

"Dinosaurs" (By Doug Sanders)

Wesley Chapel April 29, 2012	Trilacoochee December 10, 2020	
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Slide: What Does the Bible Teach About Dinosaurs?

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Fossils of dinosaurs have been found all over the world.

Dinosaur eggs have been found, and CT scans show the developing embryo inside.

Their bones are displayed in museums all over the world.

Scientists have been able to reconstruct many of their skeletons.

A few have been unearthed with about 90% of bone mass.

Slide: Tensley and Grayson

And, really, who knows more about this subject than our own grandkids?

Dinosaur experts like my granddaughter, Tensley, and my grandson, Grayson.

They represent not only the future of our church but also a fascination about big and mighty creatures like dinosaurs.

Slide: Jurassic Park

Hollywood films about dinosaurs have brought in millions of dollars.

In 1993, the movie Jurassic Park was about an amusement park of cloned dinosaurs.

But, of course, it was not a Jumbo ride at Disney World.

The dinosaurs escape during a power outage and there is plenty of death and destruction that follows.

Slide: Dr. Richard Owens

Bones and teeth from dinosaurs were first accurately identified in the early 1800s. In 1842, an English scientist, Dr. Richard Owens, dubbed the huge creatures "terrible lizards."

Since 1842 the remains of dinosaurs have been found all around the world including Antarctica.

Slide: Picture of Tyrannosaurus Rex

You will not find the name of Tyrannosaurus Rex or the word "dinosaur" anywhere in the Bible.

Animation: Tanniyn

You will find this Hebrew word.

It represents a large class of creatures mentioned nearly thirty times in the OT and are found both on land and in the water.

Slide: Herodotus and Josephus

In the Bible the word "dragon" is found 21 times in the Old Testament and 12 times in the Book of Revelations.

Historians such as Josephus have documented accounts with enormous creatures called dragons.

Slide: Monuments of Nineveh

There is also the Biblical account of God creating a great fish to swallow the prophet Jonah—when he refused to preach to the city of Nineveh on the sins of its people.

Slide: Alfred Lod Tennyson

We need some background first about the Book of Job before we can consider what the Bible teaches about dinosaurs.

Alfred Lord Tennyson the great English poet called it quote, the greatest poem of ancient or modern times, unquote.

Slide: Victor Hugo

Here is what the noted French novelist Victor Hugo thought about the Book of Job:

“Tomorrow, if all literature was to be destroyed and it was left to me to retain one work only, I should save Job.”

He considered the OT book of Job as one of the most profound pieces of writing to be found in the world.

In the first chapters, Satan appears with the sons of God on a certain occasion.

He challenges the Lord:

Job is only loyal to his creator because God allowed him to be so prominent and wealthy.

Slide: Job 1:21 (KJV)

It is not clear if Job knew that God allowed Satan to suddenly take away his vast wealth---7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 oxen, and 500 donkeys.

He lost a family of seven daughters and three sons.

He lost his good health.

Slide: Job 2:10 (KJV)

At the beginning of his ordeal, Job's faith was strong.
(**Read off Screen**)

Slide: Job 7:3 (KJV)

However, after months of agony—both mental and physical—Job's renowned "patience" begins to wear thin.

(**Read off Screen**)

Slide: Job 13:15 (KJV)

He becomes more defiant.

(**Read off Screen**)

Finally, in desperation, he asks: Is God responsible for all that has happened to me?

Slide: “Where Were You When I Laid the foundations of the Earth?”

God proceeds to answer Job.

“Grid up your loins!”

Get ready for some vigorous questions.

Who created the sun?

Who created the lightning and thunder?

Who created the snow and the hail?

Who created the starry constellations?

God revealed to Job how little he knew about the earth and its environment.

Job is in no position to answer but, to his credit, Job is listening.

Slide: Whirlwind

Out of a “whirlwind” God begins a second round speaking to Job about his earthly zoo.

How the lioness has the instinct to hunt food for her young.

How the raven can provide sustenance for its offspring.

Slide: Behemoth

In chapter 40 God begins describing a huge creature.

It is usually known by the English word “Behemoth,” a plural form of the Hebrew word *behema* –which is found nine times in the OT.

It basically means “Beast.”

Slide: Job 40:15-18 (KJV)

(Read Off Screen)

Animation: Job 40:15 (KJV)

Look at verse 15 again.

This enormous creature was living at the same time and in the same region as Job.

God was not showing Job a vision.

Behemoth and Job could see each other.

Slide: Leviathan

Next, Job is instructed by God to consider the creature called "Leviathan."

Slide: Job 41:1-34

(Read Off Screen)

The historical meanings behind the word Leviathan seems to suggest that which is "bent," "twisted," or gathers itself "in folds."

Leviathan was some sort of water creature.

Slide: Dinosaurs are Controversial

In case you did not know: Dinosaurs are controversial.

Are they merely mythological fantasies of antiquity?

Did dinosaurs eat man?

Did Adam name the dinosaurs?

When did the dinosaurs die?

And my favorite: How did the dinosaurs get on Noah's Ark?

Slide: Dinosaurs: Myth or Symbol?

If dinosaurs are a myth or symbol: How could God present his case with Job if these creatures were fictitious?

You could also ask this question: Why bother reading the Book of Job?

The Bible says David, Nehemiah, Isaiah, and the Apostle Paul supported the Genesis narrative of God's creation.

Slide: Sixth Day of Creation

That God made the beasts of the earth after his kind. That would include dinosaurs.

Slide: Behemoth: Hippopotamus?

Some scholars—with an equally weak argument, I might add—suggest that behemoth was not a real animal at all, but merely a "symbolic" creature, with exaggerated features borrowed from the hippopotamus.

Behemoth is ranked as the "chief" of the Lord's creatures according to Job 40:19.

The reality is: the hippopotamus is third in line among the large creatures of the earth, being surpassed by both the elephant and the rhinoceros.

The hippopotamus is not the "chief" animal in the

modern world, much less the ancient one.

Slide: Leviathan: Crocodile?

Remember the descriptions of Leviathan in Job chapter 41?

None is so fierce that dare stir him up...

Down through the centuries some scholars have debated that leviathan was crocodile.

But as far back as 450 BC, one historian says the Egyptians tamed the crocodile and adorned it with jewelry.

Does that sound like a fierce beast to flee from?

Slide: Dinosaur and Two Hats

Did dinosaurs eat man?

If my two dinosaur experts were alive at the beginning in the Garden of Eden, they would not fear for their lives.

There were no meat eaters in the original creation. Genesis chapter one, beginning with verse 29:

“I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”
And it was so.”

Slide: The Peterborough Bestiary

Did Adam Name the Dinosaurs?

God brought every living creature to Adam to see what he would call them:

“And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast in the field...”

Genesis 2:20.

Beasts in the field would have included dinosaurs.

Slide: When Did the Dinosaurs Die?

Evolutionists say dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago.

The leading secular theory is that a huge asteroid impacted near the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

This launched debris world-wide, darkening the sun, and causing a mass extinction on the earth at that time.

Creationists say adding up the genealogies of Adam to Jesus do not equal millions of years.

Slide: Soft Tissue of Tyrannosaurus rex

When scientists found soft tissue of a Tyrannosaurus

rex in eastern Montana—they discovered that the ancient dinosaur was pregnant and producing eggs at the time of her death.

But how did this soft tissue survive millions of years?

Slide: Appearance of Age?

There are those who say God created the earth with an apparent age—meaning, everything just looks old.

But this is a flawed argument and goes back to whether dinosaurs are myths or symbols.

God is not deceptive because God does not lie:

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent...”

Numbers 23:19.

God created with functional maturity, not ‘appearance of age.’

Slide: Carbon 14 Dating

If we briefly look at one of the most popular ways to find the age of dinosaur bones, we are reminded how complicated and controversial it is.

That would be carbon 14 dating.

Basically, as soon as a plant or animal dies, the amount of carbon 14 in that once-living thing is released at a precise amount as time goes on.

Scientists can measure this “ticking clock.”

But this is affected by the amount of carbon 14 in the atmosphere.

There are also changes in the level of sunspot activity and the earth’s magnetic fields that determine how much carbon 14 is absorbed by plants and trees.

And consider this: The Genesis flood would have greatly upset the carbon balance of the world.

World-wide flooding would have buried a huge amount of carbon, which became coal, oil, or other type of fossil fuel.

Slide: Bible Timeline (Noah Lived After the Flood)

There are a number of clues in the Bible that Job lived after the flood. In the patriarchal age.

One of his best friends refers to the flood as being in the past.

Job sacrifices to God as head of his family, a practice of patriarchal times.

Job's wealth is determined by flocks rather than

money. That is also consistent with patriarchal times.

Slide: Dinosaurs: Too big for the Ark?

Somehow, behemoth survived the flood.

But how was there room enough for dinosaurs in Noah's Ark?

After all, some full-grown dinosaurs weigh in at 80 tons and stood 40 feet high.

The ark was about two-thirds the length of a football field and higher than a four-story building.

Genesis 7:2 says:

“...the beasts that were not clean went into the ark, the male, and the female.”

From this scripture it is reasonable to assume that juvenile dinosaurs or even dinosaur eggs could have been brought aboard the ark and would later grow up as adults in the post-flood world.

Slide: Job's Court of Law with God

Do you think these matters are hard to answer?

On God's witness stand, Job's ignorance about creation was greatly exposed.

There are at least 60 questions from God to Job recorded in the Bible.

Job does not know the answer to any of them.

Job had no clear concept of God's power and glory.

God told Job to "behold" behemoth and remember its Creator.

Slide: Picture of Clocks

Isaiah calls attention to man's lack of knowledge about the time and nature of the true God:

Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

Isaiah 40:21.

So, we will always have a lot to learn about God and his creation.

Slide: Dr. Don Patton

For example, do we have evidence that dinosaurs and man lived at the same time?

Dr. Don Patton is a 1963 graduate of Florida College in Temple Terrace.

He has participated in dig sits in Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, and Canada.

He has also preached the gospel as an evangelist for over 40 years.

Dr. Patton believes that dinosaurs co-existed with man.

Slide: Cave Paintings in Zimbabwe

Along with accurate representations of the elephant and the giraffe, this is a painting of a brontosaurus.

These art works have greatly puzzled scientists since bushmen are known to have painted from real life.

Slide: Paluxy Riverbed in Texas

Dozens of human footprints, along with dinosaur tracks were reported along this riverbed in Texas.

At the top of this slide, it reads:

(Read off Screen)

Slide: What We Can Learn from Behemoth and Leviathan?

To begin with, very few animals are recorded in the Bible with such detailed descriptions as what we read in Job chapters 40 and 41.

More so than the horse, the camel, the donkey, or sheep that we might read about in the Bible.

We come to realize that dinosaurs are, in fact, a magnificent part of God's creation.

Slide: Genesis 2:6

We learn that the earth was covered by a mist.

This created a greenhouse effect, according to secular sources, producing high oxygen levels and warm temperatures in places like Alaska and Antarctica.

God's creation was unblemished, living in perfect harmony, eating only plants.

Slide: No Death in the Creation

There are many Bible verses that tell us there was no sin in the world at the beginning of time.

God said everything he created was "good" or "very good" according to Genesis chapter 1.

Parasites, predators, disease, and death was not part of God's original plan.

This also means there could not have been any animal fossils or dinosaur bones at this time.

Slide: Romans 5:12

But that all changed when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden:

(Read Off Screen)

Slide: Romans 8:22 KJV

Death entered the world, affecting every living thing:

(Read Off Screen)

Death was now the intruder in God's creation.

The last enemy to be destroyed according to 1 Corinthians 15:26.

Slide: Mt. Ararat Summit

In his book Creation vs Evolution, Dr. James A. Hodges has a chapter entitled "*Historical Evidence for Noah's Ark and Flood.*"

His book was developed during 15 years of research and teaching at Florida College in Temple Terrace.

Dr. Hodges and other Bible scholars believe that most dinosaurs drowned or were suffocated in the mud from the raging waters during the Flood as described in Genesis chapter 7.

Because of this quick burial, many of the animals including the dinosaurs would have been preserved as fossils.

You would expect to find evidence of billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the Earth.

This is exactly what scientists are finding even to this day.

Slide: Climate Change

Many biblical scholars also believe that the Flood is the best explanation for the radical change in climate.

The loss of the Eden-like environment as described in Genesis chapters one and two.

After the torrential rains dissipated that protective cover, earth's climate changed radically.

This change in atmosphere would have contributed to much shorter lifespans of humans and animals.

There were greater extremes in hot and cold seasons, and large deserts were formed.

Additionally, the up thrust of the "fountains of the deep" as described in Genesis 7:11, forged mountain ranges and carved deep canyons.

This destroyed habitats and limited where dinosaurs could live.

Competition for food became greater according to Genesis 9:3:

"Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you..."

God allowed man and animal to become meat eaters—and perhaps now subject to carcinogens from both the sun and the meat, as well as higher cholesterol and other issues associated with eating meat.

Slide: Read the Book of Job

Job lost everything at the hand of Satan.

He was the Bill Gates in his world.

His friends and even his wife wanted Job to curse God and die.

They thought Job's suffering was the result of some hideous, secret sin.

But Job makes a confession to God: I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be questioned.

Job is not righteous enough to know God's Divine Plan.

No one is according to Romans chapter 3, beginning with verse 10:

“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth...”

Slide: Picture of Sheep and Donkeys

As a result of Job's repentance, the Lord restored to him the blessings that Satan had deprived him.

His health is restored.

His riches are doubled—he now has 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,0000 yoke of oxen, 1,000 donkeys.

And he has seven new sons and three new daughters.

Satan is defeated.

Job lives on for another 140 years—seeing see his descendants to the fourth generation and dying peacefully.

Slide: Dig Site

Dinosaurs are extinct— but God’s Plan of Salvation is not.

Noah spent 120 years building the ark. Yet no one was saved from the flood except his own family.

Christ’s church is over 2,000 years old and counting. And yet the end could be later tonight.

Slide: Mars Landscape

Job lived at a time when he could see behemoth.

We live in a time when dinosaur bones and the surface of Mars are easily viewed on our laptop computers.

It is all part of a look at God’s creation—and a preview of what we can expect to see when we get to heaven.

The power and the glory of God.

We can see all these things—and we have the complete Bible.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that we:

“...are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...”

2 Peter 2:9

Slide: Never Lose Faith

Job never lost faith in God.

Job is a great example for us.

We should always remember what Hebrews 4:15 tell us:

“Although Jesus is our High Priest, he still knows our weaknesses because he was tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”

Slide: Illustration of Math Equations

No generation will have all the answers.

Including discussions about dinosaurs.

But to the Christian, whether physical evidence is found or not, it does not change the fact that through faith, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us

"...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews chapter 1 summarizes these basic truths for us:

- God has spoken to man.
- He did so in times past in varying degrees and by different methods.
- Today, however, he speaks exclusively by means of his Son.

Slide: Rebellion

This lesson was not about the age of the dinosaurs.

This lesson was not about dinosaurs on Noah's Ark.

This lesson is about God's creation.

We are reminded that God is the judge of it.

He judged Adam and Eve's rebellion with death in the world.

Both were warned about what would happen if they disobeyed God's instructions: do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge according to Genesis 2:17.

God judged the rebellion in Noah's day by destroying the wicked world with water, resulting in the death of millions of creatures.

The Bible also teaches us that God will judge the world again, but it will be by fire according to 2 Peter 3:10.

Slide: Email Address

The outlines and charts are available on our church website at thegospellight.com.

You can also reach me at my email address interstar1@juno.com if you have any comments or questions.