



## On the Third Day

Editorial Comment by Gerald Mallmann

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**G**od commanded, "Let the dry land appear" and it was so." (Genesis 1:9)

What a tremendous convulsion must have taken place on that third day of the creation week! Not only did the seas roar into their prepared places, but land everywhere arose. When just a little land is displaced by an earthquake that can cause a tremendously destructive tidal wave 20-30 feet high. It may travel hundreds of miles. What kind of a convulsion must then have taken place when all the Earth's dry land and waters were separated! We simply cannot imagine what sweeping changes took place when the Creator of all things formed the two billion United States acres, the world's chains of mountains with some of them 20,000 or more feet high (mountains may have been much lower in the beginning of time), the widespread fertile valleys, etc.

We must not, of course, think that the land then looked exactly as it does today. Mountains have been formed since creation day; rivers and lakes have changed immensely; some land has been raised; some has sunk down; indeed continents may even have drifted apart. (Without doubt the world-wide flood of Noah's day was a huge factor in drastically changing the topography of the world from what it was at the end of the third creation day.

Indeed, even today, after all of these many centuries of greed and sin, distrust and wastefulness on our part, we can still see the grace, mercy, omnipotence, and omniscience of our God in every part of His separating the waters from the land. What if there were no fertile soil ranging in depth from a few inches to many feet all over the world? Then we and every creature on Earth would quickly starve to death. What if God had not placed some 3,000 minerals into His earth? Then our present way of life would surely be at an end. What if He had created all the land as one level surface? Then there would be no drainage, no rivers, but stagnant pools and a monotonously flat surface everywhere. Isaiah well wrote long ago: "The whole earth is full of His glory." (Isaiah 6:3).

Its strata, what I study in detail, like so many shelves, to unknown depths, are crowded with stores of all manner of useful things for his (man's) service. Here in storage are minerals and metals, to be used to improve his living conditions, provide better health, and extend his civilization. Here are beds of granite to supply him with building materials that will defy the force of time and tide; marble of every grain and shade of color for his temples, palaces, or statuary; limestone to improve his soil and cement his walls; slate to cover his roofs or lay his floors; gypsum, white as snow, to finish and adorn his apartments; the hardened grit to grind his corn; sand to make his glass; and clay to fabricate his wares; chalk, basalt, porphyry, sandstone, and a multitude of other minerals all convertible by ingenuity and industry into various useful and important ends. In the great cellars below we also find laid up ready to his hand an abundant stock of coal; wherewith he may warm himself, and multiply the strength of his arms a million fold. We only will mention the oil, salt, gas, to let you extend their importance.

Among the strata of the rocks, in their joints and fissures, and interlacing their solid masses, are also provided and laid up for man, metals of different qualities, and adapted to all the various purposes of life. Here are to be found the precious, beautiful, and necessary for computers success metals of gold and silver. Every metal and mineral that comes to mind has a use today. The aerospace industry has shown use for those we thought were just museum curios! *LSI*