

The Creation Narrative and Science

We are in the middle of an apologetics series unpacking what we believe and why, and what we don't believe and why.

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,..." (1Pe 3:15, NIV)*

Last week we looked at the importance of the creation narrative with respect to many of our foundational doctrines. We looked 3 of many foundational doctrines that find their roots in Genesis, namely:

- The doctrine of Imago Dei (man was made in the image of God)
- The doctrine of marriage
- The doctrine of death.

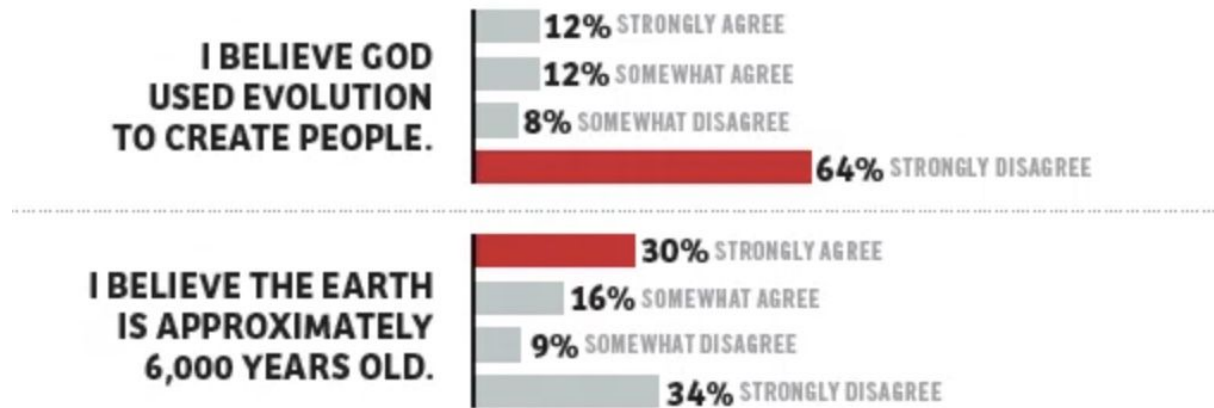
Today I would like to pick up where I left off in the creation narrative, namely that death, millions of years, fossilization and evolution cannot be mixed into the creation narrative before God created Adam and Eve. Today I will endeavour to look at evidence around dinosaurs and fossilization, Noah and the flood and the age of the earth.

1. Millions of years



Many Christians think it is important to oppose the idea of evolution but it doesn't matter what you believe about the age of the earth. A recent U.S. poll found that more pastors and other Christian leaders believe in millions of years than believe in biological evolution or theistic evolution. LifeWay reported about its December 2011 survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors:

"Pastors overwhelmingly believe that God did not use evolution to create humans and think Adam and Eve were literal people . . . [but] ministers [were] almost evenly split on whether the earth is thousands of years old."



All of the compromised positions on Genesis (the gap theory, framework hypothesis, theistic evolution, day-age theory, progressive creation, etc.) have one thing in common—they attempt to fit millions of years of history into Genesis 1. The major reason so many pastors, Christian academics, and Christians do not believe in six literal (24-hour) days of creation is ultimately their desire to account for the supposed billions of years.

For the first 18 centuries of church history, the almost universal belief of Christians was that God created the world in six literal days, roughly 4,000 years before Christ, and destroyed the world with a global Flood at the time of Noah.

About 200 years ago some scientists developed new theories of earth history, which proposed that the earth and universe are millions of years old. Many have tried to accommodate this theory into the creation narrative.

“Millions of years” provides an explanation for the formation of fossils outside of Noah’s flood or other catastrophic worldwide event. We can disregard what the Bible says about the worldwide catastrophic event of Noah’s flood if we theorise the earth to be millions of years old. The fact is that we do find fossil bearing layers of sediment all around the world containing millions of dead creatures, thorns, evidence of diseases (like brain tumours) and animals eating each other. Secularist and atheist scientists can only explain by the concept of millions of years. As Christians, we understand that according to the creation narrative, death, disease, and thorns

were introduced to the world AFTER Adam and Eve fell into sin, NOT before they were created. According to the creation narrative, Adam and Eve were created about 6500 years ago (looking at the genealogies and history of the Bible). According to the Bible, the occurrence of animals eating each other only took place AFTER the flood.

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Gen 1:31, NKJV)

We also understand that there was an enormous worldwide catastrophic event which expedited and accelerated the production of most of the fossils that are found laid down in sediment and rock layers all around the world.

The concept of “millions of years” flies directly in the face of the history God’s Word clearly reveals. God’s Word tells us that everything was “very good” after God finished creating man. How can a good God call brain tumours “very good”? How could such history fit with Scripture, which tells us that thorns came after sin and that humans and animals were originally all vegetarian?

On the surface, **it does seem really radical to reject millions of years**. Especially because museums, zoos, science books written by secular scientists all use the phrase “millions of years” to talk about the origins of earth. You have to watch only one or two documentaries on Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, or the History Channel to hear the words “millions [or billions] of years” multiple times. Even the leading children’s museum in the USA, the Indianapolis Children’s Museum, has numerous signs in its dinosaur exhibit with the words “millions of years.”

However, a growing number of young-earth creationists, including many scientists, hold to the traditional biblical view, believing it to be the only view that is truly faithful to Scripture and the one that actually best fits the scientific evidence far better than the recently popular old-earth evolutionary theory.

In Genesis one, when the context and words used are studied in the original language, we see that the Bible clearly teaches that God created in six literal 24-hour days with dark and light, evening and morning marking these days literal days.

“God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” (Gen 1:5, NKJV)

“And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” (Gen 1:8, NKJV)

“So the evening and the morning were the third day.” (Gen 1:13, NKJV)

And so on, all the way to the end of the sixth day:

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Gen 1:31, NKJV)

From the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 (which give very detailed chronological information, unlike the clearly abbreviated genealogy in Matthew 1) and other chronological information in the Bible we can deduct that these creation days happened only about 6,000 years ago.

2. Noah’s Flood

Noah’s flood literally washes away the need for millions of years!

The evidence presented in Genesis 6–9 for a global catastrophic flood is overwhelming:

- The Flood was intended to destroy not only all sinful people but also all land animals and birds and the surface of the earth, which only a **global flood** could accomplish.
- The Ark’s purpose was to save two of every kind of land animal and bird to repopulate the earth after the flood. **The Ark was totally unnecessary, if the Flood was local.** People, animals, and birds could have migrated out of the flood zone before it occurred, or the zone could have been populated from creatures outside the area after the Flood.
- The catastrophic nature is seen in the nonstop rain for at least 40 days, which would have **produced massive erosion, mud slides, hurricanes, and so on.**
- The Hebrew words translated “*the fountains of the great deep burst open*” (Genesis 7:11) clearly point to tectonic rupturing of the earth’s surface in many

places for 150 days, resulting in volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

- Ultimately, Noah's Flood would produce exactly the kind of complex geological record we see today worldwide: thousands of feet of sediments clearly deposited by water and later hardened into rock and containing billions of fossils.
- If the year-long Flood is responsible for most of the rock layers and fossils, then those rocks and fossils cannot represent the history of the earth over millions of years, as evolutionists claim.

Creation geologists believe the flood would have produced exactly the kind of geological features that we see all over the earth, for example, the walls of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. These geologists think that most (not all) of the fossil-bearing sedimentary rock layers are the result of the flood. But secular geologists, who reject God's creation narrative in Genesis 6–9, say those rock layers were formed over hundreds of millions of years. You can't have it both ways.

Interestingly, there is evidence shows how a flood that was a global and catastrophic as Noah's flood would have been totally capable of producing most of the geological evidence that most geologists assign to hundreds of millions of years of gradual change.

Mt St Helen's

The explosion of Mount St. Helens in 1980 not only drastically changed the landscape of the Washington area in just a matter of months, it also dug deep holes in the theory that "millions of years" are needed for rock layer, canyon, and fossil formation. Mount St. Helens clearly testified that these things do not require long ages to form.

Play Mt St Helen's mp4. (3:07min)

<https://streaming.answersingenesis.org/vid/ondemand/creation-museum/flood-geology/mt-st-helens.mp4>

The eruption of Mount St. Helens was a rather small and localized event. If a small explosion like this could cause such catastrophic results, what could happen if there were larger explosions all over the globe?

Mount St. Helens has served as an object of study for creationist researchers, who have learned about the effects of catastrophic geological processes and the speed at which the earth can change.

3. Fossils

The science that addresses the issue of fossilization is historical or origins science, and it differs from the operational science. Operational science is the science that gives us computers, inexpensive food, space exploration, electricity, and the like. Operational science deals with how the world works in the here and now, which is open to repeatable experiments. On the other hand, origins or historical science deals with the past, which is not accessible to direct experimentation. Scientists involved in this science have evidence in the present and theorize about the past. Because of difficulties in reconstructing the past, those who study fossils (palaeontologists) have diverse views. As has been said, "Palaeontology (the study of fossils) is much like politics: passions run high, and it's easy to draw very different conclusions from the same set of facts." (Lemonick, 1996)

Play fossilization mp4. (2:26 min)

<https://streaming.answersingenesis.org/vid/ondemand/creation-museum/flood-geology/fossilization.mp4>

Fossils can be made over long periods of time under the right conditions. Fossils can also be made in very short periods of time under the right conditions, as you have seen from the Mt St Helens example and scientists have observed this in the lab, creating fossils very quickly in laboratories

Fossil evidence for the Flood:

Interestingly, fossils have been found that indicate immediate fossilisation upon impact by the right constituents in the right conditions (such as a sudden and catastrophic event).

Catastrophic burial in sandy flood sediment can be so immediate that an animal could be completely immobilized and buried before it had chance to react. In fact, there have been fish buried so rapidly that they didn't finish swallowing their dinner.



Another example:

Recently, palaeontologists uncovered an ichthyosaur known as a *Chaohusaurus* in China, preserved at the moment of giving birth to the second of triplets.

Because the specimen shows a baby inside its mother, another leaving her pelvis and a third nearby, the researchers speculated that the mother may have died during a difficult labour. However, the exquisite preservation of the fossils indicates *rapid burial*. If the ichthyosaur died giving birth, that in itself would not explain the fossilization. Furthermore, it would not explain the fossilization of the baby already born, or any connection to the birthing mother. Instead, these facts suggest rapid burial in massive mud flows, as would be expected during Noah's Flood.

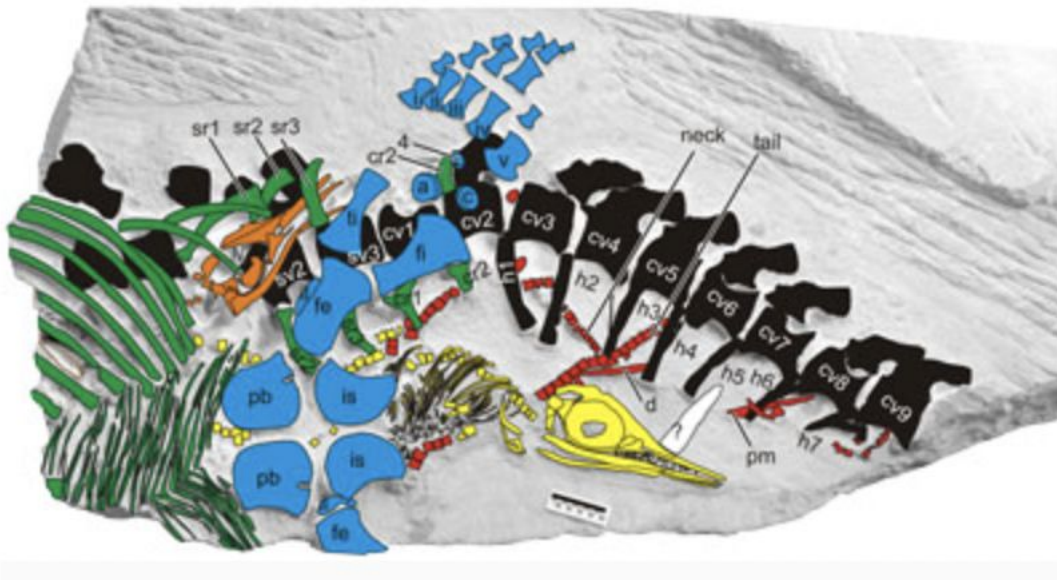


Image: Motani, R. *et al.*

Fossil of ichthyosaur mother with three embryos. Colour coding: Maternal—black, vertebral column; blue, pelvis and hind flipper; green, ribs and gastralia. Embryos 1 & 2 orange and yellow, respectively; newborn red.

This affirms the biblical narrative of Noah's flood and provides evidence of fossils being formed immediately in some type of catastrophic event.

4. What about Dinosaurs?

Dinosaurs certainly did roam the Earth! Fossils of dinosaurs have been found all over the world, and their bones are displayed in museums for all to see. Scientists

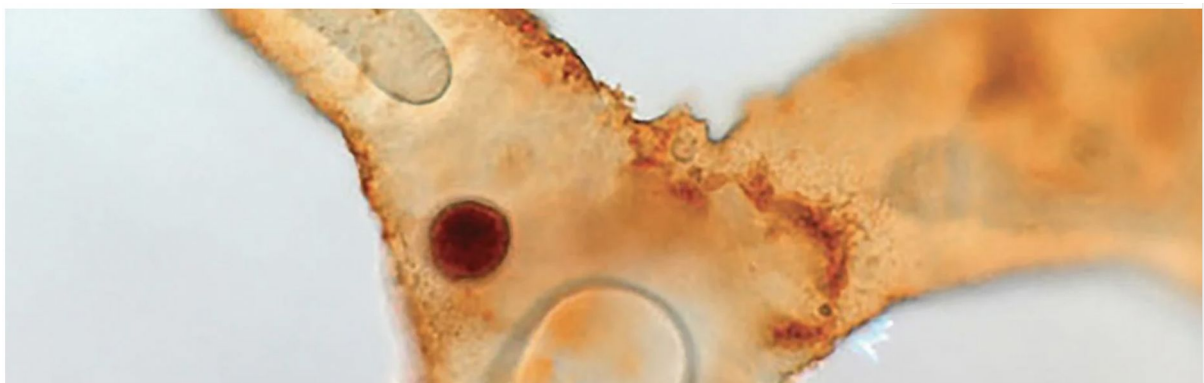
have been able to reconstruct many of their skeletons, so we know much about how they may have looked.

They were discovered in the 1820s, when Dr Gideon Mantell, found some unusual teeth and bones in a quarry. By 1841, about nine types of these different reptiles had been uncovered, including two called Megalosaurus and Iguanodon.

At this time, a famous British scientist, Dr Richard Owen, coined the name “Dinosauria,” meaning “terrible lizard,” for this is what the huge bones made him think of.

Soft tissue in dinosaur old fossils?

Secular scientists believe that dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago. The Bible teaches that all life, including dinosaurs, was created only 6000 years ago. According to biblical history, most of the dinosaur fossils would have been buried in the flood around 4000 years ago. In 2005, a team of scientists discovered soft tissue in a T-Rex bone. This shocked the evolutionary community because soft tissue including blood vessels cannot remain intact for millions of years. And as you know, this community purports that fossils required millions of years to form. And this 2005 study marked the beginning of many similar finds. These finds are entirely consistent with the Bible’s timeline of 1000s of years (6000 years approximately from creation to date).



Dinosaur soft tissue

How Big Were Dinosaurs?

Some were as small as chickens, and others were even smaller. Of course, some dinosaurs were very large, weighing in at an estimated 80 tons and standing 40 feet high! The average size of a dinosaur, however, was probably about that of a large sheep or bison.

When Did Dinosaurs Live?

The story we have all heard from movies, television, newspapers, and most magazines and textbooks is that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. According to evolutionists, the dinosaurs “ruled the Earth” for 140 million years, dying out about 65 million years ago. However, scientists do not dig up anything labelled with those ages. They only uncover dead dinosaurs (i.e., their bones), and their bones do not have labels attached telling how old they are. The idea of millions of years is theoretical. There is no factual proof that the world and its dinosaur and other fossil layers are millions of years old. Scientists only find the bones in the here and now, and because many of them are evolutionists, they try to fit the story of the dinosaurs into their view.

Other scientists, have a different idea about when dinosaurs lived. God made everything in six days. We are told God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, on Day Six, along with all land animals (Gen 1:20-25; 31). Dinosaurs were land animals and so dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, not separated by eons of time.

Two key texts:

“Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.” (Gen 1:24-25, NKJV)

*““Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox. See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles. He **moves his tail like a cedar**; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword. Surely the mountains yield food*

for him, And all the beasts of the field play there. He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh. The lotus trees cover him with their shade; The willows by the brook surround him. Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.” (Job 40:15-24, NKJV)

In the Bible, in Job 40:15–24, God describes to Job (who lived after the Flood) a great beast with which Job was familiar. This great animal, called “behemoth,” is described as “the chief of the ways of God,” perhaps the biggest land animal God had created. Impressively, he moved his tail like a cedar tree! Although some Bible commentaries say this may have been an elephant or hippopotamus, the description actually fits that of a dinosaur like Brachiosaurus. Elephants and hippos certainly do not have tails like cedar trees!



Actually, very few animals are singled out in the Bible for such a detailed description. Contrary to what many may think, what we know now as dinosaurs get more mention in the Scriptures than most animals! So dinosaurs—all the different kinds—must have lived alongside of people after the Flood.

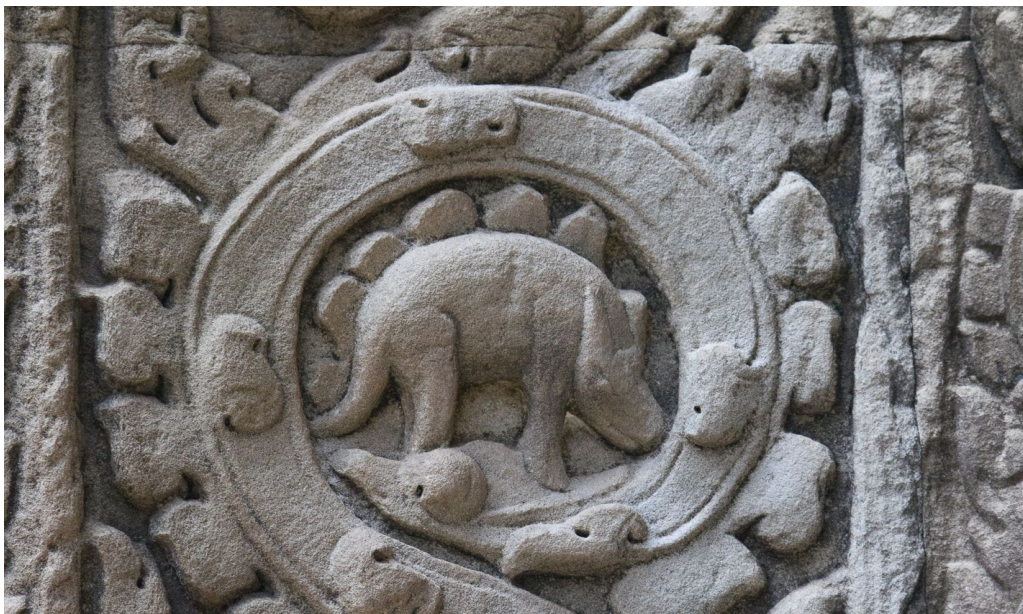
If the different kinds of dinosaurs survived the Flood, then they must have come off the Ark and lived in the post-Flood world.

Possible evidence of dinosaurs living with humans?

There are legends and stories of dragons in Europe, and frequent use of the dragon motif by the Chinese. Interestingly enough, there are other pieces of evidence which could support the Biblical narrative of dinosaur living with people at some point.

1. Dinosaur carving in Khmer temple in Cambodia

Angkor is a collection of ruins from the ancient Khmer civilization that lived and ruled in Southeast Asia from the end of the ninth century to the end of the twelfth century. The ruins are composed of temples, palaces, libraries, monasteries, and other buildings built by the various kings and rulers of the Khmer people. These ruins now lie in an area designated as the “Angkor Archaeological Park” in the Kingdom of Cambodia. In this picture we see the bas-relief picture of a dinosaur in the ruins of Angkor outside of Siem Reap, Cambodia.



Among the ruins of Ta Prohm, near a huge stone entrance, one can see what are called roundels, depicting various common animals—pigs, monkeys, water buffaloes, roosters, snakes—and what appears to be a dinosaur! There are no mythological figures among the roundels, so one can reasonably conclude that these figures depict the animals that were commonly seen by the ancient Khmer people in the twelfth century. That means that only a little over 800 years ago, some dinosaurs were likely still living in the region of Cambodia! Of course this is no surprise to biblical creationists, because we know from *Genesis 1* that land animals (such as dinosaurs) and humans were living together in the beginning, and that

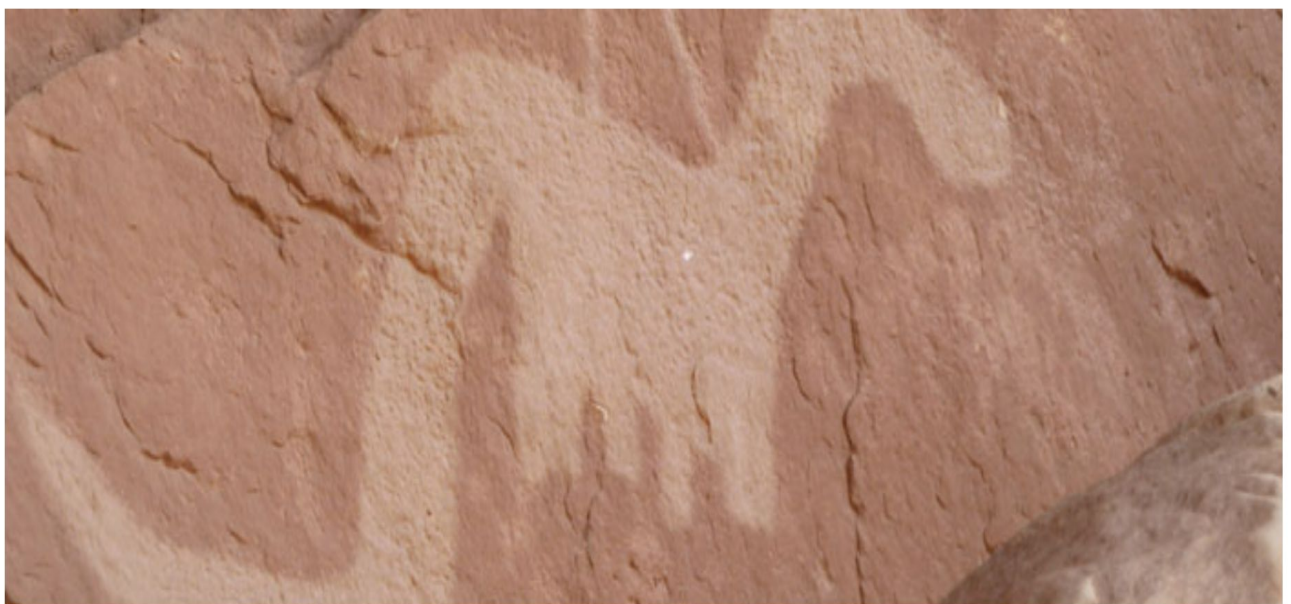
representatives of the land animals (e.g., dinosaurs) were saved on the Ark to repopulate the earth after the Flood only 4,300 years ago.



Ed Cole, MD., viewed above, author of one of the sources for this part of the message.

2. Petroglyph in Utah

The petroglyph has been presented as evidence supporting the biblical creation model prediction that man and dinosaurs lived together.



Representatives of all the [kinds](#) of air-breathing land animals, including the dinosaur kinds, went aboard [Noah's Ark](#). All those left outside the Ark died in the cataclysmic circumstances of the Flood. Many would have been covered with tons of mud as the rampaging water covered the land (*Genesis 7:11–12,19*). Because of this quick burial, many of the animals would have been preserved as fossils. If this happened, you would expect to find evidence of billions of dead things buried in rock layers (formed from this mud) all over the Earth. This is exactly what you do find.

In 1971 in the Toogreeg region of Mongolia's Gobi Desert, palaeontologists uncovered a Velociraptor apparently embroiled in a fight to the death with a Protoceratops. At one moment two ferocious dinosaurs were embroiled in mortal combat. The next, they must have been entombed by a sudden wall of sediment, their lungs starved of life-giving oxygen ... or so it seems. The Velociraptor's hands were grabbing the head shield of the Protoceratops, while its sickle claw appears to be lodged deep into the body cavity. Protoceratops appears to hold Velociraptor's right arm in its jaws. There was no time to react to whatever cataclysmic event fossilized them in that moment.

What we know is that these dinosaurs were preserved and buried in the position in which they were found.



These fossils are a rare find—the first that appears to capture dinosaurs fighting.

This amazing specimen is not the only fossil found in this area of the world; there are hundreds of others in the Gobi Desert—creatures that were fossilized quickly due to rapid burial. Dinosaurs such as oviraptors, velociraptors, sinornithoides, pinacosaurus, and protoceratops as well as lizards, crocodiles, and small mammals have been found preserved rather well.

The two dinosaurs were found in Late Cretaceous sandstone layers, which secular scientists translate to be about 80 million years old. But how could they have been fossilized mid-fight? The only explanation can be a sudden catastrophic event with the right amount of water and dirt (mud) involved. A sudden catastrophic event like an incredible flood such as described in the Bible in Noah's time.

How can there be such totally different explanations for dinosaurs? Whether one is an evolutionist or accepts the Bible's account of history, the evidence for dinosaurs is *the same*. All scientists have the same facts—they have the same world, the same fossils, the same living creatures, the same universe.

If the "facts" are the same, then how can the explanations be so different? The reason is that scientists have only the present—dinosaur fossils exist only in the present—but scientists are trying to connect the fossils in the present to the past. They ask, "What happened in history to bring dinosaurs into existence, wipe them out, and leave many of them fossilized?"

Evolutionists declare that no man ever lived alongside dinosaurs. The Bible, however, makes it plain that dinosaurs and people must have lived together. And there is there is evidence for this.

Some people think that dinosaurs were too big, or there were too many of them, to go on this Ark. However, there were not very many different kinds of dinosaurs. There are certainly hundreds of dinosaur names, but many of these were given to just a bit of bone or skeletons of the same dinosaur found in other countries. It is also reasonable to assume that different sizes, varieties, and sexes of the same kind of dinosaur have ended up with different names. For example, look at the many

different varieties and sizes of dogs, but they are all the same kind—the dog kind! In reality, there may have been fewer than 50 kinds of dinosaurs.

God sent two of every (seven of some) land animal into the Ark, there were no exceptions.

“You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.” (Gen 7:2-3, NKJV)

“Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.” (Gen 7:8-9, NKJV)

Therefore, dinosaurs must have been on the Ark. Even though there was ample room in the huge ship for large animals, perhaps God sent young adults into the Ark that still had plenty of room for them to grow.

Are Dinosaurs Mentioned in Ancient Literature?

Interestingly, the word “dragon” is used a number of times in the Old Testament. In most instances, the word dinosaur could substitute for dragon and it would fit very nicely. Creation scientists believe that dinosaurs were called dragons before the word dinosaur was invented in the 1800s. We would not expect to find the word dinosaur in Bibles like the Authorized Version (1611), as it was translated well before the word dinosaur was ever used.

Also, there are many very old history books in various libraries around the world that have detailed records of dragons and their encounters with people. Surprisingly (or not so surprisingly for creationists), many of these descriptions of dragons fit with how modern scientists would describe dinosaurs, even Tyrannosaurus.

Unfortunately, this evidence is not considered valid by evolutionists. Why? Only because their belief is that man and dinosaurs did not live at the same time!

However, the more we research the historical literature, the more we realize there is overwhelming evidence that dragons were real beasts, much like our modern

reconstructions of dinosaurs, and that their existence has been recorded by many different people, even just hundreds of years ago.

What Happened to Dinosaurs?

Evolutionists use their imagination in a big way in answering this question. Because of their belief that dinosaurs “ruled” the world for millions of years, and then disappeared millions of years before man allegedly evolved, they have had to come up with all sorts of guesses to explain this “mysterious” disappearance. The following is just a small list of theories:

Dinosaurs starved to death; they died from overeating; they were poisoned; they became blind from cataracts and could not reproduce; mammals ate their eggs. Other causes include volcanic dust, poisonous gases, comets, sunspots, meteorites, mass suicide, constipation, parasites, shrinking brain (and greater stupidity), slipped discs, changes in the composition of air, etc. It is obvious that evolutionists don't know what happened. In a recent evolutionary book on dinosaurs, “A New Look At the Dinosaurs,” the author made the statement:

Now comes the important question. What caused all these extinctions at one particular point in time, approximately 65 million years ago? Dozens of reasons have been suggested, some serious and sensible, others quite crazy, and yet others merely as a joke. Every year people come up with new theories on this thorny problem. The trouble is that if we are to find just one reason to account for them all, it would have to explain the death, all at the same time, of animals living on land and of animals living in the sea; but, in both cases, of only some of those animals, for many of the land dwellers and many of the sea-dwellers went on living quite happily into the following period. Alas, no such one explanation exists

But, one such explanation does exist. If you remove the evolutionary framework, get rid of the millions of years, and then take the Bible seriously, you will find an explanation that fits the facts and makes perfect sense:

At the time of the Flood, many of the sea creatures died, but some survived. In addition, all of the land creatures outside the Ark died, but the representatives of all the kinds that survived on the Ark lived in the new world after the Flood. Those land animals (including dinosaurs) found the new world to be much different than the one

before the Flood. Due to (1) competition for food that was no longer in abundance, (2) other catastrophes, (3) man killing for food (and perhaps for fun), and (4) the destruction of habitats, etc., many species of animals eventually died out. The group of animals we now call dinosaurs just happened to die out too. In fact, quite a number of animals become extinct each year. Extinction seems to be the rule in Earth history (not the formation of new types of animals as you would expect from evolution).

Conclusion

Today we have briefly looked at the creation narrative and supporting scientific evidence. We have also touched on what atheistic and secular scientists theorise concerning the evidence at hand and why from a biblical perspective these theories are erroneous.

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Reflection Questions

1. How does the doctrine of Imago Dei influence our understanding of human dignity and purpose according to the creation narrative?
2. What are the implications of believing in a literal six-day creation on the interpretation of other biblical doctrines?
3. How does the belief in millions of years affect the biblical account of death entering the world after Adam and Eve's sin?
4. What evidence is presented in the sermon to support the idea that Noah's flood was a global event?
5. How does the rapid formation of geological features, such as those observed at Mount St. Helens, challenge the theory of millions of years?
6. In what ways do fossils support the biblical narrative of a catastrophic flood?
7. How do the findings of soft tissue in dinosaur fossils impact the debate between young-earth creationists and old-earth evolutionists?
8. What are some examples given in the sermon of dinosaurs coexisting with humans, and how do they support the biblical timeline?
9. How does the presence of dragon legends in various cultures contribute to the young-earth creationist perspective on dinosaurs?
10. What role does historical or origins science play in interpreting the evidence of the past, and how does it differ from operational science?

Assignments

1. **Research Paper:** Write a research paper examining the evidence for and against the theory of millions of years from both a scientific and biblical perspective. Include at least five different sources, and analyze how these perspectives impact the interpretation of the creation narrative.
2. **Presentation:** Create a multimedia presentation that explains the geological and fossil evidence for Noah's flood. Include visuals such as maps, diagrams, and videos to support your points, and present your findings to a group.
3. **Debate:** Organize a debate on the topic "Is the Earth Thousands or Millions of Years Old?" Assign roles to participants to represent young-earth creationists and old-earth evolutionists. Each side should prepare arguments and rebuttals based on scientific and biblical evidence.