

An Open Correction to James Hutton's Famous Quote Concerning Uniformitarianism as First Principle

Jeffrey J. Wolynski
Rockledge, FL 32955

Abstract: A quote is taken from the father of modern Geology and given correction, so that deeper fundamentals can have the flood gates opened concerning deep time. In effect, it is one of the ideals, deep time, that is supported while another conflicting belief is removed. Explanation is provided.

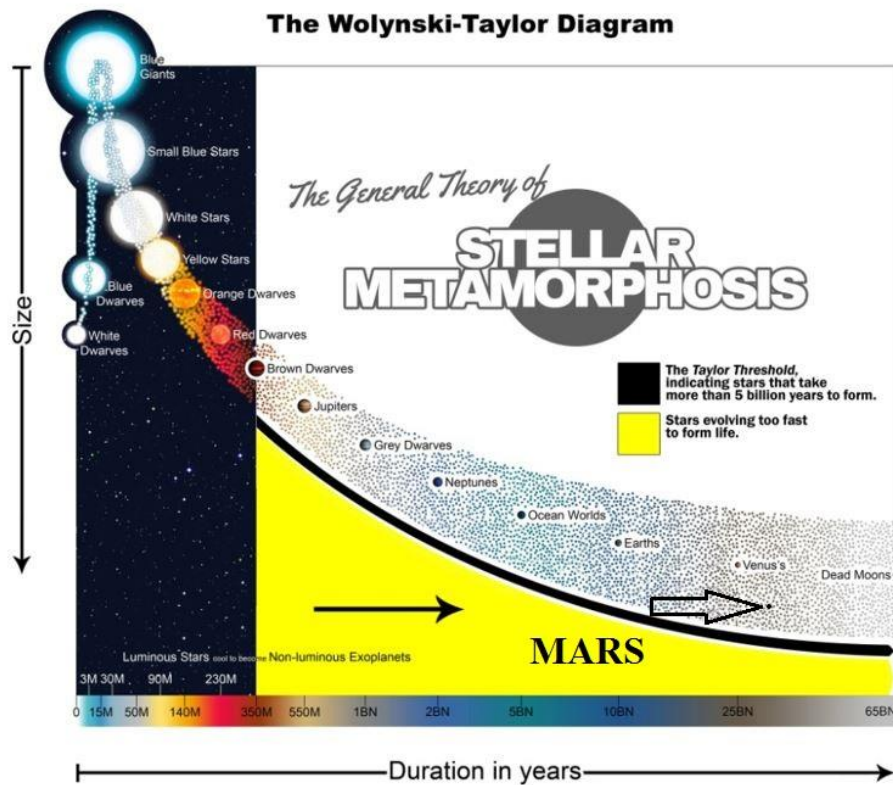
James Hutton the father of modern geology supported the concept of deep time by making observations of the Earth's geological features. His outstanding observations are to this day incredibly important for the continual study of geology, and for the future wellness and wholesomeness of the sciences. He was ridiculed for proposing such enormous intervals of time needed to form the features of the Earth, well in excess of 6000 years, per the Biblical creation account. Nonetheless, a specific feature of his deep time argument was not complete, and can be given a more wholesome approach due to the overwhelming observational evidence provided by modern astronomy. In effect, we can see what the Earth looked like, and can tell what its main features resembled by observing the stars in the night sky, at all wavelengths. We also can tell what the Earth will look like, long after all its heat and energy/life has dissipated back into space. These two approaches extend his original deep time proposition vastly beyond both the Earth's assumed beginnings and far beyond its ends which have yet to be imagined by current astronomers and geologists. This all means we cannot only propose that Earth is old by assuming it has always remained, more or less, in its current configuration, but that it has had enormously different characteristics and will almost completely disintegrate back into the universe. Deep time itself can go even deeper by looking up, not just down at the rocks on the ground.

*"We find no vestige of a beginning - no prospect of an end." -James Hutton,
Theory of the Earth, (1795)*

This statement alludes to the idea that Earth's earliest beginnings do not have observational evidence for, as well we also do not have observational evidence for its end. This of course is to be expected in a time where people believed the Earth to be 6000 years old, and astronomy itself was still accepting the Milky Way as the entire universe as a whole. So we have to put ourselves in his shoes, and not be too harsh. He was correct, that just observing the Earth as a stand alone construct by studying the rocks themselves, there can be no vestige of a beginning. Their history is of forming and deforming, leaving crustal remains to be explored and explained, but clearly this does nothing to explain how they become rocks, or even molecular combinations of crystalline structure from the very beginning. As well, there is no end to rocks, as they are inanimate structures, ready for weathering and disintegration, so they cannot end as much as they cannot die as a living creature can. So he hit a dead end, but was wholly fine with drawing up already unimaginable and true conclusions, that the processes that formed them took

many millions of years. Thus, the whole deep time concept, where what is needed to make the Earth as it is, was at least millions of years. Luckily for us, we have astronomy to make his concept of deep time go even deeper into the abyss. For that, we must wisely interpret the heavens themselves and draw conclusions from them. In fact, we actually do have a vestige of a beginning for Earth, and ending prospects. They are the stars themselves. Though, what geologists must do is give a sort of reckless abandon to the uniform, first principle of Hutton which stems from the idea that Earth cannot have its beginnings or endings observed.

We cannot in fact observe the Earth as it was, or as it will become, that would require a time machine that does not yet exist. What we can do though is use the time machine mother nature already has provided and draw sound conclusions using logic and reason. The beginnings of Earth are the stars themselves, and Earth's endings are the tens of billions of year old wandering stars that exist even in our own solar system. The evidence was always here for a deep time, greater than even the father of geology had the capacity to imagine. Granted, if he was alive in our time, he probably would have made the same conclusions. Earth itself and all its rock formations are the direct result of the vast evolutionary timescales of stars, in that as the stars evolve, they are simultaneously becoming planets in their interiors, like giant celestial ovens baking cakes. This of course is outlined in the planet formation principle. We cannot be too careful to only stare at the ground for our answers. If astronomers really wanted to answer the question of how Earth formed, they must look up, and abandon the urge to make nature uniform. Geologists must look up, and astronomers down. They are in essence studying the same phenomenon.



Any inquisitive geologist should notice, Earth was a deep ocean world, in a previous stage. Siccar Point's greywacke is evidence of parts of that deep ocean, vastly deeper than it is today.