
Creation Answers

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Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. Using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at w.spencer@attbi.com.

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **DFW Creation Net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://pws.prserv.net/creation/creation.htm>

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A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

I would like to thank those who have recently requested this newsletter, and those who have resubscribed to it. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me any suggestions for future newsletters. I hope your summer is going well. As I start this newsletter, I am in Colorado on a week long vacation at Horn Creek Ranch with church friends.

In my previous newsletter, I pointed out that I have a new ministry address and e-mail address. In coming months I will be setting up my new web site. I now have my own internet domain name and will be moving my web site to a new URL address. My current web site will continue to be available for some time while the new site is being set up. The new site currently has only an under construction page. The new site will be www.creationanswers.net. With this new site I will have much more space and will be able to do many things not possible on my current site.

Currently I am working hard on two technical papers for the International Conference on Creationism that will take place in August of 2003. These are technical peer-reviewed papers. One of the papers is about an impact crater located under Chesapeake Bay and I am coauthoring it with Michael Oard. The second paper is about Jupiter's moon Io, which is known for its very active volcanoes. The second one is actually late but I have been allowed additional time to complete it. These papers are very challenging original topics. I will wait till the papers are complete before writing anything for this newsletter or my web site based on them.

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

The Bible and Dinosaurs

One of the most common questions that comes up in the creation/evolution issue is “What does the Bible say about dinosaurs?” Another way to put it is, “what is a Christian view of dinosaurs?” Children learn about dinosaurs in school and too often questions children have about dinosaurs are not answered by parents or by teaching at church. This tends to lead elementary children to go along with evolutionary ideas because they haven’t been taught how to look at the issue of dinosaurs from a Christian viewpoint. Even some Christian adults feel that they have had questions about the Bible and dinosaurs for all their lives. They have not heard intelligent answers that acknowledges the authority of God’s word and also honestly deals with the facts from science. We cannot just reject the whole idea of dinosaurs altogether out of distrust of science. Some Christians think they should not believe in dinosaurs at all. We cannot ignore the evidence that dinosaurs existed. Instead we should intelligently sort out the evidence and learn how to understand dinosaurs from a creationary view instead of from an evolutionary view.

Why does the question matter? Someone may say, “surely there are many more important questions about Scripture than what it says about dinosaurs!” Of course there are, but it is important because of how the evolutionary view of dinosaurs is used to communicate a nonchristian world view to school children and to the public. What do most people in the United States (and many other countries) turn to for answers to all kinds of difficult questions? The answer is usually science and the university world. In many issues this is not a bad thing at all, but on issues that touch on origins questions, or issues that have to do with moral issues, it is a problem. In issues of values, morals, origins, and beliefs, who or what should we trust more for answers? Should it be what the Bible says or science?

It should be Bible, as long as proper care has been taken to interpret Scripture correctly. There are times when the popular accepted ideas from science are in conflict with Scripture. The issue of dinosaurs is like that and so Christians have to reject what science says on certain points and believe the Bible. This does not mean that science is a bad thing, or that we should not respect scientists for their work, nor should we think that science is always wrong.

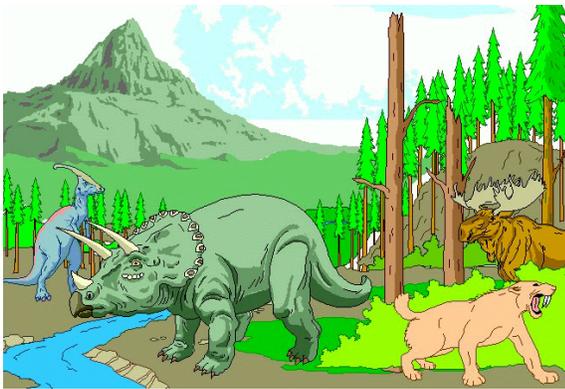
Science has given us a lot of knowledge about the creatures we call dinosaurs. These special creatures capture the imaginations of both young and old. Many people have misconceptions about the term “dinosaurs.” First of all, dinosaurs were not always large; some were about the size of a chicken or a small dog. So the term “dinosaur” does not just mean a very large animal. Also, creatures like plesiosaurs that lived in the ocean and were large reptiles that are now extinct are not formally considered to be part of the dinosauria, which is the scientific term for dinosaurs. They are considered extinct marine reptiles. There were also flying reptiles called Pterosaurs that are now extinct. These are also considered separate from the dinosaurs, though they lived at the same time. Another important thing to understand about evolutionary ideas today is that birds are considered part of the dinosauria. This is used in popular level science articles and television programs to reinforce the idea that birds evolved from dinosaurs.

What the Bible Says

First of all, according to Scripture, dinosaurs were created during the Creation week along with other creatures. See Genesis 1:20-21, 24-25. According to Scripture, the only times God created animals were on the fifth and sixth days of the Creation week. All things were created in six literal days according to Exodus 20:11. Sea creatures and flying creatures were on the fifth day; land animals and man were made

on the sixth day. This means that the now extinct creatures we call "dinosaurs" were made on the fifth and sixth days of Creation. Since man was made on the sixth day also, this means Scripture teaches that man and dinosaur lived at the same time in the beginning. The Bible also implies that Adam must have named at least some of the dinosaurs (see Genesis 2:20).

In the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, Texas, South of Fort Worth, there has been a long controversy over whether there are human fossilized footprints in the same rock layers as dinosaur fossil footprints. Fossil



footprints were once just footprints in mud or sand but they were hardened into solid rock. After having been to the Paluxy River to see some of the fossil footprints, and having studied the issue, I believe there are (or at least have been) human footprints in Glen Rose. Since the footprints erode rather quickly, the footprints at Glen Rose are not very clear today. Though the evidence at Glen Rose is not as clear as I would like, it does tend to support what the Bible says. There are other possible evidences of man and dinosaur living together from reports of sightings of dinosaurs by people through history, as well as drawings and sculptured figurines of them. Though some of the evidence related to this is questionable and uncertain, I believe this evidence does support the point that dinosaurs and man lived at the same time in the past. To read more about the Paluxy footprint issue, go to my web site to the "Currents" section. Read Part 1 of the article called "Creationism and

the Paluxy Controversy." The web links page on my site also has more sources on this.

Another important point the Bible makes about dinosaurs is something it says about all living things. Each animal, including the dinosaurs, reproduced according to their own "kind," according to Genesis 1. This means dinosaurs did not evolve from some primitive amphibian or other creature. But dinosaurs were made able to reproduce into an incredible variety. It is important to understand that all known varieties (or species) of dinosaurs (and of all other living things) did not exist at Creation. Rather, the number of varieties increased over time but all the fundamental "kinds" or types were created in the Creation Week in the beginning.

Many books have drawings of what dinosaurs looked like and museums all over the world have fossils of dinosaur skeletons. Scientists are able to determine some about how dinosaurs lived from their bones and how they are found. But there is reason to be skeptical about evolutionary ideas on how dinosaurs evolved and what they evolved into.

The Bible, in Genesis chapter one, implies that animals, and other living things cannot change into something totally different, a different "kind." There are limits to how much living things can change. "Kind" from Genesis 1 does not correspond exactly to any classification term from modern biology. But God created dinosaurs to allow them to bring forth a wide variety of types over time. They were interesting and wondrous creatures that show the power and creativity of God.

In the evolutionary view of Earth history, dinosaurs evolved from some small reptiles (lizards) known as diapsids. The dinosaurs, flying reptiles, and ocean reptiles lived from about 225 to 65 Million years ago, according to evolutionists. This portion of Earth history is called the Mesozoic era by Evolutionary geologists. This time period is subdivided into the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. This is assuming that the Earth is about 4.5 Billion years in age.

The Bible implies Earth is much much younger than this, with Noah's Flood having occurred about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago. Most evolutionary scientists today believe that the dinosaurs were killed 65 Million years ago when a large object from space fell to Earth, making a large crater in Yucatan, Central America. There are problems with this view of dinosaur extinction. Over the years scientists have suggested many different theories to explain the extinction of the dinosaurs, some of which are very odd. The world-wide Flood of Noah's time, described in Genesis provides a very reasonable explanation of why the dinosaurs became extinct. In a Biblical view of Earth history, dinosaurs would have become extinct over some period of years following the Flood because of how the Flood changed the Earth.

Actually there are some claims of dinosaurs, marine reptiles, or flying pterosaurs having been seen in certain remote parts of the world, even in the last 20 or 30 years. These reports have so far been impossible for anyone to verify by any scientific investigation.

Dinosaurs and Noah's Ark

If dinosaurs died after Noah's Flood, then this means they must have been saved on Noah's Ark along with other animals. There are many questions people have raised about how Noah's Ark could have held all the animals. Remember that only creatures that could not survive in water would had to have been on the Ark. Secondly, Noah did not have to have every species that existed, but just every "kind." Third, even large dinosaurs are not very large when they are hatched or born. Since dinosaurs were reptiles they would have grown their entire lives, as far as we know. So if young dinosaurs were taken on the Ark, they would have fit into cages and would have been manageable for Noah and his family to care for. Also, intelligent planning on the part of Noah would have made care

for the animals a job that Noah and his family could have handled. See Genesis 6:19-20.

Does the Bible Mention Dinosaurs?

The Bible does not make a special issue of dinosaurs per se, mainly because in a Biblical mindset, dinosaurs would be just other animals God created. The Bible does emphasize that God created everything that is in the Earth (Exodus 20:11). There is a most interesting passage in the Old Testament book of Job, from Job 40:15 through 41:34. There has been controversy and speculation by Christians about two animals described in this passage. God is speaking to Job in this passage, making clear how much far greater and more powerful God is than us. Not only does God know all about nature, as the Creator, but He is in complete control of it. Even in the scientific sophistication of today, we do not control nature, God does.

The first animal mentioned is called "Behemoth." This word "Behemoth" is not used to my knowledge anywhere else in the Old Testament. The animal is described as very powerful, apparently too powerful for men to capture. It says he is not afraid of a powerful raging river. It says in Job 40:19, "*He ranks first among the works of God, yet his Maker can approach him with his sword.*" It also makes the interesting statement that his tail "*sways like a cedar*" (Job 40:17, NIV). It is not very clear what animal this is, but a very good possibility would be a dinosaur. There are a number of plant eating dinosaurs that would live around rivers that could fit the description in Job 40. Many Bible translations suggest Behemoth being the hippopotamus in the marginal notes. But this seems very unlikely because hippos have very small insignificant tails you might not even notice. Furthermore, hippos can be caught or killed by primitive (but ingenious) peoples. Thus it is at least a possibility this passage describes an extinct dinosaur. Whatever it is, it wouldn't make much sense in the book of Job unless it were an animal that lived in Job's time,

perhaps even an animal Job had personally seen.

Then in Job 41:1-34 another animal, called "Leviathan," is described. This may be the most extensive description of an animal anywhere in the Bible. There are a few other passages in the Old Testament that mention Leviathan as a creature of the sea (see Psalm 104:26 and Isaiah 27:1). In Job 41 it is described as an animal that is at least seen in water frequently, but whether it is an animal with legs or with flippers is not totally clear. In 41:12 it is described as having "limbs." It describes the animal leaving apparently a large trail through mud and that it produces white water when it moves in water. It is described as an animal with formidable natural armor, possibly similar to scales some reptiles have today, only much stronger. It says that iron or bronze spears cannot pierce it and that its chest is hard as rock. It is also described as having a neck and a mouth with many teeth. Though we can't be certain, this sounds very much like some dinosaurs.

But one other thing it says about Leviathan has been very controversial. In verses 19-21 it describes smoke and fire coming out of its nostrils or mouth. Verses 20 and 21 are especially clear about this. It describes smoke and fire in a repeating manner that follows Hebrew parallelism. It states something then restates the same thing in a different way. Verse 21 says that flames go out of its mouth in any English translation you care to read. What are we to make of this? Some English Bible's suggest the crocodile in the marginal notes. But this does not do justice to the description. Verses 9 through 11 of Job 41 say the following in the NIV, where God is speaking:

*Any hope of subduing him is false;
the mere sight of him is overpowering.
¹⁰ No one is fierce enough to rouse him.
Who then is able to stand against me?
¹¹ Who has a claim against me that I
must pay?
Everything under heaven belongs to
me.*

The point is that God is greater than the most powerful animal he created. God was using his description of this fearsome animal to humble Job. In the book of Job, it seems to be reaching a kind of climax as it describes Leviathan, as if it is one of the largest or most powerful creatures God made. After all this description of Leviathan Job felt pretty small and seemed to be ashamed of his pride.

Many people have said that the Bible cannot be believable or accurate when it describes something like Leviathan. But I believe God's word is historically accurate. There is no indication I know of in the book of Job that it is being figurative in some way. And Job could have lived long enough ago that it is possible dinosaurs may not have yet been extinct.

It has also been pointed out by other creationists that for an animal to breathe fire is not that different from what some other creatures are known to do today. There is a beetle called the Bombardier Beetle that has a sort of hot pulsed spray as a form of defense. To do this it basically carries out a controlled explosive reaction in its abdomen between two chemicals, hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide. (Good thing it didn't blow itself up in all those years it was "evolving" huh!) There are chemicals that could be mixed as they were propelled out of a dinosaur's mouth that could produce fire like it describes of Leviathan. This is not impossible, but we don't know any examples of animals literally breathing fire today. Yet with all the creatures we know of from modern biology, I would say stranger things are known to happen than a reptile breathing fire. So there is no reason to doubt what Scripture says in Job 41. It is hard to imagine what else this passage could mean, other than a genuine fire breathing monster!

God is greater than all He created. He created many creatures that are now extinct and we live in a fallen world that is not such a beautiful environment like it was at creation. Rather than being examples of evolution, dinosaurs should make us praise the Creator. They should also be reminders

that the God of the Bible has judged the world in Noah's Flood. Though He says He will judge the world again in the future, we have the promise of forgiveness as we put our faith in the Son of God.

Martian meteorite - New evidence against Martian life

In 1996 NASA made a controversial announcement that a meteorite had been found in Antarctica that contained evidence of life on Mars. This meteorite is referred to as ALH 84001. The meteorite is believed by scientists to have been ejected into space by a large impact on Mars many years ago. Then the meteorite drifted through space for some time and eventually fell onto Earth. There is a page about this on my web site at <http://pws.prserv.net/creation/Articles/MARSLIFR.HTM>

In 1996 NASA announced that this meteorite contained certain materials that came from ancient Martian bacteria. Scientists have argued both for and against this idea since 1996. One of the things found in the meteorite that has been said to be evidence of life is small grains and filaments of a magnetic mineral called magnetite. In Earth's oceans, there is a kind of bacteria that has in its cells special iron filaments that line up with Earth's magnetic field. This helps the bacteria orient itself and navigate. The magnetite in the ALH 84001 meteorite was said by some scientists to be these same iron filaments from bacteria.

There is now new research on the magnetite from this meteorite that has clear evidence the magnetite has nothing to do with living bacteria. The magnetite in this meteorite is actually a unique effect of impact. It is a kind of effect of impact previously unknown. It is interesting because the magnetite formed inside other carbonate crystals, around defects and fractures. The alignment of the magnetic filaments corresponds with crystal planes in the carbonate crystals around it in the meteorite. This shows that the magnetite in the meteorite cannot possibly come from bacteria. NASA in recent years has made the

goal of finding extraterrestrial life a very high priority in its research. I believe there is evidence this meteorite did come from Mars, but I do not believe anything in it suggests there's life on Mars. To read more about this go to the following : <http://www.psr.d.hawaii.edu/May02/ALH84001magnetite.html>

God gave us a special planet, a planet designed as the home for creatures made in the image of God. Isaiah 45:18 says our planet was made to be inhabited. Our planet has life all over it! But I think life is very likely unique to Earth.

Recommended Books on Dinosaurs

I would like to include a brief list of some creationist books I would recommend on dinosaurs:

1. [The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible](#), Revised Edition, 1989. This is a classic. To obtain a copy e-mail me and can refer you to a source.
2. [Dinosaurs of Eden, 2001](#). By Ken Ham and available from Answers in Genesis. I wrote a review of this book in the Sept. 2001 issue of this newsletter. Go to my web site to the download page.
3. [Dinosaurs, 1991](#). By Mace Baker. To obtain a copy, contact me by e-mail. This is a little known book but very good.