

DINOSAURS, SCIENCE, AND THE BIBLE

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Dinosaurs did exist in the past. They are not a figment of the scientist's imagination. When someone walks into the Utah Dinosaur National Monument and sees the bones of a 25-foot-long baby *Camarasaurus* buried in the rock face, or visits a museum of natural history and comes face-to-face with a 76-foot-long, 40-foot-high, 81-ton *Brachiosaurus*, it is very hard to deny that such animals ever lived on this Earth.

The first discovery of a dinosaur (from the Greek words *deinos* and *saurus*, translated "terrible lizards") was made by Dr. Gideon Mantell in 1822, who identified a large tooth as belonging to a huge reptilian creature he later named *Iguanodon*. Since that time, fossil hunters have discovered many fascinating creatures of all different sizes and shapes, and given them many strange names, such as *Triceratops*, *Stegosaurus*, and *Hypsilophodon*. But scientists do not stop at digging up bones and dreaming up fancy names—they don't want to be in the job of stamp collecting. They go one step further and assign ages of millions of years to these fossils, and attempt to work out an evolutionary line-of-descent for dinosaurs. One thing is clear: evolutionary theory has the first dinosaur appearing about 200 million years ago, and the last dinosaur dying out about 65 million years ago. According to evolutionists, man did not even begin to appear until 3.6 million years ago. As will be shown below, such assertions are contradictory to both science and the Bible.

According to Exodus 20:11, God not only made the land and sea, He also created all the life that exists therein. The verse further states that this creation lasted only six days. To maintain that the Earth is 4.6 billion years old and was not created in a period of six literal 24-hour days is plainly false doctrine. In addition, examine the words of Christ in Matthew 19:4, where He stated "But from the beginning of the creation, male and female made He them." What may we ascertain from these scriptures? First, God created everything and so He must have created the dinosaurs on one of those six days. Second, man has been here since the beginning, and all life was created "in the beginning" (Genesis 1:1), so man and dinosaurs would have to have lived together at some stage in Earth's history.

Are dinosaurs mentioned by name in the Bible? No, but they are mentioned in other ways. For instance, Job 40:15-24 speaks of a behemoth who eats grass like an ox, and who possesses strong muscles, a tail like a cedar, bones like tubes of brass, limbs like iron, and who is "chief of the ways of God." Some Bibles place a marginal note here to the effect that these verses refer to a hippopotamus or elephant. Have you ever seen the tail of a hippo or elephant? Their tails are twigs by comparison with a cedar tree. The reference to the behemoth eating grass and dwelling in watery environments is an accurate description of dinosaurs, many of whom were herbivores, and many of whom lived in swamps and shallow seas. Job presents an evocative passage of Scripture which directly teaches that dinosaur-like creatures lived on Earth. Seen in conjunction with such passages as Romans 1:20, the evidence is clear that man saw the dinosaurs that God had made. The evolutionist responds to this suggestion with contempt. "Why," he says, "that would make a mockery of our geological timetable." The creationist says "Exactly, and I can prove it too." Consider the following evidence for the creationist's position:

(A) In the late 1800s, archaeologist Dr. Samuel Hubbard (Honorary Curator of Archaeology, Oakland, California Museum of Natural History), found ancient Indian drawings on a canyon wall in Arizona. Amongst pictures of such creatures as the ibex and elephant is an accurate representation of a dinosaur (cf. A.H. Verrill, *Strange Prehistoric*

Animals and Their History, L.C. Page & Co., Boston, 1954, pp. 155ff). The question is this: If the evolutionists are correct (and they most certainly are not), how could men draw pictures of a creature that became extinct millions of years before man ever emerged on this Earth?

(B) Evolutionist Dr. Albert C. Ingalls investigated something he called "The Carboniferous Mystery" (*Scientific American*, January 1940). In rocks that are claimed to be 260 to 370 million years old, and in states from the Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains, there are numerous fossilized human-like footprints. Dr. Ingalls had no adequate explanation for these occurrences, so he made fun of them saying, "If man, or even his ape ancestor, or even the ape ancestor's early mammal ancestor, existed as far back as the carboniferous period in any shape, then the whole science of geology is so completely wrong that all geologists will resign their jobs and take up truck driving." The creationist response is "Gentlemen, start your engines!"

(C) In 1968, William J. Meister discovered a half-billion-year-old (according to evolutionary assumptions) trilobite fossil between two slabs of rock 700 feet up a cliff in Utah. Such a find, in itself, would not be considered an unusual discovery, except that the fossil was embedded in a perfect mold of a human sandal. Somewhere the evolutionist has lost 500 million years of his precious time scale.

This list of is only a fraction of the anomalies that are to be found in the fossil record. Many more are listed in books like *The Creation-Evolution Controversy*, by Dr. R.L. Wysong (Inquiry Press, Midland, Michigan, 1976). Although each example may seem trivial to skeptics of creation, the number of contradictions to evolutionary assumptions of an old earth mounts up. More important for the present discussion, it is apparent from the above that scientific evidence supports the co-existence of man and dinosaurs sometime in the past. Where the dinosaurs went is a whole story in itself, but one suggestion is that the dinosaurs were unable to survive the change in climate following the Noahic Flood (Genesis 6-8).

In any case, the point is well made that dinosaurs do not present a problem to creationists; their existence is in no way contradictory to the Bible. Evolutionists are wrong when they say man and the dinosaurs never existed as contemporaries; the scientific evidence proves their error and shouts loudly for creation. Think first of the inerrancy of God's word, and then of the vain utterings and false knowledge of those men who profess themselves to be wise (Romans 1:21-22; 1 Timothy 6:20).

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