

## Dinosaurs and the Bible

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the creation account in the Bible indicates that man and dinosaurs were on the earth at the same time.
2. Genesis 1:24-25 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."
3. In Genesis 1:20-27, we learn that God made all living creatures on days five and six of the creation week.<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:26 God made man on day six
  - a. While these verses do not mention dinosaurs (or bacteria, kangaroos, and anteaters) by name, it is clear that God made every type of creature during the six days of creation.
  - b. Genesis 2:1 informs us that at the end of day six, God was finished with His creation.
  - c. If God created everything in six days, and did not create anything else after those six days, then dinosaurs must have been a part of that six-day creation.
4. "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:" Exodus 20:11a
5. The question is often asked, "If dinosaurs are so important, why doesn't the Bible mention them?"<sup>2</sup>
  - a. First, the word "dinosaur" wasn't invented until 1842, while the Bible was translated into English much earlier. One hardly would expect to find a word in a book which preceded the word's invention by several centuries!

- b. Second, it should be noted that numerous organisms are not mentioned by name in the Bible, yet such an omission does not cast doubt on their creation or existence.
    - i. The Bible does not mention cats, kangaroos, or bacteria.
    - ii. Yet, just like the things that are mentioned by name, it is obvious that these things were created by God.
    - iii. While the Bible speaks accurately on all topics with which it deals, it was not intended to be a taxonomy textbook.
  - c. Third, while the word "dinosaur(s)" is not mentioned in the Bible, there is compelling evidence that dinosaurs, and dinosaur-like creatures, are described, directly or indirectly, in God's Word. - Like Job 40:15-24 and Job 41:1-34.
6. Word Dinosaur was coined by Sir Richard Owen in 1842 Dinosaur = Deino - terrible, Sauros - Lizard = Terrible Lizard = Greek words
7. Subject of dinosaurs is interesting to people of all ages
- a. Subject of many movies - Jurassic Park series, Disney's Dinosaur
  - b. Subject of many books - children's books, science books
  - c. Much speculation and misinformation
  - d. Dinosaurs are often used to teach the evolution doctrine or theory - Dinosaurs are the "poster children" for the theory of evolution.
8. Evolutionists have had their way with dinosaurs long enough.<sup>3</sup>
- a. It is essential for creationists to dispel the "evolutionary aura" surrounding these creatures, and see them for what they really are—
  - b. They are testimonies of an Almighty God Who made them alongside His image-bearers (humans—Genesis 1:26-27) during the Creation week
9. What Does the Bible say about Dinosaurs?

## Discussion

### I. WHY PREACH ON DINOSAURS ?

- A. Majority of young people have been taught
  - 1. That dinosaurs lived 230 million years ago and became extinct 65 million years ago.
  - 2. They have been taught that man began to live 2 million years ago and therefore did not co-exist with the dinosaurs.
  
- B. Because the understanding of creation is important to our faith and this subject about dinosaurs is certainly about creation
  - 1. This subject about dinosaurs can be used as a tool for atheism or special creation
  - 2. "A survey at a university in Sydney, Australia, showed that approximately 80% of first year students at that institution 'believe in a God who is there'. But 'By their second year only 15% believe in God'. It is plain to see that this university has convinced these students that there is no God nor any need of God via the teaching of Secular Humanism, which is of course based upon evolution." ("The 'Indoctrinator'," Warwick Armstrong & Jonathan Sarfati)
  - 3. "80% of Christian young people who attend state institutions fall away." Harold Comer

- C. There is much misinformation that has been spread such as Creationists believe that dinosaurs never existed.
1. A charge occasionally made against creationists, in an attempt to make them look ridiculous, is the assertion that these simple folk believe that dinosaurs never existed in the past.
  2. It is alleged that creationists contend that God merely placed dinosaur bones in the Earth's strata to make it appear that these huge creatures once roamed this planet.
    - a. What would be the purpose of doing that?
    - b. That would make God an author of deceit.
  3. While it may be true that a rare, uninformed religious person, who does not know how to deal with the dinosaur problem, will idly advance this uneducated opinion, it certainly is not representative of those who are well-informed in Bible/science matters.
  4. The truth is, creationists have published a considerable body of excellent material dealing with dinosaurs. Actually, we teach a more balanced and correct view of the dinosaur phenomenon than do the evolutionists.
  5. True creationists—and I am referring to those who have not yielded to the compromises of theistic evolution—not only argue that dinosaurs lived upon the ancient Earth, but also contend that these marvelous examples of God's wisdom and power were contemporary with ancient humanity, and that very likely there are allusions to dinosaurs and other extinct reptiles in the Bible.

D. Did Dinosaurs really exist ?<sup>4</sup>

1. One of the worst mistakes we can make as parents, grandparents, and teachers is to suggest that dinosaurs never existed.
2. While such a response may appear, at first glance, to be a simple and quick solution to "the dinosaur dilemma," in reality, it is a response that becomes impossible to defend when our children visit a museum and come face to face with a two-story-tall Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton.
3. Children cannot be expected to deny such tangible, forceful evidence, and at the same time believe a well-meaning but very wrong parent.
4. Did dinosaurs really exist?
  - a. Most certainly!
  - b. We have discovered their fossilized remains on all seven continents—from North America to the Antarctic.
  - c. As a matter of fact, great dinosaur graveyards have been discovered in places like Tanzania, Africa, and at the Dinosaur National Monument on the Colorado/Utah border in the United States.
  - d. Literally tons of fossilized dinosaur bones have been recovered from all over the globe.
  - e. In 1993, Mike Hammer even unearthed a fossilized dinosaur (from the Hell Creek formation in northwestern South Dakota) that was said to still possess the ancient creature's heart.
  - f. Plus, of course, paleontologists have unearthed numerous caches of fossilized dinosaur eggs.

## **II. DID HUMANS AND DINOSAURS LIVE TOGETHER ?**

- A. Why is it so difficult for people to accept that dinosaurs and humans once lived together? <sup>5</sup>
1. No doubt one of the reasons is due to the fact that for many years, we have been inundated with information—on television, in books, in classrooms, in movies, in magazines, suggesting that dinosaurs and humans are separated by 60+ million years of geologic time.
  2. Thus, evolutionary scientists (and those who accept their timeline) have constructed a barrier that must be broken down in order to get people to consider the coexistence of dinosaurs and humans.
  3. Was there ever a time when men and dinosaurs roamed the earth at the same time?
    - a. Those who subscribe to the theory of evolution unequivocally answer, "No!"
    - b. The standard evolutionary propaganda line is this: "Dinosaurs became extinct about seventy million years before man evolved."
- B. EVIDENCE THAT HUMANS AND DINOSAURS COEXISTED<sup>6</sup>
1. An article in the January 1993 *National Geographic* boldly proclaimed: "No human being has ever seen a live dinosaur" ("Age of the Dinosaurs," 1993, 183[1]:142).
  2. The evidence, however, reveals an entirely different story.
  3. Consider the following:
    - a. The Doheny Expedition
    - b. In the late 1800s, Samuel Hubbard, honorary curator of archaeology at the Oakland, California, Museum of Natural History, was excavating ancient Indian dwellings in the Hava Supai Canyon in Arizona.

- (1) On the walls of the canyon where the Indians' ancestors once lived, Dr. Hubbard found elegant drawings of an elephant, an ibex [goat], a dinosaur, and other animals.
- (2) Petroglyph - drawings in stone
- (3) He stated concerning the dinosaur drawing: "Taken all in all, the proportions are good." He further suggested that the huge reptile is "depicted in the attitude in which man would be most likely to see it—reared on its hind legs, balancing with the long tail, either feeding or in fighting position, possibly defending itself against a party of men" (as quoted in Verrill, 1954, pp. 155ff.).
- (4) Dr. Hubbard also noted: The fact that some prehistoric man made a pictograph of a dinosaur on the walls of this canyon upsets completely all of our theories regarding the antiquity of man.... The fact that the animal is upright and balanced on its tail would seem to indicate that the prehistoric artist must have seen it alive (1925, pp. 5,7, emp. in orig.).

C. All of this means, of course, that men and dinosaurs lived together on the Earth at the same time.

1. How exciting that must have been!
2. And how powerful God must be in order to create such magnificent animals.<sup>7</sup>

### **III. WHAT ABOUT THE CREATION ACCOUNT AND DINOSAURS**

- A. If one accepts the plain testimony of the Bible, with no compulsion to harmonize Scripture with evolutionary assertions, there is no doubt but that dinosaurs and humans were contemporary, as the following considerations indicate.<sup>8</sup>
1. All of the basic "kinds" of living creatures were brought into existence in the same initial creation week.
  2. Moses wrote: "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day." (Exodus 20:11).
  3. This would include the dinosaurs ("terrible lizards"), and man as well.
  4. Jesus affirmed that mankind has existed "from the beginning of the creation" (Mark 10:6); this certainly excludes the notion that dinosaurs became extinct millions of years before man appeared upon the planet.
  5. Humanity was given dominion over all the lower creatures of the earth (Genesis 1:26).
  6. There is no reason to exclude dinosaurs from the scope of this passage.
- B. The book of Job mentions an animal that is like the Dinosaur<sup>9</sup>
1. While God was having a discussion with Job, He asked Job if he had seen the "behemoth" [be-HAYmohth]?
    - a. God described the animal by saying: " Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. 16 Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. 17 He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. 18 His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron." Job 40:15-18

- b. Certainly, no other creature (living or extinct) fits this description better than a dinosaur.
    - (1) Many dinosaurs had huge tails "like a cedar" tree.
    - (2) Some have suggested it was an elephant or a hippopotamus - but they have a little tail, not like a cedar
    - (3) Their bones were like "beams of bronze."
    - (4) Their ribs were like "bars of iron."
    - (5) And they easily could be called the "chief of the ways of God" (the diplodocids and brachiosaurids were the largest land-living animals ever to roam the Earth!).
  - c. Why, then, doesn't the Bible simply call the behemoth a "dinosaur"?
2. The word "dinosaur" did not enter the English language until 1842.
- a. The King James Version of the Bible was published in 1611 (that's 231 years before the word "dinosaur" even came into existence).
  - b. But is the description of a dinosaur provided within the book of Job? Yes, it is.

#### **IV. THE MYSTERY OF DINOSAURS**

- A. What happened to them? Why did they become extinct ?
- B. The subject of dinosaurs are shrouded in a mystery only if you accept the evolutionary story associated with them evolved 230 million years ago
  - 1. Their roam ended by some catastrophic event (i.e., asteroid hitting the earth) 65 million years ago
  - 2. PROBLEM: why did crocodiles, snakes, turtles remain?

- C. Dinosaurs existed ~ 6,000 - 10,000 years ago
1. Created with man
  2. Dinosaurs were land animals
  3. All land animals were created on day 6 (Gen. 1:24ff) therefore dinosaurs were created on day 6
  4. Representatives of all kinds (including dinosaur kinds) went onto the ark ~ 4500 years ago
- D. They came off the ark to live in the present world along with man and every other kind of creature
1. The effects of the flood and the curse of sin have greatly changed our world from the world in which Noah lived since the flood, many kinds of animals have died out because of disease, environmental factors, lack of food, killing themselves, overly hunted by other predators, etc.
  2. Such is what happened to dinosaurs—there is no mystery!
- E. Scientists do not know why all the dinosaurs died out.<sup>10</sup>
1. Some people who believe in evolution have suggested that a huge object from space once smashed into the Earth.
    - a. When this object hit the Earth, tons of dust were thrown up into the air.
    - b. This dust stopped some of the Sun's rays from reaching the Earth.
    - c. Without enough sunshine plants died, and the Earth got very cold.
    - d. So the dinosaurs became extinct because they could not live without food and warmth.

2. The Bible says nothing about huge objects crashing to Earth from space.
  - a. But it does mention a great Flood.
  - b. This Flood killed every animal on Earth, except those animals that Noah took on the ark.
  - c. This included dinosaurs.
  - d. Scientists who believe in the Bible say that dinosaurs tried to live after the Flood, but it was just too hard. They did not like the climate, and there was not enough food.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The apostle John added that "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3).<sup>11</sup>
  - a. If God created the Earth, the heavens, the seas, and everything in them in six days, what does that omit? It omits absolutely nothing!
  - b. Add to that the statements found in *Genesis* 1:31 and 2:1, and the case is strengthened considerably.
  - c. In *Genesis* 1:31, as He surveyed everything He had made, God proclaimed it "very good"—the Hebrew phrase representing completion and perfection.
  - d. In *Genesis* 2:1, He then stated that the creation was "finished," indicating an action once and for all completed, not continuing into the future.
2. God created the dinosaurs on day 6 - man was also created on day 6 -
  - a. For many years man and dinosaurs lived on the earth together
  - b. But something happened to the dinosaurs and they all became extinct.
  - c. Many others animals have become extinct also.

3. The point is well made that dinosaurs do not present a problem to creationists; their existence is in no way contradictory to the Bible.<sup>12</sup>
- a. Evolutionists are wrong when they say man and the dinosaurs never existed as contemporaries;
  - b. The scientific evidence proves their error and shouts loudly for creation

### **End Notes - Sources consulted**

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