



FIGURE 5.17.

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Foundation failure of buildings designed to withstand earthquakes. The structures toppled intact during the earthquake of 1964 in Niigata, Japan.

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deep ocean basins? Essentially it would be a nearly even rock surface. Little or no erosion and uplift of lands could occur, and the planet would be incapable of its constant cycle of geological renewal through plate tectonics.

More importantly, the relatively even surface would be overlaid by an outer layer of water and ice that would cover the entire surface of the Earth to a depth of more than one mile. This is essentially the picture of the planet Earth before the creation of the first lands and the gathering of the waters into deep connecting ocean basins. The Earth with its towering mountains, deep valleys, and mighty oceans, and with its continual process of geological renewal may be a very special planet in the Universe.

The creation of the first lands took place in real time in scientific history. The surface of the Earth was blanketed by water. The shallow seas were then gathered into interconnecting deep ocean basins and the dry land did in fact appear. How beautifully Scripture reflects this reality when it says: "Then God said, 'Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so." (Gen. 1:9)

How timely that in this age of cynicism scientific evidence should concur so perfectly with God's Word.