

A Biblical Look at Dinosaurs And Dragons

“Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you... ”. Job 40:15a

(Speaking of Leviathan) *“No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him” ...Job 41:10a*

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Science In Light of Scripture Series

Review

Today’s lesson builds upon our previous lesson last week on Biblical Paleontology. We looked at a sketch very commonly found in most science textbooks illustrating the belief that life on earth evolved, that is, changed, over many generations to produce every kind of life form that has ever existed on earth: “molecules to man, fish to philosopher” transformation of the simpler organisms to the more complex. When examining this fossil record sketch there is no reference to Genesis or to God. Its significance to science is grounded in the Doctrine of Evolution which states *“once it was understood that each fossil represents a biologic entity, instead of a special divinely created life form, it became quite obvious that plants and animals of each stratigraphic division had simply evolved from those of the preceding epoch through gradual adaptation.”* Not only is the logic anti-God in rejecting Creation but the entire logic of how the sketch was developed and also how it is used in science is no more than opinion. The observable evidence are fossils, all else is opinion. Those who are learned in fossil-bearing rock strata world-wide **have yet to find even one place where all fossils in this sketch are observable so that their relative ages can be verified for additional study**; the complete order of fossil-bearing layers exists only in textbooks. Vasquez Rocks along Highway 14 represents a very small part of the sketch since fossils are found in those rocks. The goal was to determine what layers are below and what layers were once on top of Vasquez rocks that we see as only the partial story. Perhaps elsewhere we will be able to shed light on the layers that we cannot see along Highway 14. A simple process was repeated many times: common fossils found in different layers separated by any distance apart and any location on earth were identified and then those layers were added to the growing sketch, inserted where the common fossil was found. Taking over a century with a total thickness on paper of over 100 miles, this was a monumental undertaking! But what does the sketch mean? The first interpretation of the sketch was that matching common fossils really matched the same ecosystem where that fossil lived. A simple example would be finding the same looking fossil clam, at two different outcrops reasonably infers that both places were once ocean floors because that is where clams live. Evolution of organisms was not used in this oldest interpretation because biblically all life was first created by God, all were living on earth at the same time then the Genesis Flood buried them producing fossils we see in the rock strata today. In terms of time, only a few millennia separate the flood of Noah’s day from today. In the flood scenario, all the fossils are basically the same age. But keep in mind that every flood deposit has the potential of mixing fossils, so our inference must be cautious. But today the non-biblical, scientific significance, understood by geologists is evolutionary, based on the time it existed. This interpretation holds that evolution caused the fossil to exist so that it could be fossilized and extinction precluded it from appearing

in younger strata since it no longer reproduces. Don't miss this major difference in thinking: science replaces the creative genius of God as recorded in Genesis 1 with macroevolution – fish to philosopher, molecules to man – atheistic evolutionary thinking. As Christians we should give glory to God for not only creating creatures complete with their habitats in the first place but also for using their remains as evidence of His judgement carried out by Him in the Great Flood. Truly an object lesson set in stone! In similar fashion of thinking that glorifies God, we as Christians should reject any explanation such as evolution which denies the works of His hands.

Where do you stand? Why?

Why Does Science Hold the Opinion That Dinosaurs and Humans Did Not Coexist?

Consider the following statements from three books written for children.

“Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, long before there were any people on earth.”¹

“No one has ever seen a living dinosaur”²

“No one has ever seen a dinosaur. The last dinosaurs disappeared about 60 million years ago, long before there were any people on the earth”³

Perhaps you grew up reading the *Golden Encyclopedia* as I did. When you are a child, it is difficult to argue successfully with the encyclopedia (or with adults). And why should anyone disagree with the encyclopedia? We assume that such a source of information is factual and if something is a matter of opinion it would say so. The Oxford Dictionary defines opinion as *“a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge.”* But opinions can be confidently worded like they are facts. Is it possible that people can be so certain about their opinions that they believe them to be facts without any hint of uncertainty? Some may accept an opinion as fact on the basis of who said so and no one questions it. With respect to the statement above that “the last dinosaurs disappeared about 60 million years ago...” how would you go about proving that opinion? Could you look everywhere, at the same time to prove there are no living dinosaurs right now, let alone 60 million years ago? The only evidence suggesting this conclusion is the fossil record which was pieced together with assumptions. The fossil itself is a fact but its age and extinction status are both based on assumptions and opinions. Let us revisit the Doctrine of Evolution statement one more time to point out the opinions it contains:

*“FOSSIL BASIS FOR DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION: once it was understood that each fossil represents a biologic entity, **instead of a special divinely created life form**, it became **quite obvious** that plants and animals of each stratigraphic division had simply evolved from those of the preceding epoch through gradual adaptation. They were, in turn, ancestral to those that followed. A **sedimentary rock, therefore, can be no older than the youngest fossil in it.**”⁴*

¹ *Dinosaurs A Pop-Up Book*, 1977, Illustrated by Barlowe, Random House, p.2

² Kricher, J, 1990, *Peterson First Guide to Dinosaurs*, Houghton Mifflin, p. 4

³ Parker, B, 1961, *The Golden Book Encyclopedia*, Golden Press, V. 5, p. 420

⁴ Ransom, Jay, *Fossils In America* p. 43, emphasis mine

Do you see the confidently worded opinions? In fact (no pun intended) the first opinion of replacing God with evolution paves the way to believe the second opinion – an “obvious” one – that fossils are evidence of evolutionary change, not the work of God’s amazing creativity. And that opinion paves the way for a third opinion that there must be a timely order of the first appearances of each kind of fossil organism in the rocks since the older evolves into the younger. And this third opinion allows the sketch to represent a history of life on Earth, pieced together by matching the same fossils from different places because they lived at the same time. Wow, that is a lot of opinions! Where are the “what ifs” or “it may be assumed that...” to show that his entire paragraph is constructed of opinions? Another common way that opinion is made to look factual is when only evidence supporting one point of view is presented - one sided - so we think that no contrary evidence exists, and we are led to make only one conclusion since we were not given evidence to the contrary. Notice this verse:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”⁵

Please allow me to change a few words in this verse to make a point: Train up a child in the opinion of others, Even when he is old he will not depart from them. Just as you “are what you eat” you “think as you have been taught to think”. Have you considered that we can be used of God in replacing incorrect opinions by Godly ones so that our children will have sound, consistent reasons to believe God’s Word instead of the opinions of men. This mission field is in our own backyard! When children are taught evolution in public school and creation in Sunday School without clearly explaining why they are radically different it’s obvious why confusion results. I believe the best way to think Biblically is to examine the Word for any truth on the subject combined with exposing worldly opinions as opinions, not facts. As Christians, our way of thinking should ALWAYS glorify God in

- ❖ Who He is, His Character, and also
- ❖ What He says He has done.

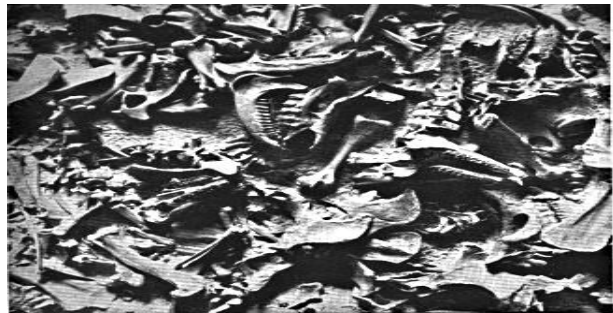
Sometimes what we accept as true is contrary to what God has done such as substitution of evolution for the creative Genius of God. When I visit the zoo, I am blown away by the imagination of God...how about you? When you read about humans and dinosaurs living together do you immediately jump into a skeptic’s frame of mind? I believe that we have been taught what to think instead of how to think. What to think is like brainwashing in that the goal is to make someone think a certain way or just to memorize without thinking about other possibilities. Just about all of my schooling, and probably yours as well, was brainwashing disguised as learning. Memorize and recall what the teacher and textbook says seems to be the new definition of learning. Several times I was called into the Vice President’s office at Antelope Valley College because I presented all the evidence of some conclusion and asked students to evaluate the conclusion using all the evidence, not just some evidence leading to the textbook’s conclusion. Although these meetings were heated at times, I was teaching to the required “critical thinking” component that every subject is required to have. Also, since I was Advisor to the Campus Christian Club, my reputation among my Colleagues was not stellar. In their

⁵ Prov. 22:6, NAS’95

mind I was a Christian guilty by association and should not be teaching at all. But praise God! He always had my back at every difficult encounter.

Can the statements made by the three children's books be falsified? watched cannot, so they are based on faith. They are opinions, not supported by observable evidence. But some may insist that the fossil record shows that dinosaurs lived between 65,000,000 and 225,000,000 years before humans evolved. My reply is twofold: nice diagram but it was pieced together with assumptions; and the number of years ago that a fossil lived and died is also based on assumptions (our topic for our next meeting, by the way). The error of this kind of opinion is self-perpetuating because when someone finds a rock containing dinosaur fossils that rock is always dated to the age of the dinosaurs because before that time dinosaurs had not yet evolved and after that time they became extinct, making fossilization before that age as well as after, impossible. So the accepted age to assign a newly discovered dinosaur fossil is, of course, the "age of the dinosaurs". There is no reason for the geologist to think differently. He will not choose the "foolishness" that God created because he is a natural man, as Paul would put it. Scientists follow the Doctrines they learned in school. Unfortunately, fossils do not have a date stamped on them like books have copyright dates. However matching fossils by the same ecosystem removes the questionable label of time altogether. That is consistent with the Biblical scenario of creation of all living things followed by a one year long worldwide flood that buried ecosystems that were all thriving on earth at the same time. Of course a flood can mix fossils from different ecosystems and that is also observed in the fossil record. Two examples are described below⁶

Agate Spring, Nebraska is a fossil graveyard containing **9,000 animals buried** in alluvium. **The remains of camels, three-toed horses, rhinoceroses, giant wild boars, birds, plants, trees, seashells and fish are all scrambled together.** This image at the right is a very small part of the fossil graveyard.



Montceau-les Mines. The mine is near **Autun in France**. Its fossils are well preserved and in excellent condition. As well, they consist of a mixture of creatures. Some are lived in **saltwater, some in freshwater and some are land-based animals**. For example, hundreds of thousands of marine creatures were buried with amphibians, reptiles and insects. Spiders, scorpions and millipedes were found as well. The find was reported in *Scientific American*⁷ and the two paleontologists" working on the site; Daniel Heyler and Cecile Poplin, were bewildered by the mixture and variety of animal fossils present.

⁶ <https://www.adeffenceofthebible.com/2016/07/15/reasons-to-believe-the-bible-6-noahs-flood-part-5-genesis-6-8/>

⁷ *Scientific American*, September 1988, 256, pages 70–76.

This is a sketch from the Grand Canyon. Mr. E. L. Doheny of Los Angeles, who sponsored the expedition in 1924, had visited this area as a young prospector in 1879. He and his party were among the first white men to venture into this wild place.

“The red sandstone contains a trace of iron. This iron, through the alchemy of unknown ages of time, forms a thin black scale on the surface of the stone, locally called the "Desert Varnish". By taking any sharp point, such as a piece of flint, and cutting through this black surface, the red stone is revealed underneath, thus making a picture, without the use of pigment, which is practically imperishable.



*The only way one of these pictographs can disappear is to weather off. They show every sign of a great antiquity, and in the thirty years they have been known to the writer there is not the slightest change noticeable...The dimensions of the figure are as follows: Total height 11.2 inches; greatest width, 7 inches; length of leg, 3.8 inches; length of body, 3.9 inches; width of body, 3 inches; length of neck to top of curve, 3.5 inches; length of tail (approximately) 9.1 inches; length of neck (approximately) 5 inches”.*⁸

On the same wall are other pictographs including what appears to be a human next to a mammoth (left) and a rhinoceros (right). Since humans were thought to coexist with both animals there is no problem but not so with the one shaped like a dinosaur (above).



Although tracks of an ancestral dinosaur were recently found there, the official National Park Service statement is “*What about dinosaur fossils? Not*



⁸<http://www.bearfabrique.org/sauropods/supai.html>

*at Grand Canyon! The rocks of the canyon are older than the oldest known dinosaurs”.*⁹

A Relative Timeline

Assuming that the mammoth, rhino and dinosaur shapes are evidence that man lived contemporaneously with all three, the following relative order history can be constructed. Events in relative order from oldest to youngest by number with some explanation below by letters.

1. Creation of earth, animals and man (Genesis 1)
2. The Flood lasting about one year from the time the ark doors were closed until they were opened. Animals on board the ark would presumably include at least one pair of young dinosaur, rhino and mammoth kinds.
 - a. Erosion and deposition during the flood produced worldwide sedimentary layers with fossils
3. Uplifting of mountains, dropping of valleys near end of the flood (Psalm 104:8-10)¹⁰ produced new slopes where erosion of flood deposits occurred. This is probably when the Grand Canyon was easily eroded by the Colorado River since the flood deposits were probably still soft. Above the Colorado River desert varnish begins to form the dark patina on rock surfaces exposed to the air.
 - a. Desert varnish today is typically a slow process where rain water percolates into rock, dissolves Magnesium and Iron and by capillary action brings them as salts to the rock surface by evaporation. This process may have been faster than as water inside the rock brought metals to surface constantly evaporating, not only during times of rainfall.
4. Ice age begins immediately after the flood.¹¹ Since glaciers are formed by compaction of snow under its own weight, the following mechanism would likely increase winter snowfall while decrease summer melting leading to more ice after the flood waters drained from more and more of once submerged land.

⁹ <https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/nature/fossils.htm>

¹⁰ Some believe this passage refers to the third day of creation when God caused the dry land to appear out of the water that surrounded the earth since verse 5 refers to the creation. However, I favor the flood interpretation of verse 8 because verse 6 describes the water as standing above the mountains. So, if those verses describes the events on the third day, why even mention the water covering the mountains? They could not be seen if they were there in the first place. Also, verse 9 states that God set a boundary for the waters so that “*they will not flood the earth again*”, which is consistent with the rainbow covenant where God says that He will never again “*flood the earth to destroy all flesh*” Gen 9:8-16.

¹¹ A very good reference on this topic is *An Ice Age Caused By The Genesis Flood* by Michael J. Oard published by the Institute for Creation Research, 1990

- a. If ocean water derived from the “fountains of the great deep” warmed the oceans, then air over the oceans would also be warm, humid air. This maritime air mass provided the essential source of abundant snowfall on the continents as it cooled by several mechanisms. When encountering mountainous land it expands, cools and drops snow at higher elevations. Also, volcanic ash (frequently found interbedded with sedimentary layers in the fossil record, likely erupted from volcanoes during the flood), would shade the ground from the sun’s rays while allowing heat escape to space – a reverse greenhouse effect – to also cool the air in contact with the cold ground increasing precipitation. Another possible cause of atmospheric cooling would be the demise of the vapor canopy atmosphere that likely existed before the flood as the source of 40 days of rain. Finally, once the ground is covered by snow, solar energy will not be absorbed to warm the ground (which then warms the air), so the snow cover provides a positive feedback mechanism to encourage more snow to stay through summer. Summarizing, humid air from warm oceans cooled as it traveled over land would provide ideal conditions for glaciers to grow after the flood. Scientific explanations fail in their lack of an adequate source of moisture which is a big advantage of the Biblical scenario. Simply cooling off the earth does not explain ice ages because the colder the air the less water vapor it contains. Perhaps you have heard that accurate statement that “it is too cold to snow”. **There will be a separate Sunday school lesson on the ice age.** Probably more erosion of the Grand Canyon as Canadian Ice Sheet north of Arizona melts.
5. After the flood descendants of Noah’s sons initially living together (against God’s command (Gen 11:4) on a likely single landmass, would be encouraged to spread out by confusing their language and also through direct separation by continental drift.
- a. Genesis 10 describes the locations where Noah’s sons dispersed to
 - b. Genesis 11 describes how God confused their language and initiated continental drift to separate people groups by Atlantic Ocean. Evidence for continental drift after the flood includes matching rock formations across the Atlantic and puzzle-like-matching of shorelines. **There will be a separate Sunday school lesson on biblical continental drift.**
6. Ancestors of Noah living in northern Arizona observe local animals and represent them as pictographs. In his book *An Ice Age Caused by the Genesis Flood*, Oard explains the likelihood of cold and warm climate-preference-animals living in close proximity at the edges of glaciers that border on midlatitude warm ocean coastlines¹². Notice the Grand Canyon pictographs apparently show both warm and cold loving animals on the same rock cliff (dinosaur and rhino together with mammoth, respectively). **More on this topic when we discuss the ice age at a later date.**

¹² Ibid, p.83-84

Consider the implications of this surprisingly interesting Los Angeles Times article¹³

The Nation; Soft Tissue Discovered in Bone of a Dinosaur; Intact after 70 million years, bits of a T. rex's hind leg startle and intrigue researchers.; [HOME EDITION] Robert Lee Hotz. Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles, Calif.: Mar. 25, 2005. pp. A 1 Full Text (1092 words) (Copyright (c) 2005 Los Angeles Times). CORRECTION:

Soft Tissue Discovered in Bone of a Dinosaur; Intact after 70 million years, bits of a T. rex's hind leg startle and intrigue researchers

microscopic soft tissue of a Tyrannosaurus rex, preserved almost unaltered inside a bone since the dinosaur died 70 million years ago, scientists announced Thursday. Scientists at North Carolina State University and at Montana State University's Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman found brownish oblong cells, elastic threads of veins and pliable dabs of red bone marrow in the core of a stout hind leg, the researchers reported in the journal Science.

The scientists' discovery began with happenstance: Fieldworkers had to break the massive thighbone to load it onto a helicopter. Normally, "people tend not to want their dinosaurs broken, or to have holes cut into the bone, or to cut them in half," said John R. Horner, a Montana State paleontologist and a co-author of the study. "It may be that this isn't a unique specimen," said Horner, who has pioneered the use of molecular and cellular techniques to study the growth and behavior of dinosaurs. If confirmed by other researchers, the find could force scientists to reconsider how all fossils are formed. Until now, scientists have believed that bones fossilized when minerals gradually replaced organic material. Under current theories, organic molecules should not last more than 100,000 years. "Our theories don't allow for this," Schweitzer said.

"To my knowledge, preservation to this extent has not been noted in dinosaurs before," said Mary H. Schweitzer, a paleontologist at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

"The tissues are still soft," said Schweitzer, who led the research team. "The microstructures that look like cells are preserved in every way."

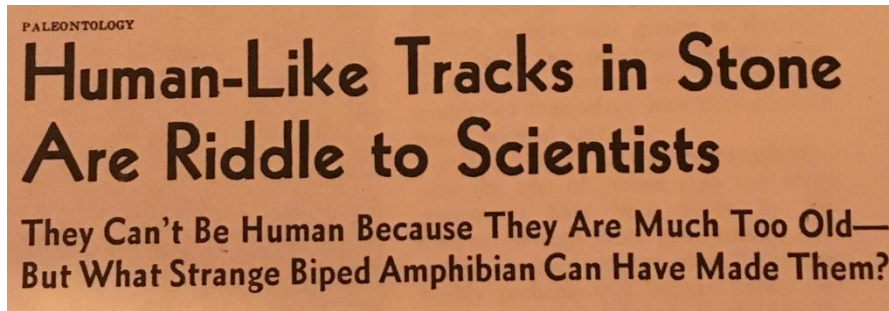
Under a scanning electron microscope, these dinosaur tissues -- minute remains of the mightiest of Earth's ancient carnivores -- were "virtually identical" to those of a modern ostrich.



This T-Rex discovery is the most recent of several similar discoveries at various locations involving very different fossils. What does this kind of discovery imply about how old this fossil bone could be?

¹³This discovery was first published in the journal Science and later in Scientific American at <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/scientists-find-soft-tiss/> Later articles verify this discovery and suggest a possible reason why this soft tissue was preserved [Analyses of soft tissue from Tyrannosaurus rex suggest the presence of protein - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

Next, take notice of the opinion in the byline title of this article in Science News Letter¹⁴



This article verified that the sand grains in the footprint are closer together, excluding the possibility that they are carvings. Such tracks have been discovered in numerous localities, on different continents and in dinosaur age rocks. Notice this conclusion from an article¹⁵ in Scientific American about human-like footprints found in dinosaur age rock:

“If man, or even his ape ancestor, or even the ape ancestor’s early mammal ancestor, existed as far back as in the Carboniferous period in any shape, then the whole science of geology is so completely wrong that all geologists will resign their jobs and take up truck driving. Hence, for the present at least, science rejects the attractive explanation that man made these mysterious prints in the mud of the Carboniferous period with his feet”

The opinion driving the conclusion that such human-like footprints cannot be human is obvious. It is common for all of us to filter information through our biases to either believe or reject. As Believers we have been given the gift of ears to hear and eyes to see the things of God. Let us always give answers consistent with the biblical paradigm. A paradigm is the framework, or lens, through which we explain everything.

Paleocryptozoology.

The relatively new science of Paleocryptozoology is revolutionizing our understanding of fossils. Paleocryptozoology is the comparative study of paleontology with archaeological

¹⁴ October 29, 1938, pages 278-279

¹⁵ Ingalls, Albert G. (1940), “The Carboniferous Mystery,” *Scientific American*, 162:14, January. Emphasis mine..

artifacts and ancient records emphasizing common morphological features. If a fossil has something distinctive about its anatomy, this feature can be looked for in written descriptions and petroglyphs, pictographs, paintings, coins, carvings, etc. to determine if it lived at the same time as man, since man made a record of its existence. John Goertzen has written a fascinating paper about pterosaurs. Much of what follows is from his research.

*“An example of a distinct morphological feature is the **tail vane** of some rhamphorhynchoid pterosaurs. Also, it could be a **distinctive skull** like that of a *Dimorphodon*... For *Scaphognathus crassirostris*, the distinctive feature is a rhamphorhynchoid pterosaur with a **head crest**.”*



A fossil of *Rhamphorhynchus*, an early pterosaur. Learn more about them at this excellent web site <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/diapsids/pterosauria.html> *Scaphognathus crassirostris* is the only long-tailed pterosaur presently known from the fossil record with that feature... Paleocryptozoology could suggest a total revolution in the understanding of the geologic column where the **age** of the strata is determined by the fossils found in it. Thus far I have found about two dozen species of extinct animals, all thought to be extinct for millions of years, but almost certainly accurately observed by man in the recent past. Therefore the entire idea of the geological succession of many of the layers of strata (different ages), based on index fossils, may soon be untenable.”¹⁶

Here is a description that agrees with the anatomy of these pterosaurs

“Most written records of flying reptiles in the middle east are rather generic and “contain little distinguishing detail. However, Prosper Alpin, a European scientist who wrote a natural history of Egypt during the years 1581-4, has provided a masterful account. Alpin did not observe these animals but recorded the following account:

¹⁶Goertzen, J, The Rhamphorhynchoid Pterosaur *Scaphognathus crassirostris*: A "Living Fossil" Until the 17th Century, a paper presented at the 1998 International Conference on Creation, Geneva, PA on the internet at <http://www.rae.org/index.html>



...there is nothing for sure about the basilic, but we have heard talk, nevertheless, that there is a small serpent, as long as a palm branch, and thick like a small finger. It has a small piece of skin, like a crest, on its head and, in the middle of the back, two scales placed on one side and the other which serve as wings in order to advance more quickly. Large numbers of people have said that these serpents live in large quantities close to certain lakes in which the Nile has its source. People don't travel close to those lakes because of the well-known danger these serpents represent ... That is what is said by the Egyptians who travel in Ethiopia and in Nubia .



The most remarkable facet of this description is the crest and small piece of skin on the head. Alpin's description of the tail, "thick as a finger," is precisely how paleontologist Malcolm Browne described the tails of rhamphorhynchoid pterosaurs . The length, "as long as a palm branch," is correct for this pterosaur we are considering according to the fossils that are known. Many of the ancient reports of these animals place them near water: lakes, swamps, or rivers, corresponding with Alpin's record. Even more ancients speak of these animals being dangerous (like Alpin's informants). It seems obvious that the French scientist was slow to believe what he heard: these animals were unheard of in Europe by this time, but, as he states, he verified these sightings with large numbers of eyewitnesses (very likely with a great deal of independence).¹⁷

There is an interesting Biblical connection here. To indicate a winged reptile Latin writers used the term "basilic". In the *Symmachi* version of the Greek Septuagint text for Isaiah 30:6, the Greek word "*basilisk*" is used for "flying serpent". This translation is correctly made in almost every Bible version except the mistaken NIV.¹⁸

The Hebrew word for the same creature is "saraph" (Strong's 08314) which occurs in seven Old Testament verses, five of them verses describe them as flying. It means "burning, i.e. (figuratively) poisonous (serpent); specifically, a saraph or symbolical creature (from their copper color): fiery (serpent), seraph." The interesting thing about Isaiah 30:6 is that the context is Egypt!

*"The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through a land of distress and anguish, From where come lioness and lion, viper and **flying serpent [saraph]**, They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who cannot profit them;"¹⁹*

The same word is used to describe serpents in the wilderness.

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ Isa. 30:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

*"He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its **fiery serpents [saraph]** and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint."²⁰*

And the same word for the serpents that the Lord sent to bite the people.

*"The LORD sent **fiery serpents [saraph]** among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died."²¹*

Notice that the 1581-4 description above states that they are dangerous to humans and live in great numbers! Five out of the ten written accounts describe them as poisonous!

“Bochart (writing in c.1650) was an outstanding scholar, competent in Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Latin and wrote, perhaps, the most outstanding study of biblical animals ever penned. After arguing that the flying serpents of Isaiah 14:29 and 30:6 were still alive, he relates several accounts

If on your travels you encounter the serpent with wings who circles and hurls himself at you, the flying snake, hide yourself because of its reputation. Lie down when the snake appears and guard yourself in alarm for that snake's manner is to go away calm, considering it a victory... There are winged and flying serpents that can be found who are venomous, who snort, and are savage and kill with pain worse than fire,...”²²

Could the reference to fire refer to the pain of its bite rather than to actual flames?

The formations in which Rhamphorhynchoid pterosaur fossils are found are the Triassic and Jurassic. We are talking about 144 million years ago.



What are you inclined to believe? Did humans and dinosaurs live at the same time only hundreds or thousands of years ago or are they separated by millions of years? Could humans have acquired the knowledge of dinosaurs by observing them first hand? Perhaps God made them both on day 6 of the creation week – an old and wise belief.

Dragons

If one cares to look for them, there are thousands of instances where land dragons, water monsters and flying serpents have made an impression on mankind, some of them less than a century ago. An excellent resource on this subject, and a “must read” book on biblically accurate history, is Bill Cooper’s book *After The Flood*. The internet edition is at <http://www.revelationwebsite.co.uk/index1/after/>. Much of what follows is taken from chapter 10 of his book.

²⁰ Deut. 8:15, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²¹ Num. 21:6, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²² ibid

Flying reptiles, like the pterosaurs described above were a feature of Welsh life as late as the early 1900's.

"The woods around Penllin Castle, Glamorgan, had the reputation of being frequented by winged serpents, and these were the terror of old and young alike. An aged inhabitant of Penllyne, who died a few years ago, said that in his boyhood the winged serpents were described as very beautiful. They were coiled when in repose, and "looked as if they were covered with jewels of all sorts. Some of them had crests sparkling with all the colours of the rainbow". When disturbed they glided swiftly, J 'sparkling all over', to their hiding places. When angry, they "flew over people's heads, with outspread wings, bright, and sometimes with eyes too, like the feathers in a peacock's tail". He said it was "no old story invented to' frighten children", but a real fact. His father and uncle had killed some of them, for they were as bad as foxes for poultry. The old man attributed the extinction of the winged serpents to the fact that they were "terrors in the farmyards and coverts".²³

"As late as August, 1614, the following sober account was given of a strange reptile that was encountered in St Leonard's Forest in Sussex. The sighting was near a village that was known as Dragon's Green long before this report was published:

*'This serpent (or dragon as some call it) is reputed to be nine feete, or rather more, in length, and shaped almost in the form of an axletree of a cart: a quantitie of thickness in the midst, and somewhat smaller at both endes. The former part, which he shootes forth as a necke, is supposed to be an elle [3 ft 9 ins or 1 14 cms] long; with a white ring, as it were, of scales about it. The scales along his back seem to be blackish, and so much as is discovered under his belie, appeareth to be red... it is likewise discovered to have large feete, but the eye may there be deceived, for some suppose that serpents have no feete ... [The dragon] rids away (as we call it) as fast as a man can run. His food [rabbits] is thought to be; for the most part, in a conie-warren, which he much frequents ... There are likewise upon either side of him discovered two great bunches so big as a large foote-ball, and (as some thinke) will in time grow to wings, but God, I hope, will (to defend the poor people in the neighbourhood) that he shall be destroyed before he grows to fledge.'*²⁴

One of the locals set his two mastiffs onto the monster, and apart from losing his dogs he was fortunate to escape alive from the encounter, for the dragon was already credited with the deaths of a man and woman at whom it had spat and who

²³ Trevelyan, M. 1909. *Folk-Lore and Folk Stories of Wales*. (cit. Simpson, J. *British Dragons*. B.T. Batsford Ltd. London. 1980).

²⁴ *True and Wonderful: A Discourse Relating a Strange and Monstrous Serpent (or Dragon. #lately discovered, and yet living, to the great Annoyance and divers Slaughters of both Men and Cattell, by his strong and violent Poison: in Sussex, two Miles from Horsham, in a Woode called St Leonard's Forrest, and thirtie Miles from London, this present month of August 1614. With the true Generation of Serpents.* cited in Harlejan Miscellany. 1745. III. pp. 106-9. (also Simpson, J. *British Dragons*. B.T. Batsford Ltd. 1980. p. 118).

consequently had been killed by its venom. When approached unwittingly, our pamphleteer tells us, the monster was

'...of countenance very proud and at the sight or hearing of men or cattel will raise his neck upright and seem to listen and looke about, with great arrogancy.'

an eyewitness account of typically reptilian behavior.”

Scotland's famous Loch Ness Monster is only one of many aquatic monsters that have been observed. A loch is a lake or bay of the sea usually narrow and nearly surrounded by land. “Loch Lomond, Loch Awe, Loch Rannoch and the privately owned Loch Morar (over 1000 ft deep) also have records of monster activity in recent years. Indeed, there have been over forty sightings at Loch Morar alone since the end of the last war, and over a thousand from Loch Ness in the same period.”

Water monsters reports are not limited to the British Isles. The following is an account from medieval Italy in the year 1484.

“There was found within a great river [i.e. the Po in Italy] a monster marine, or of the sea, of the form or likeness which followeth. He had the form or making of a fish, the which part was in two halves, that is to wit double. He had a great beard and he had two wonderfully great horns above his ears. Also he had great paps and a wonderfully great and horrible mouth. And at the both [of] his elbows he had wings right broad and great of fish's armour wherewith he swimmeth and only he had but the head out of the water. It happed then that many women laundered and washed at the port or haven of the said river [where] that this horrible and fearful beast was, [who] for lack or default of meat came swimming toward the said women. Of the which he took one by the hand and supposed to have drawn her into the water. But she was strong and well advised and resisted against the said monster. And as she defended herself, she began to cry with an high voice, "Help, help!" To the which came running five women which by hurling and drawing of stones, killed and slew the said monster, for he was come too far within the sound, wherefore he might not return to the deep water. And after, when he rendered his spirit, he made a right little cry. He was of great corpulence more than any man's body. And yet, saith Poge [Pogius Bracciolini of Florence] in this manner, that he, being at Ferrara, he saw the said monster and saith yet that the young children were accustomed for to go bathe and wash them within the said river, but they came not all again. Wherefore the women [neither] washed nor laundered their clothes at the said port, for the folk presumed and supposed that the monster killed the young children which were drowned.”²⁵

Mr. Cooper also discusses the instances when flying dragons, described very much like pterodactyls, were observed in large numbers before bad weather. Of course, animal

²⁵ Caxton, Win. 1484. *Aesop*. folio 138. The only surviving copy of this book lies in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. This extract appears here by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.

behavior in general is affected by changes in weather and even months before earthquakes. In the dry Antelope Valley where I live, sea gulls are only seen before storms. I am always looking for strange animal behavior that may warn of an earthquake since the San Andreas Fault is only seven miles from Lancaster.

Here is some advice given to Danish king Frotho as he is about to fight with a giant reptile:

"...wreathed in coils, doubled in many a fold, and with a tail drawn out in winding whorls, shaking his manifold spirals and shedding venom ... his slaver [saliva] burns up what it bespattersyet [he tells the king in words that were doubtless meant to encourage rather than dismay] ...remember to keep the dauntless temper of thy mind; nor let the point of the jagged tooth trouble thee, nor the starkness of the beast, nor the venom there is a place under his lowest belly whither thou mayst plunge the blade"

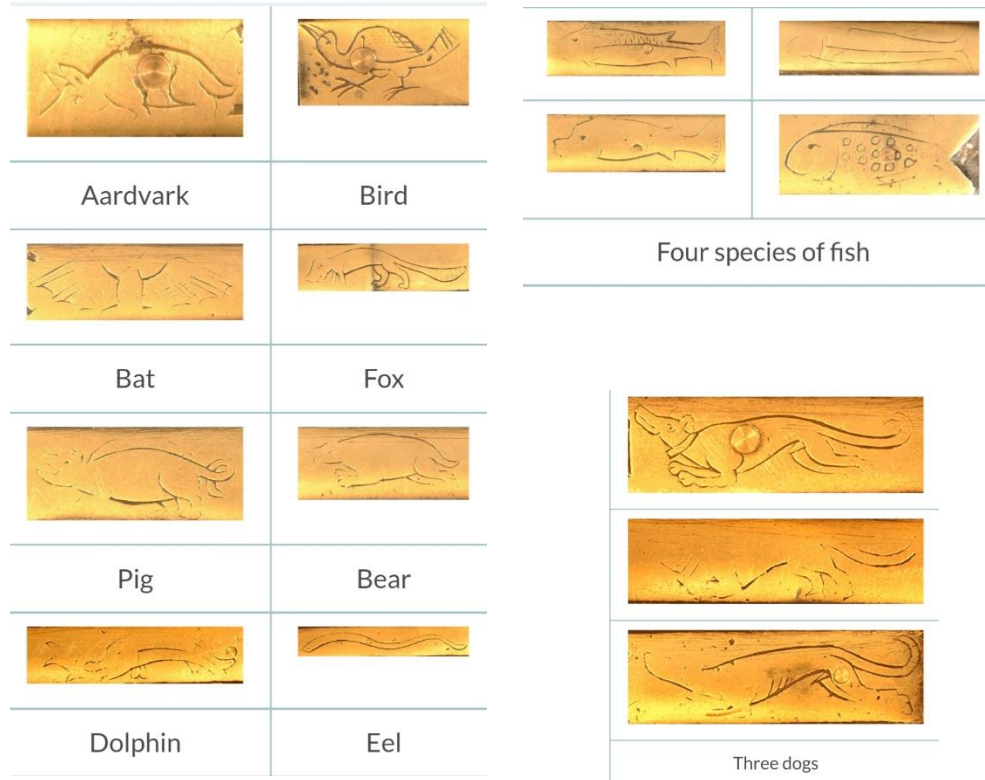
Dinosaurs in the 15th Century?

Richard Owen was responsible for coining the term ‘dinosaur’ meaning terrible lizard in 1841. But the earliest mention of a mysterious large bone was in a limestone quarry by Robert Plot in 1676. Why, then, does the tomb of Richard Bell, bishop at Carlisle Cathedral in northern England, have brass engravings of several recognizable animals including a couple of apparently fighting sauropod dinosaurs, **considering he died in 1478?** Not skeletons, as in a museum display but fleshed out²⁶. The one on the left has a club tail found in ankylosaurid skeletons such as Euoplocephalus.



No one questions the other engravings (below) as depicting animals. But the apparent dinosaurs? That would be impossible...do you agree?

²⁶ Creation Magazine, Vol. 25, No.4, pp 40-44 Also <https://apologeticspress.org/the-bell-tomb-engraving-3533/>



Behemoth and Leviathan

Do you recall the science exam God gave Job? In that exam two animals are described. The first is behemoth, which means large animal. God begins His description with this statement:

*"Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you ..."*²⁷

It sounds like God is referring to something that Job was personally familiar with, not at all referring to fossil remains that Job had no familiarity with." Also notice that God made both of them.

Most bibles link it with a hippopotamus, rhinoceros or elephant in the commentaries and notes. I would agree that the closest match to behemoth from **now living animals** would be those two. But, if we expand our search to all animals, including dinosaurs, the match becomes much better. Consider the traits of Behemoth found in chapter 40 of Job:

- He eats grass like an ox (v.15)
- His strength is in his loins (v.16)
- His power is in the muscles of his belly (v.16)

²⁷ Job 40:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

- He bends his tail like a cedar (v.17)
- His bones are like tubes of bronze (v.18)
- His limbs are like bars of iron (v.18)
- He is first in the ways of God (v.19)
- He is not alarmed when a river rages (v.23)
- He cannot be captured when he is on watch (v.24)

Consider the tail of Behemoth in comparison to the tails of the hippopotamus, rhinoceros and elephant. Doesn't a large sauropod dinosaur, like the one in the movie *Jurassic Park* that sneezed on the humans in the tree, fit the description better? A great reference²⁸ that answers the following objections to a sauropod being the best candidate for behemoth:

- sauropods were not semiaquatic
- sauropods had the wrong kind of feet
- sauropods would be crushed by water-pressure
- sauropods' heads were too small
- sauropods were too buoyant
- sauropods could not eat grass
- sauropods were too large to fit under lotus plants

Such objections are great examples of opinions, not demonstrated facts...we have dinosaur bones, scat, imprints of skin and eggs but all other soft parts comprising about 90% of their anatomy were not fossilized so opinions abound! The same reference challenges some of the Hebrew word meanings in this passage about behemoth. A great reference that affirms the sauropod as the most likely candidate is published by Answers In Genesis²⁹

Chapter 41 of Job describes Leviathan. Again, the commentaries and notes tell us that this creature is a crocodile. But do crocodiles

- Sneeze flashes of light? (v.18)
- Issue smoke from their nostrils? (v.20)
- Issue flames from their mouth? (v21)
- Have under parts like sharp potsherds? (v30)

If you are having difficulty with the smoke and fire, consider this. Do you think that a bug that gives off light (firefly), an eel that can shock a man (electric eel) or a bug that can produce a chemical as hot as boiling water and shoot this liquid at an enemy (Bombardier Beetle) **is hard to believe if they were not all alive today?** Recall that

*"You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and **all** that is on it, The seas and **all** that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You."*³⁰

²⁸ <https://www.talkgenesis.org/behemoth-cant-be-a-sauropod/>

²⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/types/sauropods/>

³⁰ Neh. 9:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

Genesis 1:24-31 describes both beasts and man being created on the same sixth day. They must have existed together if the days in Genesis 1 were literal days.

As for Leviathan, Genesis 1:20-23 tells us that God made sea creatures on the fifth day of creation. I wonder if God smiled when He made Leviathan and thought something like “here’s one that will impress them!”

"Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle; you will not do it again! Behold, your expectation is false; Will you be laid low even at the sight of him? No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him; Who then is he that can stand before Me?"³¹



Do you believe that Behemoth and Leviathan refer to real creatures?
If so, when do you think they lived?

We need to test men’s theories by Scripture, rather than
testing Scripture by man’s theories.

³¹ Job. 41:8-10, NAS’95, emphasis mine