

NOAH AND DINOSAURS



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Printed in the United States

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INTRODUCTION

In current times, the Bible is often viewed as a book that was written long ago, is not applicable to modern “ways of life,” and is allegedly full of errors and myths and/or fairy tales. Although the Bible was written thousands of years ago, it has yet to be proven that it contains errors, and in fact, modern archeology continues to support the historical facts as delineated in the Old and New Testament. In spite of the continued archaeological discoveries that support scripture (i.e., dead sea scrolls, etc), the secular media often goes to great lengths to produce programs that attempt to discount biblical scripture and/or explain scripture by offering alternative explanations. As an example, both the History Channel and Discovery Channel have recently aired programs that have attempted to scientifically explain the plagues of Egypt, supported the concept that Christ might have been married, tried to explain how apes became man, asked the question “*was Sodom and Gomorrah for real?*” *could miracles have really happened?*” and so on.

Currently, the most common secular negativism is directed towards creationism, specifically the origin of man and the biblical concept of a young earth. In addition to these popular areas of ridicule, is the story of Noah’s ark and the world wide flood, particularly within the time frame of this event happening about 4,500 years ago. Recently, a Christian organization had the opportunity to staff a “Creationist” booth at the annual convention of the National Education Association (NEA) in Los Angeles. This organization is one of the most anti-Christian lobby groups in the United States, and is the world’s largest public education group (2.7 million members). However, the NEA had the opportunity to hear the truth as revealed in God’s word and confirmed by scientific research. One topic that was consistently used by doubters to ridicule the Bible was Noah’s Ark and the Flood. Here were some of the typical comments:

- How did Noah fit all of the animals including dinosaurs on board?
- Where did the Flood waters come from, and where did they go?
- Where's the evidence of a global Flood?
- How could the ark carry all of those animals?
- And so on.....

Not surprisingly, the modern view of Noah, the Ark, and the Flood is presented as a nice or cute fairy tale (Fig 1), or placed in the category of a joke.



Fig 1: Noah's ark is often presented as a cute fairy tale

Additionally, the Bible clearly states that dinosaurs were created on the sixth day of creation about 6,000 years ago and cohabitated with man. Obviously, this is in direct conflict with the current secular opinion that dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago, allegedly from an asteroid that struck the earth.

Interestingly, this viewpoint also allows other forms of life to have survived, but the dinosaurs evolved into birds before they were eliminated.

This portion of the seminar will overview the biblical account of Noah, the Ark, the Flood, and then consider the subject that everyone is interested in; Dinosaurs. So, let's start with the sixth chapter of Genesis and consider what the Bible has to say about the flood. *Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted. Additionally, the following text as found in Genesis 6:1-4 is highly controversial but begins the flood narrative in this chapter of Genesis. So, if it is a part of the flood text, let's consider its implications.*

NOAH AND THE FLOOD

GENESIS 6:1-4

When mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose. So the LORD said, "My spirit will not remain in mankind indefinitely since they are mortal. They will remain for one hundred and twenty more years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of mankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.

- *Sons of God*: There are three interpretations of this phrase; (1) Angelic beings that are not human, cohabitating with earthly women, (2) Member's of Seth's line, and (3) Powerful tyrants, possibly demon possessed who viewed themselves as divine. As there is strong evidence for the first option, this will be considered from a biblical perspective and its implications on the flood
- *They will remain for one hundred and twenty more years*: The time remaining from this announcement of judgment to the coming of the flood
- *Nephilim*: The only other place in scripture this word is used is Numbers 13:33 and refers to giants. Likely the offspring of the sexual union of the "sons of God" and the "daughters of mankind"
- *Mighty heroes of old*: Text refers to superhuman beings that held the world in their power. Of particular interest is the following possibility; if the Nephilim

were a mixture of human and satanic angel, then the death of Christ and his subsequent resurrection on the cross would not apply to these “crossbreeds” as Christ died for mankind. This is also a possibility for the flood in addition to the wickedness of mankind as summarized in Genesis 6:5-13, thereby allowing God to start over again with mankind.

GENESIS 6:5-13

But the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made mankind on the earth, and he was highly offended. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – everything from mankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.”

But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. Noah had three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. God saw the earth, and indeed, it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful. So God said to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am about to destroy them and the earth.”

- *Every inclination:* People had taken their God given capacities and used them to devise evil. Evil had become dominate. The words “every” and “only” emphasize the depth of human evil at this time
- *On the earth:* Earth is singular, so this can denote the entire earth
- *From mankind to animals:* Stresses the extent of the judgment in creation
- *I regret that I have made them:* God was embarrassed
- *The earth was ruined:* Mankind’s sin is viewed as having an adverse effect on the entire earth. Included are injurious testimony, deadly assault, murder, and rape
- *All living creatures must die:* All flesh is used of mankind and the animals, and all were guilty of moral failure. The animals were morally contaminated because of their association with sinful mankind

GENESIS 6:14-22

“Make for yourself an ark of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out. This is how you should make it: The ark is to be four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving eighteen inches from the top. Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks. I am about to bring flood waters on the earth to destroy all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them. Everything that is on the earth will die, but I will confirm my covenant with you. You will enter the ark – you, your son’s, your wife, and your son’s wives with you. You must bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature from all flesh, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Of the birds after their kinds, and of the cattle after their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground after their kinds, two of every kind will come to you so you can keep them alive. And you must take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten, and gather it together. It will be food for you and for them.” And Noah did all that God commanded him – he did indeed.

- Cypress wood: A resinous wood. Teak, cedar, and gopher woods were also common
- And cover it with pitch: To cover, to smear, to caulk
- You shall finish it from above: Leave an eighteen-inch opening from the top for a window for light
- I will confirm: Anticipates the unconditional promise made to mankind following the flood
- Two of every kind will come to you: God will take care of the details
- He did indeed: Underscores the obedience of Noah to all that God said

SUMMARY

- Mankind and the earth reach a point that God was embarrassed he created them and decided to destroy his creation
- Noah (a righteous man) is directed by God to build an ark
- Specific instructions were given by God that made the ark unique:
 - The ark was a floating box, 450’ long, 75’ wide, and 45’ high (Fig 2)
 - The ark was made from wood and had 120 years available for construction

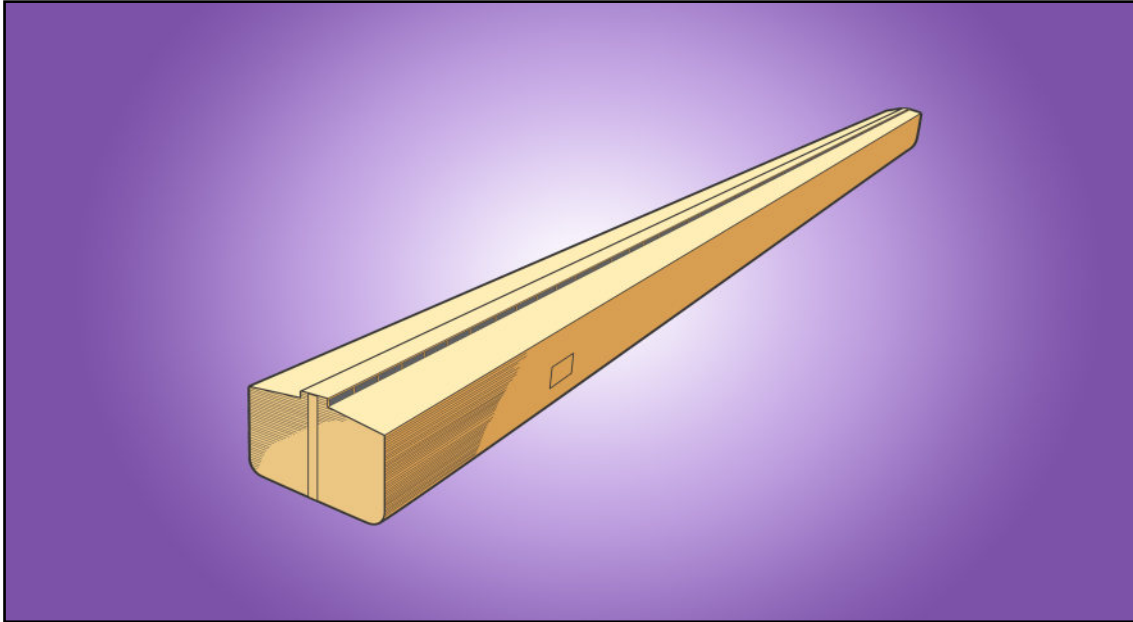


Fig 2: The ark was 450' long, 75' wide, and 45' high

- The ark was six times longer than its width – the perfect ratio for stability
- The ark could be tilted to almost 90 degrees and still right itself
- The ark was nothing more than a floating box. Ark means box

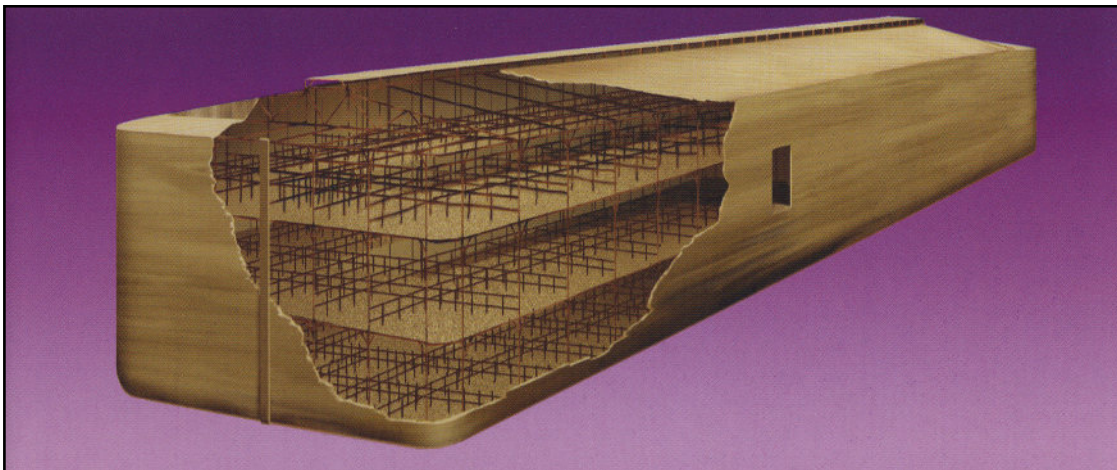


Fig 3: The ark with its opening at the top and the three interior decks

- There were three interior decks and an 18" opening at the top (Fig 3)
- The ark displaced 22' of water, or, 50% of the ark was above water

- The ark had a superior cargo carrying capacity as compared to modern ships as the sides were not sloped, there was no ballast necessary to keep the ark upright, and there was no space used by machinery to power, heat, and cool the ark
- The ark contained 1.4 million cubic feet of interior space, or the equivalent of 522 railroad stock cars
- One railroad stock car can carry 240 medium sized animals. As there were about 17,000 species of animals, it would have taken 146 stock cars to hold about 35,000 medium sized animals. Therefore, 60% of the ark was unused for animals

GENESIS 7:1-5

The LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and your household, for I consider you godly among this generation. You must take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, the male and its mate, two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of the earth. For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made." And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

- *Seven each:* Seven pairs. Extra five pairs would be used for sacrifice
- *Two of every kind of unclean animal:* Male and female to continue the species
- *For in seven days:* It took seven days to load the animals on the ark before it started to rain. This also gave mankind an additional seven days to repent
- *I will cause it to rain:* No rain had fallen before this time
- *Noah did all that the LORD commanded him:* No hesitation, Noah obeyed God

GENESIS 7: 6-16

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters engulfed the earth. Noah entered the ark along with his son's, his wife, and his son's wives because of the floodwaters. Pairs of clean animals, of unclean animals, of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground, male and female, came into the ark to Noah, just as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month – on that day all the fountains of the great

deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah entered the ark, accompanied by his son's Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his son's three wives. They entered, along with every living creature after its kind, every animal after its kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah. Those that entered were male and female, just as God commanded him. Then the LORD God shut him in.

- *Six hundred years old:* The average age prior to the flood was 912 years old (omitting Enoch)
- *Came into the ark to Noah:* God directed the animals to Noah

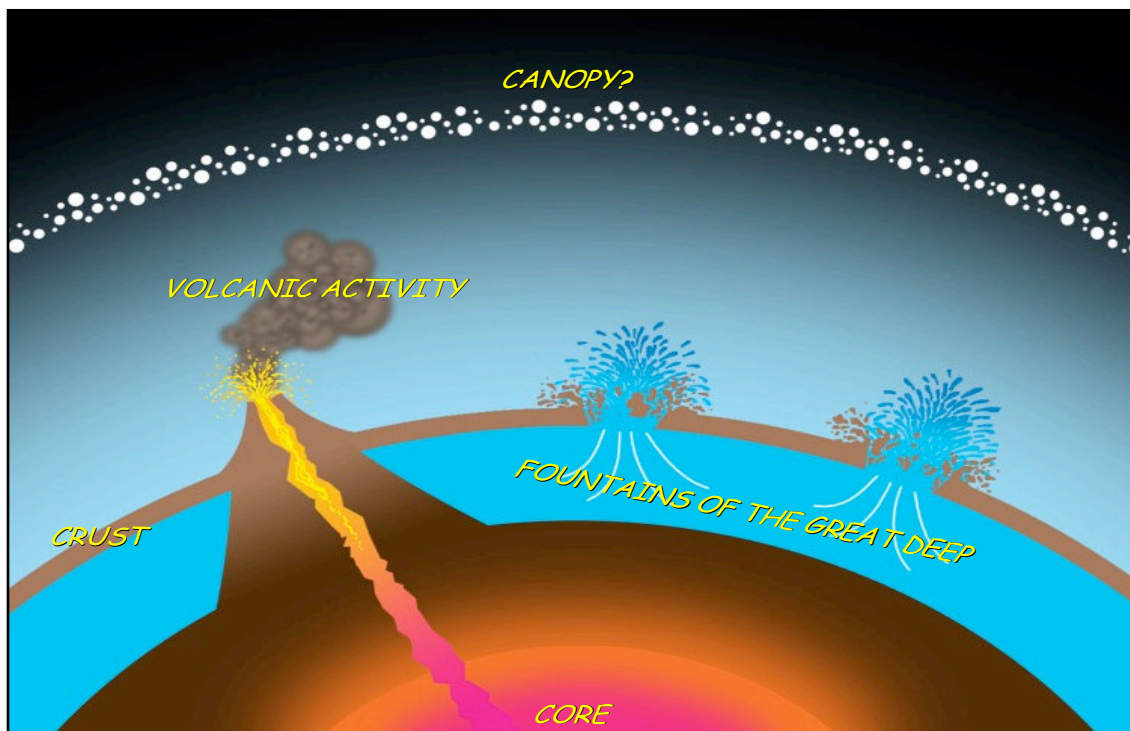


Fig 4: Subterranean waters burst forth in conjunction with volcanic activity

- *All the fountains of the great deep burst open:* Subterranean waters bursting upward (Fig 4). The significance is that in this judgment, God was returning the world to its earlier condition of being enveloped with water

- *Floodgates of the heavens were opened:* The water canopy may have been used for rain (Fig 5)

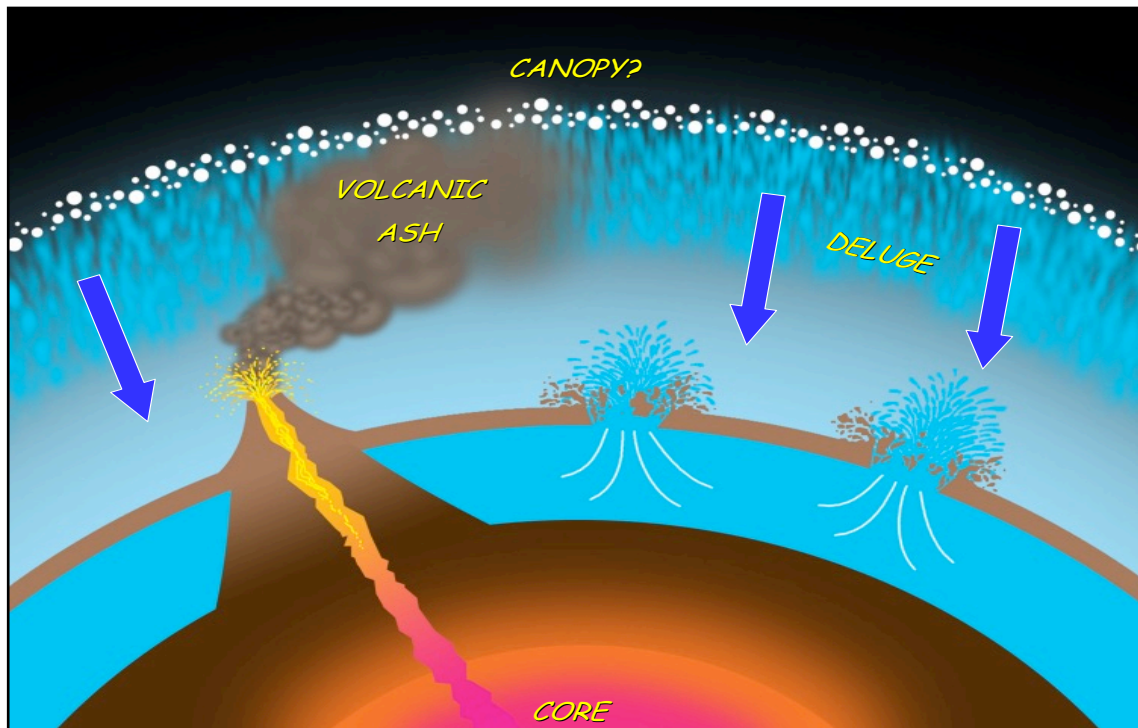


Fig 5: A water canopy may have contributed to torrential rains

- *Forty days and forty nights:* Forty 24 hour days
- *Then the LORD shut him in:* The LORD closed and sealed the door

GENESIS 7:17-24

The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth. The waters completely overwhelmed the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters. The waters completely inundated the earth so that even all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. The waters rose more than twenty feet above the mountains. And all living things that moved on the earth died, including the birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. So the LORD destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in

the ark survived. The waters prevailed over the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

- *Overwhelmed the earth:* The waters did not merely rise, they overwhelmed
- *Completely inundated the earth:* Repetition emphasizes the depth of the waters
- *More than twenty feet:* Hebrew says fifteen cubits, or about 22.5 feet
- *Birds of the sky:* Notice that marine animals are not mentioned
- *The waters prevailed:* The waters were stronger than the earth

SUMMARY

- Noah and his family were the only righteous people on the earth
- God brought the animals two by two to the ark, and allowed one more week for repentance of mankind
- The earth's crust breaks first, followed by the heavens dropping their water
- A worldwide rain for forty days. The fountains of the great deep likely also included plate tectonics and volcanic activity

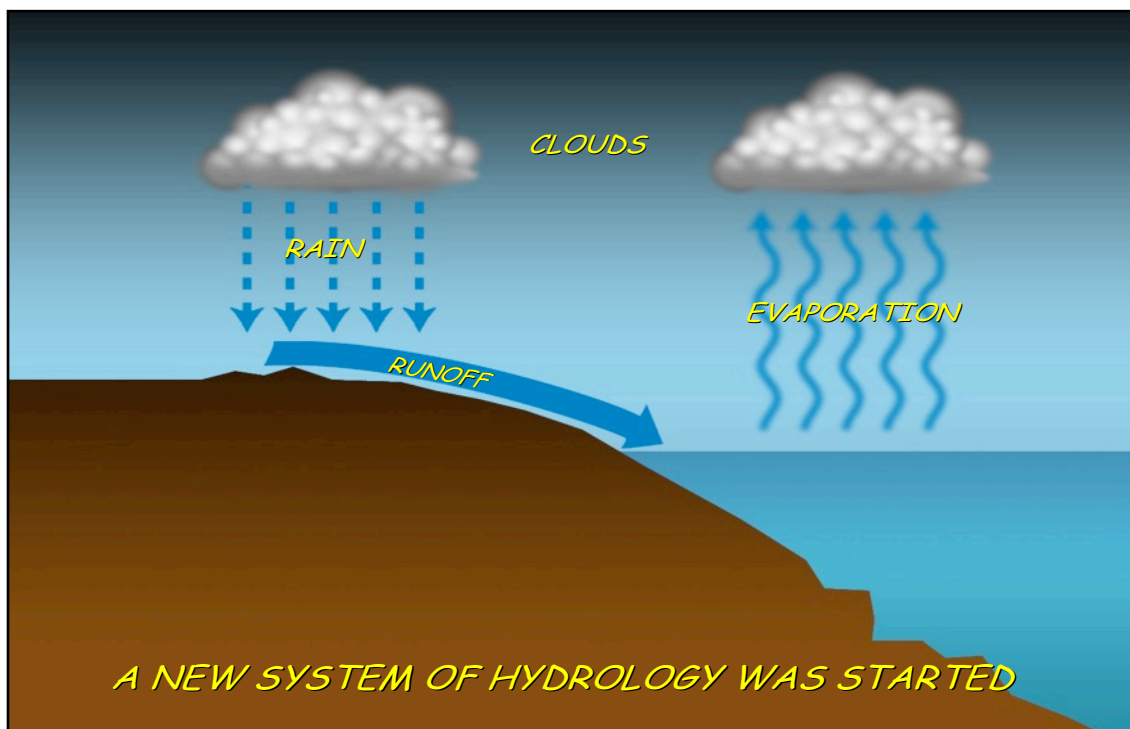


Fig 6: Post flood hydrology

- If the water canopy was used for the rain, this likely ended the water canopy and a new system of hydrology was begun (evaporation, storage, rain, and runoff as illustrated in Fig 6)
- There are over 270 flood stories told in cultures all over the earth
- One hundred and fifty days included the 40 day and night period of rain
- The flood waters completely overpowered the earth as the earth and everything in it were no match for the return of the chaotic deep

GENESIS 8: 1-14

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters receded. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were closed, and the rain stopped falling from the sky. The waters kept receding steadily from the earth, so that they had gone down by the end of the hundred and fifty days. On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat. The waters kept on receding until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains became visible. At the end of forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven; it kept flying back and forth until the waters had dried up on the earth. Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded from the surface of the ground. The dove could not find a resting place for its feet because water still covered the surface of the entire earth, so it returned to Noah in the ark. He stretched out his hand, took the dove, and brought it back into the ark. He waited seven more days and then sent out the dove again from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there was a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak! Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. He waited another seven days and sent the dove out again, but it did not return to him this time. In Noah's six hundred and first year, in the first day of the first month, the waters had dried up from the earth, and Noah removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. And by the twenty seventh day of the second month the earth was dry.

- *A wind to blow*: God used the wind to evaporate the water and dry the ground. Evaporation returned water to the atmosphere
- *Ararat*: Hebrew for Urartu, the name of a mountainous region located North of Mesopotamia in modern day eastern Turkey

- *Sent out a raven:* A raven will eat most anything
- *Sent out a dove:* A dove is much more selective in its food choices, which would indicate new life and thus Noah and his family could also survive
- *The earth was dried:* The waters had receded and the ground was dry
- *But God remembered:* Fulfilling covenant promises (Fig 7)



Fig 7: God remembered Noah and the animals

GENESIS 8:15-22

Then God spoke to Noah and said, "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your son's wives with you. Bring out with you all the living creatures that are with you. Bring out every living thing, including the birds, animals, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. Let them increase and be fruitful and multiply on the earth!" Noah went out along with his son's, his wife, and his son's wives. Every living creature, every creeping thing, every bird, and everything that moves on the earth went out of the ark in their groups. Noah built an altar to the LORD. He then took some of every kind of clean animal and clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of mankind, even though the inclination of their minds is evil from childhood on. I will never again destroy everything that lives, as I have done. While the earth

continues to exist, planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

- *Be fruitful and multiply:* Noah now faces a world where longevity of life is greatly reduced and storms, severe weather, blazing heat, freezing cold, seismic action, radiation from the sun, and natural disasters would be common (Fig 8)

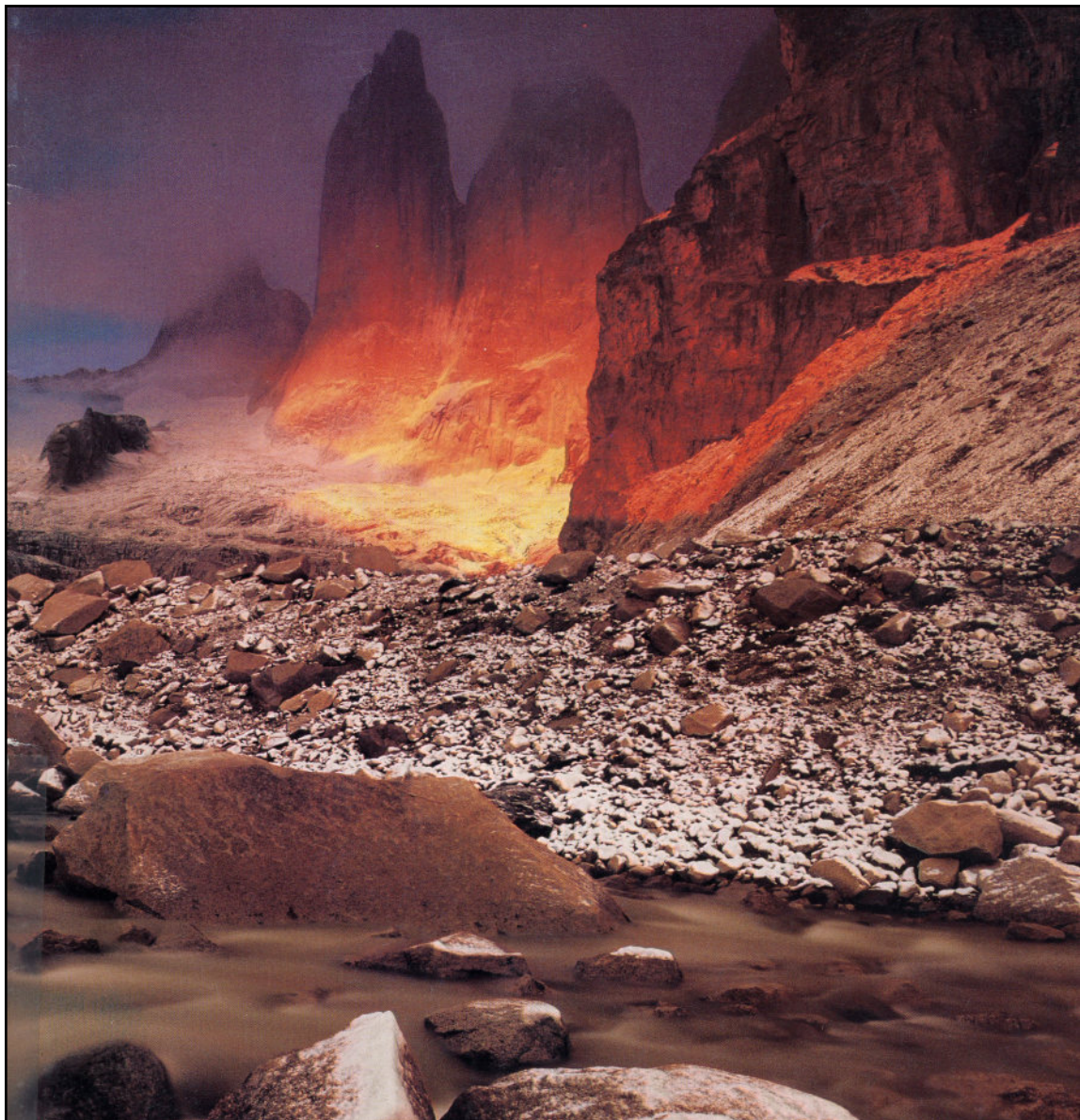


Fig 8: Noah and the animals faced a different world

- *Offered burnt offerings on the altar:* Represented Noah's complete surrender and dedication to the LORD. Acknowledged God as the sovereign of the universe
- *The LORD smelled the soothing aroma:* Signifies that God accepts the offering with pleasure and accepting the worshiper
- *Inclination of their minds is evil from childhood on:* The root inclination of the heart of mankind is evil

GENESIS 9:1-4, 12-16

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Every living creature of the earth and every bird of the sky will be terrified of you. Everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea are under your authority. You may eat any moving thing that lives. As I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat with its life (that is, its blood) in it." And God said, "This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, and covenant for all subsequent generations: I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things. When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will notice it and remember the perpetual covenant between God and all living creatures of all kinds that are on the earth."

- *Will be terrified of you:* The animals will fear humans from this time on. Evidently, they did not fear humans before the flood
- *I now give you everything:* Prior to the flood, mankind were vegetarians. Now they can also eat meat
- *You must not eat meat with its life in it:* Because of the carnage of the flood, people might conclude that life is cheap and therefore treat it lightly. But God will not permit them to kill or even to eat anything with the lifeblood still in it, serving as a reminder of the sanctity of life
- *I will notice it and remember:* God's commitment to keep his promise

SUMMARY

- God's covenant with Noah brought provision and protection
- The waters subsided and began a new climatic beginning for the earth and its inhabitants. The flood waters returned to the oceanic basins (Fig 9)

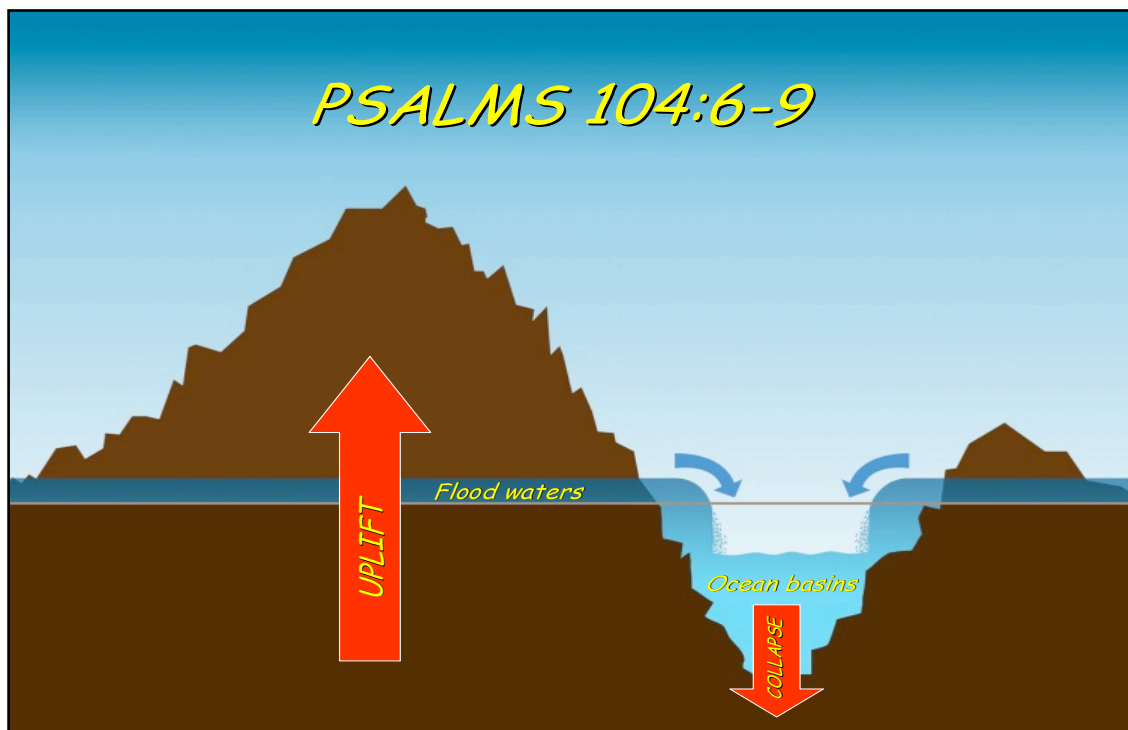


Fig 9: The flood waters returned to the oceanic basins

- The ark landed in the mountains of modern Turkey
- Noah and his family had been in the ark for 371 days
- Mans relationship to animals appears to have changed
- The rainbow is the perpetual symbolic reminder of God's covenant
- 1,656 years from Adam to the flood; the worldwide population was likely three to seven billion
- The flood time line was:

- Rain fell for 40 days	40
- Flood waters kept rising for 110 additional days	110
- Waters receded over next 74 days	74
- After another 40 days, Noah sent out the Raven	40

- After another 7 days, Noah sent out the Dove	7
- After another 7 days, Noah sent the Dove out again	7
- After another 7 days, Noah sent the Dove out the 3 rd time	7
- Another 29 days elapse	29
- 57 days from the removal of the ark covering to final day	57
- TOTAL	371 days

GENESIS 11:1-9

The whole earth had a common language and a common vocabulary. When the people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." (They had brick instead of stone and tar instead of mortar). Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves. Otherwise, we will be scattered across the face of the entire earth." But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had started building. And the LORD said, "If as one people all sharing a common language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. Come, let's go down and confuse their language so they won't be able to understand each other." So, the LORD scattered them from there across the face of the entire earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why its name was called Babel – because there the LORD confused the language of the entire world, and from there the LORD scattered them across the face of the entire earth.

- *Whole earth had a common language:* Everyone spoke the same language
- *Shinar:* The region of Babylonia
- *City and tower with its top in the heavens:* Babylonian ziggurats had temples at the top, suggesting they reached to the heavens (Fig 10).
- *So that we may make a name for ourselves:* The post-flood population, under the leading of Nimrod, decided to stop and establish a city as a monument to their pride and for their reputation
- *Scattered them:* Because they would not fill the earth as God commanded, God confused their language so they had to separate and collect in regions where their own language was spoken



Fig 10: Ziggurats are common throughout the world

SUMMARY

- Within a short time after the flood, it was obvious that mankind was again willfully disobeying God's commands
- God has to intervene to correct man's sinful disobedience
- God changes a single language into numerous languages, thereby scattering the population throughout the earth
- This can explain numerous languages, cavemen, and similar architectures around the world
- Once mankind was scattered, they would have further developed specific characteristics (Asian, Negro, Hispanic, etc)
- Technology would also have begun to increase with the dispersion of the population

EVIDENCE FOR A WORLDWIDE FLOOD

- *History*: A worldwide deluge is documented in the early history of most civilized races
- *Fossils*: There are marine fossils all over the world, including high mountains (i.e., Mt. Everest), and numerous large fossils beds containing millions upon millions of jumbled fossils
- *Sedimentary rock*: The surface of the earth is approximately 75% water and 25 % rock, with 70% of the rock being sedimentary. Sedimentary rock is formed by water depositing layers of solid material as heavier elements drop to the bottom and lighter ones remain on top. The layer is cemented together by pressure from overlying earth and minerals dissolved within the water
- *Formation of fossils*: Much sedimentary rock is filled with fossils. In order for fossils to form, the living thing must be buried very quickly
- *Ice age*: The flood provided the perfect conditions for a worldwide ice age as illustrated in Figure 11

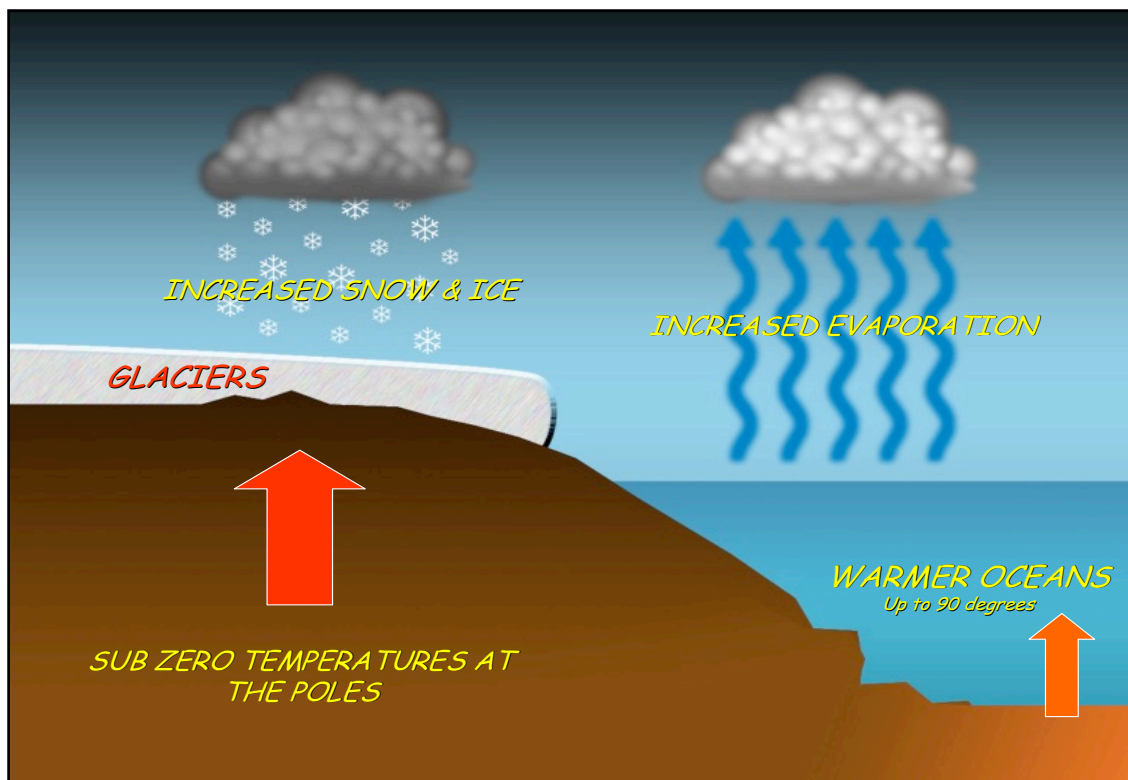


Fig 11: Specific conditions are necessary for an ice age

- *Frozen mammoths*: The best explanation is a sudden climatic change from the collapsing water canopy. Remember, frozen mammoths have been found with buttercups in their mouths and undigested food in their stomachs. This would have required an instantaneous reduction in temperature to about 120-150 degrees below zero! Evolutionary theories do not have an answer for this requirement
- *Grand Canyon*: The Grand Canyon was made by an enormous rapid flow of water, not the Colorado river (Nautiloids within Redwall limestone)

WHAT CAN WE APPLY FROM THE FLOOD

Noah was a man of faith: Hebrews 11:7

- If we have faith in God, we please God (Hebrews 11:6)

Only one door into the ark: Genesis 6:16

- Only Jesus is the door to salvation (John 10:9, and 14:6)

Noah was safe in the ark: Genesis 7:16

- Jesus will keep us safe in eternity (Romans 8:39)

Noah obeyed God: Genesis 6:22

- Jesus said that if we love him, we will obey his commandments (John 14:15)

God wants to save us: John 3:16

- For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life

WHY 40 DAYS ARE BIBLICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Regularly used to describe a trial, culminating in victory

- Israel wandering in the desert for 40 years
- Moses 40 days at Mt. Sinai receiving the law
- Elijah 40 days on Mt. Horeb
- Jonah gave Ninevah 40 days to repent
- Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted
- Disciples spent 40 days with the LORD between the resurrection and ascension

DINOSAURS

Since the discovery of the existence of dinosaurs, these remarkable creatures have captured the attention and imagination of people of all ages (Fig 12). In fact, it is not uncommon to regularly see a picture, article, movie (i.e., Jurassic Park 1-3), a television program on the latest dinosaur discovery, how dinosaurs lived and died, and how dinosaurs allegedly evolved into feathered birds.



Fig 12: Although extinct, these animals continue to excite all ages

One of the interesting facts about dinosaurs is their size, which in some cases, far exceeded the size of most modern land or marine animals. When looking

at a skeleton of a T-Rex or Brontosaurus, it is obvious these creatures were unique and very different from the animals we see today. According to modern scientific opinions, dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, died out about 65 million years ago, but before their demise, they started to grow feathers and slowly evolved into birds. However, a recent discovery has begun to question the actual age of dinosaurs.

Recently, Dr. Mary Schweitzer, University of Montana, discovered fresh red blood cells, soft fibrous tissue, and complete soft blood vessels in the leg bone of a T-Rex. The exciting discovery (which is not the first for Dr. Schweitzer) makes an obvious statement; *"It is inconceivable that such things could be preserved for millions of years."* So, if dinosaur bones cannot be millions of years old, how old are they? Additionally, on November 18, 2005, the Associated Press reported that a recent discovery has proven that dinosaurs were digesting grass between 65 million and 71 million years ago. This discovery comes as a complete surprise to modern science as it was previously believed that "grasses didn't emerge until long after the dinosaurs died off." Evidently, modern scientific beliefs are subject to error! To answer common questions about dinosaurs, let's look at some known scientific discoveries, and most importantly, what the Bible has to say about these animals.

DOES THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY REFER TO DINOSAURS

The Bible does not specifically use the term Dinosaurs as this name was not used until 1841 by Sir Richard Owen, a famous British anatomist who originated the word from two Greek words, *deinos* and *sauros* which means terrible lizard. However, the Bible does refer to giant creatures in Job 40 (Behemoth), Job 41 (Leviathan), and dragons in Psalm 91:13 and Isaiah 43:20.

WHEN WERE DINOSAURS DISCOVERED

Actually, dinosaurs were "*rediscovered*" in the 1600's and 1800's. In 1677, large bones were found and believed to be from an elephant or a giant human. Then, in 1822, a tooth was found that was much larger than modern reptiles. The animal/tooth was ultimately named *Iguanodon* (Iguana tooth, Fig 13), and the age of reptiles was popularized! Since the 1800's, thousands of dinosaur fossils have been discovered on every continent, including the Polar Regions!

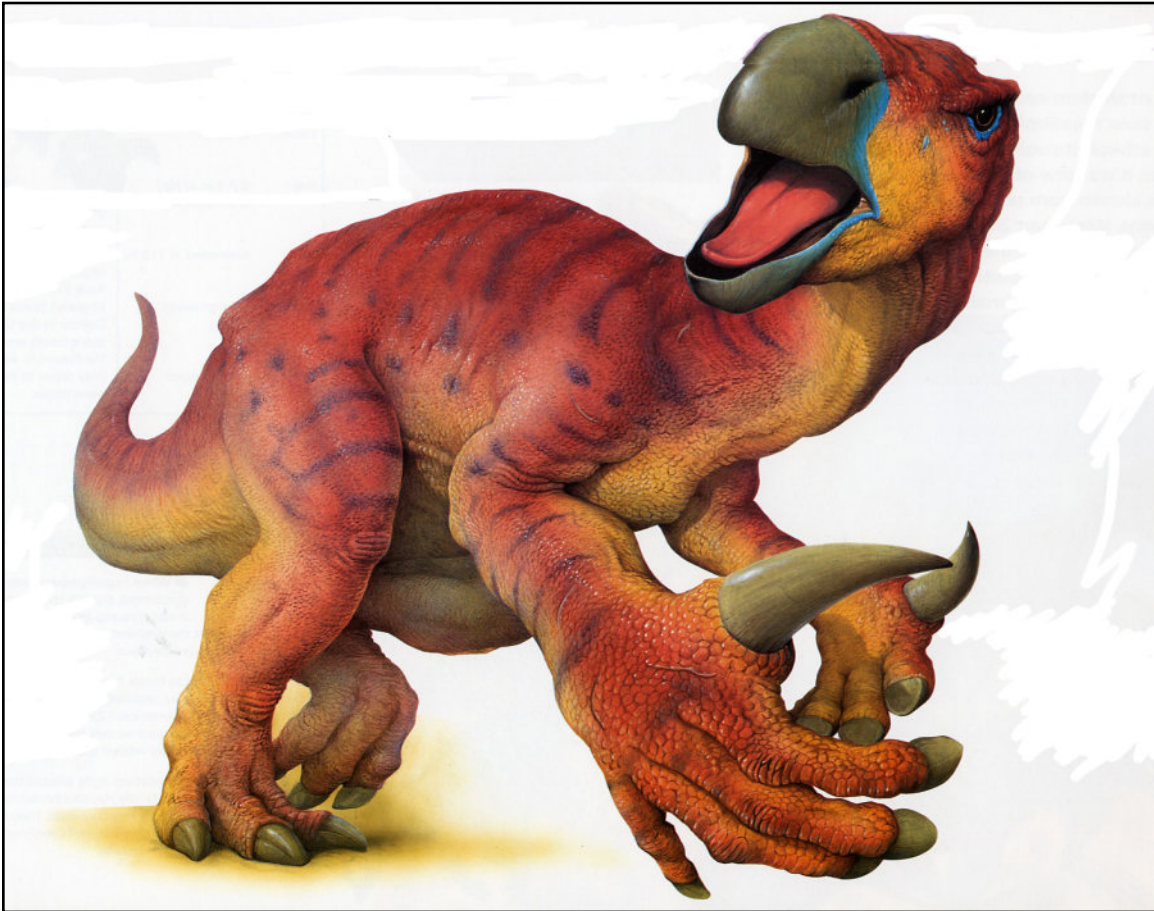


Fig 13: Iguanodon

WHAT DOES MODERN SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DINOSAURS

Modern science: The evolutionary reconstruction of the history of dinosaurs estimates dinosaurs lived from 220 million years ago to about 65 million years ago. Supposedly, some catastrophic event (i.e., meteor striking the earth) resulted in the extinction of dinosaurs, but not before they began to evolve into birds. Modern science also denies the possibility of man and dinosaurs existing at the same time.

Bible: The Bible clearly states that marine and flying reptiles were created on the fifth day of creation, and land reptiles were created on the sixth day of creation. As man was also created on the sixth day of creation, man co-existed with dinosaurs and the large flying and marine reptiles. Most dinosaurs disappeared

during the flood, but two from each species were preserved on the ark. After the flood, the number of years dinosaurs existed is open to speculation.

WHAT MAKES DINOSAURS UNIQUE

Dinosaurs are different from modern day reptiles from several basic perspectives:

- *Classification:* To be classified as a dinosaur, the creature must have (1) “lizard or bird hips” along with (2) holes in the skull, and (3) live on land
- *Hip structure:* Dinosaurs had hips that placed their legs beneath them (like an elephant) as illustrated in Figure 14. These hips designate an erect stance. Modern reptiles have legs that come off the sides of their bodies and then down (i.e., alligators), which is referred to as “splayed”

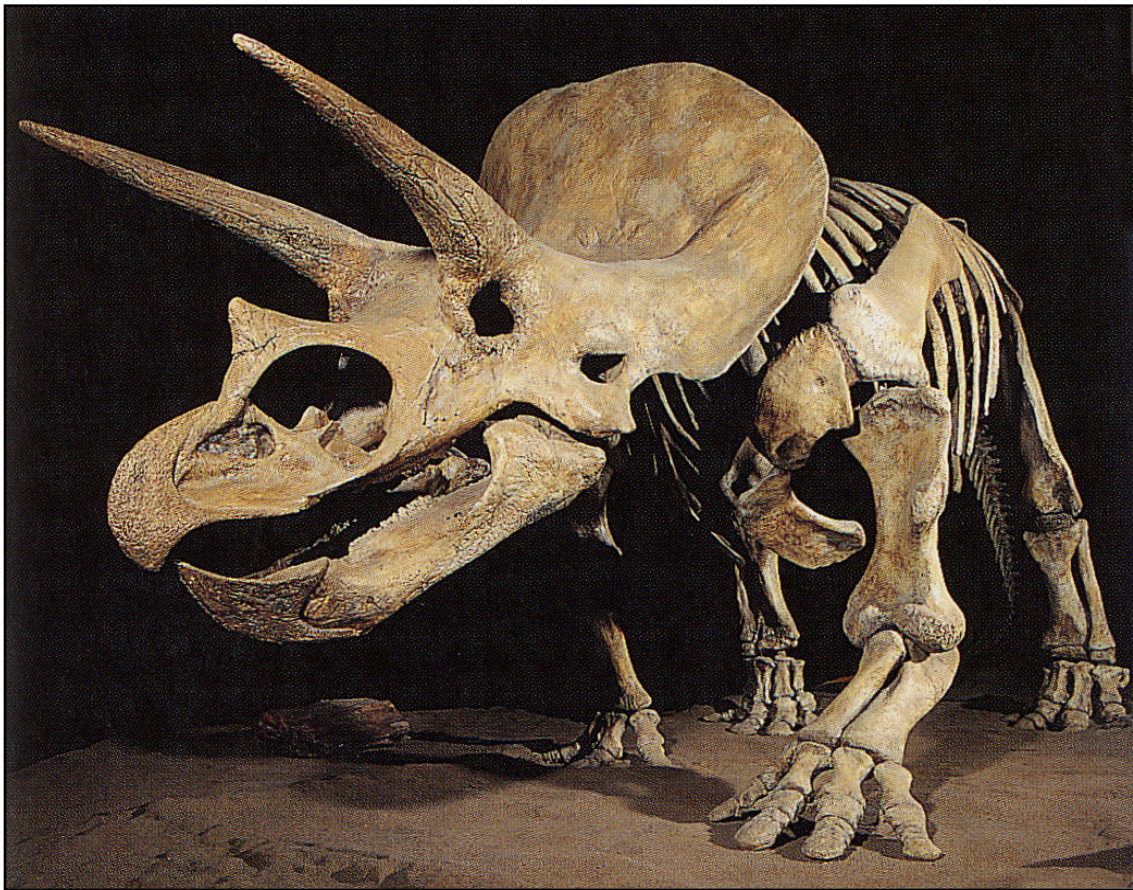


Fig 14: The legs of dinosaurs are directly below the body

- *Skulls:* All dinosaurs had skulls with peculiar openings in their sides (Fig 15). These openings or “windows” may have been used to save weight and are known as fenestrae



Fig 15: Dinosaur skulls had openings or windows

- *Size:* Reptiles normally grow during their lifespan. However, remember that humans lived long periods of time before the flood, so it is likely that dinosaurs did also, hence their enormous size
- *Marine and flying reptiles:* Some prehistoric reptiles were not really dinosaurs. Examples of reptiles that fit into this category were marine animals that did not have lizard hips (i.e., Plesiosaur), and flying reptiles (i.e., Pteranodon)

DO WE KNOW HOW DINOSAURS LOOKED

Although more discoveries are currently being made, most dinosaur reconstructions are made from incomplete skeletons. Therefore, the color, type of

skin, presence or absence of scales, appendages, and in some cases, the stance can be conjecture (Fig 16).



Fig 16: Specifics such as color and skin are often conjecture

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS

According to the Bible, all land creatures and birds of the air died in the flood except the animals on the ark. Remember that prior to the flood, land animals were vegetarians, and the pre flood earth was covered with lush vegetation. After the flood, the dinosaurs faced a more hostile world that had seasons, an ice age (dinosaurs were likely cold blooded, so they depended on heat for survival), and there was significantly less vegetation available for food. Therefore, it is likely that the dinosaurs found survival extremely challenging, and became extinct as numerous other species of animals have done.

HOW BIG WERE DINOSAURS

Although many dinosaurs were enormous, the average size of dinosaurs was the approximate size of a dog or sheep. However, the larger dinosaurs were enormous. As an example, the *Argentinosaurus* was 100-feet long and weighed 100 tons, and the *Brachiosaurus* weighed 80 tons. As a simple comparison, the African Elephant weighs about 5 tons. The larger dinosaurs were huge creatures as illustrated in Figure 17!



Fig 17: Compared to man, some dinosaurs were immense creatures

HOW MANY SPECIES OF DINOSAURS EXISTED

Ten or more new dinosaur species are being discovered annually around the world. The current total is approximately 1,000. Evidently, God created the dinosaurs in great abundance and variety.

WAS THE ARK LARGE ENOUGH FOR DINOSAURS

Noah's ark was an immense boat. Remember, it was the height of a four-story building, the length of 1.5 football fields, and contained about one-and-one-half million cubic feet! As previously stated, the average size of a dinosaur was the size of a sheep or dog. Obviously, there were very large dinosaurs which would have been difficult to place on the ark. Therefore, full grown large dinosaurs would not have been chosen, as younger, partially grown dinosaurs would have been more appropriate.

WHAT WERE DRAGONS

For thousands of years, Dragons have long been popularized by some legends (i.e., the Chinese supposedly bred dragons), some dinosaurs are often depicted with fire coming from their mouths, and a popular European drawing depicts a knight on a horse confronting a fire breathing dragon. These creatures have been found in an astounding number and locations around the world (Fig 18). Dragons have been found on every continent of this earth, and as a consequence, have become embedded in human culture. There are five main types of dragons:

- Wyverns
- Serpents
- Sky dragons
- Classical dragons of the west
- Neo-dragons
- As well as numerous subspecies and varieties

Interestingly, the Bible is clear that some dinosaurs were capable of producing fire from their mouths (see Job 41:18-21), and dragons are referred to in Psalm 91:13, Psalm 74:13, Isaiah 27:1, Isaiah 43:20, etc. The word "dragon" (Hebrew: *tannim*) appears in the Old Testament at least 21 times. If *tannim* is replaced with dinosaur, it does fit in the biblical text. The Bible does refer to dragons on land, in the water, and in the air (Isaiah 30:6).



Figure 18: Evidence of dragons is common worldwide

DID MAN COEXIST WITH DINOSAURS

Obviously, dinosaurs were observed by descendants of Adam and Eve before the flood, and by some descendants of Noah after the flood. Interestingly, the following evidence may indicate that dinosaurs lived until recent times:

- Engraved images of dinosaur-like creatures on rock walls are found in South America, Africa, China, Australia, Europe, and North America (i.e., Grand Canyon, Utah)
- Dragons are reputed to have lived up through the Middle Ages when brave knights would slay these beasts (i.e., Alexander the Great, King Beowulf, etc)
- Mariners have told of dragons in the oceans even up until recent times
- In several locations worldwide, there are what seem to be footprints of humans and dinosaurs in the same rock strata

- There are cave drawings of triceratops that were used as farm animals in South America about the 15th Century

ARE DINOSAURS STILL LIVING TODAY

If some of the previous dinosaur questions are open to speculation (and they definitely are), then this question is the most speculative of all! It is a fact that numerous plants and animals that supposedly lived millions of years ago and became extinct have been found still living today. Some examples are:

- Coelacanth fish
- Okapi (like cattle)
- Tuatara lizard
- Wollemi pine trees

These examples are living proof that some animals and plants thought to be extinct for the evolutionary time scale of millions of years are still living; but can dinosaurs also still be living yet remain undiscovered in modern times? Dinosaur sightings have been reported in Africa for centuries from the Likouala region of the Republic of Congo, which is a large area that is largely unknown to outsiders. The Africans have described a large aquatic reptile they call "*Mokele-mbembe*." Eyewitness accounts range from the 1940's through at least 1990. So, is this possible? The answer is definitely open to speculation and further investigation.

DID DINOSAURS EVOLVE INTO BIRDS

Absolutely not. It is a fact that the current evolutionary progression of dinosaurs evolving into birds is very popular within the scientific community. However, if this were true, we should find fossils in the fossil record that are part bird and part dinosaur, or see a slow transition from dinosaurs to birds. However, there are no such transitional forms. An example of the desire to prove the evolution of dinosaurs into modern birds is the November 1999 issue of National Geographic magazine. The lead article was titled "*Feathers For T-Rex?*" which alleged that evidence of feathers had been found on fossilized dinosaur remains in China. However, in the rush to publish this article, National Geographic did not conduct the necessary validation of the fossil find and were embarrassingly caught with faulty evidence. As a result, National Geographic was forced to publish a three page retraction of the Feathers For T-Rex article and describe how

their rush to publish the article ultimately resulted in an embarrassing situation (Fig 19).

REPORT TO MEMBERS



Archaeoraptor Fossil Trail

When questions arose over the authenticity of Archaeoraptor, one of the fossils featured in the November 1999 article "Feathers for T. Rex?," NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC asked Lewis M. Simons, a veteran investigative reporter, to look into what went wrong. Here is his unvarnished account.

Its name—*Archaeoraptor liaoningensis* Sloan—is almost as long as its tail, but to my untutored eye the smattering of scrawny bones resembled nothing more than last Sunday's chicken dinner.

To some prominent paleontologists who saw it, though, the little skeleton was a long-sought key to a mystery of evolution. To others among this frequently hirsute and determinedly individualistic fraternity, it was a cheap hoax. And to Bill Allen, Editor of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, it was a giant headache.

Last November the magazine trumpeted the fossil's discovery in an impoverished region of northeastern China as providing "a true missing link in the complex chain that connects dinosaurs to birds" and patted itself on the back for helping fund the research. Two months later, when it turned out that the fossil had been artfully assembled from parts of unrelated creatures, that is, it was a fraud, Allen was in quick succession shocked, humiliated, and furious.

After cooling down, Allen asked me to try to find out what had happened. "Learn everything you can about it. How did we get into this mess? Who put this thing together? How did it make its way from a hole in the ground to our pages? Who's at fault? Let the chips fall where they may."

Assured of carte blanche, I traveled through parts of China and the United States, as well as up and down the halls of the GEOGRAPHIC in Washington; interviewed peasant farmers and Ph.D.'s, hucksters, journalists, zealots, and cranks; stared through microscopes, magnifying glasses, and into a room-size, lead-lined scanner; sent and received scores of documents, e-mails, faxes, and phone calls.

Using what I've seen, heard, and read, I've assembled a brief history of *Archaeoraptor*. It's a tale of misguided secrecy and misplaced confidence, of rampant egos clashing, self-aggrandizement, wishful thinking, naive assumptions, human error, stubbornness, manipulation, backbiting, lying, corruption, and, most of all, abysmal communication. It's a story in which none of the characters looks good. And, like the little rack of bones itself, this

account inevitably is missing some bits and pieces.

The story began on an oven-hot day late in July 1997, when a farmer digging in a shale pit in Xiasanjiazi, in China's northeastern Liaoning Province, hacked out a thin, buff-colored slab measuring roughly a foot square. Like many of his neighbors, he regularly dug for fossils, which he sometimes sold to a collector or a dealer for a few dollars. But this piece was extraordinary: It contained the fossilized bones of what seemed to be a bird, including a faint aura of feathers and a beak lined with tiny teeth.

He'd been digging with a pick and shovel and had shattered the slab. Some breaks were edgewise splits through the plane of the fossil itself that resulted in what paleontologists term slab and counterslab, or part and counterpart. Something like an Oreos cookie pulled apart, they're essentially mirror images. Continuing to dig, he uncovered another, smaller slab a couple of yards away. This one contained a tail, rigid and about the size of a crocheting needle, a skull, a foot, and some other parts. It, too, was split into slab and counterslab. Pleased with the day's finds, the farmer scooped up the fragments, shouldered his tools, and walked the two miles or so back across the red dirt fields to his tiny brick house.

I do not know the name of this farmer, nor was I able to speak with him. When I visited Xiasanjiazi last March, no one I met acknowledged knowing such a person. I promised anonymity, but they had good reason to play dumb. A police official in the county seat, Beipiao, told me that only farmers authorized by the police may dig, and they must turn over their findings, in return for a small payment. Anyone keeping a fossil is subject to arrest. In the nearby city of Jinzhou a judge said that punishment could range from two or three years in jail to—in exceptional cases, such as when a fossil is smuggled out of China and sold abroad for tens of thousands of dollars—execution.

Archaeoraptor was taken to the U.S., where it sold for \$80,000.

So, what I write of the farmer is based on what I saw in the village and in the pits and on relayed responses to questions that I left for him with

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, OCTOBER 2000

Fig 19: An embarrassing retraction for National Geographic magazine

The common evolutionary explanation for flight involves dinosaurs running and flapping their emerging wings, and one day, they began to fly. An alternative supposition is that small dinosaurs climbed trees, then jumped and glided to the ground. Interestingly, if dinosaurs did evolve into birds, "*natural selection*" would have eliminated any dinosaur that only had partial wings and would have been unable to adequately function as a dinosaur or a bird. The biblical account of

creation clearly states that birds were created on five, and dinosaurs were created on day six. This is what the fossil record clearly shows.

CONCLUSION

During our time together, we have summarized Noah and the Flood, and Dinosaurs. However, the real question is *“what is the best explanation for your purpose in life?”* If creation is true (and the evidence from science and Scripture indicate that it is), then each person should be concerned with their future destiny and specifically, where you will spend eternity. The Bible clearly says “all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and those without a personal acceptance of God will spend eternity in a lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). However, God has provided an alternate choice, and that choice is a free gift that only needs to be accepted by you *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16), and “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).* This is God’s message to you, so have you accepted his free gift of eternal life?

Additional information on Creation, the Flood, and dinosaurs can be easily obtained from the following websites and selected books:

- Answers In Genesis
www.AnswersInGenesis.org
- Institute Creation Research
www.icr.org
- NET Bible
www.netbible.com
- The Collapse of Evolution
3rd Edition, Scott M. Huse
Baker Books
- Refuting Compromise
Jonathan Sarfati, PhD.
Master Books
- The Genesis Record and The Genesis Flood
Henry M. Morris
Baker Book House