EVIDENCES OF A WORLD-WIDE FLOOD FROM A STUDY OF THE DINOSAURS

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INTRODUCTION

The theory of evolution rests upon the theory of uniformitarianism. To believe in uniformitarianism is to believe that the earth was formed by a very long series of slow and gradual geological changes. Those who hold to this theory observe the slow rates at which today's land surfaces erode or build, and claim that the entire surface of the earth was developed by similar slow and gradual processes. By this means, the evolutionist is able to protract the age of the earth back into the millions of years. Many who believe in creation believe that the earth is young and its present surface features were formed rapidly over a short period of time. They believe much of this was accomplished by a great global catastrophe, namely, the world-wide Flood described in the book of Genesis. Among the various proofs which they cite are: 1) the enormous quantities of sedimentary rock layers upon the earth (sedimentary rocks are deposited out of water), and 2) the vast quantities of fossils found within these sedimentary layers.

The following eight evidences support the idea of catastrophism by drawing upon a variety of unique conditions in which we find the dinosaur skeletons preserved. We will call these "evidences," meaning evidences of the world-wide Flood from a study of the dinosaurs.*

EVIDENCE #1 - ARMORED - UPSIDE DOWN (1)

Ordinarily when creatures die, they are eaten by scavengers and their bones eventually decompose, returning to the soil. The position of the carcass is usually in keeping with the animal's shape and weight. Thus, a dead animal is usually found lying on its side as it decays. In the case of many armored dinosaurs, however, we find a strange exception. We might first say that finding these creatures in fossilized form so many years after their demise is in itself strong evidence that there was once a great catastrophe upon the earth which made it possible for creatures to be killed and fossilized before they could decay.

In the case of the armored dinosaurs, we find that a large number of them have been overturned and then fossilized in that position. In other words, they are found in an upside-down position. Armored dinosaurs are in shape and structure somewhat similar to our modern turtles, though none had the turtle shell as such. Nevertheless, they were large, squat creatures with much heavy armor-like material covering their backsides. Due to this thick, leathery hide, along with in some cases, many horny spikes covering them, they would have been very difficult to overturn. Once overturned, however, because of the weight on their back, it would likely have been difficult for them to regain their normal posture. The velocity and turbulence of a great flood would, doubtless, have had the effect of overturning these top-heavy creatures. To find one dinosaur fossil in this position would not perhaps have been so significant. To find so many in the upside-down position, however, speaks very clearly of the idea of a very great catastrophe involving the force of raging waters.

EVIDENCE #2 - ANTARCTIC DINOSAURS (2)

From Psalm 104:9 we learn that God used two means in particular to eliminate the flood waters from the earth: by raising up high mountains and mountain ranges, and by causing large valleys to sink downward. The former mechanism promoted run-off and the latter served as gigantic reservoirs for the collection of this great quantity of water. We are told that if the

mountains could be pushed down into the ocean basins so that the earth would have a more or less level terrain, the present waters would then cover the earth to a depth of about twelve thousand feet. This gives us a general idea of how deep the flood waters were upon the earth.

Conversely, this Scripture enables us to understand that while the earth before the Flood had mountains and high hills, they were of considerably lower elevations than those of today. Also, we learn that the earth had a contiguous land mass with no significant water barriers to divide it. There were rivers, streams, lakes, and shallow seas, but these would not limit in any way the global migration of people and animals. Every part of the globe was habitable, enjoyed a warm climate, and was graced with abundant vegetation and food resources.

Scientists have recently found fossils of Ankylosaurus, the armored dinosaur, in Antarctica. This means that we have now discovered dinosaurs on every continent. These findings tell us many important things. A world-wide distribution of dinosaurs demands a world-wide climate capable of generating lush vegetation from pole to pole.

The dinosaurs found in Antarctica are of the same species as some of those found in South America. This suggests that the two continents were once a single land mass. This contention is supported both by fossil evidence and by Scripture. According to Scripture, God's method of resolving the gigantic water problem at the end of the Flood is mentioned in Psalms 104:5-9. The sinking down of the valleys created a great run off. Ocean basins set the stage for the phenomenon of plate tectonics to occur. The experience of the latter eventuated in the division of the one contiguous land mass which emerged after the Flood. Thus, support for the idea of a global flood is to be found by the resultant separation of land masses and by the fossils of dinosaurs on each separate continent.

EVIDENCE #3 - ASTEROID (3)

Promoters of the evolution theory have always been hard put to provide an adequate explanation for the sudden disappearance of the dinosaurs. After all, dinosaurs are called the Archosaurs, meaning "the ruling reptiles." They supposedly ruled the earth for millions of years. How could such large and capable beasts with no serious rivals suffer extinction in such a relatively short period of time? A variety of theories has been given by the evolutionists: Once they were thought to have been killed by radiation from an exploding star. Others have blamed their demise on a supposed reversal of the earth's magnetic field. A prehistoric global epidemic has been surmised by some, while others have theorized that the dinosaur eggs were all eaten by a new and voracious mammal population. Most recently, the asteroid theory has become a popular explanation for the dinosaur extinction problem. It has been argued that the asteroids slammed into the earth, raising dust clouds of such magnitude as to darken the earth for a long period of time. The immediate effect of this was that the temperatures began to drop and the vegetation began to die. The huge dinosaurs, greatly dependent upon an abundant and nutritious plant life and the warmth of a sub-tropical climate, were unable to maintain proper body temperature or to obtain an adequate food supply. This theory has now been effectively undermined in two ways: 1) What gave this theory its original credibility was the discovery of an iridium-rich boundary layer in different parts of the earth. It is commonly referred to as the K-T boundary layer. Ordinarily we do not find iridium in any significant amounts on the earth's surface. Since it does occur in space debris, asteroids were considered to be its main source. We do know, however, that it is resident within the core of the earth's crust. Creationists, therefore, have contended that the iridium layer was due to volcanic activity. The press has promoted the asteroid idea, even though it is not necessarily popular among paleontologists. A scientist from MIT's Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, Dr. Ilhan Olmez, has provided excellent information which undermines the asteroid theory. First, Dr. Ilhan Olmez clarifies the fact that many of the elements found in the K-T boundary are not found in asteroids. Secondly, he shows us that an asteroid collision would require that more debris should be found in the vicinity ofthe impact. On the contrary, the K-T boundary has been found at many different parts of the earth. Further, the elements in question (arsenic, selenium, and antimony) are found at every one of these locations. According to Officer and Drake, "... the concentrations of arsenic and antimony and the clay mineralogy suggests a mantle source rather than a meteoritic one." Science, 8 March, 1985, vol. 227, pp. 1161-1167. Since it has been observed that when a volcano such as Kilauea produces almost as much iridium as that found in the K-T layer, Olmez concludes that a few volcanoes of that size could have been responsible for our present quantity of iridium. This suggestion, then, becomes a support for the idea of a world-wide Flood. Creationists, we might add, have long maintained that the breaking up of the fountains of the deep included volcanic eruptions. Dr. Olmez's conclusions are certainly consistent with that suggestion.

A recent development which should put the asteroid theory to rest is the discovery of Hadrosaurs within the Arctic Circle. Apparently, their present location in the Alaskan range was originally a coastal swamp. From the remains it has been deduced that both young and old

dinosaurs lived in this area for an extensive period of time. Furthermore, it is understood that their population was large. The evidence leaves us with two possible conclusions: Either they must have been capable of annual mass migrations during the winter months or they must have been able to adapt to the long winter months during which there was very little sunshine. The mass migration idea seems unlikely for such large creatures, most likely cold-blooded, and accustomed to a swampland environment. On the other hand, If they were dark adapted, then the asteroid theory would be more or less neutralized. But, as Stokes relates, "if, as the Alaskan specimens indicate, dinosaurs might have been able to hibernate for months at a time, they could have lived through the time of supposed extermination." Stokes, 1988, p.2.

Previously, we noted that dinosaurs once lived in the Antarctic and that they had been overcome by some great catastrophe. It is reasonable to believe that a similar catastrophe overcame the dinosaurs of the Arctic Circle. Then too, in this framework, the conditions of the earth before the Flood are emphasized. These conditions are mentioned specifically in the opening chapters of Genesis. God's command to multiply and fill the earth would have been easy to accept in a world where there were no great ocean barriers and where every part of the earth was fertile and habitable. Further, in this perspective, there would be no need for the dinosaurs to be dark adapted. In the world before the Flood, the earth did not tilt on its axis, so there were no long winter months in the Arctic or Antarctic regions. We suggest that the tilting of the earth on its axis occurred subsequent to the flood and was a result of the particular arrangement of the earth's new physiographical status. In addition to this, the fossils of tropical plants found within the Arctic Circle indicate that there was no seasonal darkness in the first world.

EVIDENCE #4 - DINOSAUR GRAVEYARDS (4)

The recent discovery of dinosaur skeletons and eggs at Egg Mountain, Montana, has become one of the most provocative and important of dinosaur fossil finds in history. It has also been a first in the discovery of dinosaur fossil eggs containing embryos. Fossils have been found showing the various age levels of two separate kinds of dinosaurs, which has allowed paleontologists the rare privilege of learning something of the growth patterns of dinosaurs and of their social life.

For the moment, however, we would like to focus our attention on the aspect of this fossil find which points to a world-wide Flood.

After a few years of digging, four separate sites had been developed: Brandvold, Nose Cone, Children's, and Campo. In 1981, using a Jacob's staff, Horner was able to discern that all four sites were on the same horizon. Later, Will Gavin discovered an ash bed at one of the locations. After further checking, Horner and Gavin found the same ash layer to be common to all four sites. It was consistently 18 inches under the bone bed. "There was no question any more. We had one huge bed of maiasaur bones-- and nothing but maiasaur bones-- stretching a mile and a quarter east to west and a quarter of a mile north to south." (p.128)

This, of course, represented a very large herd of dinosaurs. "Judging from the concentration of bones in various pits, there were up to 30 million fossil fragments in that area. At a conservative estimate, we had discovered the tomb of 10,000 dinosaurs." (p.128)

The cause of this unique fossil graveyard was thought at first to be a mud flow. However, this reason was soon rejected. "...it didn't make sense that even the most powerful flow of mud could break bones lengthwise when they were padded in flesh and tied together by ligaments. Nor did it make sense that a herd of living animals buried in mud would end up with all their skeletons disarticulated, their noses all pointing in one direction, and most of the small bones at one edge of the deposit." (p.129)

Horner concluded that this had been a two-fold event: the killing of the dinosaurs on the one hand and the sweeping away of the bones on the other. After much study, he and his associates came to a remarkable conclusion as to how this unusual event occurred. The key to the problem was the layer of ash found at all of the non-bone beds. To appreciate, we should remember that Creationists have long regarded the Flood to have come by two means: rain and the breaking up of the fountains of the deep. The fountains of the deep have long been regarded to be volcanoes. After all, up to 70% of the material that comes from a volcano can be water vapor. The heat and ash from the volcano is most likely the reason for the break-up of the vapor canopy and the subsequent rainfall. Consequently, Horner's conclusions are most provocative. He reminds us of Mt. St. Helens and then states, "That was a little volcano. Volcanoes like that were a dime a dozen in the late Cretacious."

An associate, Jeff Hooker, came to the conclusion that "...a herd of maiasaur were killed by the gasses, smoke, and ash of a volcanic eruption..." Thus, if a huge eruption killed them it all at once, then it might have also killed everything around.

This, of course, resolves the problem of how they died. The question left has to do with how they wound up in the position and in the condition in which they were found. "Some fossilization occurred, as well as some acid destruction of the bones, then there was the flood. This was no ordinary spring flood from one of the springs in the area, but a catastrophic inundatation. Perhaps, as John Lorenz thought, a lake was breached, turning the field of death, now covered with partially fossilized, partially dissolved skeletons unconnected by ligaments, flesh, and skin into a huge slurry as the water floated the bones, mud, and volcanic ash into churning fossil soup. The bones of the maiasaurs would have been carried to a new location... Had this occurred, the bones would have acquired their uniform orientation and the smallest pieces, weighing the least, would have been carried the furthest. Finally the ash, being light, would have risen to the top of the slough as it settled, just as the bones sank to the bottom. And over this vast of collection of buried, fossilized dinosaur bones would have been left what we now find- - a thin but unmistakable layer of volcanic ash." (p.131)

Here is one of the best and most useful explanations of a dinosaur graveyard yet on record. When we stop to realize that there are layers of volcanic ash and evidence of volcanic activity strung out all over the globe, accompanied by vast quantities of fossils, all in sedimentary rock (which is deposited out of water), we can ever more appreciate the historic record of a world-wide flood on the earth. It is most likely that many of the fossil graveyards could well be explained by just such a lucid and carefully thought out explanation as that which Horner and his associates have developed for the fossilized herd of dinosaurs found on the Two Medicine Anticline formation in Montana.

EVIDENCE #5 - COELOPHYSUS (5)

The frustration and panic during the early days of the Flood is further graphically illustrated by the discovery of young Coelophysis dinosaurs lying within the stomach cavity of some of the adults. It has been observed that these specimens were too large to be considered unborn infants. From the knowledge gleaned by Jack Horner in his Egg Mountain discoveries, we are compelled to believe that dinosaurs were accustomed to feeding and caring for their young. It is therefore incongruous to assume that the dinosaurs were also habituated toward cannibalism.

Taking note of the observation that the dinosaurs perished by means of water on a world-wide scale, we suggest the following explanation: As the flood progressed, the dinosaurs began to find their food supply increasingly inundated by water. Some of them would have moved to higher ground. Yet these areas also were ravaged by the torrential downpour. In desperation, they took to devouring their own young in a last futile attempt to survive the watery holocaust.

EVIDENCE #6 - HADRODAURS AND PINE NEEDLES (6)

Fossil evidence from a Hadrosaur bears further testimony to the experience of panic as a result of rising flood waters. Ordinarily, we find that these creatures were swamp or marsh dwellers.

As the flood waters rose, however, they would have moved to higher ground since the swamplands would have been the first to fill with water. In the higher elevations, there would, of course, be vegetation slightly varied from that of the lowlands. One duckbill skeleton shows the rapidity by which it was fossilized in that its stomach cavity contained remnants of its last meal. The contents of the meal indicate a food supply obtained from a higher elevation. We do not find these remains to be the grasses and leaves of the swampland fauna, but pine cones, pine needles, and twigs. This material does not appear to be characteristic of the normal duckbill environment. Instead, it indicates that they were driven to higher elevations for survival.

EVIDENCE #7 - IGUANODON IN BELGIUM (7)

In 1878 the skeletons of 31 Iguanodons were found in Belgium. Yet, what is even more provocative is that these creatures were found 1,046 feet below the surface in a coal bed.

The evolutionary explanation is that these dinosaurs all fell down a deep ravine. This, of course, seems to harshly undermine both the intelligence and agility of the dinosaurs. It is possible, though unlikely, that one dinosaur may have accidentally fallen into such a deep ravine. To suppose that 31 of them made the same mistake is highly improbable. The idea that they were stampeded over a cliff by a hungry carnosaur is equally improbable, since lateral movement along the sides of the ravine would have been possible. If the dinosaurs had fallen into the ravine after the coal had been formed, they would have decayed at least "100,000

years" before the miners came along. Since their bones are fossilized, however, and since the skeletons were an integral part of the sediment and coal, it seems obvious that the fossilized skeletons and the coal (made from plants) were effects of the same cause.

To understand the significance of this find, we need to understand something of the process of coal formation. On the average, we have been digging out of the earth about three billion tons of coal per year. Thus, our present known supply should last us for another 500 years. There is somewhere between 3 and 7 trillion tons of coal still left in the earth. In some areas of the earth, the coal beds extend to a depth of 3,000 feet below the surface.

Now a key question is: Where does coal come from? The answer: From vegetation. And how much vegetation? A conservative estimate among geologists is that it takes from 5-8 feet of compacted plant material to form one foot of coal. At a ratio of 7:1, then, a ten foot seam represents 70 feet of compacted plant material.

When we realize that coal seams can be up to 400 feet in thickness, we begin to understand the incredible amount of vegetation present in the ancient world. Our present plant world could never come close to achieving the coal reserves found in the earth. In fact, there is 1.4 times more coal than we have plant material.

Of necessity, there is a time factor involved for the change from plant material to coal. Operating in the perspective of uniformitarianism, geologists have claimed the plant-to-coal transformation would have taken millions of years. Plants, however, decay rapidly. For plants to be turned into coal, there must be some other mechanism involved to insure that this transformation takes place before the plant material decays and becomes a part of the soil. According to conventional theory, large amounts of plants decaying in swamp-like conditions formed peat bogs. Then, slowly, over long periods of time, the peat bogs turned into coal. Science, however, cannot verify this theory today. It does, however, verify that coal can be formed in a matter of hours. There is no place on the earth where we can see peat turning into coal. Even the Dismal Swamp in Virginia which boasts our best opportunity for seeing peat change into coal, has formed only several feet of peat. Neither here, nor in any of the other peat bogs on earth, do we find a vertical gradation into coal.

Modern experiments show us that plant material (cellulose) under pressure begins to heat up. The heat causes dehydration and the dehydration accelerates the heating process. So cellulose under pressure heats exponentially. If the water is allowed to escape, only the carbon is left, and the material turns into coal. If the water is not allowed to escape, and if there is a catalyst present (such as clay), then the plant material turns into oil.

Since we know from experiments that vegetation under pressure can form coal rapidly it is reasonable to assume that the present coal formations could have been formed with like rapidity. Fossils of animals have been found in coal formations in different parts of the world. Their remains would not have been observable today if the formation of coal took even thousands of years, let alone millions Consequently, the presence of these many Iguanodon fossils embedded in coal 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth speaks forthrightly of a global cataclysm capable of uprooting, transporting, and compacting plant material thousands of feet in depth and hundreds of miles in extent.

EVIDENCE #8 - TRACKS WITH NO TAILS (8)

There are many dinosaur tracks on the earth. The following brief enumeration should serve to illustrate their abundance:

At Rocky Hill Connecticut, there are trails containing 43 dinosaur tracks -- one set from a larger and one from a smaller dinosaur. There are many good Camptosaurus tracks in western Oklahoma. Two sets of Apatosaurus tracks may be found in southeastern Colorado. Tracks of many herbivorous dinosaurs may be seen along the Peace River in British Colombia. In the Glenrose (Texas) Formation there are about 23 tracks. These were make be several sauropods all moving in the same direction. About 100 different trails containing 1300 separate tracks are to be found at the Purgatory River site in southeastern Colorado.

The one thing that all of these tracks have in common is that there are no accompanying tail marks with the tracks. If these dinosaurs had not all been walking through recently deposited sedimentary material, no tracks would have been left for us to observe today, nor would tracks left in the mud of a local flood have been preserved for our present observation. The strong currents of a local flood would have easily wiped away these otherwise ephemeral markings within a few days.

While it is true that some dinosaur tails contained tendons which acted as stiffening rods to keep the tail erect, this does not hold true of all dinosaurs -- especially not of the

Diplodocids. While it seems sure that such dinosaurs as the hypsilophodontids held their tails erect, we are not justified in assigning this posture to the stegosaurs and the ankylosaurs.

The tracks of Megalosaurus, found in Connecticut, have indicated to some that carnosaurs could swim. This is not necessarily the case. The tippy-toe marks left by Megalosaurus do, however, indicate that this dinosaur was not swimming, but wading in about 8 feet of water.

Only the conditions of sedimentary transport, volcanic ash inundation, and calcium carbonate precipitation effected by a global flood could have produced tracks of man and animals which would last thousands of years.

SUMMARY

Unfortunately, we do not have remaining space to go into the subject of mass burials with regard to the dinosaurs. However, they are extensive and provide excellent evidence for the phenomenon of a world-wide flood. Nevertheless, I trust that these preceding evidences should underscore the improbability of the uniformitarian explanation for the presence of sedimentary material and fossils and should supplement the evidence that has been developed over the years showing the sedimentary layers to be effects of a globally aquatic phenomenon.

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