

## Creation and Dinosaurs

Christians have one of two options. We can either accept the claim of science that it can prove that the world in which we live has evolved, or we can trust the Bible when it says that God created. Christians accept the truth expressed in Hebrews 11:3. Read that verse. Christians cannot prove that God created but we believe the Bible when it says that is how it happened.

Ultimately that belief is based on faith but not on blind faith. We have good reason to believe what the Bible says. A testimony to the truth of the Bible is seen in its unity. We see it also in fulfilled prophecy. For example, not only did the Bible decree that length of time Israel would remain in the Babylonian captivity but it named the man who would ultimately allow them to return to Israel. In addition, we have the multiple prophecies concerning the Messiah, detailing His birth, life, death and resurrection. And we have the testimony of history including the overwhelming proof of the resurrection of Jesus. Based on that we believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

As Christians who accept the Bible believe it when it says God created, knowing that very little in the Bible makes any sense if that is not true. If, as many evolutionists teach, man is simply the by-product of the expansion of energy, sometimes referred to as the “Big Bang,” and the natural evolution that they say followed, then man was not created in the image of God, death did not come because of sin because sin does not exist since there is no God to determine what is right and wrong. If there is no sin, there is no need of redemption from the penalty of it. Therefore, the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus makes no sense.

As Christians, because we believe the Bible is God’s Word, we believe that God created. The question for this study is, “*Where do dinosaurs fit into the biblical account of creation?*” There are several possible answers to that question,

Option one is called the “**Gap Theory.**” Detailed studies have been done but let me summarize it. The language in Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 changes slightly but perhaps significantly. The Hebrew seems to imply that in Genesis 1:1 we have the declaration that God created and in 1:2 that He re-created. The Gap Theory suggests that at some time in pre-earth history as we know it today, God created multiple entities, including the angelic world and some planets including what we now call earth. Then, for some reason, God chose to curse this planet, perhaps because it was the planet assigned to Lucifer who rebelled against God and became Satan. That would explain why Satan is called the “Prince of this World.” Lucifer’s rebellion is spelled out in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-18. Read Ezekiel 28:17. The “Gap Theory” provides for the possibility of life on this planet before the rebellion of Lucifer and allows for remnants of it to remain.

Option two: A second possibility is called “**Theistic Evolution**” and involves the issue of a very old versus a relatively young earth. The issue is whether or not the 7 “*days*” of Genesis 1 are literal 24-hour days or are simply a Hebraic way of designating a period of time. A central part of that option is the issue of a day representing the rising and setting of the sun. According to Genesis 1, the sun was not created until day 4, making it difficult to speak of evening and

morning prior to that, thereby opening the possibility that the term “day” meant period of time as opposed to a 24-hour time. To make that work, theistic evolutionists have God deliberately creating man on the 7<sup>th</sup> day so that man is not the direct by-product of the evolutionary process that God controlled but a distinct being, created in God’s image.

Option three: If you have an older Bible, it may give a date above Genesis 1:1 as 4004 BC. That date is seldom used today but for a period of time was very popular. The date was set by an Irish Archbishop named James Ussher. He arrived at that date by using the ages recorded in those genealogy lists that we skip over when reading Genesis and adding them all together. The problem with that is that in ancient times no effort was made to include in any genealogy a list of all of the names. Significant names were noted and perhaps generations would go by before another significant name in that line was noted. We have no idea how many years elapsed following the sin of Adam and Eve and the flood. It is possible that centuries went by while mankind increased. Read Genesis 4:17. You don’t build a city with a few family members. In keeping with genealogical records of that time the writer skipped ahead to the next important event. It is possible that dinosaurs could have lived during that period.

Option four: Some Bible scholars believe that animals that could very well be dinosaurs are mentioned in the Bible. For example, in Job 40:15-24 we have the mention of an animal called “behemoth”. We have no idea what that animal was but if you read its description it could be a dinosaur. A similar issue is found in Job 41 where an animal called a “leviathan” is mentioned and again seems to resemble what we call a dinosaur today.

Final conclusion, Scripture does not tell us when to put dinosaurs into history but in the end that really does not matter. There are options to show that while the Bible does not seem to discuss them, there are options consistent with Scripture.

That raises another question. Why isn’t the Bible clear on this if dinosaurs are so important? The answer to that introduces us to an important characteristic of Scripture that we can too easily miss. The Bible was not written to satisfy our curiosity or answer all of the questions we have about our universe. The Bible was written to introduce us to the God who created in general and created us in particular. Its purpose is to inform us about our sin problem and present God’s solution to that problem. There are many things we can be curious about, but the Bible is basically silent on. For example, many wish they knew a lot more about the angelic world, but the Bible was not written to discuss angels but man. There is very little on angels because the Bible is not a theological book on angels but on God and mankind.

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God concluded creation by creating mankind in His image. End of that part of the story. I want to know how old Adam was when God put him in the Garden. He obviously was not an infant but how old was he? Does that matter? No, but I am curious. God says, *“If it was important and I wanted you to know that, I’d have told you.”* How long were Adam and Eve in the Garden before they sinned? God says, *“If that were important, I’d have told you. It is not, so I didn’t mention it.”* But Adam and Eve left the Garden. Why? God says, *“Now*

*that is important because it touches on your problems today, on why I can no longer walk with you as I did with Adam and Eve in the Garden. That question is important because it tells you why you are separated from me even though I created you in my image so I could fellowship with you. It is important so here is what happened.”* And God gave us Genesis 3.

The Bible was not written to satisfy our curiosity but to introduce us to the God who created us and to present to us His answer to our sin problem. The Bible follows up on the sin issue, telling us that God sent His only Son to take our sin upon Himself and thereby make it possible to reverse the death brought on by our sin.

Keep in mind that while I am curious about where dinosaurs fit into the whole creation story, God says, *“The Bible is not about them but about us and in particular about how you blew it by disobeying me and how my love has provided a way to reverse your separation because of that sin.”*

I don’t know how dinosaurs fit into the biblical account of creation but there are possible answers, Because I believe that God created, and obviously dinosaurs existed, I know that God created them.

Christians have to ask ourselves if we are going to evaluate the Bible on the basis of the latest scientific idea or if we are going to evaluate scientific and philosophical ideas by the Bible. The critical question when I stand before God will not be *“Did you figure out when the dinosaurs I created lived?”* but it will be, *“Is your name in the Book of Life because you accepted the salvation My Son provided by asking Him personally to be your Savior?”*