



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#15 – What About The Dinosaurs? Job 40:15-24

PICTURES NEEDED

- 15-1 Dinosaur fossil
- 15-2 Sauropod dinosaur
- 15-3 Elephant, hippopotamus, crocodile
- 15-4 Worldwide flood

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What are the three categories of land animals that God created and examples of each? What are characteristics that all mammals have? What does it mean that each type of animal was created according to its kind?
- **The Big Question Review:** What can we learn from the animals?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Jeremiah 8:7
Every living creature is known by and belongs to God.

¹¹(I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.) ¹²If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

As we continue to study creation, we want to answer questions that people would have about it. Some questions might relate to dinosaurs such as: “When did dinosaurs live?” and “What happened to the dinosaurs?” In this lesson, we will examine reasonable answers to both those questions.

How do we know dinosaurs existed since they are no longer around? (picture 15-1) We know that dinosaurs existed because fossils of dinosaurs have been found. There are also historical accounts of dinosaur-like creatures called dragons.

What is a fossil? A fossil is a part of a plant or animal where everything in it was replaced by minerals so it is like a rock. Fossils of all kinds of things are found everywhere on earth. Fruit trees are found in the Arctic zone and redwood forests are buried under the South Pole.

How are fossils formed? Fossils are formed when an animal dies and is quickly buried under mud that has lots of minerals in it. An animal that is not rapidly buried under mud is either eaten by predators or decays. Fossils do not form very often.

When do people who believe in evolution think dinosaurs lived on the earth? Because dinosaurs are now extinct, evolutionists think they had to live millions of years ago.

What do evolutionists believe? Evolutionists believe that one kind of animal turns into different kinds of animals over time. They believe it took millions and millions of years for the different types of animals that exist to develop. Somewhere in those millions and millions of years dinosaurs developed and lived. They think dinosaurs became extinct millions of years ago.

How should Christians who believe in creation view the existence of dinosaurs? In contrast to evolution, Christians believe that God created each type of animal after its own kind. That means that dinosaurs were created as dinosaurs. They didn't first exist as some other type of animal and then change into dinosaurs.

In the last lesson, we saw that on the sixth day that *God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.*

Since dinosaurs are land animals, this would have to include them. In the next lesson, we will see that God also made man on the 6th day. What is the implication of God making both dinosaurs and people on the sixth day? If God made both people and dinosaurs on the sixth day that means that they lived together at the same time on earth. However long man has lived on earth is how long ago the dinosaurs lived here too.

In the book of Job in the Bible, God talks to Job about his creation. God describes the behemoth that he created. (Job 40:15-24) The word behemoth means giant, kingly beast in Hebrew. Consider whether it sounds like a dinosaur as we read the passage.

¹⁵ *“Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. What is the behemoth like? He eats plants. He is an herbivore.*

¹⁶ *What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! What is the behemoth like? The loins are the lower abdominal region about the hips. He has very strong abdominal muscles to support his huge body.*

¹⁷ *His tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are close-knit. What is the behemoth like? His tail moves back and forth like a swaying cedar, a huge tree. His thighs (upper legs) are muscular.*

¹⁸ *His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like rods of iron. What is the behemoth like? He has huge, strong bones to support the weight of his body.*

¹⁹ *He ranks first among the works of God, yet his Maker can approach him with his sword. What is the behemoth like? There is none in size more majestic and bigger than he is, but compared to God he is small. God has control over him.*

²⁰ *The hills bring him their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby. What is the behemoth like? Other animals aren't threatened by him as he is a plant eater. He is not aggressive.*

²¹ *Under the lotus plants he lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh. ²² The lotuses conceal him in their shadow; the poplars by the stream surround him. What is the behemoth like? He lives in wet, marshy areas. He hides among the plants, submerged in the water.*

²³ *When the river rages, he is not alarmed; he is secure, though the Jordan should surge against his mouth. What is the behemoth like? Because he is so big and strong the powerful flow and flooding of the Jordan River doesn't affect him. He can stand firm and isn't swept away.*

²⁴ *Can anyone capture him by the eyes, or trap him and pierce his nose? What is the behemoth? No one is able to catch him, trap him or lead him around. He is not an animal that could be tamed like an elephant.*

God said that the Behemoth ranked first among all the creatures he created. What does that mean? He was the largest, and the greatest of all the animals.

(picture 15-2) The dinosaurs belonging to the class of Sauropods were the biggest land animals that ever lived. The Apatosaurus was a Sauropod measuring 76 feet long. Diplodocus (die-PLOH-dah-kus) measured 87 feet long. These Sauropods also had huge tails to counter balance their long necks. The tail could sway like a cedar tree.

The Behemoth had powerful legs. So did the great Sauropod dinosaurs. They needed huge pillar like legs to support their great size. They were marvelously designed by God to carry the immense weight of their bodies. Brachiosaurus weighed about 89 tons; which is more than 12 adult elephants combined.

The Behemoth was a land animal, but it could hide in the water. The Brachiosaurus and other Sauropods could submerge their bodies in water, hiding themselves with only their eyes and their nose visible. Unlike other animals whose nose is positioned directly above the mouth, the nose of the Sauropod is located on the top of the head, designed so most of its body could be submerged in water. That means it could hide among the plants in the water.

Because the description of the Behemoth does not fit any animals currently living on earth, some people think that the behemoth was a mythical animal. Why couldn't behemoth be a mythical animal? God would not describe a mythical animal as being something he created. When God was talking to Job he said (Job 40:15), *"Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox."*

Other people have said that the behemoth must be an elephant, hippopotamus, or crocodile. Why couldn't behemoth be an elephant, hippopotamus, or crocodile? The size of the behemoth is obviously bigger and the type of tail of elephant and hippopotamus is different. All of these animals can be caught by men and kept in a zoo. A crocodile has a big tail but it doesn't sway back and forth like a tree. It is dragged on the ground. The crocodile is a vicious animal; other animals wouldn't play around it.

Can you think of any creature on earth today that fits the detailed description of behemoth in Job 40? If you believe the description fits that of a Sauropod, it is evidence that dinosaurs lived with people. That means dinosaurs didn't become extinct millions of years ago. They lived together with people as God created them on the same day.

The other question we wanted to examine is, "What happened to the dinosaurs?" It is widely believed by scientists that dinosaur life died out very suddenly. All kinds of theories to explain this have been proposed by evolutionists such as: volcanoes erupting, meteors striking the earth, etc. These theories fail to explain why so many dinosaurs died out at the same time all over the earth.

(picture 15-4) A reasonable explanation as to what happened to the dinosaurs would be a worldwide flood occurring, such as the flood at the time of Noah.

How would a world-wide flood have affected the dinosaurs? It would have wiped most of them from the earth. Rapid burial by floodwaters springing up from under the ground and coming down in torrential rain would explain why so many dinosaurs and other types of creatures are found in the fossil record around the world.

If a flood wiped out the dinosaurs, how would Job have seen one since he lived after the flood? If Noah took baby dinosaurs or dinosaur eggs on the ark with him some would have survived after the flood and lived at the time of Job. However, conditions on earth following the flood would have been much harsher than before causing not just dinosaurs but also other animals found in the fossil record to die out and become extinct.

Stories of dragons, which are dinosaur-like creatures, are found in ancient cultures all over the world. Noah and his sons would have remembered and passed on stories about what the world was like before the flood.

We have to examine the evidence and determine what is a reasonable explanation for both the existence and disappearance of dinosaurs. Did God create the dinosaurs like he did every other living thing or did they evolve from some other animal hundreds of millions of years ago? Does the flood explain the existence of fossils? Would a flood have wiped out most dinosaurs causing them to eventually become extinct?

Note: The Genesis flood will be covered extensively in lessons 29-31.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** When were dinosaurs created? How do we know dinosaurs lived at the same time as people? What does the description of behemoth sound like? Why? What is a reasonable explanation for what happened to the dinosaurs? Why?
- **Thought Questions:** Why are dinosaurs always described as having lived millions of years ago? Why won't evolutionists consider the idea of a worldwide flood as having wiped out the dinosaurs? If God didn't create the dinosaurs, what does that mean for Christians who believe in the Bible?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he is the almighty creator who brought all things into being. Thank him for the dinosaurs that show his amazing power and strength. Pray that you would understand dinosaurs from God's viewpoint and not the way the world thinks about them.
- **The Big Question: What can we know about dinosaurs from the Bible?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Job 40:15** God made dinosaurs along with people.

¹⁵ "Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox.

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.
- ★ **Activity Page:** Word Search
Instructions: Find the names of the dinosaurs God created in the word search puzzle: Stegosaurus, Apatosaurus, Allosaurus, Pentaceratops, Tyrannosaurus, Iguanodon, Velociraptor, Ankylosaurus, Brachiosaurus (key on next page)

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(Over,Down,Direction)
 ALLOSAURUS(5,11,E)
 ANKYLOSAURUS(12,14,W)
 APATOSAURUS(3,13,NE)
 BRACHIOSAURUS(2,3,SE)
 IGUANODON(2,1,SE)
 PENTACERATOPS(1,13,NE)
 STEGOSAURUS(14,11,N)
 TYRANNOSAURUS(1,5,E)
 VELOCIRAPTOR(15,4,S)

- **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.
God made dinosaurs along with people.
- **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.
- **Craft: Dinosaur Fossil**
As a reminder that God created the dinosaurs that once roamed the earth, make a dinosaur fossil skeleton.
Materials: card stock paper, 1 large shell and 15 pieces Mezze Penne pasta for each child, sand, glue, cookie sheet or large tray
Preparation: Run off craft 15 on card stock paper
Instructions:
1. Glue penne pasta on lines and the large shell on the circle.
2. Smear glue over the rest of the paper.
3. Sprinkle sand on top of paper and shake off excess over tray.
- **Game: Dinosaur Relays**
As a reminder that God created each type of dinosaur after its own kind like he did the other animals, run a dinosaur relay. Each type of dinosaur had its own way of walking.

Instructions: Divide the class into teams and have them run races like dinosaurs.

- Walk on all fours (quadruped)
- Scissor walk (biped)
- Swing head around (Sauropod)
- Hop (Oviparator)
- Extend and flap arms (Pteradon)
- Hold arms close to body in claw position (Tyrannosaurus)
- Move head up and down (Hadrosaurus)

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.