

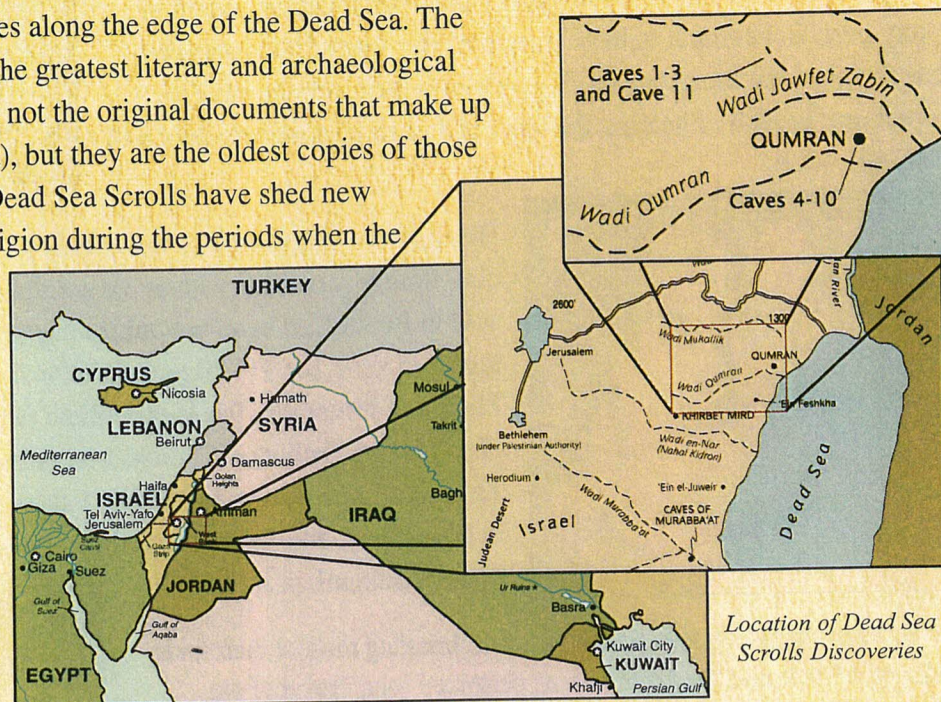
THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of 931 documents discovered over a half century ago in a region of the Judean desert in what is today called the West Bank. The scrolls date from different periods—as early as 300 BC to AD 40—and were hidden in caves along the edge of the Dead Sea. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the greatest literary and archaeological discovery of our time. The scrolls are not the original documents that make up the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), but they are the oldest copies of those documents that we have today. The Dead Sea Scrolls have shed new light on the practice of the Jewish religion during the periods when the books of the Bible were composed. They have given us a snapshot of the world Jesus ministered in with his twelve disciples. And they have helped us better understand the society in which the early church first started.

The scrolls are believed to be from the “library” of a group of first-century Jews who separated themselves from the rest of society by living out in the desert at a site known as Qumran. The scrolls contain a variety of writings: portions of every book of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther, commentaries on the books of the Bible, rules for religious rituals and community life, texts designed to prepare the Qumran sect for a war at the End of Time, marriage contracts, deeds of sale, calendars, horoscopes, and writings that claimed to foretell the future.

The texts are composed in three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They are written on leather parchment (made from goat or sheep skins) and papyrus (a form of early paper). One scroll is inscribed on pure copper and is known as the Copper Scroll. It appears to be a treasure map, detailing directions to 66 places throughout the Judean desert where immense amounts of gold, silver, and other precious items were hidden. Due to the secretive and mysterious way the texts were written and the loss of identifying physical features in the region today, all attempts to locate the treasure have thus far proven unsuccessful.



Location of Dead Sea Scrolls Discoveries

Canonical Division (According to the Hebrew Bible)	Old Testament Book	Number of Qumran and other Manuscripts (?=possible fragment)
Pentateuch (Torah)	Genesis	24
	Exodus	18
	Leviticus	18
	Numbers	11
	Deuteronomy	33
Prophets (Nevi'im)	Joshua	2
	Judges	3
	Former Prophets	
	1-2 Samuel	4
	1-2 Kings	3
	Latter Prophets	
	Isaiah	22
	Jeremiah	6
	Ezekiel	6
	Twelve (Minor) Prophets	10
Writings (Ketubim)	Psalms	39
	Proverbs	2
	Job	6
The Five Scrolls	Song of Songs	4
	Ruth	4
	Lamentation	4
	Ecclesiastes	3
	Esther	0*
	Daniel	8
	Ezra-Nehemiah	1
	1-2 Chronicles	1
	Total	231
	Adjusted	223*

*The total has been adjusted to read 8 less, since 6 scrolls from Qumran contain portions of two books (counted 2X), and 1 scroll from Wadi Murabba'at contains portions of 3 books (counted 3X).

Qumran Manuscripts, which are copies of Books of the Old Testament

HOW WERE THE SCROLLS DISCOVERED?

In 1946, shepherds of the Ta'amireh Bedouin tribe settled in a desert area between Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, where they tended their flocks and herds. According to local hearsay, a teenager by the name of Muhammed edh-Dhib ("Muhammed the Wolf") went in search of a stray goat. Believing it to have wandered into one of the caves that honeycombed the limestone cliffs, he threw a rock into the cave to scare it out. Instead of hearing the bleat of a goat, he heard the sound of breaking pottery.

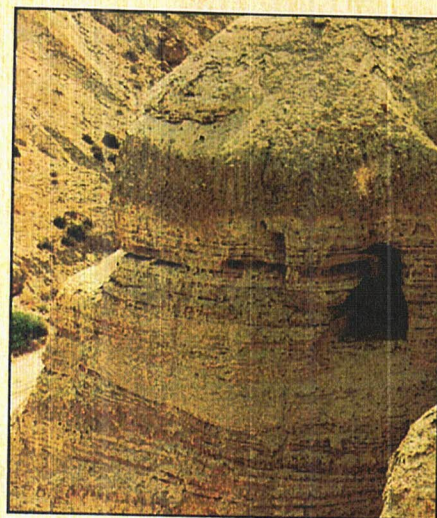


Inside Cave 1

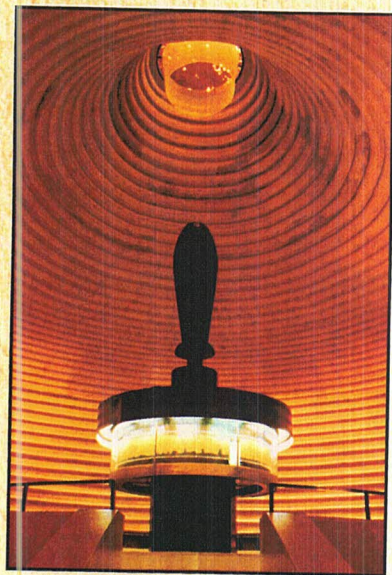


He climbed up into what is today called Cave 1 and found ancient clay storage jars filled with seven scrolls. Four of these scrolls were sold in Bethlehem to an antiquities dealer known as Kando. He in turn sold them for \$97.20 to the archbishop of the Monastery of St. Mark's in Jerusalem, the Metropolitan (a high office in the priesthood of the Syrian Orthodox Church) Mar Athanasius Yeshue Samuel. The other three were sold to Feidi Salahi, another antiquities dealer in Bethlehem, who in turn sold them to Hebrew University Professor Eleazar Sukenik in Jerusalem.

The Bedouin shepherds searched more caves, bringing most of their finds to Kando. Meanwhile, the Metropolitan permitted John Trever of the American Schools of Oriental Research to publish news and photographs of the find to the world in April 1948. Soon after, British archaeologists conducted a careful survey of the region and discovered several other caves with scrolls, including those along a terrace at Qumran. Of these, Cave 4



Cave 4



Shrine of the Book

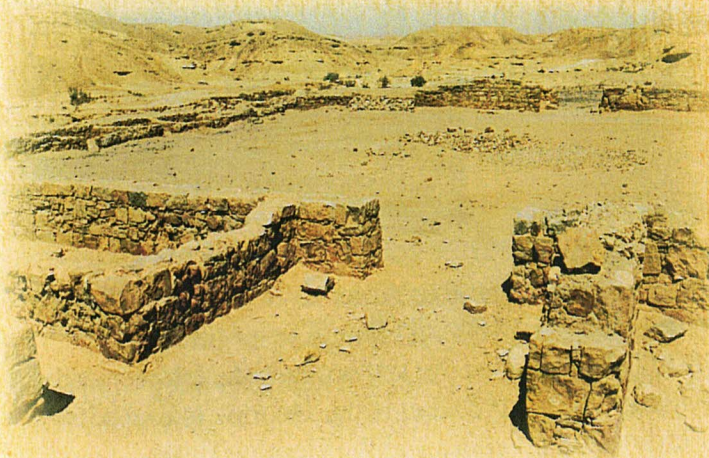
yielded approximately 15,000 fragments representing some 600 manuscripts. These were not found in storage jars but beneath the cave floor, indicating a rapid burial because of impending danger—perhaps the Roman invasion of Jewish territory in ad 68 that led two years later to the complete destruction of Jerusalem. Cave 7 was also unique in that it contained the fragments of 19 texts in Greek—the same language used to write the New Testament.

When the Arab-Israeli war broke out in 1948, the Metropolitan took his four scrolls to the United States and offered them for sale in an ad in the *Wall Street Journal*. Yigael Yadin, an archaeologist and the son of Professor Sukenik, anonymously purchased the scrolls for the State of Israel for \$250,000. Later these four scrolls and three others were put on public display at the Shrine of

the Book, a museum built in Jerusalem especially for scrolls. The State of Israel also houses other of the scrolls in a climate-controlled basement of the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem. Some scrolls are located in other countries, such as the Copper Scroll in the Citadel Museum in Amman, Jordan.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE SITE OF THE SCROLLS?

Many of the scrolls were found in Caves 4-10 along the terrace known as Qumran, where archaeologists were quick to notice ancient ruins of buildings. Because the caves would have only been accessible via the Qumran plateau, archaeologists began to investigate a connection between the scrolls and the site.



Qumran Site

Archaeologist Roland de Vaux supported the connection with his discovery of pottery kilns that were used to fire the scroll jars and with his excavation of a two-story building that contained the remains of writing benches and ink wells. Roland de Vaux (in the 1950s), Yitzhak Magen (in the 1990s), and Randall Price (as recently as 2005) have uncovered deposits of animal bones overlaid with sherds (broken pottery). The Dead Sea Scrolls speak of ritual meals, and several scholars contend that the animal bone deposits that were found buried in a ritual manner are the remains of these ritual meals.

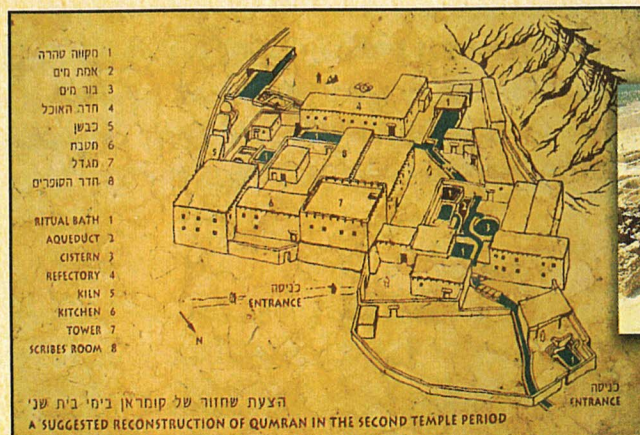
Some scholars believe that the site of Qumran may have been originally the biblical “City of Salt” mentioned in a list of cities in this region in Joshua 15:61-62. Scholars have suggested the following time line for the historical development of the Qumran site.

There appears to have been two main phases, one beginning in the time of the Jewish king Alexander Jannaeus (134-104 BC) and continuing until a destruction of buildings in the settlement in 31 BC, and a final phase in the late Second Temple period (4-1 BC) until the destruction of the site in AD 68 by the Roman army’s response to the First Jewish Revolt of AD 66-73.

Thereafter for a short time the site was turned into a Roman garrison.



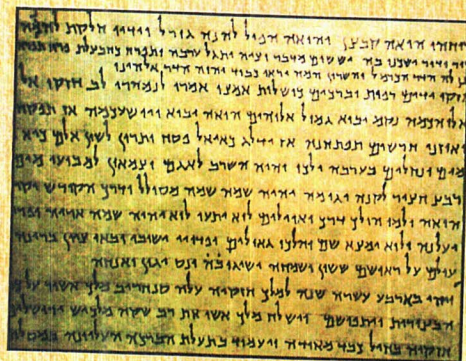
The Red Sea as seen from Qumran



Site of Qumran

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS TELL US ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT?

The ancient keepers of the scrolls purposely hid their treasures, trusting that the God of whom they spoke in those documents would guard those documents until the proper time. That time, it turns out, would be our time, some 2,000 years later. Perhaps the most significant single contribution of the scrolls has been their witness to the earliest known text of the Hebrew Bible.



Portion of a Scroll

Before the discovery of the scrolls, the oldest known complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament was a Masoretic text (made by Jewish scribes called Masoretes), which is known as the Ben Asher Codex located today in the Public Library of Leningrad, Russia. It dates to about AD 1008. Although this Masoretic version of the Bible is ancient, it was still penned 1,000 years after the last book of the Old Testament was written (around 325 BC). But because it was the oldest existing Hebrew manuscript, the Ben Asher Codex served as basis for the scholarly standard edition of the Hebrew Bible, Kittel's *Biblia Hebraica*, as well as Christian translations of the Old Testament such as the King James Version.

The Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the accuracy of Bible translation over the years, despite skeptics' accusations that these translations were flawed. As copies of copies of copies of the Old Testament books were made over the centuries, many scholars concluded that mistakes may have been introduced into the Masoretic texts. Comparisons with other ancient versions of the Old Testament, such as the Greek Septuagint, Latin Vulgate, and Samaritan Pentateuch, seemed to confirm this "transmission" problem and called into question the integrity and reliability of the traditional Hebrew text.

These doubts were settled with the discovery in Cave 1 of a copy of the entire Book of Isaiah dated to 125 BC. This is 1,000 years earlier than the Masoretic Ben Asher Codex. When compared to the Ben Asher Codex, this scroll proved to be identical to the later version of Isaiah in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent variation consisted primarily of obvious slips of the pen and spelling alterations, many of which are no more significant than the difference in meaning between the word "over" being used in place of the word "above."

This accuracy also proved to be the case for all the other biblical scrolls among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Although interesting differences and additions do appear and are of great value in understanding the history of the transmission of the biblical text, on the whole the witness of the scrolls is to the exceptional preservation of the biblical text through the centuries.

Abbreviations For the Dead Sea Scrolls

Example: 4Q521 2:6

- 4 = number of the cave in which the document was found
- Q = Qumran
- 521 = designated number for the scroll
- 2 = column number (abbreviated Col.)
- 6 = line numbers

This scroll is a reference to Text 521, from Cave 4 at Qumran, column 2, line 6

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS REVEAL ABOUT JEWISH HISTORY?

One thing the scrolls demonstrate is that a number of Jewish groups who separated themselves from society by living in “separatist” communities flourished during what is called the Second Temple Period. The Second Temple Period is the period from 520 BC to AD 70. It is called the “Second Temple” because in 520 BC, the Jews were allowed to rebuild Solomon’s temple, which had been destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar. This second temple stood until it was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. The separatist Jewish groups included the Pharisees, Sadducees, the Zealots—all of whom we read about in the Gospel stories—as well as the Essenes, and the Sicari. So far as we know, none of these groups left behind documents concerning their sects. The exception would be the authors and collectors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Some believe the Essenes produced and collected the scrolls. Whether or not scrolls belonged to the Essenes, the texts provide historians with original writings on the beliefs and practices of other sects of this period with which the Qumran Jews interacted.



The discovery of the scrolls shows us that Second Temple Judaism, although similar to the older biblical Judaism we read about in the Old Testament, was not identical to it. Neither was Second Temple Judaism identical to what is called Rabbinic Judaism, which began to emerge after the destruction of the Second Temple in AD 70. As a result, the scrolls give us a snapshot of a moment of great disagreement and change in the Jewish practices and beliefs of the day. For example, in many of the writings, the Qumran Jews condemn what they viewed as the ritual abuses of the priests of the day who ran the temple (the same group of Pharisees that Jesus often criticized). Below is a portion of the War Rule. The War Rule is a scroll that contains a prophecy that God would soon destroy these corrupt Temple Jews, as well as a prophecy about the defeat of the Gentile powers oppressing Israel in an end-of-time battle.

The War Rule (Scroll abbreviation: 1QM 1:5-8)

Col. 1⁵ [Then the]re shall be a time of salvation for the People of God, and a time of dominion for all men of His forces, and the eternal annihilation for all the forces of Belial. ⁶There shall be g[reat] panic [among] the sons of Japheth, Assyria shall fall with no one to come to his aid, and the supremacy of the Kittim shall cease, that wickedness be overcome without a remnant. ⁷There shall be no survivors of [all the Sons of] Darkness. ⁸Then [the Sons of Rig]hteousness shall shine to all ends of the world, continuing to shine forth until [the] end of the appointed seasons of darkness.*

* [] brackets indicate proposed translation or difficult or missing letters or words.

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS REVEAL ABOUT EARLY CHRISTIANITY?

The scrolls opened a window into the time surrounding the climactic events leading up to the birth of the early church, a period that witnessed the development of an end-times movement in Judaism, the birth and ministry of Jesus, the destruction of Jewish independence, the rise of Christianity, and the formation of Rabbinic Judaism.

More particularly, the messianic emphasis (that the long-awaited Messiah of Israel would soon come with power) and prophetic orientation found in many of the scrolls provide insight into the religious viewpoint expressed in the New Testament and early Christianity. When considering the history and religious controversy depicted in the scrolls, it reaffirms the Jewishness of Jesus, the Gospels, and Christianity. In addition the scrolls help us better understand the Apostle Paul’s vocabulary and his discussion of customs.

The scrolls also provide help in resolving questions related to Christian interpretation of the Old Testament. For example, Christian tradition has accepted the reading of the Greek Septuagint version of Psalm 22:16, which reads: “They have pierced my hands and feet.” This reading appeared to justify a messianic interpretation, where this statement was a prophecy of Christ’s crucifixion. At odds with this reading was the Hebrew-language Masoretic Text, which reads “like a lion are my hands and my feet.” Because of this it was thought those who made the Septuagint translation (followed here by the New Testament) had mistakenly read the Hebrew word as a verb (= “pierced”) rather than a noun (= “lion”). However, the Greek Septuagint, and Christian copyists, were proven to be correct when the Psalms Scroll clearly indicated a verb instead of a noun and reads “they pierced” rather than “like a lion.”

WHAT DO THE SCROLLS REVEAL ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Since the scrolls generally come to us from a time before the formation of Christianity, they offer a context for understanding the expected nature and role of the Messiah in Judaism. Many of the scrolls from Cave 4 demonstrate a high view of the coming Messiah as being a divine agent with supernatural qualities and powers. These words from a Cave 4 scroll illustrate this understanding:

The Messianic Apocalypse (Scroll abbreviation: 4Q521 2:6-13)

Col. 2⁶His spirit will hover over the humble, and He renews the faithful in His strength. ⁷For He will glorify the pious with the th[ro]ne of His eternal kingdom, ⁸free the captives, open the eyes of the blind, raise up those op[ressed]. ⁹And for[ev]er I shall hold fast [to] the [ho]peful and pious [...] ¹⁰[...] holy [Messiah] will be delayed [...] ¹¹and the Lord shall do glorious things which have not been done, just as He said. Lord.

¹²For He shall heal the critically wounded, He shall resurrect the dead, He shall proclaim good news to the poor, ¹³He shall [...], He shall lead the [ho]ly ones, and the hungry He shall enrich...

The scrolls also explained the sense of prophetic purpose of the Qumran sect in the Judean desert in terms of Isaiah’s statement, “A voice is crying, Prepare a way for the Lord in the wilderness” (Isaiah 40:3), the same expression of purpose given by John the Baptist in the Gospels. The scrolls also contain “beatitudes” (4Q525) similar to those of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12) and on the Plain (Luke 6:20-23), use vocabulary unique to the New Testament (“sons of light,” “works of righteousness,” “Belial”), and have similar political and social views on such subjects as predestination, the Temple, divorce, and prophetic events climaxing in a messianic age. With respect to motive for the Sanhedrin’s condemnation of Jesus and approval for the Roman punishment of crucifixion, the Temple Scroll shows that the condemnation was based on an interpretation of Deuteronomy 21:22-23 in which the punishment of hanging a man on a tree is mentioned. The Temple Scroll states that this was the prescribed punishment for sedition (betraying the Jewish nation), and this agrees with the statement of the high priest Caiaphas in John 11:49 that Jesus was guilty of this crime.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls was heard around the world, because the scrolls prove the accuracy of the Bible we have today, shed light on the culture in which Jesus lived, and provide fresh and new insight into the context of early Christianity.

THE HISTORY OF QUMRAN

Period	Date	Main Development of Building Projects
Israelite Period	7th-8th centuries BC	Enclosure wall, round cistern
Period Ia	c. 134-104 BC	Two rectangular cisterns, inlet channel
Period Ib	c. 103-31 BC	Tower, more cisterns, western block, use of south plateau
Interruption in Occupation (31-4 BC) Buildings destroyed by fire, allegedly as the result of an earthquake (reported to have occurred in 31 BC by Joseph Flavius, War 1:270-72; Antiquities 15:121-22).		
Period II	c. 4 BC-AD 68	Repairs to Ib structures, two reservoirs, use of south plateau
Destruction of Jewish Settlement (AD 68 by Roman Army)		
Period III	after AD 68	Use of part of main block, southeast cistern, water-channel

WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

This question lies at the heart of some highly contentious issues in our world. From a medical standpoint, there is only one logical answer: **life begins at fertilization**, when the chromosomes from the sperm and the egg combine, forming a genetically unique individual.

This was traditionally called the moment of conception, but in the past few decades conception has often been redefined to refer to the processes from fertilization through implantation of the embryo in the womb.

Our medical knowledge of this process has caused the debate to shift from “When does life begin?” to “When does personhood begin?” or “When do the unborn feel pain?” But these questions avoid the real issue. Whether one refers to the unborn as an embryo, fetus, or baby, we learn from God’s Word that a human being made in the image of God is growing and developing within the mother from the moment of fertilization.



THE IMAGE OF GOD

All human beings are made in the image of God. Theologians strive to adequately describe all that this truth entails, but we can be confident of the following implications of being made in God's image because they are revealed in His Word.

DISTINCT FROM ANIMALS

After He made the animals, the Lord created the first man and woman, setting them apart by making them in His image and giving them dominion over the animals.

“God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ (Genesis 1:26)”

EVERY PERSON

Though marred by Adam's sin, every human being, both male and female, from the moment of fertilization, is made in God's image, regardless of one's level of development, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, or age.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)”

IMMEASURABLE VALUE

All human life is precious because we are made in God's image. This fact explains why it is wrong to curse others (James 3:8-9), and why God prescribed a severe penalty for murder.

“Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for God made man in His own image.” (Genesis 9:6)”

DEFINING THE TERMS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATURAL SELECTION AND EVOLUTION?

Natural selection—the process by which plants or animals that possess a set of traits that have a survival advantage in a given environment pass on that advantage to their offspring (such as traits for fur color or plant height). These offspring then survive to reproduce in the next generation.

Evolution—as commonly defined today—is the idea that all life on earth has come about through descent with modification from a single-celled common ancestor. We refer to this as molecules-to-man evolution. Inherent in this process is the requirement for the origination of new genetic information as organisms evolve from simple to complex.³

³ For more on the topic of information from a creation perspective see Dr. Werner Gitt's book, *In the Beginning Was Information*.

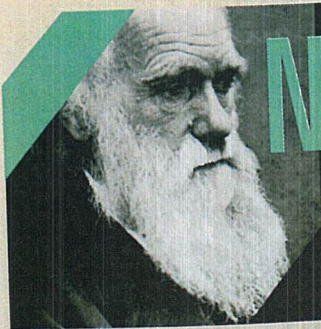
How does natural selection work?

Natural selection is a mechanism that allows a group of organisms of the same species (a population) to deal with changing environments. An example of this is shown in the blind cavefish exhibit. Many species possess a great diversity of genetic information for various traits, which are selected for or against. The result is a population with characteristics most favorable for a given environment with an overall loss of genetic information (diversity). These changes are non-directional (i.e., fish remain fish).⁴

Natural selection preserves the viability of a population by removing those members with severely harmful or lethal characteristics. An example of these types of characteristics is shown in the blind mice exhibit.

Although natural selection results in the death of some organisms, it exhibits the care of God for His creation through a mechanism that preserves populations of organisms in a sin-cursed, post-Fall world.

⁴ For more on the topic of natural selection from a creation perspective see "Is Natural Selection the Same Thing as Evolution?" in *The New Answers Book*.



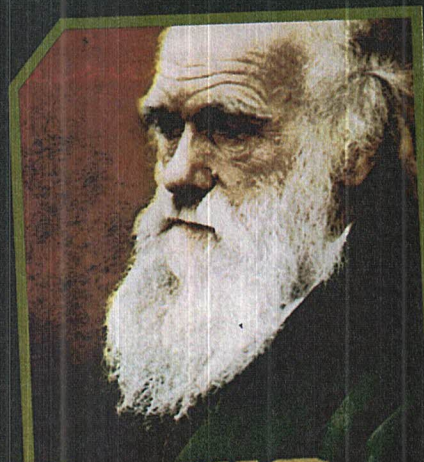
NATURAL SELECTION » IS NOT EVOLUTION

WHAT IS NATURAL SELECTION?

NATURAL SELECTION IS THE NAME CHARLES DARWIN GAVE TO AN OBSERVABLE PROCESS, WHICH RESULTS IN SMALL CHANGES IN THE PLANT AND ANIMAL WORLD, SUCH AS FUR COLOR OR PLANT HEIGHT

A common perception popularized by many scientists is that natural selection is a primary mechanism for evolution.¹ According to the National Academy of Sciences, "Natural selection...can have radically different evolutionary effects over different time scales."²

Darwin believed that given enough time (millions of years) natural selection could lead to large changes (such as a dinosaur evolving into a bird) and was the underlying mechanism of unobservable molecules-to-man evolution. However, natural selection and evolution are different concepts, though today many mistakenly interchange the two.



Of course, it is much more complicated than this as mutations and other proposed mechanisms are also important aspects of evolution.

¹Science, Evolution, and Creationism, 2003, National Academies Press, Washington, D. C., p. 6.



"DARWIN'S FINCHES" Charles Darwin discovered a confusing array of plump little birds on the Galápagos Islands, but he didn't realize they were all finch species. Contrary to popular opinion, Darwin never claimed to observe natural selection on the islands.



One page in a series of notebooks shows a sketch about Darwin's preliminary speculations about common descent.

WHAT ABOUT SPECIATION WITHIN KINDS?

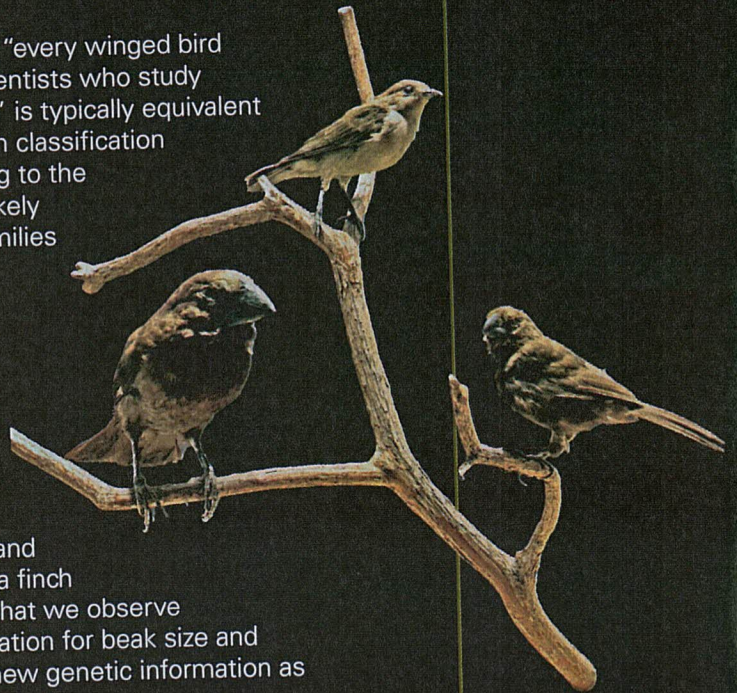
Natural selection and artificial selection (performed by man) acting on variation in a given population and environment may result in multiple "species" (a man-made term). Contrary to evolutionary ideas, speciation has never resulted in one kind of organism evolving into another kind, such as a reptile evolving into a bird. After the Flood, natural selection (among other mechanisms) likely resulted in speciation as the animal kinds adapted to the many new post-Flood environments.

Variation in Darwin's finches

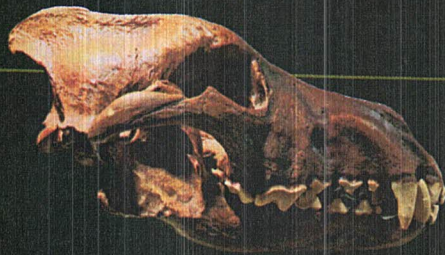
Although often viewed as an icon of evolution, Darwin's finches serve as a perfect model of variation within a created kind.

In Genesis 1:21 we learn that God created "every winged bird according to its kind." Baraminologists (scientists who study created kinds) have determined that "kind" is typically equivalent to the "family" level (in relation to common classification terminology). All of Darwin's finches belong to the same family, Emberizidae, and therefore likely belong to the same created kind (other families of birds may also belong to this kind).

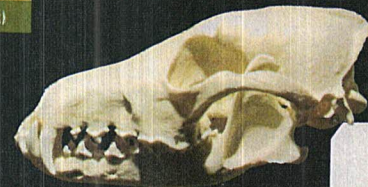
Natural selection (in addition to other mechanisms) acting in different environments, such as varying weather, food sources, and competitors on the Galápagos Islands where the finches reside, has caused fluctuations in the populations of finches and possibly led to finch speciation but never a finch evolving into another kind of organism. What we observe is the selection of existing genetic information for beak size and other characteristics, not the addition of new genetic information as required for molecules-to-man evolution.



The finches in this exhibit are taxidermist reproductions and not actual specimens of Darwin's finches.



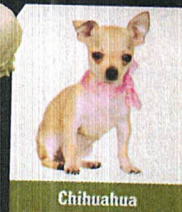
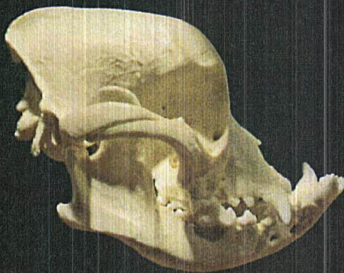
Dire wolf (extinct)



Coyote



English bulldog



Chihuahua

Variation within the dog kind

Two types of selection—natural and artificial—are the primary mechanisms that have led to the many different types of dogs that exist today.

It has been determined genetically that all dogs (wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals, dingoes, and domestic dogs) are related to each other.^{6,7}

- Natural selection (and other mechanisms) has likely resulted in the different species of dogs found in the wild, such as the dire wolf and coyote.
- Artificial selection (carried out through breeding programs designed by humans) has resulted in many of the domestic dog breeds, such as the English bulldog and Chihuahua.

In Genesis 1:24 God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind" (dogs were likely in the category of beast of the earth). All dogs, whether wild or domestic, belong to the same family—Canidae. Thus, all dogs likely belong to the same created kind.

Natural and artificial selection have acted upon variation within the populations of dogs leading to the wide variety of dogs we see today. Dogs have never evolved into another kind of organism. Instead, what we observe is the selection of existing genetic information for head shape, length of fur, overall size, and other characteristics, not the addition of new genetic information as required for molecules-to-man evolution.

⁶ Carlos Vila, et al. (1997). "Multiple and Ancient Origins of the Domestic Dog." *Science* 276:1697–1699.

⁷ Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, et al. (2005). "Genome sequence, comparative analysis, and haplotype structure of the domestic dog." *Nature* 438:803–819.

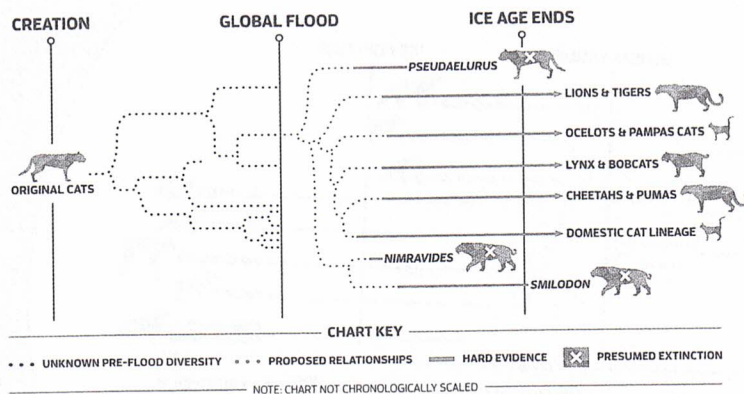
UNITY & DIVERSITY ANIMAL KINDS

VARIATION WITHIN A KIND IS NOT EVOLUTION

This wall illustrates the biblical creationist concept of created kinds, an interpretation of data consistent with the biblical record. There can be many related species within a kind, but each kind is uniquely created and unrelated to other kinds. This variation within a kind may sound like evolution, but the two paint very different pictures.

For example, according to naturalistic ideas, cats, dogs, seals, and all other members of the order Carnivora are considered related, having evolved from a common ancestor. By contrast, biblical creationists consider Carnivora a useful category but believe it is composed of many separate created kinds. The design features that unify carnivorans as a group are therefore seen as indicating functional similarities instead of true relatedness.

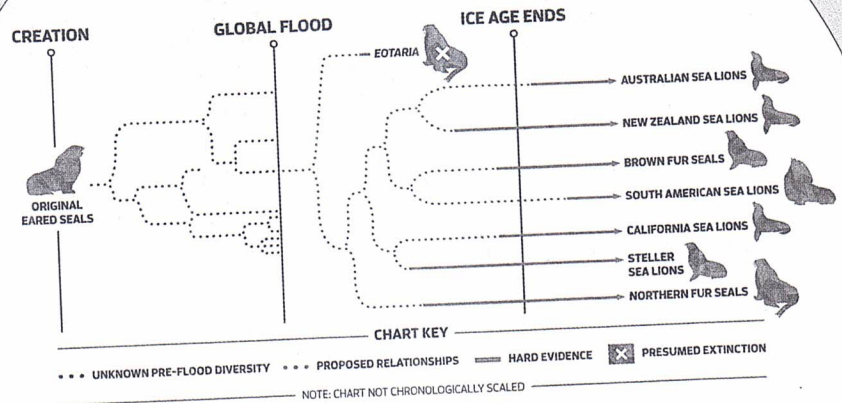
FELIDAE: CAT KIND



The cat kind is represented today by around 40 different species, such as lions, servals, cheetahs, and house cats. Approximately 60 breeds of domestic cats are currently recognized.

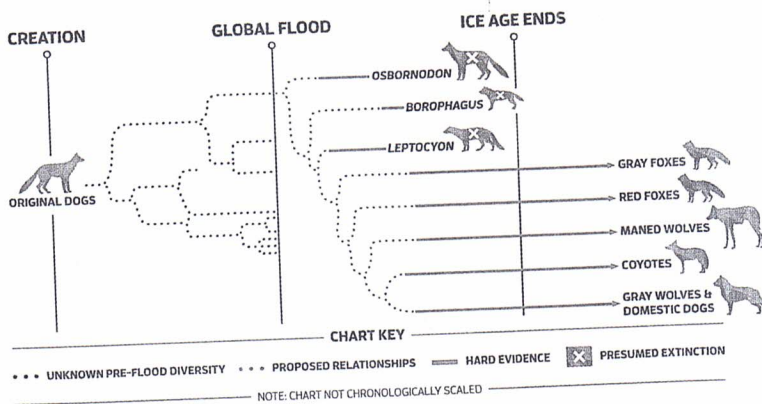
Exhibit: Starting Points

OTARIIDAE: EARED SEAL KIND



Eared seals are currently represented by 15 species, including various fur seals and sea lions. While resembling true or earless seals and walruses, the three groups are likely not members of the same kind.

CANIDAE: DOG KIND



Consisting today of about 35 species, such as foxes, wolves, and jackals, the potential for variation within this kind is best seen in domestic dogs: over 300 breeds derive from this single subspecies, *Canis lupus domesticus*.

THE STAHLCKERIID KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 9.8–13 ft (3–4 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *PLACERIAS*

- Better resembling something from science fiction than any animal today, stahleckeriids were a kind of non-mammalian synapsid—being more similar to mammals than modern reptiles.
- Like other stahleckeriids, *Placerias* (depicted here), boasted tusk-like features that were actually facial flanges rather than teeth or true horns.
- The largest known stahleckeriids weighed up to 2.2 tons (2000 kg) when fully grown.

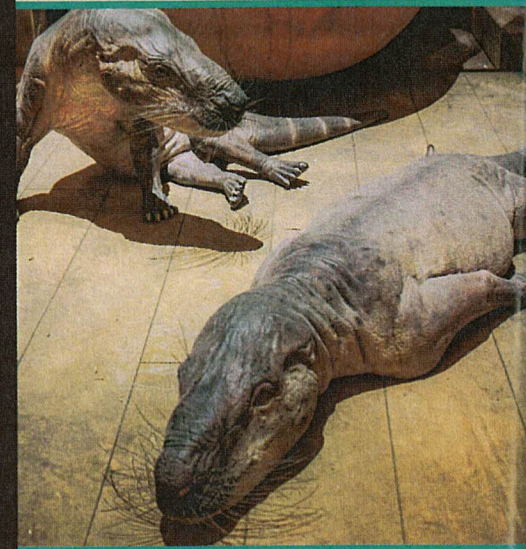


THE CYNOGNATHID KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult length: up to 4.8 ft (1.5 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *CYNOGNATHUS*

- Cynognathids and similar groups are considered to be non-mammalian synapsids because they were more like mammals than lizards or crocodiles.
- Cynognathids had opossum-like bodies and may have even sported whiskers.
- The family is named after its only known member, *Cynognathus*, meaning "dog jaw."

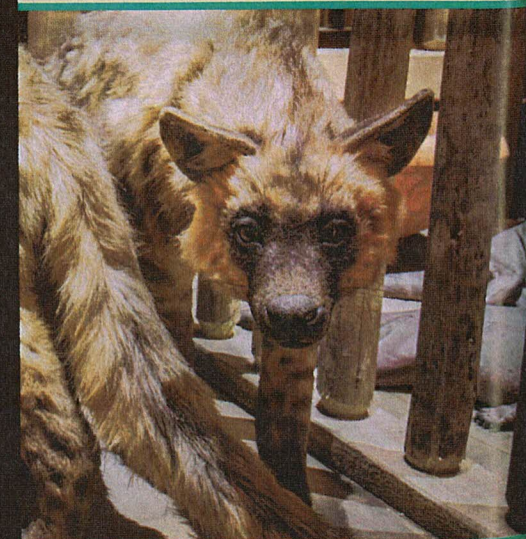


THE HYENA KIND

Status: three living genera
Adult lengths: 1.8–5.6 ft (55 cm–1.7 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *ICTITHERIUM*

- Originally classified as dogs, hyenas form a kind of their own.
- The largest known member, *Pachycrocuta*, stood 3.3 feet (1 m) high at the shoulder.
- Wild populations today are only found in Africa and western Asia, but fossil remains have been found in places like England, Java, and Mexico.



CANIDS

THE DOG KIND

The figure in this display case is modeled after the extinct canid, *Hesperocyon*. Over 160 fossil specimens of *Hesperocyon* have been collected from Eocene and Oligocene rock layers of Canada and the United States.



Modern wolves, jackals, foxes, and other dogs belong to the family Canidae. Since the members of this family can interbreed they are considered to be of the same created kind. This means that all post-Flood canids descended from the members of this kind Noah brought with him on the Ark.

Canines are the only living canids, but historically there were at least two other major groups: the hesperocyonines and borophagines—the latter of which were the “bone-crushing” dogs of North America.

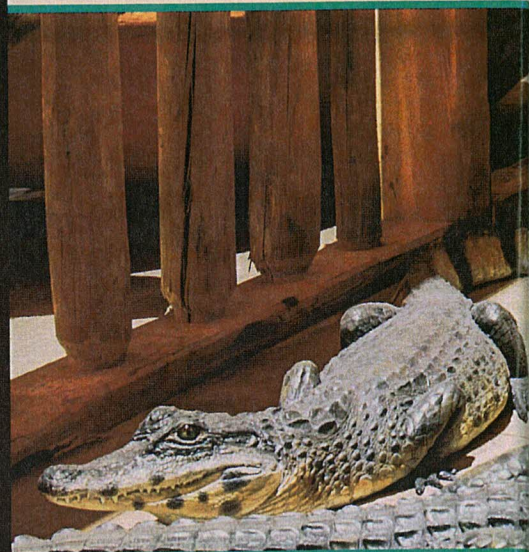
THE ALLIGATOR KIND

Status: four living genera

Adult lengths: 3.3–39 ft (1–12 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: CAIMAN

- Alligatorids buried in the same rock layers as dinosaurs were often smaller than most modern representatives.
- Giant fossil caimans recovered from Miocene rock layers of South America, *Purussaurus* and *Mourasuchus*, achieved a maximum estimated length of 39 feet (12 m).
- Crocodylians—alligators, crocodiles, diplocynodonts, gharials, planocraniids, and pristicampsids—may form one created kind, but Ark Encounter researchers separated them to avoid underestimating the number of Ark animals.



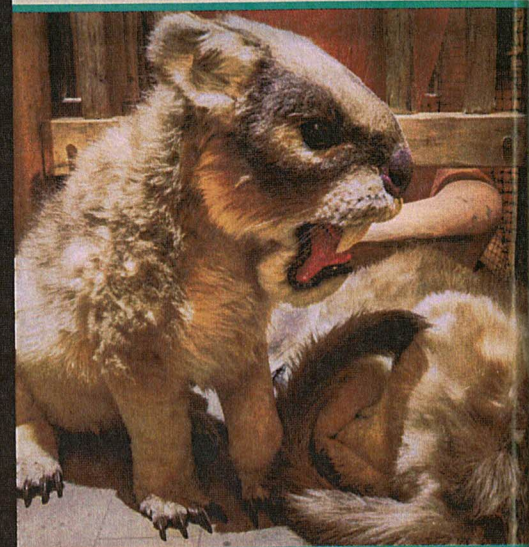
THE THYLACOSMILID KIND

Status: presumed extinct

Adult lengths: 2.6–6 ft (80 cm–1.8 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: THYLACOSMILUS

- Resembling saber-toothed cats, the South American thylacosmilids are instead classified as metatherians—a group that includes marsupials.
- *Thylacosmilus* reached the size of a jaguar, though the other members of the kind were smaller.
- It is believed that female thylacosmilids carried their young in a rear-facing pouch.



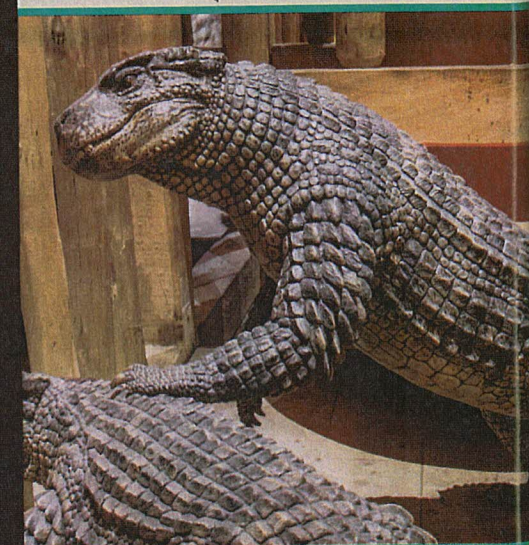
THE SIMOSUCHUS KIND

Status: presumed extinct

Adult lengths: 2.5 ft (75 cm)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: SIMOSUCHUS

- These crocodile-like reptiles likely used their leaf-shaped buckteeth to munch on plants.
- *Simosuchus* means "pug-nosed crocodile" and refers to the flattened faces characteristic of this genus.
- Some researchers believe that they were fossorial—that is, they burrowed.



FELIDS

THE CAT KIND

The figure in this display case is modeled after the extinct felid, *Proailurus*. Fossil specimens of *Proailurus* have been collected from Oligocene and Miocene rock layers of Germany, Mongolia, and Spain.



Modern lions, tigers, bobcats, and other cats belong to the family Felidae. Since the members of this family can interbreed they are considered to be of the same created kind. This means that all post-Flood felids descended from the members of this kind Noah brought with him on the Ark.

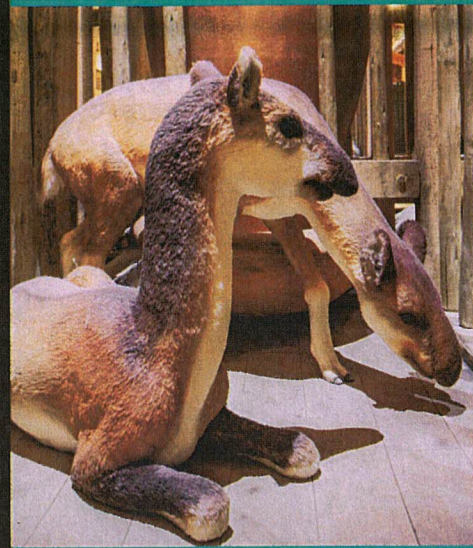
Living felids are represented by felines and pantherines, but historically there were at least two other major groups: the proailurines and machairodontines—the latter of which were the saber-toothed cats.

THE MACRAUCHENIID KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 6–9.8 ft (1.8–3 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *THEOSODON*

- The South American macraucheniids are the only known kind featuring both a long neck and facial trunk.
- Like other macraucheniids, our Ark representatives, modeled after *Theosodon*, bore three toes on each foot.
- Macraucheniids had a size range similar to camelids, but are thought to have gone extinct during the Ice Age.



THE SILESAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 2.3–9.8 ft (70 cm–3 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *SILESAURUS*

- Silesaurs were not true dinosaurs but were a part of a group that included them—Dinosauriformes.
- They were facultative bipeds, meaning they could move on two legs if necessary.
- The largest known member of this kind, *Asilisaurus*, grew up to 3 feet (90 cm) high at the hips.



THE ENTELODONT KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 4–10 ft (1.2–3 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *ARCHAEOTHERIUM*

- Once considered pig relatives, entelodonts were a unique kind known only from fossils found in pre-Ice Age rock layers.
- Nicknamed "terminator pigs," entelodonts ranged from two to over six feet high.
- Certain entelodonts apparently hoarded their prey in meat caches.



ARCHAEOPTERYGIDS

THE ARCHAEOPTERYX KIND

The figure in this display case is modeled after the archaeopterygid, *Archaeopteryx*. Fossils of *Archaeopteryx* have been collected from Jurassic rock layers of Germany.



Long branded a poster child of evolution, *Archaeopteryx* poses no difficulty for biblical creationists. Even many evolutionary scientists now reject the idea that *Archaeopteryx* was a direct ancestor of modern birds—a fact that often remains unrecognized on a popular level. There is a deep lack of consensus among evolutionists regarding the origin of modern birds.

New fossil specimens, as well as the way in which some researchers now define birds as avian dinosaurs, have sparked disagreements on how to classify *Archaeopteryx*. Regardless of how people classify *Archaeopteryx*, only animals within a created kind are related; and kinds never change into other kinds. *Archaeopteryx* was neither a “missing link” nor a hodgepodge of different animal traits. Rather, this creature was a complete, fully functioning, and fascinating bird.

THE CATTLE KIND

Status: nine living genera

Adult lengths: 2.6–15.7 ft (80 cm–4.8 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *MOTRAGOCERUS*

- Bovine are a very diverse group of animals that include buffalo, bison, and certain antelopes.
- When we see the word *cattle*, we often envision modern domesticated members of the genus *Bos*—cows and bulls—but when extinct forms are factored in, this kind is accurately described as "antelope-like."
- The gigantic Ice Age species, *Bison latifrons*, is the largest recorded representative of this kind, surpassing 2.2 tons (2000 kg) in weight and reaching a shoulder height of 8.2 feet (2.5 m).



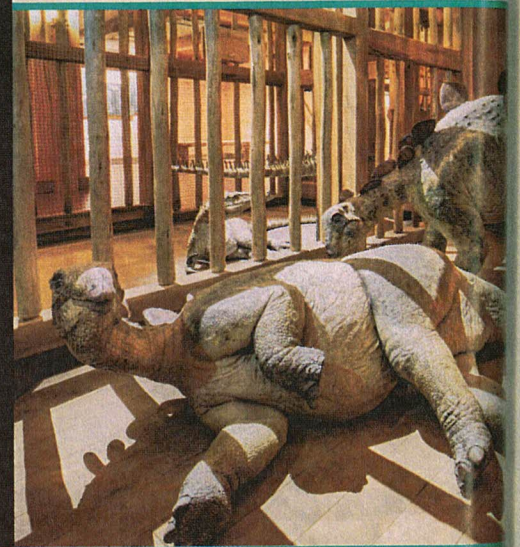
THE STEGOSAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct

Adult lengths: 13–30 ft (4–9 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *HESPEROSAURUS*

- Fossil remains have revealed that stegosaur plates were covered in keratin, the same material as hair and fingernails.
- Plate shapes may have been different between males and females, something called a sexually dimorphic trait.
- Stegosaur spikes, or the "thagomizer," were probably used defensively, as indicated by injuries found on an allosaur tail bone.



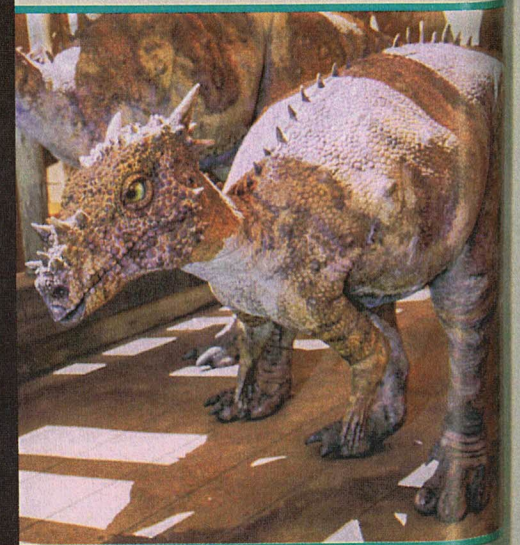
THE PACHYCEPHALOSAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct

Adult lengths: 4.5–15 ft (1.4–4.6 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS*

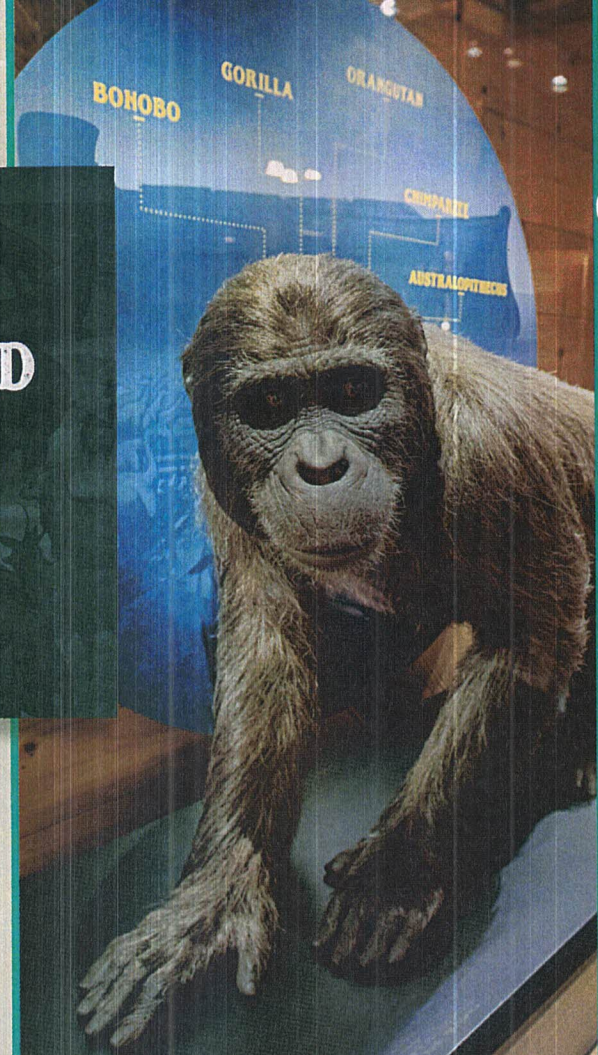
- Recognized as the classic "head-butting dinosaurs," pachycephalosaurs weren't born with domed caps.
- Originally considered a unique species, it now seems that *Dracorex hogwartsia* was just a juvenile *Pachycephalosaurus*.
- Broad tail bases likely accommodated a hindgut, while the remainder of their tails were flattened side-to-side and stiffened internally by tendons.



PONGIDS

THE GREAT APE KIND

The figure in this display case is modeled after the extinct pongid, *Pierolapithecus*. Fossils of *Pierolapithecus* have been collected from Miocene rock layers of Spain.



Pierolapithecus is popularly considered the ancestor or near-ancestor of modern apes and humans. But the Bible teaches that the first man, Adam, was formed of the ground and made a living being when God breathed into his nostrils. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden first introduced human and animal death. This means that death—and by necessity, evolution—could not have taken place prior to Adam's sin. Apes and humans are therefore different created kinds.

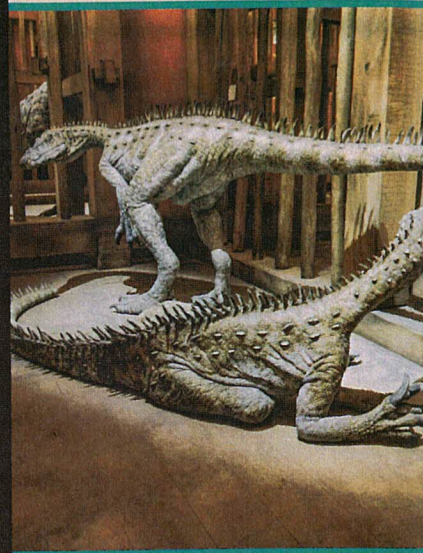
Some will point to “ape-men” as proof of our non-human ancestry. The problem with this claim is that all of these supposed “missing links” are best identified in one of the following ways: fully humans, fully non-humans, or frauds. Once trumpeted as proof of human evolution, Piltdown Man and Nebraska Man, for example, are now identified as a deliberate fraud and a fossilized pig tooth, respectively. *Australopithecus afarensis* of “Lucy” fame was a chimpanzee-like, tree-dwelling ape, while Neanderthals were the fully human descendants of Noah. So rather than challenging the Bible's claims, these fossil finds are consistent with the scriptural record.

THE SPINOSAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 25–50 ft (7.6–15.2 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *BARYONYX*

- Spinosaurus were a group of large predatory dinosaurs known for their crocodile-like heads, huge hooked claws, and sailbacks.
- The group is named after its largest member, *Spinosaurus*, who may have spent much of its time in the water.
- At least one representative, *Baryonyx* (depicted here), did not sport a sail.

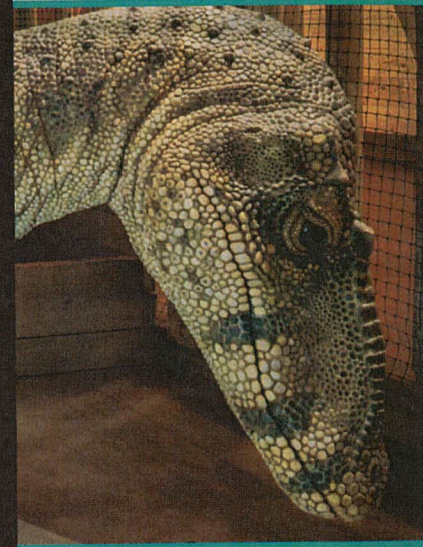


THE TYRANNOSAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 9–43 ft (2.7–13 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *TYRANNOSAURUS*

- Tyrannosaur tooth marks are routinely identified on apparent prey and healed bite injuries from would-be victims.
- The age of the oldest known tyrannosaur individual is estimated at 28 years.
- The presence of medullary tissues in the bones of a sub-adult *T. rex* indicates that the specimen was female and had reached reproductive maturity before achieving full size.



THE PAKICETID KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 3.3–6.6 ft (1–2 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *PAKICETUS*

- Recent studies suggest a semi-aquatic lifestyle for pakicetids, but they may have been fully terrestrial.
- They had unusually dense limb bones, possibly to provide ballast in shallow water.
- Pakicetid fossils have been recovered from pre-Ice Age rock layers of India and Pakistan.



WHAT DID THE ARK'S CARNIVORES EAT?

After making everything, the Lord stated that people and animals were to eat vegetation (Genesis 1:29–30). It was not until after the Flood that God permitted man to eat meat (Genesis 9:3). We cannot be sure when certain animals began to eat meat, although the fossil record provides strong evidence that carnivory occurred prior to the Flood.

If carnivorous activity was prevalent in the pre-Flood world, it is still possible that the animals the Lord sent did not eat meat or that they could have survived for one year without it. There have been modern examples of animals normally considered to be carnivores that

refused to eat meat, such as the lion known as Little Tyke.

However, if some of the Ark's animals did eat meat, there are several methods of preserving or supplying their food. Meat can be preserved through drying, smoking, salting, or pickling. Certain fish can pack themselves in mud and survive for years without water—these could have been stored on the Ark. Mealworms and other insects can be bred for both carnivores and insectivores.

DO THESE LOOK LIKE WHALES?

Pakicetids were a small family of mammals whose remains have been found in Eocene rock layers of Pakistan. Pakicetids are currently promoted in popular models of evolution as transitional forms to ultimately help bridge the gap between extinct land animals and modern whales.

On the one hand, biblical creation does not automatically exclude mode-of-life changes occurring within animal kinds. For instance, we have the example of kakapos—flightless parrots from New Zealand—having apparently descended from flying ancestors. So the basic idea that members of a whale kind shifted

from land-dwelling lifestyles to water-dwelling lifestyles may seem somewhat plausible.

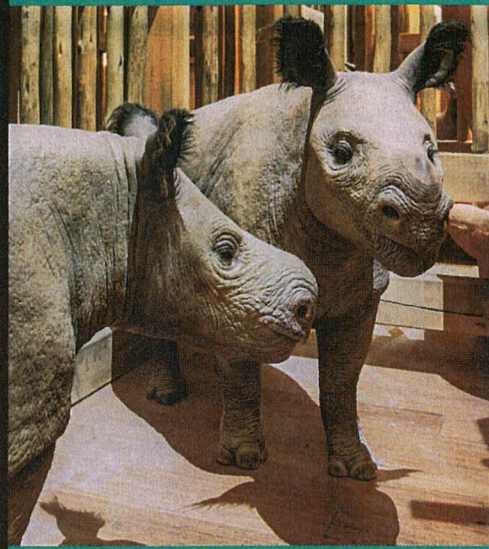
On the other hand, one of the greatest weaknesses of the pakicetids-to-whales idea is a lack of evidence. The changes necessary for converting pakicetids into modern whales are extreme and particular; a flood of change contrived from only a few drops of evidence. Even a cursory glance reveals that pakicetids and other supposed whale ancestors were quite unlike modern whales.

THE RHINOCEROS KIND

Status: four living genera
Adult lengths: 5–16 ft (1.5–5 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *TRIGONIAS*

- The earliest known rhinos were relatively small and hornless, or bore small nasal bumps.
- Most members of this kind featured between one and three facial horns.
- Rhinos are unusual in that all living genera are found in rock layers below Ice Age deposits.



THE CHALICOTHERE KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 7.5–11 ft (2.3–3.4 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *ANISODON*

- Chalicotheres may have looked a bit like giant ground sloths, but were actually more physically similar to tapirs, rhinos, and horses.
- Minimal tooth wear indicates that these animals ate soft plant material.
- Fossils of this kind persist into the early stages of the Ice Age, though some suggest that the “Nandi bear”—an unconfirmed African animal—may actually be a late-surviving chalicothere.

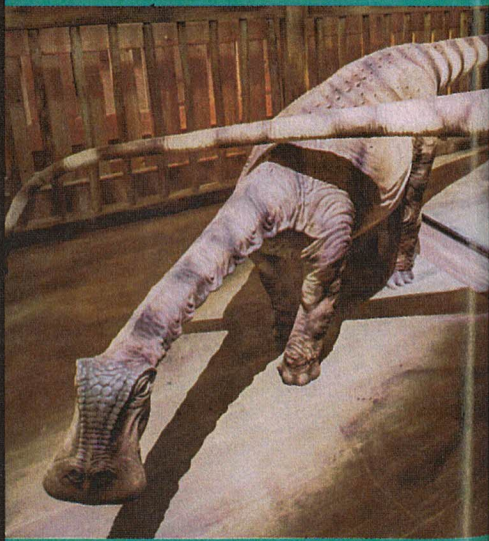


THE REBBACHISAUR KIND

Status: presumed extinct
Adult lengths: 20–50 ft (6–15 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *NIGERSAURUS*

- Sauropods are known for their great size, but not every variety was extremely massive. Stretching about 15 feet (4.6 m) nose to tail, these young rebbachisaurids are half the size of adults.
- The *Nigersaurus* is named for the Republic of Niger, the nation in which its fossils were originally discovered.
- Facial features indicate that they were low-level grazers, like the behemoth described in Job 40:15–24.



WERE UNICORNS ON THE ARK?

Skeptics frequently mock the Bible because some older translations include the word *unicorn* in the text. Naturally, this word conjures up images of a mythical, white horse-like animal with a single horn on its head. But is this what the biblical writers had in mind? Does the Bible mistakenly teach the existence of this mythical animal?

Newer Bible versions translate the Hebrew with terms like “wild ox” or “wild bull.” Biblical passages that describe this creature mention the following characteristics:

- Great strength (Numbers 23:22, 24:8)
- Not suitable to keep near children or to use for plowing a field (Job 39:9–10)
- Younger animal can skip about (Psalm 29:6)
- One horn (Psalm 92:10) or two horns (Deuteronomy 33:17)

The characteristics of this creature do not fit the horse or a horse-like animal, but there is an animal that fits these descriptions quite well—the rhinoceros. They are incredibly strong, unfit for domestication, and young rhinos can skip. Rhinos can also have one horn or two horns. And just as is seen on two-horned rhinos today where one horn is larger than the other, Deuteronomy 33:17 mentions the two-horned version of this creature and implies that one horn is larger than the other.

The King James Version of the Bible was translated in 1611. At that time, rhinos were often referred to as unicorns. More than two centuries later, the 1828 edition of Webster's Dictionary included the following definition for unicorn: “An animal with one horn; the Monoceros. The name is often applied to the rhinoceros.” This is still reflected in our classification system. The Indian rhinoceros has a single horn and is called *Rhinoceros unicornis*. The black rhinoceros boasts two horns and bears the Latin name *Diceros bicornis*.

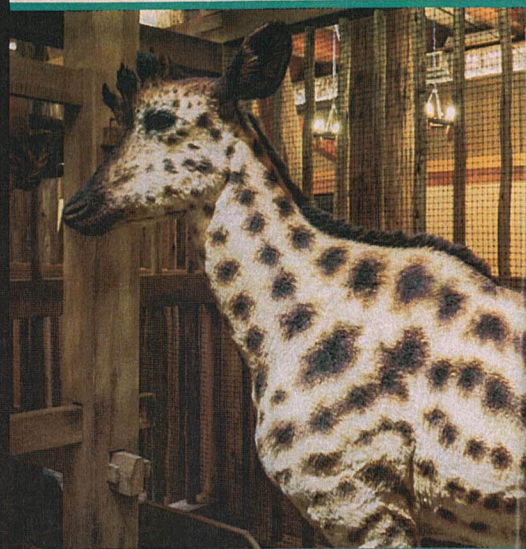
Countless skeptics have asked whether there would be unicorns at the Ark Encounter. There is no reason for them to wonder any longer. Here are the Ark's unicorns—the rhinoceros kind.

THE GIRAFFE KIND

Status: two living genera
Adult lengths: 8.2–18 ft (2.5–5.5 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *SHANSITHERIUM*

- The extinct species *Giraffa jumae* was the tallest among known members of the kind, standing about 22 feet (6.7 m) high.
- The skin-covered bony protuberances on giraffid heads—called ossicones—are initially soft and cartilaginous, so as to ease the birthing process.
- These figures are modeled after *Shansitherium*, a medium-sized extinct giraffid from China featuring four ossicones.

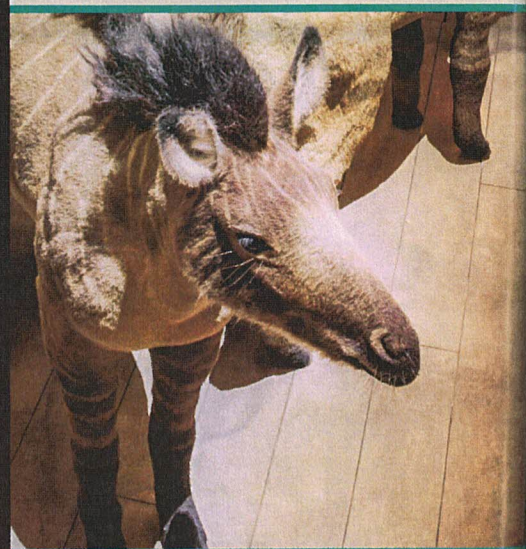


THE HORSE KIND

Status: one living genera
Adult lengths: 2.8–12 ft (85 cm–3.8 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *MESOHIPPUS*

- Modern representatives of the horse kind are quite similar overall, but ancient forms were more diverse.
- Members are identified by defining skull and tooth features, and living varieties—horses, donkeys, and zebras—can interbreed.
- The modern-looking genus *Dinohippus* contained both one-toed and three-toed individuals. This is not evolution but variation within the horse kind.



THE HIPPOPOTAMUS KIND

Status: one living genera
Adult lengths: 3.9–14 ft (1.2–4.3 m)

REPRESENTATIVE SHOWN: *CHOEROPSIS*

- Though they have varied in size, and a bit in shape, it seems that hippos have changed relatively little since the Flood.
- Certain extinct varieties (e.g., the giant species, *Hippopotamus gorgops*) featured elevated eye placement, forming low eye stalks on top of their heads.
- Fossils of the living genus *Choeropsis*—also called *Hexaprotodon*—are found in pre-Ice Age rock layers.

