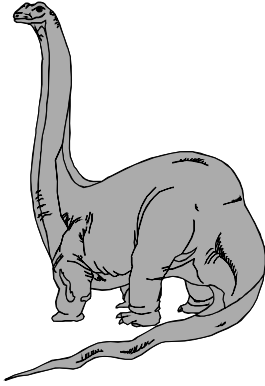


Dinosaurs and Creation



Where do Dinosaurs fit in to the Creation picture? Does the Bible mention them? Can the fossils be as old as the geologists say, if the World as we know it is only 6,000 or so years old, as the Bible states? Can we still believe the Bible in the face of fossil "evidence"?

Rather than try to argue science with scientists, as a Christian, it is preferable to follow a Bible-based approach to the issue. Let us state clearly and right at the outset, that the Bible contains all the information we need for salvation. Therefore, if dinosaurs are not clearly covered in the Bible, it is because we do not **need** to know! However, it is still a question that intrigues many.

To follow Christ, it is important to believe in the Bible, as he did. We can tell from the words of Jesus concerning Noah, that Jesus believed in the accuracy of Genesis. Therefore, why should we doubt? (Luke 17:26 *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man"* (NKJV)). The Apostles also quoted the Old Testament and Genesis in particular as fact (1 Cor 15:45 *'And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.'*(NKJV))

It is also unprofitable to be sidetracked into a debate on whether the seven days of Creation (including the "Day of Rest") are literal 24-hour periods or seven equal time periods. If God is Almighty, as we believe, then He could have taken one second or 1,000 million years, or a literal week, as He wished. What does the account say? Does it hold clues to help us answer our questions?

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

What a lot of information there is, even in this first verse! *"In the beginning"*, whenever that was, *"God created the heavens and the earth"*, in other words, the universe. The earth was void (or empty) and covered in water (the deep).

We can see from the verses in Genesis that follow, that each stage or Day of Creation, starts with the words *"Then God said"* and end with the words, *"So the evening and the morning were the day"*. Thus, we can be fairly sure that the events in verse 1 happened at some time before the formation of this present Creation. If this is true, then God formed the Universe and the actual planet some indeterminate time before He started work on what we see around us today.

The King James translation renders verse 28: *"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."* It uses the word "replenish", rather than "fill", which is used in other translations. Does it matter? Well, it might. "Replenish" means to re-fill or re-stock the earth. On it, theories have been formed, suggesting that the planet was previously

stocked with plants, animals, etc (and possibly humans) and that as He did in the days of Noah, God wiped the planet clean using water. This is why "the deep" covers the face of the planet and why God said "Replenish" the earth. The theories go on to suggest that dinosaurs etc were part of the old, previous creation, wiped out by that ancient, pre-Creation flood.

The problem with such theories (which is not saying they are wrong) is that they go beyond the realms of what the Bible tells us. They also tend to interpret the Bible to fit the "findings" of the scientists. Christians who believe the Bible to be the true Word of God should view the scientific "evidence" in the light of what the Bible tells us.

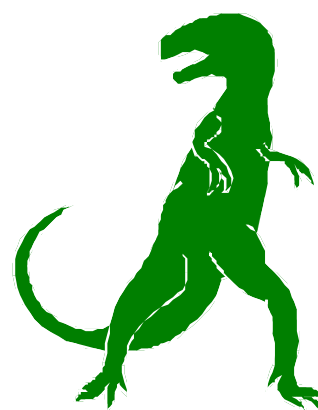
Vast volumes have been filled with the findings of science concerning the formation of the earth and the development of Life upon it. It is interesting to note that the sequence of events "discovered" by Science follows closely the sequence as laid out in the first chapter of Genesis.

When considering the evidence, it might be worth stating the obvious, that, unlike scientific experiments, conducted in a laboratory and under laboratory conditions, closely monitored with results carefully recorded, **mankind was not there**, during the process of Creation. As God says in Job 38:4 "*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.*"

The Bible claims the Authorship of God who actually performed the miracles of Creation. In contrast, the views of Science are **theories**, based on what evidence they have managed to find, with "best guess" filling in the gaps in the evidence.

There must also be recognition of the fact that not all scientific methods are as reliable as they would like. Carbon Dating was once seen as foolproof. It was later found to be considerably less accurate than first thought. The further back into history one goes, the less reliable the results. Likewise, the study of rock strata to determine which period a fossil belongs to falls to pieces when the remains of trees have been found, sticking up vertically through several strata of rock, which are supposed to have built up over millions of years.

So what about our dinosaurs? Were they part of a previous Creation, wiped out by a previous flood? Possibly, although this theory rests on the translation of the Hebrew word 'male' as "replenish" rather than "fill". Were they wiped out by Noah's Flood? If they were in existence at the time of Noah, then most of them would have been wiped out along with all other living creatures that were not saved in the Ark. However, as Noah was commanded to put two of every kind of animal into the Ark wouldn't the dinosaurs have been preserved?



The answer to that question must be "yes", although how could two of each kind of huge dinosaurs have been included in the Ark? One simple answer could be that dinosaur eggs were taken rather than live dinosaurs. Also, judging from the size of the eggs, dinosaurs start small. To take a comparison from Nature around us, no one would fancy transporting two full-grown crocodiles in the back of their car, whereas putting two young crocs in a bucket would not present the same problem at all!

Nevertheless, if dinosaurs survived the flood, where are they now? It does appear that large dinosaurs such as T. Rex are extinct. There are few unexplored areas of the world where they could hide! (Although various claims are made concerning darkest Central Africa) However, some fairly fantastic creatures have become extinct in recent history, such as the Dodo in 1681, the Moa in 1770 (both huge flightless birds) and the Tasmanian Wolf in 1936 (all dates approximate). Many species are called "living fossils" because their fossil remains are the same their present form. One, which is found in New Zealand and called the Tuatara, is a true dinosaur, but only a few feet long. These living fossils support the view that dinosaurs WERE preserved from Noah's flood.

If we turn to the Bible again, can we find any evidence of the continuation of dinosaur species after the Flood? There are several unknown creatures described in the Bible that might well be dinosaurs. Consider these words from Job 40:15 *"Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles. 17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. 18 His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron"* and these words from the next chapter: Job 41:1 *"Can you draw out Leviathan[1] with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? 2 Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook?"*

Although many think the "Leviathan" may be a whale, the translators of the King James Version knew of whales, yet left the name un-translated. People have also made suggestions for Behemoth, such as the rhino, but the "tail like a cedar" sounds more like a dinosaur than a rhino! There are also other creatures such as the "cockatrice" whose exact identity is unknown, but we will leave the speculation there. Suffice to say that these references at least leave open the possibility that dinosaurs survived Noah's Flood. Combine this with folklore concerning dragons, "worms", Loch Ness Monsters etc and the circumstantial evidence mounts up. But rather than go down the path of conjecture again, let us sum up what we know for certain.....

- ✪ Dinosaurs once roamed the earth. Some species like the Tuatara still do.
- ✪ If around in the time of Noah, they would have been preserved in the Ark
- ✪ Certain Bible references combined with other historical accounts and folklore suggest that large dinosaurs might have been known in recent history.
- ✪ What is important for salvation is to acknowledge God as Creator of all things (living and extinct) and to accept the Genesis Creation account as a true and accurate record of what really happened, as recounted by a witness to the events described - God Himself!

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