HISTORY OF “DEEP TIME”

“LONG AGES”

“Deep Time” = the age of the universe and earth is in the billions of years

* Motivation is two-fold:
  + Alternative to Scripture (this motive kept obscure, candid), and
  + Observed geologic layerings

EPICURIANISM – ancient materialism, naturalism, atheism

* Named after Epicurus around 307 BC
* The world was only atoms (atomism);
* All was “natural”, “material”; any gods were also atoms: materialistic
* No supernatural; no Creator God
* Atoms are infinite
* Paul faced Epicureans in Athens: Acts 17:18 (and Stoics)

FAST FORWARD TO FRANCE; 1600’s (thanks to Andrew Sibley, Creation, Vol. 2 No. 2, 2020, pp. 53-55.)

* Largely involving French Jesuits

Basis:

* + Geological observations
  + Hindu Brahmanism: “the 12-hour day of Brahma is said to last for 4.32 billion years”
* 1686 Bernard de Fontenelle *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds,* 
  + “… envisioned gradual alterations in nature occurring over hundreds of thousands of years…”
  + “…undermined belief in the biblical Flood.”
* 1746 Voltaire
* “wrote about millions of years”
* “…claimed that deep time was required for geologic change.”
* 1748 de Maillet *Telliamed*
  + “…argued that the earth was at least two billion years old.”
  + Influenced by Hindu Brahmanism.
* 1754 Denis Dederot *Thought on the Interpretation of Nature,*

ENGLAND (billions of years carried forward)

* 1726-1797 James Hutton coined “Uniformitarianism” (“the present is the key to the past”)
* 1830-1833 Charles Lyell *Principles of Geology (in 3 Vols.)* affirmed billions of years by physical observation. Lyell did not endorse “evolution.”
* 1859 Charles Darwin *The Origin of Species* championed Evolution, tying biology to geology and billions of years.

French and English materialism (to the present day) relies on Deep Time, uniformitarianism, and now Evolution.

As such, all Deep Timers, from the French forward, are all opposed to:

* 24 hour days of Creation, and/or the order of Creation and that the Genesis Creation account is historical, and
* Catastrophism, including Noah’s global flood and the Ice Age.

Concerning the Ice Age, so scientifically apparent worldwide, Deep Timers and uniformitarians conjure up that there must have been many ice ages (although there is no scientific evidence beyond the single recent Ice Age).

Deep Timers either completely reject Scriptures, or they try to adjust Scripture, since Scripture must be brought to comply with Deep Time.

Deep Time is not a science and is not subject to science (is not subject to the scientific procedure).

Deep Time, Uniformitarianism and Evolution must be adhered to as fact, though each has no scientific evidence, let alone proof. As a consequence, they rather and more correctly fall into the category of philosophy.