

DINOSAUR MYTHS

There are several common myths about dinosaurs fostered by evolutionism: (1) dinosaurs lived millions of years ago before man lived on earth; (2) dinosaurs were often fierce meat-eaters; and (3) no dinosaurs have survived into the present. Another myth is that (4) most, if not all, dinosaurs were huge.

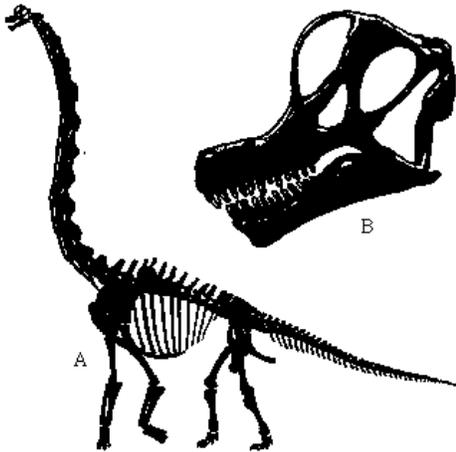
I. Response to Myth #1: Dinosaurs Did Not Live Millions of Years Ago or Before Man.

The Bible says that God created all things in six days (Exodus 20:9-11). **This means that the dinosaurs were created in the same week as everything else.** The Bible also shows that this happened several thousand years ago, not millions.¹

Genesis chapters 5 and 11 describe the line of people going from Adam to Abraham over several thousand years, and everyone agrees that Abraham was born in about 2000 BC. Since Adam was created during the creation week, this means that **the creation and the first dinosaurs could have been only a few thousand years before Abraham.**

II. Response to Myth #2: Dinosaurs Were All Tame in the Beginning and Many Never Ate Meat

The dinosaurs are divided into two big groups that differ mainly in their jaws and hips. These groups are the Saurischians ("lizard-hipped") and the Ornithischians ("bird-hipped"). To scientists in the 1800s, some dinosaurs had hip bones (the pelvis) that reminded them of the pelvises of birds,



Brachiosaurus, a Multi-Ton Vegetarian Behemoth (Job 41)

and other dinosaurs had hip-bones like those of the small lizards of today. Maybe the Saurischians could run faster than the Ornithischians. One of the main differences in the jaw structure is that the Ornithischians had no front teeth, but typically a beak on the front of the jaw.

All the Ornithischians were herbivorous.

Stegosaurus is an example. The Saurischians are divided into two subgroups, the Theropods and the Sauropods. **The Sauropods were all plant-eaters like Brachiosaurus.** The Theropods may in some cases have become carnivores (like Tyrannosaurus) after the flood.²

It is therefore obvious that most of the dinosaurs were never carnivores. The ones that possibly were became so only after the Flood. We know this also because **Genesis 1:28-29 says that all life in the beginning ate only plants.** Then Genesis 9:1-3 describe how after the Flood, God began permitting animals and people to eat meat if they wanted to. However, some of the dinosaurs commonly pictured as carnivores may not have been. T. rex, for example, may not have been the fierce meat-eater we often believe him to have been, and he certainly was a plant-eater till after the Flood.



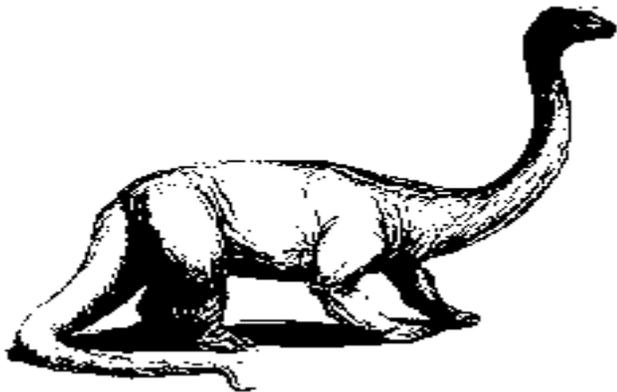
Evidence that Men and Dinosaurs Have Coexisted: A Pre-European Sauropod Drawing in the Hava Supai Canyon, Photographed in 1924 by the Doheny Expedition³

III. Response to Myth #3: Dinosaurs Survived Into the Recent Past and Possibly Live Today.

We often talk about dinosaurs as if they all lived in the past. This may not be completely true, and **there is some evidence that some dinosaurs may be living in remote places today.** At any rate, this would not be surprising since they lived with man only a few thousand years ago. Most evolutionists would be very surprised, however, because the evolutionary belief is that dinosaurs have not lived for some 65 million years.

If this were true, it would seem very unlikely for any dinosaurs to have survived into modern times. Even so, some evolutionists are now saying that dinosaurs may exist today. A program on PBS several years ago discussed this very

question. It was an episode of the PBS *Nature* program hosted by George Page, entitled "Gorilla: King of the Congo," aired on February 14, 1993. It documented the expedition of zoologist Mark Linfield into the Ndoke forest in search of lowland gorillas in the heart of the Congo. Surrounding the Ndoke forest are vast, virtually unexplored swamps which the expedition had to cross. Of these swamps, George Page narrated, "It's a primeval place, where according to legend, lurks a strange beast."



Mokele Mbembe

Mark Linfield then continued, "The pygmies claim Congo's swamps are home to a dinosaur-like creature called mekole mbembe. Such an animal isn't too improbable. These swamps embrace areas where the climate and vegetation have remained virtually unchanged for millions of years. These places have acted as havens for plants and animals that would otherwise have become extinct." Here are evolutionists claiming that dinosaurs may have persisted unchanged for millions of years. **In fact, dinosaurs need have survived only a few thousand years to be living today.**

IV. Response to Myth #4: Most Dinosaurs Were Small.

Dinosaurs were reptiles, and as reptiles, two facts apply to them: (1) they hatched from eggs, and (2) they kept growing as long as they lived and as long as conditions permitted. Let's consider the implications of each of these facts:

(1) **All dinosaurs were born small.** They hatched from eggs no larger than ostrich eggs (about 1 foot in size). Further, the average dinosaur never grew large. **Most adult dinosaurs were the size of a sheep or dog, and the smallest dinosaurs were pigeon-sized.**⁴ Thus dinosaurs easily fit on the Ark. Naturally, the huge dinosaurs capture the imagination, so the myth continues that dinosaurs were mostly very large.

(2) The ones that did grow huge did so because, as reptiles, they had no upper limit on size and could continue growing through their life. This means that the large size of some is testimony to (a) a long life span, consistent with long human life span before the Flood, and (b) the likelihood of very good growing conditions before the Flood, consistent with the biblical picture of the earth as very fertile before the Flood.

By the way, **dinosaurs never evolved into birds.** Genesis chapter 1 says that all life reproduced after its kind, and birds are a different "kind" of creature from dinosaurs.

Further, **dinosaurs did not die out because of an asteroid impact.** There is no good evidence of an impact ever having occurred large enough to cause global extinctions. In fact, the crater most often touted as evidence of such an impact is actually volcanic.⁵

Finally, **dinosaurs did not completely die out in the Flood.** The Bible teaches that it was God's will for life to survive the Flood, for He watched over the Ark to insure the safety of the creatures aboard (Genesis 8:1) -- though He did intend for the evil of mankind to be wiped out, and many individual creatures died in the process.



Lystrosaurus: Adults Were the Size of a Cat

Notes

1 J. Henry, "The Days of Creation Were Six Literal Days," <creationconcepts.org>, 2001. J. Henry, "What Is the Age of the Universe?," <creationconcepts.org>, 2001.

2 R. McNeill Alexander, *Dynamics of Dinosaurs and Other Extinct Giants*, Columbia, 1989, pp. 7-12.

3 Samuel Hubbard, *Discoveries Relating to Prehistoric Man by the Doheny Expedition to the Hava Supai Canyon, Northern Arizona, October and November, 1924*, Oakland Museum, 1925. This report concluded, "If the evidence presented for your consideration in these pages is true, then the Theory of Evolution we have all been so carefully taught, is not true" <creationism.org/swift/Doheny Expedition/Doheny03Chinese.htm#Summary>, January 24, 2007.

By showing that man and dinosaurs lived at the same time, the "Doheny Report" was a major strike against evolution. In the same year of this report (1925), the Scopes "Monkey Trial" supposedly proving evolution took place in Dayton Tennessee. Evidence presented for human evolution presented in that trial included Nebraska Man, later shown to be based on a pig's tooth, and Java Man, later shown to be based on a mixture of bones including a human thigh and a skull cap from a giant gibbon, a type of ape.

History has other such cases in which major pro-creation and pro-evolution events are juxtaposed, as if God and Satan were battling for the minds of men. Another example is the discovery of the highly-ordered structure of DNA (pro-creation) and the first widely publicized experiment in chemical evolution (the Urey-Miller synthesis of amino acids, pro-evolution), both in 1953.

4 Alexander, op. cit., p. 2.

5 J. Henry, *The Astronomy Book*, Master Books, 1999, p. 70. Gerta Keller ("Biotic Effects of Impacts and Volcanism," *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, Vol. 215, 2003, pp. 249, 263) claims that massive global volcanism, not impacts, caused *widespread death*, interpreted by evolutionists as *extinction*. **Global volcanic devastation was an aspect of the biblical Flood (Psalm 29:7, 10).**