

WHAT ABOUT DINOSAURS?

Roald E. Peterson, Jr.

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Introduction

It is probably true that the majority of educated people today accept the theories of evolution and uniformitarianism, the doctrine that most geological changes have taken place gradually over a long period of time, as essentially true. Even deeply religious people accept both the stories of science and of religion, often not seeing any serious disagreement between the two. They will accept the biblical account of creation in some figurative sense and see the processes espoused by the scientific world as the actual method through which the creation was accomplished. However, thoughtful people will realize that there are some significant contradictions between the theories of men and the purported word of God, and the question is often brought up, "What about the dinosaurs?"

That dinosaurs (and other extinct creatures) existed is essentially impossible to deny, since their fossilized bones are scattered across the earth and have been discovered, collected, studied, and observed by countless witnesses. To deny their existence would be to ascribe to God or someone else the activity of running all over the world centuries ago, forming fake, bone-like shapes in rocks, and hiding these in all sorts of terrain. The only purpose this would have is for deceit, which places it outside the behavior of a God of truth, and deceit on this scale is beyond the capabilities of anyone without the power of God. Given that they existed, there are two possibilities; they either predated Adam or they were contemporaries of the "first man." Let us look at the scriptural record to see what possibilities it allows.

Evolution of Life Before Adam

According to scripture Adam was the first man.¹ So, many will then ask about the fossils of cave men, did they not precede Adam? Could he not be their descendent and considered the first modern human man? Again the scriptures speak and state Adam's parentage.

And this is the genealogy of the sons of Adam, who was the son of God, with whom God, himself, conversed. [Moses 6:22]

There are other scriptures which state the same.² Doesn't this violate the fact that Christ is the Only Begotten of the Father?³ We must remember that he is the Only Begotten in the mortal flesh. He had to have the ability to die, inherited from his mother, Mary, and

he had the power of resurrection, which he inherited from his immortal Father. Adam was begotten physically in an immortal state, and not mortal with a dual nature as Christ was. Likewise, the law of inheritance requires Adam, who was immortal before the fall, to have immortal parents. The only parents who are immortal, physical, and capable of procreating are exalted beings, even Gods. So Adam was not the product of evolution but begotten by heavenly parents in an immortal state.

Adam also throws another wrench in the works of evolution. For evolution to be a part of this creation would require a lot of time and death. While we are not given a definite amount of time for the creation we are told it progressed in stages called days. These are probably not the 24 hour periods used by men since God had not appointed a time standard for men until after the creation of Adam.⁴ They may be 1000 year periods used to equate God's time to man's time,⁵ but may be some other time period also. So time on the order of millions of years may or may not have been available. However, death is still a big problem. According to the scriptures Adam brought death into the world through his fall. This fall was universal, covering Adam, all his descendants, all life upon the earth, and even the earth itself.

And he said unto them: Because that Adam fell, we are; and by his fall came death; and we are made partakers of misery and woe. [Moses 6:48]

For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. [1 Cor 15:21-22]

Since the Atonement of Christ has the express purposes of overcoming Adam's transgression and our personal sin, to deny the reality of the Fall is to deny the Atonement, in which case we would do away with Christ. But Christ is real, the Atonement is real, and so the Fall must be real. That being the case, there was no death before the fall of Adam.

This is not the only reasoning supporting no death before Adam. The world was created in an unfallen, paradisiacal state and did not change before the fall. One of the Articles of Faith, penned by the Prophet Joseph Smith states that we believe the earth will receive her paradisiacal glory at the Second Coming of

What About The Dinosaurs?

Christ.⁶ And one of the aspects of that glory is that animals will not be fighting or killing one another any more.

And in that day the enmity of man, and the enmity of beasts, yea, the enmity of all flesh, shall cease from before my face. [D&C 101:26]

In other words, there was no enmity between animals before the fall. This is not exactly the best situation for the "survival of the fittest" contest suggested by evolution. Other scriptures tell us that there was no change in the earth before the fall.

And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. [2 Nephi 2:22]

Part of a changeless world is that there is no procreation.

And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. [2 Nephi 2:23]

And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient. [Moses 5:11]

An unchanging world with no death, birth, or change does not support evolution or climatic changes taking place over millions of years.

Theories of Previous Creations

Would God have used pieces of a previous creation to build this one? Two scenarios have been suggested, using fragments of a previously created world, and involving this world in a pre-biblical creation. There are two serious problems with these proposals. The first is that you cannot put creatures under the curse of a fall into the telestial, mortal state with its accompanying death and separation from God unless those creatures transgress law for themselves or through proxy. This means they would have to have an Adam to fall for them. To do otherwise would make God an unjust God and he would cease to be God.⁷

The second problem comes from having unsaved, telestial-mortal debris, in the form of dinosaur bones,

and previous earths lying around the universe. God saves all the works of his hands except those who place themselves outside his arm of mercy.

Who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him. [D&C 76:43]

To build this planet with leftovers of a previous creation requires a previous Fall and therefore a previous salvation for those creatures involved in that fallen world, whether this world or another. This is not to say that Christ's atonement is not universal for all the Father's creations, but there must have been a resurrection and final judgement for previous creations, including worlds, which are then assigned their eternal glories and can no more die.⁸ This world must still go through death and resurrection to be perfected.⁹

There is one other problem with the Previous Creation Theory. The remains of prehistoric animals and plants are from a time when the world was in a more tropical state. They tell of a world which has gone through many changes, including climatic changes, the breaking apart of continents, the breaking up of the earth's crust, and more.

According to previously cited scripture, the earth was changeless before the fall. But also mentioned in the holy records are accounts of the fall, great floods, the rearranging of the continents, the breaking up of the earth's crust, and rivers and mountains moving. All these have happened since Adam.¹⁰

The actual geological/fossil records support the changes mentioned in the scriptural records but have been interpreted by modern scientists to indicate a series of events which took place over a much longer period of time.

Contemporaries of Adam

We are now left with the possibility that Dinosaurs were created with the other animals, begotten by their immortal parents, and were alive but not dying or procreating until after the Fall. The earth at that time was girdled by a massive super continent and will be again.¹¹ There are sufficient recorded cataclysms in the scriptures to account for the extinction of many species, their burial under sediment, and their dispersal throughout the world. The great flood and subsequent division of the continents¹² are but two examples of this.

The current dating methods which place ages of many thousands or millions of years on fossils are based on assumptions which are not provable facts. In fact, one

What About The Dinosaurs?

of the primary assumptions of radio carbon dating is known to actually be false.¹³ There is other evidence which is often ignored. In Texas there are dinosaur footprints in sandstone.¹⁴ Running parallel to and even within those prints are fossilized human footprints. Either humans are much older than previously thought or dinosaurs much younger. I've been told that many formations take tens of thousands to millions of years to form. And yet there was a stalactite about ten inches in length that hung over my head as I rode the escalator from the subway to the Pentagon in Washington, DC. It wasn't massive but it had been growing for less than two decades. These items do not prove anything but indicate that we may be too willing and hasty to grant theories the status of facts.

There are also scriptures which speak of giants, some of which are referring to large humans. But others are more ambiguous and speak of giants as separate from people. The following verse refers to cataclysmic events and giants in the time of Enoch, prior to the great flood.

There also came up a land out of the depth of the sea, and so great was the fear of the enemies of the people of God, that they fled and stood afar off and went upon the land which came up out of the depth of the sea.

And the giants of the land, also, stood afar off; and there went forth a curse upon all people that fought against God; [Moses 7:14-15]

Again, it doesn't establish the existence of dinosaurs during the time of men but it does leave room for the idea. There are also myths of dragons and similar creatures which might be perversions of real creatures that lived before and maybe even after the flood. At the same time, deducing the complete skeleton and sometimes even a culture from a fragment of skull seems somewhat farfetched. What is needed is serious and open minded analysis of fossil records and the methods used to analyze and date them. There is currently a stacking of the evidence to support the theories in vogue, while at the same time ignoring evidence which appears contrary. The Adversary is constantly using any and every tool at his disposal to hide the truth from men. As long as people believe in evolution and an ages old planet it will be impossible to understand the true nature of Christ and the fullness of his gospel.

At this time I am still gathering evidence that prehistoric creatures, including dinosaurs, were contemporary with man. I am having some success and will write more on this later.

I have presented my own views on this subject and cannot claim infallibility. While I have tried to thoughtfully and logically establish these views, I am open to further revelation to better clarify or even negate what I have written.

Notes

1. *And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many. [Moses 1:34]*
2. *Which was [the son] of Enos, which was [the son] of Seth, which was [the son] of Adam, which was [the son] of God. [Luke 4:38]*
3. *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. [John 1:15]*
4. *But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the time that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Now I, Abraham, saw that it was after the Lord's time, which was after the time of Kolob; for as yet the Gods had not appointed unto Adam his reckoning. [Abr 5:13]*
5. *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [2 Peter 3:8]*

And the Lord said unto me, by the Urim and Thummim, that Kolob was after the manner of the Lord, according to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof; that one revolution was a day unto the Lord, after his manner of reckoning, it being one thousand years according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest. This is the reckoning of the Lord's time, according to the reckoning of Kolob. [Abr 3:4]
6. *We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory. [Article of Faith 10]*
7. *But there is a law given, and a punishment affixed, and a repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so,*

What About The Dinosaurs?

the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. [Alma 42:22]

8. Now, behold, I have spoken unto you concerning the death of the mortal body, and also concerning the resurrection of the mortal body. I say unto you that this mortal body is raised to an immortal body, that is from death, even from the first death unto life, that they can die no more; their spirits uniting with their bodies, never to be divided; thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption. [Alma 11:45]
9. And the end shall come, and the heaven and the earth shall be consumed and pass away, and there shall be a new heaven and a new earth. For all old things shall pass away, and all things shall become new, even the heaven and the earth, and all the fulness thereof, both men and beasts, the fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; [D&C 29:23-24]

10. Earth Broken Up

Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the ghost there shall be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble; and the rocks which are upon the face of this earth, which are both above the earth and beneath, which ye know at this time are solid, or the more part of it is one solid mass, shall be broken up;

Yea, they shall be rent in twain, and shall ever after be found in seams and in cracks, and in broken fragments upon the face of the whole earth, yea, both above the earth and beneath.

And behold, there shall be great tempests, and there shall be many mountains laid low, like unto a valley, and there shall be many places which are now called valleys which shall become mountains, whose height is great. [Hel 14:21-23] And thus the face of the whole earth became deformed, because of the tempests, and the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the quaking of the earth.

And behold, the rocks were rent in twain; they were broken up upon the face of the whole earth, insomuch that they were found in broken fragments, and in seams and in cracks, upon all the face of the land. [3 Nephi 8:17-18]

Earth Divided And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one [was] Peleg; for in his

days was the earth divided; and his brother's name [was] Joktan. [Gen 10:25]

He shall command the great deep, and it shall be driven back into the north countries, and the islands shall become one land;

And the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided. [D&C 133:23-24] Floud Genesis Chapters 7 & 8

11. What will the transfigured earth be like? Unto what shall we compare it? And how shall we find words to describe the glory and beauty of all things in that day? Providentially the prophetic word gives us glimpses of the future. Using the best language at their command, our inspired forerunners have recorded some of the visions vouchsafed to them relative to the new heaven and the new earth, and they have written down some of the revelations they received about the wonders of the Millennium. In their accounts we read of mountains becoming plains, of valleys ceasing to be, and of the very landmasses of the earth uniting into one grand continent. We read of deserts becoming gardens and of the whole earth yielding her fruit as in Eden of old. The prophetic word, designed as it is to encourage us to prepare to abide the day, is fascinating to the extreme. And it is to this word that we now turn as we seek to weave into the eternal tapestry of the Second Coming those threads which will picture the new heaven and the new earth that are to be. Then, in later chapters, we shall speak of the kind of life men, and all created things, shall live on their newly made paradisiacal planet. [Bruce R. McConkie, The Millennial Messiah, p.619]
12. And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one [was] Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name [was] Joktan. [Gen 10:25]
13. For an in-depth discussion of this see Melvin A. Cook, Science and Mormonism, 1967, p165.
14. Look up "Paluxy River Footprints".