

The Day Man Saw Dinosaurs

By Al Felder

“¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1, 2)

As Christians, we are to have a different outlook on the world. Our minds are to be transformed by the word of God. Our way of thinking and understanding the things around us is to be based on the teachings of God’s word. In other words, we are to have a Biblical worldview which serves as a foundation for all of our thinking. This includes the origin of man, and all that is created.

The problem that we face, is that we are constantly being indoctrinated by the world through the use of media and the education system to think in a secular way. Man’s ideas are placed as the foundation for all thinking leading to a secular worldview. Too often, men approach the Bible with a secular worldview of how things originated instead of using the Bible to build their thinking.

No other subject shows the controversy between conflicting worldviews better than the dinosaurs. What are we to make of these creatures? Are they mentioned in the Bible? What happened to them? We intend to discuss these questions and more as we consider the topic “The Day Man Saw Dinosaurs.”

To put it mildly, dinosaurs have become the poster children for the teaching of evolution. These magnificent creatures instantly capture the imagination of young children and many adults. This fascination has not gone unnoticed. Evolutionists use dinosaurs to teach that the world is far older than the Bible teaches. According to evolutionists, dinosaurs roamed the earth millions of years before man existed. This popular idea has led to many rejecting the Bible.

You may recall that in previous lessons we have discussed what the Bible teaches concerning the age of the earth. We began with the days of creation in Genesis 1. *“And the evening and the morning were the third day.”* (Genesis 1:13) The use of the words evening and morning, as well as the ordinal number in connection with the word day, make it impossible to mean anything other than a literal 24 hour period of time. Also, we looked at the genealogies in Genesis 5; 11, as well as other passages of scripture, to construct a time scale showing the earth to be a little over six thousand years old. This conflicts with the evolutionists’ time scale of billions of years.

Many people have been led to believe that science and the Bible just don’t match, and that science should be taken over the Bible. What many people fail to realize is that the

methods used to determine such extreme dates are full of holes. As we discussed in previous lessons, radioisotope dating is based upon many assumption. The amount of the element originally present in the item is assumed, an assumption is made in regards to the rate of decay, and an assumption is made that nothing has altered this process.

In the radioisotope method, carbon 14 atoms are used to date organic, or once living, matter. This would include dinosaur fossils. What often goes untold, however, is that carbon 14 does not have a long life. Carbon 14 only has a life of thousands of years not millions.¹ If creatures such as the dinosaurs truly are millions of years old, than there should not be any carbon 14 atoms present for scientists to detect. Yet, carbon 14 atoms are often found in items that evolutionists claim are millions of years old.

Other problems for the evolutionists time scale have come through recent discoveries of dinosaur bones. Scientists at the University of Montana found T-Rex bones that were not completely fossilized. Not only were parts of the bone not fossilized, they still contained soft tissue that turned out to be blood cells.² How could this creature be millions of years old, and still have blood cells in its bone? Evolutionists cannot explain this finding because to do so would be to reject their beliefs.

Also, un-fossilized bones of duck-billed dinosaurs have been found on the North Slope of Alaska.³ One scientist likened the texture of these bones to cow bones found in a pasture. There is no explanation as to how these bones could have survived for millions of years without having been fossilized. While these and many other discoveries are problems for evolution and billions of years, they are not problems for the Bible and six thousand years. Still, one may wonder why the Bible doesn't say anything about dinosaurs.

The first discovery of dinosaurs is attributed to Dr. Robert Plot. In 1677 he discovered large bones which he believed belonged to a giant elephant or giant human. These bones were later determined to be dinosaur bones. In 1822, a woman by the name of Mary Anne Mantell was walking when she discovered a fossil. Her husband, who collected fossils, noticed the connection between the fossil and modern reptiles. It wasn't until 1841, however, that Sir Richard Owen coined the word dinosaur when examining these fossils.⁴

¹ Ham, Ken. 2006. *The New Answers Book 1*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2006. p. 116.

² Ham, Ken. 2011. *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved!* Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 18.

³ —. 2006. *The New Answers Book 1*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2006. p. 163.

⁴ —. 2011. *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved!* Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. pp. 30-32.

It is not that the Bible doesn't mention dinosaurs, rather, it mentions them using other words. The King James Bible was translated in 1611. The word dinosaur simply did not exist at this time. There are other words used in the Bible that refer to these creatures.

One thing that we must remember is the fact that God created all things. *"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."* (John 1:3) God created everything, including the dinosaurs. These creatures like the rest of creation were created within the first week.

There are two references to dinosaurs in Genesis 1. *"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good."* (Genesis 1:21) On the fifth day of creation, God created the sea creatures as well as the creatures that fly. At first glance we may not think much about this passage of scripture, but there is an important word in this verse. The word whale does not have reference to what we commonly think of when we hear this word today. Instead, this word means a serpent, dragon, or sea monster.⁵ It is the word used for reptiles, and in this verse it is used of sea dwelling reptiles.

This word occurs 27 times in the Old Testament scriptures. *"In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."* (Isaiah 27:1) In this verse it is translated as dragon, and is used in reference to the creature leviathan. Leviathan is a great and wonderful creature that God mentions when he talks to Job.

Job lived after the flood. Most scholars place him as a contemporary of Abraham somewhere around 2,200 B.C. God, in his response to Job mentions Leviathan as one of His great creations.

"¹⁵His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. ¹⁶One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. ¹⁷They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered. ¹⁸By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of morning. ¹⁹Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. ²⁰Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. ²¹His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth. ²²In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him. ²³The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved. ²⁴His heart is a firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone. ²⁵When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breaking they purify themselves. ²⁶The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. ²⁷He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood. ²⁸The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with

⁵ Bible. cc., Bible hub. *Bible hub*. [Online] [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.biblehub.com.

him into stubble. ²⁹Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear. ³⁰Sharp stones are under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire. ³¹He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.” (Job 41:15-31)

A simple straight forward reading of this passage of scripture brings to mind the image of a fire breathing dragon.

God also describes another magnificent creature to Job, the behemoth.

“¹⁵Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. ¹⁶Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. ¹⁷He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. ¹⁸His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. ¹⁹He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him. ²⁰Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play. ²¹He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. ²²The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about. ²³Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.” (Job 40:15-23)

This description is of a land dwelling dinosaur of massive size. His tail is likened unto a cedar tree, his bones are as strong as brass, and he possess the ability to consume vast amounts of water. The description of this animal matches that of the Brachiosaurus.

Notice what else God tells Job about this creature. He says, “Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee.” This is a reference to creation. “*And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*” (Genesis 1:25) On the sixth day of creation God made man along with all other land dwelling creatures. The word translated as creepeth means reptile.⁶ God told Job that the great creature Behemoth was created on the same day as man.

While the term dinosaur may be relatively new, the term dragon has been around for quite some time. In fact, every major ancient civilization has dragon legends. All across Europe and Asia legends exist with descriptions of dragons that match modern reconstructions of dinosaurs. The Epic of Beowulf describes a battle between Beowulf who lived in Denmark from 495 A.D. to 583 A.D.⁷ In this tale, Beowulf is said to have battled a creature named Grendel

⁶ Bible. cc., Bible hub. *Bible hub*. [Online] [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.biblehub.com.

⁷ Eric Lyons, M.Min, and Bert Thompson, Ph.D. 2005. *Dinosaurs and Humans - Together?* [Online] 2005. [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.apologeticspress.org.

that walked upright, had large powerful jaws, and small weak forearms. The description of such an animal matches that of a T-Rex.

An English tale from 1405 A.D. talks about a dragon. The creature was described as having a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a long enormous tale. It was said to have eaten a shepherd and devoured his sheep.

Not only do many legends exist about these creatures in various cultures, accurate depictions of them exist as well. At Carlisle Cathedral in England, brass engravings from the 1400's depict images of dinosaurs. In Cambodia, a temple constructed from 1181 A.D. to 1210 A.D. has an accurate depiction of a stegosaurus on it.⁸ In Mexico, clay figurines of dinosaurs were found in 1944. Dating methods place the figurines around 2500 B.C. during the time of the Mayans. Also, in Peru the Ica stones have depictions of man and dinosaurs along with many other things. Dates for the stones have ranges from 500 B.C. to 1200 A.D.⁹ Finally, in Glen Rose, TX fossilized footprints of humans and dinosaurs have been found together.¹⁰

These are just a few references to archaeological finds that point to the existence of man and dinosaurs together. Not surprisingly, however, evolutionists reject all of these findings as elaborate hoaxes although they cannot explain how someone could have faked such artifacts. Many people find these things hard to believe due to the Jurassic Park effect. Hollywood has given people images of dinosaurs as large agile blood thirsty creatures. There is no way that man could have existed with such creatures, or is there?

Once again, when we turn our attention back to the creation account the Bible tells us something very interesting. *"²⁹And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."* (Genesis 1:29, 30) The Bible teaches that God originally created man and all creatures as vegetarians. He gave them the green herb to eat. In other words, man did not have to fear being devoured by these large creatures.

The Bible teaches that God gave man dominion over all of the animals, and the Bible indicates that this relationship continued to be peaceful up until the time of the flood. *"²And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl*

⁸ **Eric Lyons, M.Min, and Kyle Butt, M.A. 2008.** *Physical Evidence for the Coexistence of Dinosaurs and Humans Part 1.* [Online] 2008. [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.apologeticspress.org.

⁹ —. **2008.** *Physical Evidence for the Coexistence of Dinosaurs and Humans Part 2.* [Online] 2008. [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.apologeticspress.org.

¹⁰ **John C. Whitcomb, Jr. and Henry M. Morris. 1972.** *The Genesis Flood.* Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House, 1972. p. 166.

of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hands are they delivered. ³*Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*" (Genesis 9:2, 3) After the flood, God gave Noah permission for man to eat animals for the first time. Also, we read of a change in the relationship between man and animals. Man still has dominion over the animals, but now the animals have a fear and dread of man that they did not have previously.

The idea of domesticated dinosaurs is certainly foreign to what people are taught and believe today. Yet, consider this passage of scripture. *"For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind."* (James 3:7) The word serpent in this passage literally means a creeping thing, a reptile.¹¹ Like the word used in the Old Testament it is a word that includes reptiles of all kinds, even the dinosaurs. This verse doesn't mean that every single creature that has ever walked the earth has been tamed by man. It does mean, however, that man has been able to tame some of each kind of animal. In fact, there are Chinese legends of domesticated dragons that pulled the chariots of the Chinese rulers.¹²

One final consideration that we have is what happened to the dinosaurs? Well, the short answer to that question is that the flood destroyed these creatures along with everything else outside of the ark. However, it does appear from that Bible and some of the other evidence that we have considered that dinosaurs did live after the flood as well.

Prior to the flood God told Noah what he would be taking on the ark. *"¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive."* (Genesis 6:19, 20) Once again, the word creeping thing refers to reptiles, but we also find that the animals came to Noah according to their kind. The Biblical kind is similar to the modern term species, but it is probably more inclusive than man's classification of species. For example, all the various type of dogs that exist today are believed to have come from one original pair that most likely were wolves.

Instead of hundreds of thousands of different types of animals, God sent Noah two of every kind of animal. From these original pairs came all of the variety of animals that we see today. Over the course of time mutations (errors in the copying of genes during reproduction) have helped to contribute to the variety of animals that exist today. These errors entered the

¹¹ **Vine, W. E. 1996.** *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.* Nashville, TN : Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1996. p. 562.

¹² **Eric Lyons, M.Min, and Bert Thompson, Ph.D. 2005.** *Dinosaurs and Humans - Together?* [Online] 2005. [Cited: June 2, 2015.] www.apologeticspress.org.

world after sin and death. There are two things that we must keep in mind. First, this process happens within a kind. In other words, man didn't come from monkeys nor did dinosaurs turn into birds. Second, this process does not lead to an increase in information as evolution claims. It is a downhill process that acts upon existing information already present in DNA which causes the loss of some of the information. In other words, going from a wolf to a poodle is not an improvement.

Dinosaurs like many other animals are extinct today. After the flood, the environmental conditions changed greatly. This no doubt resulted in a loss of food for these creatures as well as harsh climates. Also, with sin and death came disease which is responsible for killing some animals. Man also may have hunted many of these animals to extinction. Basically, the same things that have caused other animals to be extinct contributed to the extinction of the dinosaurs.

In conclusion, instead of being the poster children for evolution, dinosaurs can be used for the spread of the glorious gospel of Christ. It can be shown that dinosaurs did not evolve from any other creature, nor did any other creature evolve from dinosaurs. God created the original kinds, and they multiplied from there. Also, God created the dinosaurs and all other land creatures on day six of creation. The same day that God created man, and it was upon that day that man saw dinosaurs.