The inventory figures of the total number of Nautiloids in the Grand Canyon run high. Austin estimates that on average one Nautiloid can be found per square yard along a flat bed (about 7 feet to 8 feet thick) that he has named the Whitmore Nautiloid Bed, which extends from Arizona into Nevada. The Nautiloids themselves are found within the Whitmore Nautiloid Bed in an upper layer with an average thickness of only about 13 inches. This bed can be traced throughout the entire Grand Canyon and also into its many side canyons. Thus the number of Nautiloids present in the Grand Canyon can be placed conservatively at hundreds of thousands.

What is the potential significance of this discovery? Scientifically, Austin's research indicates that "a large population of living Nautiloids was swept up, smothered within, and buried by the flow." As indicated by the average burial orientation of the Nautiloids, the aquatic debris flow hydroplained westward, at speeds of about 12 to 15 miles per hour, probably out of southwestern Colorado, and moved toward southern Nevada through northern Arizona.

Theologically, the existence of such a large aquatic catastrophic transport and rapid deposition of Nautiloids within the Redwall Limestone over hundreds of square miles is consistent with the numerous kinds of catastrophic phenomena that might be expected to occur during a global catastrophic disaster on the scale described as the Genesis flood. The closer and longer we study the geological record through good scientific field work and through the eyes of faith, the more it reveals a consistency with biblical history, thus indicating that these biblical claims can be trusted. The history of the Earth, and of our lives, are both in our Creator's hands.

REFERENCES
2. Ibid., p. 80.
found on the top of burial monuments in the Nabatean world. The urns had a triangular cover and were decorated on the sides.

The sarcophagus of Herod the Great itself was broken into hundreds of pieces. Professor Netzer surmises that this was deliberate, taking place in the years A.D. 66-72 during the first Jewish revolt against the Romans, while Jewish rebels took hold of the site, according to Josephus and the archaeological evidence. The rebels were known for their hatred of Herod and all that he stood for, as a “puppet ruler” for the Romans.

The discovery of this tomb, as significant as it is, highlights another important concept. Archaeological research and the pursuit of understanding these ancient peoples, places, and events, take time. Gone are the days of treasure hunting.

Today’s archaeological research involves experts at different levels, permits, equipment, and, most of all, dedication and persistence. The perseverance of Professor Netzer exemplifies this. He began his search for Herod’s tomb 35 years ago. He has diligently continued his excavations. Over the years he has become the ranking expert in the world on the Herodian period and the life and archaeology of Herod the Great.

I remember working with Professor Netzer in 1996 at Masada, where we began the search for Herod’s gardens in the middle of the desert. Everyone else thought it would be impossible, but Professor Netzer believed it was there somewhere, just as Josephus, the Jewish historian, described. We never did find the gardens that spring, but we did discover something else: a broken piece of pottery in an ancient garbage dump. It was a fragment of a wine amphora imported from Rome, undoubtedly part of Herod’s original stores of food and equipment at this desert hideout. On the fragment was an inscription: regi Herodi Iudaico “for Herod, king of Judaea.” It was the first mention of this title outside of the Bible and Josephus, found in an archaeological context.

Today, thanks to Professor Netzer’s perseverance, we have made another important connection to Herod’s life and death. It took 35 years, but these are the kinds of discoveries that not only provide further evidence that God’s Word is a reliable source for history, but also allow us to touch the past.