was closed by a period of gigantic extinctions. About 96% of all marine animals and 90% of all terrestrial animals perished.^{13,14} Within a period of 80,000 years there were three cataclysms that caused these extinctions.

Also the Triassic era was closed by an enormous catastrophe. 22% of marine life became extinct, as well as a considerable amount of land animals.

The most notorious period of extinctions was at the end of the Cretaceous era. About 99.99% of all animals died in an instance. 75% of all species,^{15,16,17,18} including all dinosaurs, all marine reptiles and all ammonites, became extinct during one of the most appalling catastrophes in earth geological