

Questions for Lesson 30: The Fossil Sequence and the Biblical Record

1. What is the purpose of the Genesis record?

Answer: To tell us that God created all things, and that we are specially created in God's image. (Not to give us specific details.)

2. What was the first living thing on the earth according to the Bible?

Answer: A plant--verse 11.

3. There is an order to the living things--a sequence. What is the first sequence?

Answer: (a) *Deshe*: tender grass, referring to moss, lichen (easily broken);
(b) *Eseeb*: naked seed, referring to spore-bearing plants;
(c) *Peri*: seed within a case, trees, fruit bearers--in that order.

4. What is meant by succession?

Answer: That plant life begins and develops in a logical order where earlier plants provide for later ones. The same order that the Bible gives is seen by scientists. This happens when an area is scorched by a fire. God has established an order which He used during the creation week and which is still taking place today. This is a modern discovery of man, but it is clearly stated in the Genesis account. Please emphasize that sequence is the key word.

5. What is the sequence of creation of life as indicated in the Bible?

Answer: Plants (vv. 10-11, water creatures (vv. 20-21), fowl (v. 21), beasts (mammals) (v. 24), humans (vv. 28-31.). Notice that many forms of life are not included in these verses including bacteria, worms, insects, reptiles, bats, platypuses, amphibians, ostriches, penguins, etc.

6. What is the sequence of the creation of life as seen in the fossil record?

Answer: Same as question 5, but there are many other forms that the Bible does not mention. Look at question 1 again.

7. The word *remes* is translated as "creeping thing" in the King James Version of the Bible. Why is it not likely that this refers to reptiles, dinosaurs, or "creepy things" (see Genesis 9:1-3)?

Answer: The Jews were told to eat *remes* in Genesis 9:1-3. and they could not eat reptiles and most insects. The word refers to sheep, goats, etc.--things they could eat.

8. What vital hermeneutic are we using in this discussion?

Answer: That words in the original language always mean the same thing until the author clearly tells us there is an unusual meaning. This is vital or we could never understand anything in the Bible or any other writing.

9. So where are the dinosaurs in the Genesis account?

Answer: They are not there. No Hebrew word in Genesis could legitimately be translated dinosaur. They were either before the week preparing the earth for man,

during the week and somewhere else, or after the week.

10. How about “leviathan” and “behemoth” in Job?

Answer: The Hebrew word *behemah* is used many times in the Bible referring to a cow or cattle. (See Psalm 50:10 “cattle on a thousand hills.”) *Behemoth* is a variation which means a larger version of the same sort of thing. It therefore refers some larger cow-like animal of the creatures known as “ungulates.” Leviathan refers to a fierce creature of the ocean in Psalms 104 and other Jewish literature. These are not dinosaurs. There are animals that could fit the descriptions.

11. What animals ARE discussed in the biblical account?

Answer: The animals Moses knew about--his domesticated animals. It is not the purpose of the Bible to give the prehistory of the earth--how God got the earth ready for human life.

12. What is the tree of evolution?

Answer: The guess that everything evolved by natural processes from a single cell to humans. This model has major problems. Complex animals existed in the earliest (Cambrian) rocks and some very simple animals are in modern rocks. The massive number of links predicted are not present.

13. What is the forest of evolution?

Answer: Recent scientific suggestions that life started in many different places and that various groupings have developed autonomously solving some of the issues mentioned in the previous question. The Bible agrees. See 1 Corinthians 15:39; Genesis 1:20-31; and Genesis 6:19-21; 7:1-24.

14. Why is this lesson titled “Evolution's Proof of God?”

Answer: Because there is no way that someone living at the time of Moses or even 500 years ago could have written an account that is so perfectly in agreement with the modern scientific evidence. There are things the Bible doesn't tell us that we might like to know, but in every checkable detail, the Bible checks. There are denominational traditions that conflict with what the Bible says; but if you just look at it literally, it is 100 percent correct. John Clayton was trying to write a book as an atheist titled *All the Stupidity of the Bible* to show the Bible to be in error. He started with the Hebrew of Genesis 1-3 and never got out of it because he could find no factual errors. This ultimately led to him becoming a Christian. This cannot be a work of man. It has to have come from the God who did the creating and making.