

GONE!

Yes, they're gone. But why?

Why did the mighty dinosaur go extinct?

What are the implications for mankind?

There is an answer!

A frighteningly different answer than you may have ever heard. Based on scientific discoveries showing that man and dinosaurs lived at the same time, this book exposes...

The Great Dinosaur Mistake



by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

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Introduction

Long ago the mighty dinosaur roamed the earth freely, displaying his power and majesty to all. But when did these creatures live? And how did they go extinct, and why?

These are perplexing questions, yet they are honest questions. Questions that must be answered, especially by those who believe and accept the Bible as God's authority on all matters.

But what does the Bible have to say about the mighty dinosaur? And again, how does the dinosaur fit into the Biblical framework? Let us turn our attention to the early chapters of Genesis and examine this framework in order to answer these questions.

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The Biblical Framework

Genesis 6 reveals that at one time in the past it was necessary for God to judge the entire world through a great water cataclysm. We find the reason for this in [Gen. 6:11-18](#):

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee."

Here we have a picture not only of God's judgment but of God's provision and protection as He instructs a man named Noah to build a boat to preserve life upon the earth. In this passage Noah is given instructions for the building of the boat.

Is it feasible to believe this account? Is the account reasonable? The evolutionist tells us that it would have been impossible for a man in Noah's time to build a boat large enough to preserve all of life. He maintains there are too many animals living on the earth for such a feat. He also ridicules the concept of a worldwide flood.

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The Ark of Noah

Before we accept these objections let us examine the account and see what we find in the Word of God. God speaks to a man named Noah and says the end is very near, judgment comes soon. He instructs Noah to build an ark and describes that ark in verse 15. *"The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits."* To determine if the ark was adequate to preserve life upon the earth, we first of all need to determine how big the ark was. In order to do that we need to know what a cubit is. A cubit is basically the measurement from the elbow down to the fingertips. If you happen to have a very long arm, you have long cubits. If you have short arms, you have short cubits. I am sure you can see they had some difficulty in determining size and so it became necessary to standardize the measurements. The ancient Hebrew people had two measurements for a cubit; a shorter cubit of 17.5 inches and a longer cubit of 22.5 inches. For ease in our discussion we will round it off to 18 inches. Therefore the description of the ark in [Genesis 6:15](#) tells us that the length of the ark was approximately 450 feet long, the width approximately 75 feet wide, and the height approximately 45 feet high. It resembled a giant railroad boxcar or a giant rectangular, box-like river barge, constructed to float free upon the water. It was not necessary for Noah to take a course in navigation to learn how to sail this boat. He did not have to learn how to maneuver it through rivers, etc., because the purpose of the ark was simply to float free upon the water. Built in this manner it had great stability, it could even tilt 45 degrees on its side without overturning. Now while a tilt like that may not have been comfortable for the people inside, it assured a successful voyage through the greatest storm in history.

We are told that the waters of the flood were very great upon the earth: *"Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered."* ([Genesis 7:20](#)) That means the waters covered the mountains that were present before the flood by 22 1/2 feet. If it be assumed the ark was loaded until it was half-submerged, its draft would be 22 1/2 feet. Therefore the ark could float free over all the earth without lodging upon anything. So God in His planning prepared all the things necessary for this voyage of Noah. The ark would displace about 24,000 tons and thus be a good-sized ship, even by modern standards. Still, we are left with the question, was it possible to put all the animals necessary to preserve life upon the earth inside the ark?

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The Animals

In order to answer that question we first of all need to know how many animals there are. We could count them all -- elephants, camels, rats, mice, giraffes, etc.

But it is easier simply to accept Ernst Mayr's figures, since he is an outstanding evolutionary taxonomist and an expert in the classification of animals. He tells us there are over a million species of animals living on the earth today. Can we put a million different animals inside the ark? Quite honestly the answer is no. But before we say the Bible does not work and laugh at it as many people do, let us look at [Genesis 7](#) again. We are told in the 21st verse:

"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." (Genesis 7:21-24)

If you check that list very carefully you find certain animals were destroyed -- fowl, cattle, beasts, and every creeping thing -- all of the insects, and even man. It is emphasized again for us that all the dry land animals died. We are told that every living substance that was upon the face of the ground was destroyed. If you read carefully you will find that nowhere in the account are fish mentioned. It was not necessary for Noah to find a male and female goldfish, he did not have to gather killer whales; he did not have to worry whether his piranhas were bothering anything else inside the ark. Since the judgment was to be a water cataclysm it seems logical that the fish should stay and survive in the water. Though many were destroyed because of the violence of water action (we find trapped fish in the fossil record), still in all, it is logical that the creatures that lived in the sea, fish, echinoderms, brachiopods, whose natural habitat was water, survived the flood simply by staying in the water.

Therefore we can eliminate their number from the million species of animals Mayr tells about. Eliminating those animals that live in the sea, except for amphibious animals which, though they might have survived in the water will be included in the ark, we find that instead of a million species of animals there would be only 17,500. That is a little different.

We still have a slight problem with the figure of 17,500. If you have studied several years of biology and a couple of years of physiology you may have noticed this one fact: to preserve life upon the

earth, a male and a female are required, preferably these should be of the same species. So we need to take 17,500 males and 17,500 matching females of each species, a total of 35,000 animals inside the ark. The average size of these animals is about the size of a sheep. You say, wait a minute; I have gone to the zoo and seen large animals such as elephants, giraffes, rhinoceroses, hippos, all these big animals which are larger than sheep. True, but fortunately there are also rats, mice, prairie dogs, etc., that are smaller than sheep. The average size of all animals is about the size of a sheep. You can place 35,000 sheep in 146 railroad boxcars specially designed with three tiers of flooring.



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The Insects

We must also account for the insects. Again taking Ernst Mayr's figures, there are 850,000 species of insects. We need a male and a female of each species. Fortunately Noah did not have to figure out if he had a male and a female tsetse fly because God brought all the animals and insects to him. We need room for 1,700,000 individual insects for the 850,000 species. Giving each of these insects 2 inches of flying space, being very careful to pack the termites in the middle, 850,000 pairs of insects can be placed in 21 railroad boxcars. Thus, 146 railroad boxcars are needed for the animals and 21 railroad boxcars for the insects; or 176 railroad boxcars in all.

The ark, figuring the cubit at the smallest known measurement, 17.5 inches, has the capacity of 522 railroad boxcars. Very simply, that means we can put all of the animals in the lower story, Noah and his family on the second story, and we have plenty of room on the third story for recreational facilities. Or you could use the third deck, or extra room, for animals which have gone extinct before our time, such as dinosaurs.

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Dinosaurs

You say, wait a minute! How are you going to put a 60 ton brontosaurus into the ark. Very carefully!

Now you ask, you don't really want me to believe they put dinosaurs inside the ark, do you? Why not? The ark was large enough. But, how are we suppose to believe that? After all, the geology books state that the dinosaur died out some 70 million years ago and man did not even evolve until maybe a million years ago.

How could dinosaurs be around at the time of the flood?

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When?

It seems to me that if we are going to accept the Bible as our authority, we are going to accept what God says when He states that He created all things by His power, and that man was created as the highest creature of God's creation, created to have dominion over all animals. Therefore, man must have had dominion over even dinosaurs, and the Bible must present us with a framework in which to explain dinosaurs.

What do we do with the claim that the dinosaur lived 70 million years ago? How are we going to date the time of the dinosaur?

Picture ourselves in the Glenrose, Texas area, at the Paluxy River. We find a piece of bone sticking out of the ground, excavate it, and say we have found a fossil. It looks very much like a dinosaur bone. We are not experts and cannot tell for sure just by looking at the bone that it was a dinosaur, so we call the university. They send out a geologist and a paleontologist.

The geologist examines the rock the paleontologist examines the fossil. We give them several months to make their study and when they are completely finished we begin to ask some questions.

We talk to the paleontologist first and ask, Sir, this fossil I found, is it a dinosaur?

Yes.

Sir, how do you know it is a dinosaur?

It looks like a dinosaur.

This particular dinosaur when did he live?

The dinosaur lived some 70 million years ago.

How do you know that? Did you use the newest dating method, potassium-argon, carbon 14, one of those radioactive methods to date the fossil so you could tell it was 70 million years old?

No.

Then how do you know the dinosaur is 70 million years old?

Elementary, I talked with the geologist and he told me the rock which contained the fossil is 70 million years old and so naturally anything I find inside is obviously the same age.

You cannot fight logic like that! This is sedimentary rock and by definition sedimentary rock is rock

deposited from water which has become solid; if this particular rock formation is 70 million years old, obviously anything you find buried inside was deposited before the sediment became solid and is at least 70 million years old or older.

Dinosaurs are 70 million years old; most people accept this statement. It is printed as fact in scientific magazines, periodicals, newspapers, and textbooks.



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But Are They?

To provide a scientific check point it might be good to talk to the geologist and see exactly why this rock formation is alleged to be 70 million years old. It would be good to see what scientific dating methods he used in order to determine its age.

Sir, I understand from talking to the paleontologist that you told him this sedimentary rock formation is 70 million years old. How did you know that? Did you use one of the radiometric dating methods -- potassium-argon, uranium to lead, carbon 14 -- to determine that the rock was 70 million years old?

No.

Then how do you know the rock formation is 70 million years old?

That is simple, the rock formation is 70 million years old because a dinosaur bone was found in it

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The Answer!

Do you see what has been done? The rock is 70 million years old, why? Because it contains a dinosaur bone. The dinosaur bone is 70 million years old, why? Because it is found in this rock. This is plainly a case of circular reasoning. In reality you have no idea how old the dinosaur or the rock is.

The rock was dated by the fossil it contained and the fossil was dated by the rock it was found in. Do geologists really do that? Yes. In his book on historical geology, Carl Dunbar, a geologist and an evolutionist, admits the circular reasoning involved in dating fossils by rocks and rocks by fossils.

A few years back the Encyclopedia Britannica in an article on fossil dating contains an admission of circular reasoning in dating fossils by rocks and rocks by fossils, but it is claimed to be so consistent that obviously it must be correct.

In reality, there is not a single valid scientific dating method that can be used to determine the age of this fossil. And there is not a single valid dating method to determine the age of sedimentary strata. They are non-dateable by any method we know.

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Carbon 14 Dating

What about carbon 14, you ask; can carbon 14 be used to date fossils? Yes, it can, with one small slight problem. Even if carbon 14 were totally accurate and useable as far back in time as it goes, it only goes back for 40 thousands years. An evolutionist who believes the dinosaur is 70 million years old will not use carbon 14 on it because of this 40,000 year upper limit.

But even carbon 14 has problems. It is based upon the assumption that the rate of the formation of carbon 14 in the upper atmosphere is equal to the rate of decay.

This is not true. Dr. Libbi, who invented the method, says it must be true because it would only take 30,000 years for equilibrium to be established, for the rate of formation to be equal to the rate of decay. He says everyone knows that the earth is over 30,000 years old so carbon 14 must be in equilibrium. Yet the latest studies indicate the rate of formation is not equal to the rate of decay. If allowance is made for Libbi's erroneous assumption, the corrected carbon 14 dates come back to within the last 5000 years.

But even then there are still problems. Carbon 14 analysis, as in the case of other dating methods, does not really determine anything about age; it simply tells you the amount of carbon 14 found in a substance. Carbon 14, formed in the upper atmosphere, filters down into the plants, and one eats either plants or things that have eaten plants. Therefore, a certain amount of carbon 14 is trapped in your body and bones.

Scientists measure how much is present and, based on the half life of carbon 14, they project back in time to see how long you must have been around. Theoretically, that is how ages are determined by carbon 14.

But there are some problems again, because penguins living in the Antarctic today have yielded 3000 year old carbon 14 ages when tested. Seals killed recently gave ages of 1000 years.

There are problems with carbon 14. But even if one were to grant that the method was valid back to 40,000 years, the evolutionist would not use it because he could not date what he believes is a 70 million year old fossil with a method stopping at 40,000 years.

So there is not a single valid scientific method that will determine the age of the rock, nor is there a valid dating method that will determine the age of the fossil. In reality when we find a dinosaur bone, all we really know about the dinosaur is that he lived and died sometime in the past and was buried by some type of water cataclysm.



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Dinosaur Monument

If you visit the Dinosaur Monument in Vernal, Utah, you will be told that the dinosaurs buried in the mountainside did not live in the area, but actually lived upstate someplace and were washed down by some type of local flood. It is also suggested that quite possibly they were trapped while crossing a sandbar. Or, it is said that for some reason not well understood, the dinosaurs died out, their bones lay on top of the ground and later a local flood washed the bones down the state. Whatever the reason for the extinction of dinosaurs in that area, they were buried by some type of water action.

At the monument dinosaur bones are found buried in a hillside in the Morrison formation, named after the man who happened to find them. They are encased in sandstone which is a type of water deposited rock; thus, the dinosaurs were buried by some type of water action. That is exactly what you would expect if there had been a great flood which took place in the days of Noah. You would expect to find plants and animals, even dinosaurs, buried by some type of water action.

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A Reptile that Grows

What is a dinosaur? The name "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard." A dinosaur is nothing more than a large reptile. An interesting and significant fact about reptiles is that a reptile continues to grow for as long as he lives. If a reptile lives for 100 years, that reptile will grow for 100 years. This is different from man who grows upward for twenty years and outward the rest of his life. With reptiles that does not happen; the longer a reptile lives, the longer he has time to grow and the larger he becomes.

This is fascinating because of the Biblical framework which tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth by power. God created everything in six days and at the end of that period, on the sixth day, God created man to have dominion over all the creatures. Then on the seventh day God rested. We are told that Adam named all of the creatures and therefore must have named dinosaurs. We learn something else about the conditions God created for man on this planet. They were perfect. It was a perfect environment, there was no sin, no death, no decay.

Vegetation was perfect for man and animal to eat. We are told that it did not rain on the earth but a mist came up and watered the ground. Without rain there was no erosion, nothing to take the trace minerals out of the soil. Therefore all of the plants which were created perfect had the proper amounts of minerals, including all of the trace elements. The early earth environment was perfect in every respect. But man fell into sin.

Evidently the fall of man affected the world in which we live and because of Adam's expulsion from the Garden, he had to deal with weeds, thorns and thistles. Immediately after the fall things were not drastically different. Even though Adam was cursed he was so perfectly created, he lived to be 930 years old.

The environment was such that man before the flood lived longer than he does now. Methuselah made it to the age of 969. Our average life span is about 70 years. The reported average life span in India is only 42 years. The initial impression is that people in India live to 41 and then die. But this is not exactly true.

Some people in India live to great ages just as they do here, reaching the century mark. In India the infant mortality rate is much higher, more children die at birth. And, of course, if you have one person who lives to be 100 and one who dies at birth, the average is 50. People in the United States are led to believe that we live longer than our predecessors of earlier times. Again, this is not exactly correct. A century ago some lived to great ages, but many more than today died of childhood diseases or at birth.

Modern medical care has greatly altered the picture and lengthened the average life span. Nevertheless, our average life span is only 70 years whereas the average life span before the flood was 911 years.

The antediluvian life span was some 13 or 14 times longer than our life span today. Since man lived longer, it seems logical that animals also lived longer. This affects our little reptiles.

If a reptile were allowed to live 13 or 14 times longer than it does today, provided with the proper amounts of trace minerals in the soil so that the vegetation produced for it to eat contained all the proper proteins, vitamins, and minerals, the results would be a pretty good sized reptile. Take the four-foot iguana who lives on the Galapagos Islands today, increase his life span some 13 or 14 times and the result would be a very large reptile. Take the twelve-foot Komodo Dragon living in Sumatra today, increase his life span 13 to 14 times, allowing him to grow the entire length of time, and he would be an extremely large reptile.

Both of these reptiles look very much like some of the dinosaurs which roamed the earth in the past.



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A Major Factor

The life span was probably lengthened also by other factors in the environment which God had created. Perhaps one such factor was the filtering out of solar ultraviolet rays by a water canopy which covered the earth, producing a green house effect and tropical conditions throughout much of the earth. This canopy would be dissipated by the great flood. Forty days and forty nights of rainfall reduced the water in the upper atmosphere before the flood to a much smaller amount after the flood, thus allowing more of the ultraviolet light from the sun to reach the earth. It is proposed that some drastic changes in the lifespan of man and animals resulted from increased ultraviolet and other radiations. Add to this the fact that during the flood much of the trace mineral content of the soil had been dissolved out by water and it becomes apparent that very important pre-flood environmental conditions were at an end, never to be restored.

Most of the vegetation was destroyed and some time was required for it to grow back. We can now understand why reptiles, as well as man, were affected by the drastic changes after the flood. The Bible gives a framework for the growth of large reptiles, even dinosaurs. But it also contains the framework which explains the demise of the dinosaur, why they are now extinct.

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A Brontosaurus In The Ark

Did Noah take two 60 ton brontosaurus into the ark? God probably sent two baby dinosaurs. They take up a lot less room, are easier to take care of, and have a tendency to live longer after the catastrophe. God's purpose was to preserve life upon the earth.

The ark was large enough to take even these creatures, and I believe that dinosaurs were on the ark.

The Biblical framework explains the origin of dinosaurs much better than the evolutionist. The Bible infers that dinosaurs were created in the beginning by God. It describes the behemoth and the leviathan as beasts created by God to display to man the power of God. Laviathan is the king of the creatures of pride, he had reason to be, he was created by God to show His power. (Job 40 and 41) God Created even these great creatures but gave man dominion over them. The cartoon characters of the Flintstones and Ally Oop may have a speck of truth after all. At any rate, man and dinosaurs did live at the same time. They would have been destroyed by an event which was worldwide in nature, a great cataclysm of water which buried all animals and plants, sent in judgment because of the wickedness and degeneration of man upon this planet. So the Bible gives an explanation for why dinosaurs died out and is consistent with what we know about fossils, for fossils are buried by some type of water action, laid down in sediment by water in a great water cataclysm. Certainly we would expect a fossil record if the Biblical account is true.

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A Comparison

This is a much better explanation of dinosaurs than that of the evolutionary theorist who cannot tell why the dinosaur came into existence or what it evolved from who cannot explain why the dinosaur died out despite the fact that it was the most powerful creature that ever lived. Charles Darwin says natural selection, survival of the fittest, is one of the reasons certain old life forms died out and new forms of life come into existence.

Dinosaurs were perhaps the most fit creatures to survive that ever lived, so the evolutionist has a real problem explaining why they died out. Yet in his view, death is the primary reason why man is here. According to the evolutionist things would be too hostile for man in the realm of the dinosaur. Therefore it would be necessary for dinosaurs to have died out for man to come into existence.

The Bible tells us by God and by His power man came into existence. The evolutionary framework indicates in the fossil record, certain animals in certain periods of time died out giving rise to other animals which came into existence, which then died out giving rise to other animals, which ultimately gave rise to man. Death is one of the primary reasons man finally came to have dominion over the earth. The evolutionist says by death came man. The Bible says that by man came death -- by his disobedience. So the Bible and evolution are incompatible. But, if we are willing to dismiss the evolutionary hypothesis, we find that the Bible gives us a framework which explains the rise of dinosaurs and explains their demise. The dinosaur was created by God in the beginning and died out in the years following the great flood.

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Man and Dinosaurs

There is also good evidence which supports the Biblical framework that man and dinosaurs have co-existed at some time in the past. The Paluxy River bed near the city of Glenrose, Texas, contains dinosaur footprints. For many years reports have circulated that human footprints including giant tracks are to be found there also. I spoke with a man in the area who says that in 1911 a flash flood came through and washed all the sediment away, taking the river bed down to its limestone base. He walked out one day and found nine human tracks.

The tracks were 16 inches long and nine inches across, indicating the man had a pretty big foot. The stride was six feet. My informant reported that evidently something happened, because the stride changed to nine feet, indicating the track-maker started to run. Not being a scientist, and thinking the tracks unimportant the finder did not show them to anyone. Later on floods eroded these tracks away and they are gone.

Yet other tracks have been taken from the river bed. One particular track was 16 inches long, 9 inches across and showed the ball of the foot, the arch, the heel, and toes.

I have seen the hole in the river bed from which the track was cut. We found tracks before and after the one taken out of the river, but they are not as good since erosion has taken its toll. However, the impressions of the toes, arch, and heel are still observable. Yet, scientists for the most part who have not gone out and examined the area, refuse to believe that humans existed with dinosaurs and do not feel it is a worthwhile project to make first-hand observations.

In the summer of 1971, I had the privilege of working with a research team which spent most of the time sandbagging the Paluxy River bed, pumping out the water, scraping away the debris down to the limestone, washing it, and looking for footprints. We found some footprints and followed one series under the bank of the river by lifting off the overlying material back about 12 feet. Layers (up to 8 feet) of dirt rock debris and limestone were removed using earth moving equipment in order to continue our examination of the flat limestone surface under the bank. This find was unique. The evolutionist has often told us that human footprints could not exist in this river bed if dinosaur prints were there also. Man did not live at the same time as dinosaurs. Some of the evolutionists have gone as far as to say that all these footprints were carvings by Indians.

It is rather difficult to carve a footprint under eight feet of solid rock and dirt. Finding these tracks under the bank erases the possibility that these are carvings. Some people claim they are erosion marks. Erosion can do strange things with rock, but it seems to me that erosion could hardly be responsible for a set of prints having the ball of a foot, arch, heel, and a few toes visible, left, right,

left, right, left, right, at three foot intervals. The eighth track of this particular series crosses a three-toed dinosaur track. Then there is a gap of about 15 feet and another human track. The series then continues off into the river.



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Some Opinions

Several scientists were invited to evaluate these tracks. Scientists should be fair and come up with valid conclusions. One man looked at the tracks, put his foot inside, and seeing how it fit so beautifully, remarked that the tracks definitely were made by an organism!

Another observer said that since they definitely looked like human footprints, they must have been made by an animal now extinct which had man-like feet. These scientists could not acknowledge human footprints with dinosaur prints because of their premise that dinosaurs and humans did not live together: remember, they claim that dinosaurs died out 70 million years ago.

These tracks are genuine. Because of them and other finds scientists must drastically change their thinking. There is strong evidence that man and the dinosaur were contemporaries.

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Other Evidence

Evidence in many other places of the world indicates that man and dinosaur lived together. More footprints of man and dinosaur in the same strata are found elsewhere. Wall paintings in the caves of Rhodesia are rather interesting. These paintings depict the Brontosaurus. This dinosaur was supposed to have become extinct 70 million years ago, but these bushmen who painted them did not leave their caves until 3500 years ago, or 1500 B.C.

The problem for the evolutionist in this particular instance is the fact that the bushmen only painted things they could actually see, that existed in their realm of understanding: they painted only from real life. Since dinosaurs were supposed to have died out so long ago there would not have been any around for them to paint, unless the 70 million year claim is wrong.

Thinking the reported cave paintings were quite a significant find of great interest, Ev Purcell, a member of the Board of Directors of the Creation-Science Research Center wrote to a paleontologist in Rhodesia. The paleontologist was asked to check on these pictures. He should be excited at the find and wish to examine it personally.

Photographs and artists' copies of the drawings showed the long neck of a Brontosaurus extending up out of the reeds. But the paleontologist in Rhodesia wrote that the paintings could not be a brontosaurus because the brontosaurus died out 70 million years ago. Since the bushmen only painted from real life and left their caves 3500 years ago, the inquirer obviously must be mistaken in his interpretation.

Without ever leaving his office he decided that the paintings must be of a giraffe or an ant bear. An ant bear is a type of aardvark. Personally, I feel that any paleontologist who cannot tell the difference between a giraffe and an aardvark probably would not know a brontosaurus if he saw one. This man would not even bother to leave his office because he did not want to be confused by facts. His mind was made up.



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The Great Dinosaur Mistake



by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

A Better Explanation

When it comes to the account of dinosaurs, the Bible gives us a better explanation of this creature than does the evolutionist. He lived before the flood, roamed the earth, was the king of the creatures of pride, created by God to display His power to mankind, he died out because of the great flood and the drastic changes after the flood. We are told that environmental conditions were very different after the flood. Man's life span was shortened; Noah's sons lived perhaps 400 years and died. Later in the days of Peleg, 200 years was a long life span. Just a few generations later, in the time of Abraham, Sarah was too old to conceive at the age of 90. That is quite a difference when before the flood people had sons and daughters for 800 to 900 years.

Evidently the filtering out of the ultraviolet light was lessened after the flood causing a shortened life span. Trace minerals in the soil were washed out to sea and the conditions were drastically different. It is interesting to note that the largest animals upon our earth today are the mammals that live in the depths of the sea. These mammals, the whale family, are the largest creatures that ever lived. The blue whale is larger than any dinosaur ever found. Living in the sea, this whale eats by straining the small plankton from the waters.

It is in the ocean water that the trace minerals would have gone. It is here that kelp grows at fantastic rates indicative of the fact that sea water must be very rich in elements essential to life.

The mineral content of the ocean is another evidence that something great must have happened to the land mass in times past.

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A Drastic Change

The conditions of the dry land were also changed: foliage was gone. So drastic were the conditions that God allowed man to do something he had not been allowed to do before. In [Genesis 9](#) we read,

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." (Genesis 9:1-6)

Here the conditions are shown to be so severe that God lifted his ban upon the eating of meat. No longer was man required to eat simply the vegetation, but now he was allowed to eat of the beast of the field. Every living creature was set at enmity with man and man with the creature. Creature began to prey upon creature, and these conditions also added to the demise of the great dinosaur.

The need for food was great. If dinosaurs, those large reptiles, were anything like their modern counterparts, it is quite easy to see why they were not fit to survive in large numbers. In the first place their life span was shortened reducing the time period available to grow to great sizes. Moreover, if the dinosaurs laid eggs in a shallow hole as does the iguana, the buzzards and vultures could easily see them and eat them, and we can see why few survived to perpetuate the race. Remember, there would be only two of these reptiles which suggests how easy it would be for extinction to occur.

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A Mighty Hunter

We are told that man began to eat meat and along with man's need to eat meat, he becomes a hunter. In hunting societies there are those who hunt for more than just meat. Some hunt for the pride of the kill. We read of perhaps such a man in Genesis,

"And Cush (a descendant of Ham) begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." (Genesis 10:8-9)

A man does not get that reputation from hunting rabbits, so perhaps this would give us a further indication as to why some of these animals died out.

There are evidences of man and dinosaur coexisting together, such as the footprints we mentioned earlier; another evidence, for example the Rhodesian cave paintings indicates that even some of these reptiles survived for quite a while. There have also been claims by people living near large rain forests that some animals inside these rain forests make elephants look tiny.

There have been newspaper reports of the killing of a snake said to be 150 feet long; 10 men were required to lift its head. These rain forest areas are pretty much unknown to man so perhaps some very large reptiles are still living today. Perhaps some of the conditions of the pre-flood world still exist in these great rain forests. Perhaps some dinosaurs still exist.

Argosy, another one of those "scientific" journals, had a story of a ship that picked up on their sonar evidence of a long necked marine creature which they said was 150 feet in length. This long necked creature was not a whale so perhaps in the depths of the seas there remain some very large sea creatures thought to be extinct. We do not really know. Yet the Biblical framework explains them and gives us all we need to know about dinosaurs and other extinct creatures. This is a framework consistent with what we know of dinosaurs, consistent with a literal creation of all things by an all powerful God and consistent with the concept of a one time cataclysm which destroyed all the world and covered it with water in the days of Noah.

We have already noted that the Biblical framework provides us with an excellent explanation for the problem of dinosaurs. They were created by God in the beginning, prospered in the pre-Flood world and most died in the great Flood. The most obvious evidence supporting this view is seen in the fact that dinosaurs are buried in sedimentary strata which by definition was laid down by water.

One may wonder, even after we have considered the fact that dinosaurs are large reptiles which continually increase in size with increasing age, why are there not little brontosaurus running around

today?

Why are there not small animals roaming the earth today which in time increase their size and produce the large brontosaurus or tyrannosaurus rex?

Should this be a problem to those who accept the Biblical framework? We have indicated that there is evidence that one type of these creatures was around in 1500 B.C. when cave paintings were made in Rhodesia. But in addition, note that one of the standard problems facing zoologists today is that animals become extinct.



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Extinction

In the last 350 years almost 400 species of animals have become extinct. Many zoos such as the San Diego Zoo, identify endangered species. There are presently over 300 endangered species.

This is the reason for building wild life preserves, parks built so that the natural habitat of various animals can be recreated in the hopes that in the absence of enemies, natural dangers, and predation by man, these endangered species may survive.

Among those in danger of extinction is the American bald eagle. One reason for this is that young eagles look a lot like hawks which are a danger to farmers. As a consequence, they are slaughtered and many never grow to maturity. We are very close to losing the giant California condor. Yet man has been able to preserve some creatures. An example is the American bison which was almost extinct; now there are great herds again and hopefully the zoologist will be able to do something to preserve other endangered species.

If you go to the Wild Animal Park in San Diego, it is quite interesting to see how the theme of the danger of the extinction of various animals is brought out. The guide will tell you there are only two kinds of species on earth that are increasing, man and the insect.

The insect is increasing at a phenomenal rate and nothing can stop its rise. One day, he says man will be competing with the insect for survival. In the evolutionary scale as man dies out, the insect will inherit the earth. Perhaps his prediction will come to pass and great swarms of insects will attack the human race!

After the flood, conditions were drastically different; man ate meat, he hunted, the life spans of man and animal were shortened. We can now begin to understand something about the demise of the dinosaur.

The Bible gives a framework that explains even the extinction of dinosaurs. In addition, we have a framework that explains many of the phenomena we find upon the earth.



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by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

A Very Great Flood

Genesis 7:17 provides us with a graphic picture of what took place during the flood.

"And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; And the ark went upon the face of the waters. and the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered, Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered." (Genesis 7:17-20)

We have described here a flood which must have been of great magnitude if the Biblical passage is to be understood.

The Bible states that the flood was 40 days upon the earth. Notice it says the waters increased and they bare up the ark and it was lifted up above the earth by the rising of the water. It is further stated that the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered. Some would propose this to be a local flood, but it is rather difficult to limit this flood because the statement says all the high hills were covered. That seems to mean every hill. If the word "all" is limited here, why not limit it in other passages such as [Romans 3:23](#), *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Perhaps you have heard about the local sin theory, all have sinned, that is just all the people I don't like. It is just all the people in Los Angeles, they are the only ones that have sinned. I am sure you see the problem. The word "all" is basically all inclusive. Notice also that the word all is further explained in [Genesis 7](#). *"All the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered, fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail, and the mountains were covered."*

The highest mountain was covered by 22 1/2 feet of water. Mount Ararat today is roughly 17,000 feet high (for those of you who like to be exact, 16,946 feet in elevation). To cover that particular mountain by 22 1/2 feet would take a great deal of water. Mount Ararat is not in a great range of mountains but rises out of a flat plain which further demonstrates the amount of water necessary to cover it. A tremendous amount of water was required to cover this mountain.

If you take a pitcher of water and pour it out on a table, the water will just sit there in a triangle. Right? No, for as you pour water out on a table it has a tendency to spread and seek its own level: a tremendous amount of water which is seeking its own level is going to flood vast parts of the earth.

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More than a Rainstorm

But this flood was more than just water coming from a rain storm. We read that the fountains of the great deep were broken up. Look at the eleventh verse of the seventh chapter. It states,

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." (Genesis 7:11-12)

So a deluge of rain fell, but in addition the fountains of the deep broke up.

It is interesting to examine the National Geographic oceanographic maps and observe that a system of ridges runs throughout the ocean floor. These are like a system of giant mountain ranges which spring up in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and can be traced all the way around the earth through the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The ridges, rising as much as 10,000 feet from the ocean floor, are built of volcanic rock, and rifts run along their length. Outpouring of water from the earth's crust is always associated with volcanic activity. Thus the term "fountains of the deep" may include both a rising up of the ocean floor some 10,000 feet as a result of global volcanic activity, and the outpouring of vast quantities of juvenile waters from the earth's crust. As a result vast tidal waves flooded the continents and covered the entire earth with water. There is enough water in the ocean now to cover all of the earth. All that is necessary is to rearrange the water and the land. The mid-Atlantic ridges provide evidence that in the past the ocean floor uplifted causing great tidal waves of water to overflow the land mass covering the whole earth with water and with mud. So in addition to the windows of heaven opening with rain, we have great tidal waves covering the earth. Such an event would cause a global cataclysm. If it happened as the Bible says, we ought to see evidence of such an event.

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The Fossil Record

Fossils are found buried in sedimentary strata which we have already defined as rock layers laid down by water. How are fossils formed? They are formed very rapidly, very suddenly, under proper conditions. The conditions we find on the earth today are not conducive to the formation of fossils. No appreciable number of fossils are being formed today. The requirements are the proper amount of lime, sand or other sediment, the proper amount of pressure, some type of catastrophic event, and suitable cementing and fossilizing chemicals in the water.

The evolutionist, the one who accepts uniformitarian geology, (that means the one who believes that the present is the key to the past, i.e., that present earth processes can be projected back into the past to explain earth history) tells us that fossils were formed by local floods all over the earth, local cataclysms. He builds the geologic column or fossil record beginning with life on the simplest level which he calls the Cambrian period (which actually never really existed), supposedly 500 million years ago. As one continues upward through the rocks, finding more advanced fossil forms of life, one finally finds man evolving on the earth. According to his proposal of evolution one can determine the history of life on this earth by the fossil record. The strata are dated by the fossils they contain. We already talked about the circular reasoning involved in fossil dating.

Another misconception we often find in the geology textbook is the faulty assumption that we can find fossils in exactly the same order in the strata as the geology book shows, always with the simple forms of life on the bottom, always going up to more complex forms of life, and working up to the most recent layers where man is found. Unfortunately, that is not true. The Grand Canyon is one of the best examples of strata found anywhere in the earth, yet over half of the Grand Canyon, half of the geologic column is missing. Hike down the Grand Canyon, come to one of these areas of missing strata, and the geological theorists will say that is an unconformity.

Let me illustrate. Place a book on a table and call it a rock layer. Place another rock layer (book) right on top. In between we have a straight line as one book lies on top of the other. The problem in some of these areas where strata are missing is that if the evolutionary geologic time scale is correct and each layer represents a time period, you ought to have a period of time, another book so to speak, between the ones we are picturing. But that book of time is missing.

If erosion is responsible for wiping out the particular missing stratum there ought to be some irregularities, little hills and valleys left by the erosion. But again this evidence is missing. One strata is lying on top of another like two books. The evolutionist, the uniformitarian, calls that an unconformity. But the missing strata is only a part of the problem.

The real problems lie in how the geologist lays out the geological column. He does not find it anywhere on earth in the order found in the textbook. Again he uses the "scientific principle" of circular reasoning. He says the evolutionist has already proved how life has evolved and therefore when simple forms of life are found they must have been first. So he obtains strata from Arizona, some from Texas, some from Pennsylvania, and Africa, places a few layers in where they fit his preconceived ideas and builds a time scale of life upon the earth. There are many problems with that because regardless of what type of strata you find, whether it is Cretaceous (the so-called age of the dinosaurs), said to be 70 million years old according to the evolutionist, or Permian (the age of fish), 200 million years old, you can find that rock lying right on top of basement rock some place on the earth. That means it is out of order, because all the evolutionary life forms in between are missing. In actuality, these so called time periods (Permian, etc.) never existed.



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A Problem of Order

In addition, we find certain places where the fossils themselves are drastically out of order. At Chief Mountain in Montana you can see part of the Lewis Overthrust. This Mountain is a block of so called Pre-Cambrian rock that is supposed to be over 500 million years old, sitting on top of Cretaceous strata from the supposed age of the dinosaurs, alleged to be 70 million years old. That is a real problem. It means that 430 million years of the geologic column are nonexistent and missing. But the evolutionist has an answer to that. He says there was an overthrust. He claims 500 million years of strata were lying there in the proper order, young rocks on top, old rocks on the bottom. Then compressional forces ruptured the strata and pushed or thrust the rocks on the west toward the east, up and over the rocks on the east. This resulted finally in the lower layers of very old Pre-Cambrian rocks from the west lying on top of the much younger Cretaceous rocks that were originally the surface on the east side of the thrust area. Subsequently in this imaginary scenario erosion supposedly wore away the original upper young Cretaceous layers of the western block clear down to the Pre-Cambrian layers of the western block. Thus it explained the fact of the Pre-Cambrian layers of the western block. Thus is explained the fact of the Pre-Cambrian Chief Mountain sitting on top of supposedly much younger Cretaceous rock.

Is this a plausible explanation? Overthrusts have occurred, without question, but did the Lewis Overthrust actually take place? Let us consider the evidence. Whenever an overthrust occurs and rock layers slide over each other, the two moving layers grind up much rock and leave a thick layer of material called fault breccia. Whenever such huge masses of rock move, there should be left behind the evidence of that movement. Here the evolutionist is telling us that 350,000 billion tons of rock moved over a 35 mile area and dropped into place without a trace of rock movement. That is magic, not science.

Why does he say that? Because the dinosaur fossils are found on the bottom and the Pre-Cambrian early forms of life, fossil algae, etc. are found on top.

The same problem is true in the Swiss Alps. The fossils are out of order so geologists say the Alps were once in Africa and slid magically into Europe without a trace of physical evidence. Fossil placement becomes a problem.

How is it explained? Those who accept what the Bible says simply take it at face value: the rock on the bottom was laid down before the rock on top. The fossils have nothing to do with age. In Montana 430 million years of the geologic column are missing. Why are they missing? Because they never existed. Chief Mountain becomes a serious problem for the evolutionist but not for the one who believes the Bible. We should expect fossils to be formed because all of the animals were

buried by the waters of a worldwide flood. It is reasonable to find their fossil remains laid in sediments.



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A New Set of Questions

So the fact of fossils is in agreement with the Bible, but what of the places in which fossils are found? Why is it that certain types of fossils are found in particular strata? Why are certain forms, for example, species of fish, found together? Why is it that the reptiles seem to be found in association? And why is it that human fossils are for the most part not to be found in the more deeply buried strata?

A scientific answer specifies group burial is the result of hydrological sorting of ecological niches. What is meant by this expression? We mean that the flood sorted out various communities which lived together, so that the fossils of animals which lived together tend to be found together in the rocks. Why would this be so? As the fountains of the deep broke up, the rising ocean floor pushed the oceans out over the land. In the oceans were many types of fish, as well as numerous invertebrate creatures, whales, sharks, walrus, and seals, as well as many types of smaller creatures such as trilobites. The trilobite has been considered by some scientists to be a primitive form of life, one of the earliest creatures in the geologic column. Actually the trilobite had compound eyes and a nervous system and propelled itself with tiny cilia or hairs. Certainly it could not be considered primitive.

As the oceans poured out over the land masses these sea creatures would be buried in the sediments. The smaller creatures would be buried first. We would expect to find them buried together in a certain layer of strata. The heavier creatures which produce more drag would be buried later in a different layer.

The animals that live next to the seashore, such as amphibians would again be buried in their own level. We should expect them to be buried together with other amphibians and not with whales or sharks which live for the most part in the depths of the ocean.

The great planes animals which roam in large herds would also be buried together. We should expect tremendous numbers of these to be fossilized in the same area. Again they would be buried in their own layer and not with fish. It would seem logical then, that the buffalo would be buried at a different time and in a different layer than the animals living in the sea or next to the seashore. The more mobile animals would also have the ability to seek higher ground and then would be buried later as the waters finally covered the mountains.

What about man?

Man is the most intelligent of all of God's creatures. Man would have the ability to seek higher ground. He could build rafts or cling to floating objects such as logs. Man was also warned of the

catastrophe so he should have been prepared. It would only seem logical that man would be buried last. As the waters of the flood subsided, many human remains would be carried to the depths of the sea. Others would be scattered on top of the ground and their bones would soon deteriorate and be gone forever. We should not expect to find many men in the fossil record.



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The Answer

As you can see, the fossil record is the result of a great flood. The sorting out of the various communities of animals was caused by the waters of the ocean as the fountains of the deep broke up. Thus we have our explanation in the hydrologic sorting of ecological niches. What we would expect to find is exactly what we find when we take time to examine and evaluate the evidences for this great worldwide event.

Again, all one has to do is to look at a good oceanographic map to see the drainage patterns caused by water erosion as the flood waters cascaded back to the ocean depths when this great cataclysm came to a close. Surely there is enough evidence for this event to allow us to consider seriously its validity.

Since God said it took place, we ought seriously to question the claims of those who reject the great flood.

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But What About Noah?

When Noah stepped off the ark he realized his world had changed. He may have seen the carcasses of animals and the remains of men who chose to disregard his warning. I am sure these things caused Noah great concern. He sacrificed to God from the clean animals he had taken aboard the ark by sevens. I am sure he thanked God for His provision of safety through the great storm, but I also feel he was concerned and asked for God's blessing upon this strange land that now lay before his eyes. This wilderness and swampland, these deserts and barren lands that were so different from the pre-flood world. Noah had believed God and God had provided safety.

The men of Noah's day refused to believe that the flood would come. Is it not strange that men today propose that it did not? Even today they deny the very fact of a worldwide cataclysm. The evidence points to this universal deluge. Certainly it is a better explanation than the evolutionary model which requires hundreds of local floods and cataclysms under ideal circumstances to produce the fossil record. Occam's Razor states that the simplest hypothesis is most likely to be correct.

Surely it is much simpler to propose one worldwide, global cataclysm that accounts for the burial and fossilization of all animals and plants than it is to postulate many hundreds of local cataclysms to explain the same data. Especially is this so in the light of the fact that God said He caused a worldwide flood to destroy all animals and plants.

Let us not forget the fact that fossils are not being formed today. Fossils are formed only by rapid burial from a great cataclysmic event such as a flood. Certainly this fact is consistent with the Biblical record. We should expect the fossil record and the Biblical record to agree.

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A Little More Evidence

Strong evidence has been found to show that rapid burial is required. Found in the so-called Pennsylvania strata are fish which show scales and other soft parts fossilized in addition to the bones. Several scientists conducted an experiment to see how long a fish could be buried and still have soft parts preserved for fossilization. They took several fish that had recently died and buried them in cages in the mud. After six days the cages were pulled out of the mud and the remains were examined.

There were no soft parts. In fact the bones were no longer found in position of growth. Instead they were simply piles of bones. All this happened in just six days. That means that to be fossilized with soft parts included, a fish must be buried very rapidly.

The same is true of the many leaves and parts of plants we find in the fossil record. These, too, require rapid burial for delicate parts to be preserved.

In the Joggins Forest, Nova Scotia, we find another problem. Fossilized trees cut across several layers of strata. Could these trees have lived through several thousand years of local cataclysms and burial of fossils as the evolutionary model requires? All evidence points to the contrary. Several trees have been found which cross many layers of strata, and some of these trees are upside down with the roots of the tree on top and the limbs on the bottom. Certainly they did not grow this way but were uprooted and buried. In the fossil trees we find strong evidence of water burial since several varieties of ancient marine creatures have been identified in the fossil wood. Such a discovery requires the conclusion that these trees were washed in by water and submerged; this is not a forest which grew and was buried and fossilized where it grew.

All of these considerations require rapid burial in a great global cataclysm. That is exactly what we find described in the Bible, forty days of rapid flooding conditions all over the earth. The strong arguments in favor of this concept are built upon persuasive physical evidence that such an event did destroy all of the animals and plants in the past.

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Of Coal and Oil

One such evidence has to do with the coal and oil found buried in the earth. The formation of coal requires large quantities of vegetation. If about 20 feet of vegetation is compressed adiabatically, that is, compressed without the loss of the heat of compression, the result is about one foot of coal. So tremendous amounts of vegetation were necessary to form our great coal deposits. Petroleum is believed to have been produced in similar fashion, except that the starting material was animal material rather than vegetable. Compressed adiabatically, animal material will form petroleum.

There may be some truth to that old slogan about putting a tiger in your tank.

Since it is believed that coal was produced from vegetation and oil from animal life, it is instructive to compare the estimated amounts of these two fossil fuels. The total carbon content of all of the coal deposits in the world is estimated to be about one hundred times that of the petroleum deposits. This is interesting, for the estimated masses of the present vegetation and animal life on the earth are in the approximate ratio of one hundred-to-one. This suggests that the coal and petroleum were formed by a cataclysmic destruction of the entire biosphere, which was buried under heavy overburdens of sediment and largely converted to these two fossil fuels.

This conclusion is in agreement with what the Bible reports.

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But When?

Is there any way of estimating the time of formation of coal and oil deposits? The pressures observed in oil and gas wells make it possible to set some upper limits to the age of petroleum deposits. They are found often to be at geostatic pressure, trapped under various trap rock formations. (Geostatic pressure is the pressure resulting from the weight of overlying rock.) Some wells have registered pressures up to 16,000 pounds per square inch at the surface. The trap rock formations which cover the oil and gas reservoirs are composed of rocks which are relatively impermeable to the flow of gas and oil. Nevertheless, under the very high geostatic pressures found in the reservoirs, gas and oil will slowly escape and finally reach the surface. It has been estimated that the high pressures could not be contained for longer than about 10,000 years before they were dissipated. Yet petroleum is still present under those tremendously high pressures. Is it not evident that the animal life which produced the petroleum was trapped suddenly only a few thousand years ago? The evidence is consistent with the Biblical record of a global flood just a few thousand years ago, not with the evolutionary picture of slow burial over periods of millions of years.

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Traditionally

The geological evidence of a global flood catastrophe is borne out by the flood traditions which have come down to us from many ancient peoples. Almost every ancient culture had a flood tradition which tells of a great watery catastrophe. A hero is featured, whether his name is Noah or Utnaphistim, who was instructed by God, or by gods in the more pagan philosophies, to build an ark, a boat, or a raft, or in some instances to climb the highest mountain in order to escape the great flood which was going to destroy all life on the earth.

The Chinese have a flood tradition which is very similar to the Biblical account. The same is true also of the natives of some of the oceanic islands. A missionary on one of the islands was presenting a message about Noah when, suddenly, a native jumped up and said, "That is exactly like our flood story. The only difference is that your people wrote yours down and we have just passed ours on by word of mouth."

Flood traditions are found among the Greeks, the Romans, Indian tribes of Mexico and South America, and peoples and cultures all around the world. Though not in themselves proving anything, their almost universal occurrence is surely significant. In conjunction with the extensive geological evidence for a global flood, these traditions offer strong support for what God says in His book, the Bible.

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A Mountain in Turkey

Mount Ararat figures importantly in the Biblical flood narrative, so we might expect this ancient mountain to bear witness to the truth of the Scriptures. Many people who have climbed Ararat claim to have seen something very much like a ship buried in the ice.

The first reported sighting took place about 720 B.C. when a group of Armenians climbed the mountain of Ararat in search of the ark. It is said they took amulets or pieces of pitch from the ark and wore them around their necks to protect their crops from flood damage. Berosus the historian tells us of this and Josephus also tells us about the ark resting on Mount Ararat. Marco Polo mentions it in the story of his travels. In recent times the ark has been seen by over 186 different people, on 17 different expeditions since 1856.

Wood has been found on Mount Ararat on several occasions. One might ask what is so important about finding wood on top of a mountain? If there were trees on the mountain it would be normal to find wood there, but Mount Ararat has no trees. The wood found there is hand-hewn timber, impregnated with a black substance, and was part of some structure. It is found buried in an ice cap on top of a lava flow, on a mountain where there are no trees native to that mountain for 200 miles. That makes it somewhat of an oddity. Unless the wood were carried up there and a building constructed on top of the ice, there is really no explanation for its being there. On the other hand, it is quite reasonable to believe that it could be a part of the ark of Noah. Especially is this so in view of the fact that members of several expeditions have claimed to see the entire ship resting near the top of the mountain. Some reports even included measurements which agreed with those reported in the Genesis account.

In 1883 a group of Turkish commissioners claimed that they entered the ark. They reported finding on the side wall of the third compartment a ship's log, apparently a record of the voyage. They said there were cages inside large enough to contain animals. Several organizations are making attempts to relocate the ark. Satellite photographs taken from Skylab reveal an object foreign to the mountain, buried in the ice cap. Quite possibly in the next few years the ark of Noah will be rediscovered. Reportedly it has been seen by almost 200 people since 1856. This again, added to the other evidence, lends strong support to the concept that there was a worldwide flood in the time of Noah.





The Great Dinosaur Mistake



by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

Where have all the People Gone?

If there were a world wide flood we might expect to find something else. It should be plausible to believe that, beginning with Noah and his wife some 4000 to 8000 years ago, normal population growth would produce the present world population. According to Ussher's chronology the flood would have taken place about 4300 years ago, which is perhaps the latest it could have occurred. We will assume this is true for a moment and begin with Mr. and Mrs. Noah to see if we can produce the present population. First of all, we will say that Noah did not live 950 years, we will say that he did not live 350 years after the flood as the Bible states, but instead he lived only 43 years and died. We will say that his children did not live for 400 years but only 43 years and they died. We will say that Noah did not live long enough to see his grandchildren. He lived long enough to have his children, he died, and his children had children, his children died, so there are no living grandparents and therefore no overlapping generations. This does two things. It gives us 100 equal generations of 43 years each with no overlapping generations and of course, it naturally solves the age old problem of the generation gap. If Noah had only two children and died, and they had only two children and died, and their children had only two children and died, the population would always be two.

For population growth it is necessary that more than two children be born each generation. Assume that each couple has on the average 2.4 children, 1.2 boys and 1.2 girls.

Beginning with Mr. and Mrs. Noah and 2.4 children born each generation, in 100 generations of 43 years each, subtracting for those people who died in each generation, the present population of the world, a little over 3 1/2 billion people would result in 4300 years. This is quite reasonable because the growth rate of this population growth model corresponds to 1/2 of 1% per year. The present growth rate of the world's population is somewhat less than 2% per year, so with one-fourth of the present growth rate, our model still works. Thus the Bible is quite reasonable. This model allows for times when there were famines, plagues, wars, and times when people just did not like each other and did not have children. The Biblical chronology allows adequate time to produce the present population.

On the other hand, the evolutionist tells us that life has been here 500 million years or so. Man supposedly has been here for perhaps a million years. Some say that man has been here for 5 million years, others say 8 million. One gentleman we showed the dinosaur tracks to thought perhaps man had been here for 70 million years! Let us be consistent and conservative. Let us just start off with Mr. and Mrs. Zinjanthropus or Mr. and Mrs. Australopithecine and assume that they have been here one million years. Assume that they produced 2.4 children per generation and lived 43 years each generation and died. Subtract off for those people that died in each generation over the last million

years. Using the same statistics that worked for the Bible, the present population of the earth ought to be 101800 power. For those who are not mathematicians, that is the number one followed by 1800 zeros. What does a number like this mean? Imagine all of the earth filled with people, all the oceans, people on top of people, covering all the earth, people stacked past the moon, past the edge of our solar system, and finally filling all of the known universe with people out to a distance of 10 billion light years, if the universe is indeed that large. All of that space filled with people accounts for only 1080 power. The evolutionary model becomes ridiculous.

On the other hand, if the million years is assumed, in order to have the world population of 300 million at the year 1 A.D., each family would have to have about 2.0016 children on the average. Another problem appears, however, for this would mean that in those million years some 370 billion people lived and died on this planet. My question is this: if the evolutionary theory is correct, where are all the fossil remains?

The Biblical framework does not produce this problem. It is reasonable, providing for the observed evidence which is seen to agree with the record of a worldwide flood which took place in the days of Noah, only a few thousand years ago.



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by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

Lest We Forget

We have in the Bible the account of a man who was asked by God to build an ark. Noah was a reasonable man. But you can imagine some of the problems he had. He is floating in an ark in the middle of the ocean, rain is pouring down and tidal waves have occurred. He must care for 35,000 animals and 850,000 pairs of insects. God in His goodness and provision did not leave Noah alone and adrift.

The Bible sheds some light on Noah's problems and what took place during the flood. [Genesis 8:1](#) reads, *"And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark..."*

The word "remembered" is fascinating. We have a tendency sometimes to feel that in order to remember something we have to first of all forget it. Some people tie string around a finger, look at it later and say, Aha, I have a string on my finger, but they cannot remember why. It is a human tendency to forget things. This verse does not mean that God was so busy destroying the earth that all of a sudden it dawned on Him that Noah was down there. No, it does not mean that. The thief on the cross said to the Lord Jesus Christ,

"Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." The Lord Jesus said, "This day you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

He remembered the man and took care of his need. That is what is conveyed in Genesis. God remembered Noah and every living thing that was with him in the ark. That means God took care of them and though Noah had taken provisions for himself and the animals, I think God stepped in and slowed down the metabolic processes of some of these animals so that the roughest part of the voyage was spent in a type of suspended animation or hibernation. Animals today hibernate, some sleep through the winter and some estivate or sleep through the summer. The purpose of hibernation is an escape from a drastic seasonal change. Before the flood, conditions were uniformly tropical or subtropical over much of the earth and there would be no harsh weather to escape. It seems that that hibernation as we explain it, could be a carryover from the time these animals spent on the ark. Since there is not a great difference between those animals that hibernate and those that do not, some have continued this behavior in their new post-flood environments. Perhaps this is an evidence of God's provision during the flood.

Does it appear that I am reading into the text? I do not think so. Observe what the Scriptures say. The animals entered into the ark two by two, with the exception of those clean animals which entered the ark by sevens. The animals left the ark a year later two by two including the rabbits.

Have you ever raised rabbits or hamsters? If you started with two and ended up a year later with two, it seems to me you had two male rabbits or hamsters. But God said in [Genesis 8:17](#) to Noah, *"Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; and they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth."*

They were not to multiply in the ark. For population control God had to step in and slow down their life processes. God's provision was seen throughout the voyage. He remembered and took care of all the animals and their needs.



The Great Dinosaur Mistake



by KELLY L. SEGRAVES

Back to Noah

Noah was asked by God to build an ark. What would you do if God asked you to build an ark? Hopefully obey as Noah did. But God said, Noah, I want you to build an ark. Noah said, What's an ark? An ark is a boat; a boat goes in the water. Lord, what do I need an ark for? There is no water around here. The Lord told him about rain. I can imagine Noah as saying, Lord, what is rain? Drops of water that fall down from heaven. Noah probably said, It hasn't rained before. The Lord would say, Noah, it is going to rain; build an ark. So Noah, being obedient to the Word of God, set out to build an ark. God says it has to be three stories high, has to have a door, a window (that is not just one window but a row of windows) finished in a cubit to take in rain water as well as air.

Noah was told to build the ark 450 feet long, 45 feet high, and 75 feet wide. He was to make it out of gopher wood.

God had warned the people and shortened their time. He said they had 120 years from the time the warning was given in Genesis 6 to the time the flood came. Man should have been waiting for the flood to come and willing to help Noah build the boat. But unfortunately people in Noah's day were much like people in our time. You can hire a man to help build something but it does not necessarily mean that he believes in the project. Word spread all over about this man Noah who was building a boat and telling people it was going to rain. I can imagine that families which did not have anything to do on the weekend would pack up all the children and watch what Noah was building.

What's he building?

A boat? (Where this to happen today, we might think he was building a floating zoo?)

But there's no water around here.

I know, the man is nuts.

All these observers made fun of Noah. One day Noah had just finished the boat and maybe thousands of people were watching. Noah got up and told them about the rain and the judgment to come. I imagine many of those people were concerned. They had watched Noah build a boat and heard him talk about rain and judgment. Perhaps God was going to judge the world. There had been an increase in sin and wickedness and violence lately. Maybe they should think about that. Many people probably thought about believing.

Then I can imagine one of the scientists from the university stepping forward to speak. Don't worry about it if when Noah tells you it is going to rain. I want you to know I have studied meteorology

and I have talked to all the experts at the university and it can't rain. Why? Based upon the principle of uniformitarianism -- the present is the key to the past -- it has never rained as long as time has been. A mist waters the ground and as far as our present experiences can tell us, it is impossible for it to rain because a mist will always water the ground. Rain has never fallen from heaven; there has never been a flood; there is no reason to fear because these things cannot happen; it is not natural for them to happen. Therefore be at peace, relax, and enjoy the pleasures of life. We cannot expect God to step in any time man ignores Him. Besides, ladies and gentlemen I am a religious person. I go to church and I don't hear any of the religious leaders telling me it is going to rain. Why listen to Noah? I am sure this quieted many people and they felt relieved.

The religious leaders of the day were not concerned with this peculiar fellow out building a boat either, because they felt if God were going to speak He would surely speak to them. Why be concerned with preaching water and judgment anyway? Noah ought to be socially concerned. Think of what could be done with this big structure for the Saturday evening bingo party, or whatever. Still, amidst all the heckling, Noah continued to build an ark.

I imagine there was much concern on the faces of some individuals as they stood watching. Picture what happened on the day Noah finished and 35,000 animals simply started marching into the ark. I bet it raised quite a bit of confusion in the minds of people when 850,000 pairs of insects buzzed and crawled into the ark. Then Noah and all of his family packed up their belongings and said goodbye to their relatives. Noah's father died just five years before the flood, but Noah must have had several brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, who refused to believe. Because of their unbelief they would not enter the ark.

I can picture Noah standing on the gangplank pleading with people to come inside the ark. God has told me the flood is going to come. He has told me that all things will be destroyed. Please, please come inside. I can see him with tears running down his cheeks because none of the people believe. Finally God said, It is too late. Noah, step inside. Noah stepped inside and God shut the door. All the people left outside wondered. Maybe they began to believe that things are all right. They probably began to think it is not going to rain; Noah was wrong after all.

Then the rain began to pour. The fountains of the great deep broke up. Tidal waves came over all the land and all those people who stood outside cried, Now I believe. But it was too late.

The tragedy, my friend, is that from a study of population statistics, it is quite possible that there were over 3 billion people living on the earth when Noah built the ark, but only eight stepped inside. Think about it.

Only eight people believed in God. Three billion people went to a watery grave and a Christless eternity because they refused to believe. My friend, there is another judgment coming when God is going to destroy all the earth. Not by flood this time, but by fire. In addition, there is the judgment that comes to each man, for we are told, *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* ([Hebrews 9:27](#))

Today there is another ark of safety, but this is not an ark made of wood. This is an ark in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ who says simply, *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved ..."* ([John 10:10](#))

Jesus Christ is the ark of safety; those who step inside the ark of safety, Jesus Christ, are saved and

are spared the great damnation, the great judgment, and eternity in hell.

Those who stay outside are in danger just as those who were outside the ark.

Where do you stand? Hopefully it is inside the ark of safety, Jesus Christ. If you are, let me challenge you to live your life as Noah lived his life so it might be said of you at the end of your life as it was said of Noah: *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."* ([Genesis 6:22](#))

Noah was a man who was able to withstand ridicule, able to withstand the temptation to walk with the crowd. He was a man who was able to stand firm for the truth of what God told him, the truth of a prediction that it was going to rain, that there would be a judgment. He was faithful, though no one else believed in his day.

Do you realize that every person who has lived and died on this earth, every person who has been born since Noah has been given a chance to find the Lord Jesus Christ because Noah faithfully believed and stepped inside the boat.

In the light of this, we have a responsibility to live our lives in faithfulness to God, in faithfulness to His Word and to that ark of safety, Jesus Christ.

It is our responsibility to proclaim His truth, that men and women, boys and girls, might be saved and find eternal life and escape the judgment to come.



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For Further Study

If you enjoyed
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