



The Dinosaurs Demise

When the topics of what caused the demise of the dinosaurs -- and when -- come up, there are typically two answers: 1) They died off about 65 million years ago, probably by a severe environmental cataclysm, possibly caused by an asteroid impact or, 2) they were wiped out by the Genesis flood about 4,500 years ago.

It should be no surprise that Christians fall into both of these two positions: The 'old-earthers' and the 'young-earthers'. The 'old-earthers' basically see the "days of creation" as long periods of time during which the dinosaurs lived and died. The 'young-earthers' generally hold to a six 24-hour day creation sequence. (*This discussion in and of itself is a topic for a paper all its own*).

So where's Dino? Both camps recognize that God created the dinosaurs in day 6 – along with the other land animals and humans. But Genesis 1: 24-31 does not specifically reference dinosaurs....nor deer, for that matter. Most of the dinosaurs were land animals. They are now extinct, but then so are many species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and birds.

Extinction by cosmic collision or the Flood...and what do the fossils tell us?

Old-earth – Long creation day view: Understanding the meaning of the Hebrew word "Day" to include "ages" aligns Genesis 1 and radiometric fossil age estimates, of millions of years and possible dinosaur extinction by asteroid impact.

Young-earth – 24 hour creation day view: Citing possible flood geology (world-wide sedimentation layer and fossil layer), dinosaurs were killed off by the Genesis flood. Complete fossilized skeletons are a result of a quick and complete covering of the animals by the sedimentation created by the Flood and therefore challenge the scientific methods of measuring the age of the fossils. They also cite an example of a recent finding of red blood cells and hemoglobin in a dinosaur bone which could not survive millions of years.

Belief in either an Old or Young earth is not a test for faith. Neither of these creationist views is proven with scientific finality, since there are unproven (if not un-provable) presuppositions associated with each. The FACT of creation (vs evolution) is more important than the TIME of Creation. God may not allow us to find a clear solution before Christ returns, therefore, we should work together in a spirit of peace (Jas 3:17-18) to find the answers.

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