

Dinosaurs: They're Everywhere! They're Everywhere!

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Those mysterious reptiles known as dinosaurs have captivated not just our nation, but the entire world. In 1956, Godzilla made the big screen come alive with his city-crushing tirades. Since that time, dinosaurs have made an appearance on untold millions of soda cans, cereal boxes, posters, and other such items. For the past ten years, absorbent little minds have flocked to PBS to watch their favorite purple dinosaur, Barney, bounce around the stage, teaching them to pick up their toys, and say please and thank you.

As I write this article, I have before me a veritable plethora of dinosaur-saturated material. First on the list is a Wendy's™ children's meal bag that has a 2001 copyright date. From this beautifully colored, slick-papered bag, hungry young readers can learn about dinosaurs like *Stegosaurus*, *Oviraptor*, and the infamous *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Next on the list of dinosaur products is a Large Aqua Dinosaur Big Belly™ Bank. This exciting collector's bank features a free-standing dinosaur with a large, clear belly that holds coins. In order for the coins to get into the belly, children "feed" the coins through the mouth of the money-hungry dinosaur, and then watch the coins roll down the meandering throat canal into the belly below. And if that does not satisfy your child's dinosaur cravings, you can order an inflatable, enclosed trampoline shaped like a dinosaur. Also available is the ever-popular board game, "The Dinosaur Game," that boasts of having won eleven awards, and was featured on "Good Morning America." Other dinosaur products on the market include countless books, one of which is named *Dinosaurs Divorce*, which purports to help divorcing parents teach their children about their situation by using a family of dinosaurs.

Last on the list is the ever-growing number of movies starring these captivating creatures. The landmark movie, *Jurassic Park*, drew children and adults to the box office by the millions, and its two successors, *The Lost World*, and *Jurassic Park 3*, raked in tens-of-millions of dollars. Not least on the list of critically acclaimed dinosaur movies was the Walt Disney classic titled, appropriately, *Dinosaur*. One reviewer of *Dinosaur* stated that "kids will love the film," and noted that the film, which was "geared primarily towards a younger audience," was "aimed squarely at the under-10 crowd."

Kid's meal bags, children's PBS shows, toy banks, games, and a children's animated movie all have one thing in common: **they target children**. Kids are fascinated with dinosaurs, and the various companies and agencies that

want to turn a quick dollar are smart enough to seize upon that fascination. Unfortunately, however, dinosaurs are not used just to make money. These marvelous creatures also have been laden with a backbreaking load of evolutionary baggage. For decades, dinosaurs have been exploited by evolutionists, and have been used to force-feed children false evolutionary propaganda. As evidence of this fact, consider that on that same Wendy's™ kids' meal bag discussed earlier, an unsuspecting child can see, via the timeline on the side panel of the bag, that dinosaurs first appeared "245 million years ago." The child also can read how dinosaurs became extinct "64 million years ago." And, the same movie reviewer who mentioned that *Dinosaur* was aimed at the "under-10 crowd," also noted that the movie was set "65 million years ago during the late Cretaceous period."

What is wrong with this information? Notice that **no humans are depicted** in the *Dinosaur* animation. Such is the case because, according to evolutionary theory, humans did not evolve until about 3 million years ago, separating them from the dinosaurs by an alleged 62 million years or so. This concept, however, stands in direct contradiction to biblical teaching, which states that God made dinosaurs on day six of the Creation (since dinosaurs, by definition, are land-living animals)—the exact same day that He made humans. Furthermore, Jesus Himself stated that Adam and Eve, the first humans, had been on Earth "from the beginning of creation" (Mark 10:6), not millions of years removed from it.

Currently, the sad state of affairs finds the amazing creatures we know as dinosaurs being hijacked by those who use them to teach children evolution-based concepts. In contradistinction, when God was in the midst of His discussion with Job (Job 40-41), He mentioned two creatures—behemoth and leviathan—that resemble either dinosaurs or dinosaur-like animals. God, however, referred to these creatures to impress upon Job His unfathomable power—the exact opposite of what dinosaurs are being used to teach today.

The topic of dinosaurs is something that children are going to learn—from someone! Whether it is from us, or from the evolutionists, children **will** learn about these creatures. The time has come for us to "take back" the use of dinosaurs as an educational tool. Let us arm children with the correct information about dinosaurs, so that when the time comes that they find themselves bombarded with evolutionary propaganda, they will be able to defend themselves with the truth.

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Q Do you think the reference in Isaiah 30:6 to a “fiery flying serpent” could refer to some kind of extinct dinosaur-like flying reptile? Could this be proof that these creatures once lived alongside mankind?

A Although it is impossible to know the exact identity of the “flying serpent” mentioned by Isaiah, we do know that flying reptiles with long tails and slender bodies (e.g., *Rhamphorynchus*, *Dimorphodon*, etc.) once lived upon the Earth alongside humans. Aside from learning this fact by reading the Bible and seeing that God created everything in six days (Exodus 20:11; Genesis 1), two well-known ancient historians have documented that flying reptiles and humans were contemporaries. Herodotus, a respected Greek historian who lived in approximately 450 B.C., once wrote:

There is a place in Arabia...to which I went, on hearing of some **winged serpents**; and when I arrived there, I saw bones and spines of serpents, in such quantities as it would be impossible to describe. **The form of the serpent is like that of a water-snake; but he has wings without feathers, and as like as possible to the wings of a bat** (1850, pp. 75-76, emp. added).

Herodotus recognized that such creatures were not birds, mammals, or insects—but reptiles with wings.

Notice also what the Jewish historian Josephus wrote 2,000 years ago about Moses and the Israelites having a difficult time passing through a particular region because of the presence of flying serpents.

When the ground was difficult to be passed over, because of the multitude of serpents (which it produces in vast numbers ...some of which ascend out of the ground unseen, and **also fly in the air**, and do come upon men at unawares, and do them a mischief)....

[Moses] made baskets like unto arks, of sedge, and filled them with ibes [i.e., birds], and carried them along with them; which animal is the greatest enemy to serpents imaginable, for **they fly from them** when they come near them; and **as they fly** they are caught and devoured by them (n.d., 2:10:2, emp. added).

Although these two historians do not mention the extremely large flying reptiles, they do record that snake-like winged creatures, which could fly, did live in the distant past.

REFERENCES

- Herodotus, (1850 reprint), *Historiae*, trans. Henry Clay (London: Henry G. Bohn).
Josephus, Flavius (no date), *Antiquities of the Jews* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, reprint).

Eric Lyons

IN THE NEWS

What happens when over a dozen Ph.D.s (including several with training in geology) contribute to a new book on the Grand Canyon? If those scientists go against modern evolutionary dogma, the book comes under fire. Take for example the book, *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, compiled by veteran river-rafting captain Tom Vail. It is similar to hundreds of others found in National Park Service bookstores—with one major difference. This book has credentialed scientists presenting a **creationist** view of the canyon!

Travel back in time to July 2003, when the National Park Service caved in to complaints by the ACLU, and removed three plaques that contained scripture on them. The thirty-year-old plaques, which were positioned at three different places on the South Rim of the canyon, contained verses from the venerable book of Psalms. The verses were:

- “All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name” (66:4).
- “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name, Jehovah, and rejoice before Him” (68:4).

- “O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions” (104:24).

Now, evolutionists are trying to have this new book dismissed as well. Rex Dalton observed: “A slim volume of creationist views on how the Grand Canyon formed has sparked a legal review of books on sale in US national parks” (2004, 427:186).

So while lawyers fight over censorship laws and the right to freedom of speech, the National Park Service has quietly moved the book from the science section to the inspirational section of the bookstore. Given that much of the book deals with scientific evidence, and was written by numerous credentialed scientists, one wonders how much censorship the evolutionary agenda will be allowed to exert. To learn more, and to find out how you can make your voice heard on this issue, visit http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2004/0108gc_book_ban.asp.

REFERENCE

- Dalton, Rex (2004), “National Park’s Sale of Creationist Book Draws Geologists’ Ire,” *Nature*, 427:186, January 15.

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