

## Bible Study # 4: Does the fossil record disprove Genesis?

An integral part of the creation account in Genesis is the following promise made as God spoke to the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and said:

And I will put enmity  
 between you and the woman,  
 and between your seed and hers;  
 he will crush your head,  
 and you will strike his heel”(Genesis 3:15).

This promise was made shortly after Adam and Even had disobeyed God and would now be subject to death and a host of other evils. In that setting God told them that He would send a descendent of theirs who would rescue all people from the dire consequences of their disobedience. This descendent, God said, would crush the head of Satan.

The fulfillment of this promise then forms the unifying thread, or theme, of the entire Bible. This is why the historian, Luke, traced Jesus’ line of descent all the way back to Adam and Eve. Luke did so to show that Jesus was the fulfillment of the “seed of the woman” promise God made to Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter three.

On several occasions Jesus referred to himself as the “son of man.” The prophet Daniel identified the coming Messiah the same way. Why? What is important about being the son of man? Jesus and Daniel identified the Messiah as the “Son of Man” to make it abundantly clear that he was the “seed of the woman” promised in Genesis three.

Similarly, Paul said: <sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman...to redeem those under the law” (Galatians 4:4) again to emphasize that Jesus was the fulfillment of the “seed of the woman” promise given in the Garden as recorded in Genesis.




C.S. Lewis observed that the Old Testament gives us a fingerprint of the Messiah. Jesus matched that fingerprint. When John’s disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, he answered by saying: “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor” (Matt 11:4-5). That is, Jesus said he matched the fingerprint of the Messiah pictured in the Old Testament beginning in Genesis.

Since the entire Bible revolves around the promise of a Savior made in Genesis three, it is not surprising that Genesis is under heavy attack in our time. The skeptics know that if Genesis falls, everything in Christianity falls with it.

This means that Genesis is critically important to believers and skeptics alike. For that reason, we will now consider the fourth of Bill Nye’s objections to the creation account, his allegation that the fossil record disproves Genesis.

The fossil record is typically pictured as follows:

## Geological Time Scale

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE			
ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC recent life	QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
MESOZOIC middle life	CRETACEOUS 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants, Dinosaurs		
	JURASSIC 46 Million Years First birds		
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC ancient life	PERMIAN 50 Million Years First reptiles		
	Carboniferous PENNSYLVANIAN 30 Million Years First insects		
	MISSISSIPPIAN 35 Million Years Many crinoids		
	DEVONIAN 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		
	SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
	ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
	CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

*National Geographic* described the latter part of this fossil record as follows:

Humans have walked the Earth for 190,000 years, a mere blip in Earth's 4.5-billion-year history. A lot has happened in that time.

Earth formed and oxygen levels rose in the foundational years of the Precambrian. The productive Paleozoic era gave rise to hard-shelled organisms, vertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles. Dinosaurs ruled the earth in the mighty Mesozoic. And

<sup>1</sup> [www.nwcreation.net](http://www.nwcreation.net).

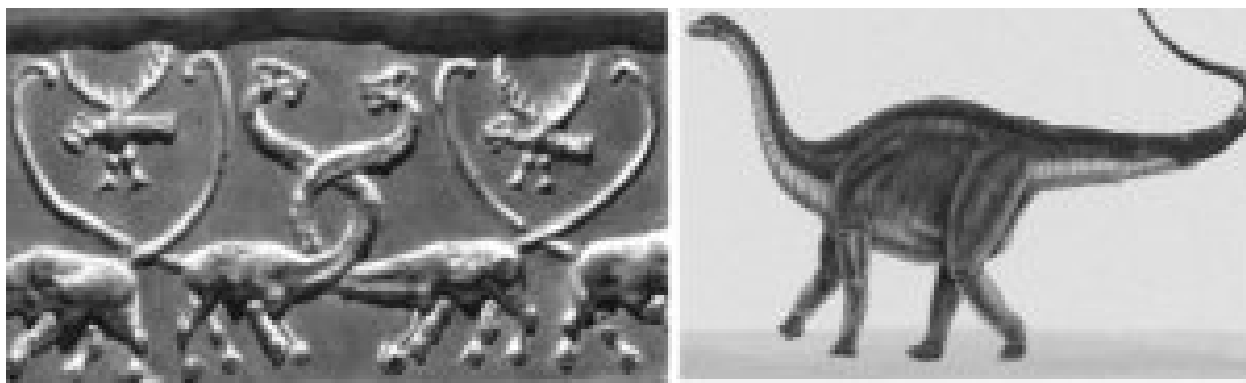
64 million years after dinosaurs went extinct, modern humans emerged in the Cenozoic era.<sup>2</sup>

Today we will focus on this one question: Is it true that 64 million years separate dinosaurs and human beings as National Geographic said? What if it could be demonstrated that humans and dinosaurs actually lived at the same time? How much credibility would this geological table then have?

As has been mentioned previously, both science and history have a major bearing on the question of the history of life on earth. For this reason, neglecting the artifacts and written documents from history is a huge mistake. It is the artifacts and documents that shed the most light on this issue.

We will begin our examination of this question by observing several of the relevant historical artifacts. The cylinder from Mesopotamia pictured below is one such artifact. It is dated at 3300 BC. Notice the similarity of the ancient artwork, on the left, to a modern sketch of a sauropod on the right. (Sauropods are the family of very large plant-eating herbivorous dinosaurs.):

### **Mesopotamian cylinder compared to a modern sketch of a sauropod**



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The creatures in the cylinder clearly are dinosaurs, but an artist living 5300 years ago would not have known what they looked like if they have actually been extinct for 65 million years. (Reconstruction of dinosaur skeletons is a phenomenon of the last two hundred years at most.)

Notice the top of the dinosaurs' heads. Their heads appear to be adorned with what may be cartilage of some kind, perhaps cartilage similar to the comb on a chicken. Dinosaur artistic artifacts commonly have this type of head decoration. Notice also that while the bodies of the dinosaurs pictured above appear very similar to what we know them to have been like, their

<sup>2</sup> <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/prehistoric-time-line/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://s8int.com/WordPress/tag/dinosaurs-and-man/>

heads seem a bit out of place. But compare those heads on the metal cylinder above to a stone sculpture of a dinosaur head uncovered in Egypt shown below:

### **Stone sculpture of a dinosaur head, dated 2,000 BC, on display in a museum in Cairo, Egypt**



The similarity between the heads of the dinosaurs on the Mesopotamian cylinder and this stone sculpture of a dinosaur head found in Egypt is striking. Notice the nose which resembles that of a pig. Notice the open mouth. Notice the single horn, or boney structure, to which cartilage could have been attached. It appears that the same or similar dinosaurs are being portrayed. This could very well be the unicorn described in Job 39 as well as in other literature.

Another important artwork depicting dinosaurs is the following slate palette from Heirakonpolis (a royal residence of the kings of Upper Egypt and important archeological site today) dated at 3100 BC. The palette depicts that King Narmer unified Egypt under his control. On the palette are bulls (Egyptian gods) and dinosaurs with intertwined necks, apparently denoting strength and unity. The other side of the palette depicts King Narmer's subjugation of his enemies.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://s8int.com/WordPress/tag/dinosaurs-and-man/>

## Slate Palette from Heirakonpolis



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The creatures in the center of the palette clearly appear to be dinosaurs of some kind, and no one questions the authenticity of the artifact. The following Roman mosaic is dated 200 AD.

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<sup>5</sup>From p. 93 of Pritchard's book, *The Ancient Near East in Pictures*.  
(<http://www.genesispark.com/exhibits/evidence/historical/ancient/dinosaur/>).

## Roman Mosaic, dated 200 AD



Notice once again the turned-up noses and the head decorations of these sauropods. Any cartilage would not have survived to our time, whereas the bones often did survive, so our only knowledge about this feature of sauropods comes from artworks like these. The authenticity of this mosaic is, once again, beyond doubt. Ask any third grader what these creatures are. He will tell you they are dinosaurs. Children know what is being pictured, but the skeptics can't identify the creatures that are there.

Another important dinosaur artwork was recently discovered as a carved-in-stone relief on the wall of a temple in Cambodia that has long been hidden in the jungle. The building of the temple is dated at 1200 AD. The creature is included along with stone reliefs of animals and birds common to the area, such as monkeys and swans. None of the reliefs picture mythological animals; they are all depictions of creatures known to the people of that time and place. The relief in question is clearly a stegosaurus as can be seen by comparing the artwork on the temple wall to a reconstructed stegosaurus skeleton.



## Relief on the wall of a Cambodian Temple



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## Stegosaurus skeleton



<sup>6</sup> The Cambodian Stegosaurus: Proof That Humans And Dinosaurs Coexisted?"  
<http://www.relativelyinteresting.com>.

The only known creature to have fins like these on its back is a stegosaurus. Some paleontologists think that the fins may have served to keep the animal cool, much like the fins on an air-cooled engine.

One evolutionist responded to this relief by saying: "Just because it looks like a dinosaur, that doesn't mean it is a dinosaur." Try that argument in a court of law and see how far it takes you.

Turning to the Americas, the following dinosaur was discovered etched in stone in the Havasupai Canyon in Arizona.<sup>7</sup> It goes back many hundreds of years.

## Arizona Dinosaur



Notice once again the turned-up nose. Cartilage to form such a nose would have had to have been observed while the creature was alive or shortly after its death.

The authenticity of all these artworks is virtually beyond question. The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from the art is that people and dinosaurs lived at the same time. The artists may not have seen the dinosaurs themselves, but if they didn't have first-hand knowledge of dinosaurs, they must have had access to other artworks or reports of some kind

<sup>7</sup> Barnes and Pendleton, *Canyon Country Prehistoric Indians – Their Culture, Ruins, Artifacts and Rock Art*, 1995.

<sup>8</sup> The Genesis Park website quotes an evolutionist who writes, "There is a petroglyph in Natural Bridges National Monument that bears a startling resemblance to a dinosaur, specifically a Brontosaurus, with a long tail and neck, small head and all." (Barnes, Fred A., and Pendleton, Michaelene, *Prehistoric Indians: Their Cultures, Ruins, Artifacts and Rock Art*, 1979, p.201.)"



that allowed them to construct the art with such accuracy. These examples and others like them raise serious questions about the validity of the geological time scale used by evolutionists.

Another sensational artwork comes from the Mayan culture in South America. This is a ceramic figurine of a hunter with a pterodactyl (more properly called “pterosaur”) draped over his shoulder. The hunter appears to be burdened down with the weight of the prey on his back.



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There are about 50 ancient artworks depicting dinosaurs that are similar to the examples above. Others continue to be discovered right along, and as noted above, the authenticity of many of them is beyond dispute.

In view of these artworks, the thesis that dinosaurs and people lived at the same time is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. The geological table pictured above is left in ruins.

In addition to the artworks, moreover, we also have a written account of dinosaurs and other creatures that were their contemporaries. One of the most sensational written records is the description of a dinosaur in Job chapter 40, beginning with verse 15. The section in Job reads as follows:

- <sup>15</sup>Look at Behemoth,  
 which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox.  
<sup>16</sup>What strength it has in its loins,  
 what power in the muscles of its belly!  
<sup>17</sup>Its tail sways like a cedar;

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.genesispark.com/exhibits/evidence/historical/ancient/pterosaur/>

- the sinews of its thighs are close-knit.  
<sup>18</sup> Its bones are tubes of bronze,  
 its limbs like rods of iron.  
<sup>19</sup> It ranks first among the works of God,  
 yet its Maker can approach it with his sword.  
<sup>20</sup> The hills bring it their produce,  
 and all the wild animals play nearby.  
<sup>21</sup> Under the lotus plants it lies,  
 hidden among the reeds in the marsh  
<sup>22</sup> The lotuses conceal it in their shadow;  
 the poplars by the stream surround it.  
<sup>23</sup> A raging river does not alarm it; it is secure,  
 though the Jordan should surge against its mouth.  
<sup>24</sup> Can anyone capture it by the eyes,  
 or trap it and pierce its nose?

This description is an excellent match for a large sauropod dinosaur. No other plant-eating (herbivorous) land-dwelling animal can be described as being the first rank (largest) of the land-dwelling creatures made by God and having a tail like a cedar tree. Its name, “behemoth,” is a Hebrew word for mega-beast—which also fits a sauropod very well.

Some time ago the author received an email from a pastor who explained that he had been meeting with a young woman who wished to be baptized. He wrote the following:

I am taking her through instruction with hopes that she will be baptized at the end of November. Today she came with questions about dinosaurs existing prior to humans; she was very perplexed by this, saying this had always bothered her about whether the Bible was true or not.

I used some of your talk, and your photos of ancient artwork depicting these creatures along with human beings. It completely took away her doubts, and we had a nice conversation looking at the texts in the book of Job.

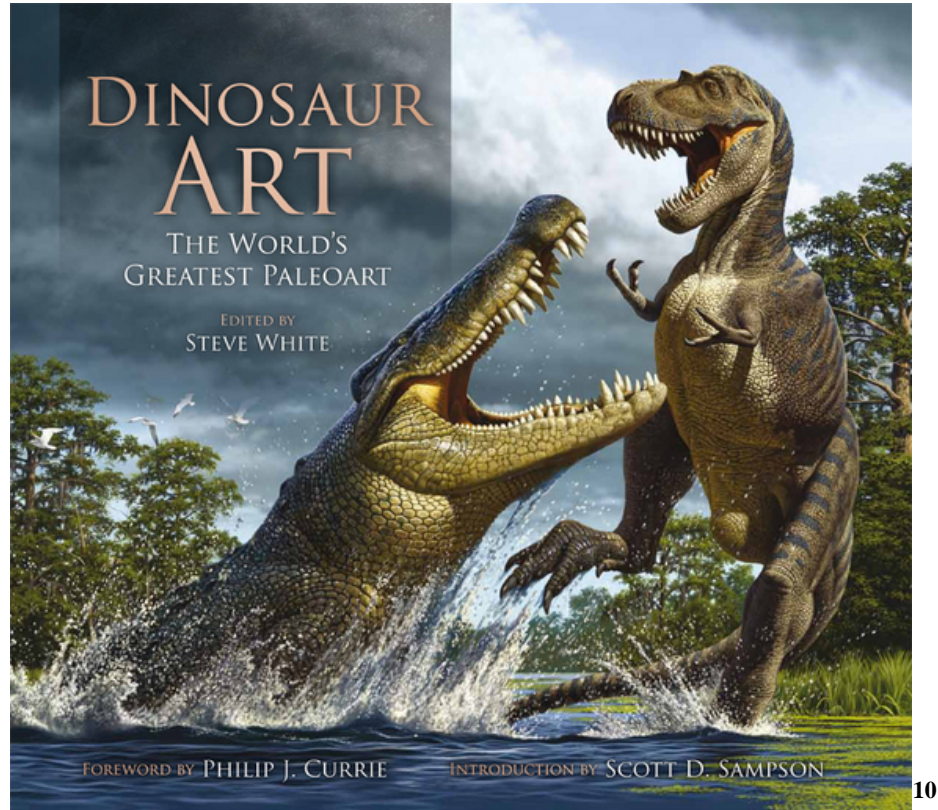
This account underscores that the genuine history of dinosaurs is important for us to know. The next creature described in Job is also of great interest to us. Job 41 reads as follows:

- <sup>1</sup> Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook  
 or tie down its tongue with a rope?  
<sup>2</sup> Can you put a cord through its nose  
 or pierce its jaw with a hook?  
<sup>3</sup> Will it keep begging you for mercy?  
 Will it speak to you with gentle words?  
<sup>4</sup> Will it make an agreement with you  
 for you to take it as your slave for life?  
<sup>5</sup> Can you make a pet of it like a bird  
 or put it on a leash for the young women in your house?

- <sup>6</sup> Will traders barter for it?  
Will they divide it up among the merchants?
- <sup>7</sup> Can you fill its hide with harpoons  
or its head with fishing spears?
- <sup>8</sup> If you lay a hand on it,  
you will remember the struggle and never do it again!
- <sup>9</sup> Any hope of subduing it is false;  
the mere sight of it is overpowering.
- <sup>10</sup> No one is fierce enough to rouse it.  
Who then is able to stand against me?
- <sup>11</sup> Who has a claim against me that I must pay?  
Everything under heaven belongs to me.
- <sup>12</sup> "I will not fail to speak of Leviathan's limbs,  
its strength and its graceful form.
- <sup>13</sup> Who can strip off its outer coat?  
Who can penetrate its double coat of armor?
- <sup>14</sup> Who dares open the doors of its mouth,  
ringed about with fearsome teeth?
- <sup>15</sup> Its back has rows of shields  
tightly sealed together;
- <sup>16</sup> each is so close to the next  
that no air can pass between.
- <sup>17</sup> They are joined fast to one another;  
they cling together and cannot be parted.
- <sup>18</sup> Its snorting throws out flashes of light;  
its eyes are like the rays of dawn.
- <sup>19</sup> Flames stream from its mouth;  
sparks of fire shoot out.
- <sup>20</sup> Smoke pours from its nostrils  
as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.
- <sup>21</sup> Its breath sets coals ablaze,  
and flames dart from its mouth.
- <sup>22</sup> Strength resides in its neck;  
dismay goes before it.
- <sup>23</sup> The folds of its flesh are tightly joined;  
they are firm and immovable.
- <sup>24</sup> Its chest is hard as rock,  
hard as a lower millstone.
- <sup>25</sup> When it rises up, the mighty are terrified;  
they retreat before its thrashing.
- <sup>26</sup> The sword that reaches it has no effect,  
nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin.
- <sup>27</sup> Iron it treats like straw  
and bronze like rotten wood.
- <sup>28</sup> Arrows do not make it flee;  
slingstones are like chaff to it.

- 29 A club seems to it but a piece of straw;  
it laughs at the rattling of the lance.
- 30 Its undersides are jagged potsherds,  
leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge.
- 31 It makes the depths churn like a boiling caldron  
and stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment.
- 32 It leaves a glistening wake behind it;  
one would think the deep had white hair.
- 33 Nothing on earth is its equal—  
a creature without fear.
- 34 It looks down on all that are haughty;  
it is king over all that are proud.

### Artistic depiction of SuperCroc



Up until a few years ago, we could not identify this creature. But in 1997 a half-complete skeleton of SuperCroc (*Sarcosuchus Imperator*) was unearthed in a dry river bed in the Sahara Desert. From this skeleton and others less complete but similar to it, we know what this creature

<sup>10</sup> [WWWlivescience.com](http://WWWlivescience.com)

was like. We now know that SuperCroc was much like today's largest crocodiles but was 10 times bigger! It weighed in at 10 tons—making it almost twice as big as Tyrannosaurus Rex (six tons).

As can easily be seen, the description in Job 41 is a striking match for SuperCroc. (The fire-breathing imagery is obviously figurative language, similar to the “bones of brass” metaphor used to describe the sauropod in Job chapter 40. Some of us have even heard certain people described as “fire-breathing.” Notice, also, the similarity of the fire-breathing language in Job to the description of God in II Samuel 22:9 which reads:

<sup>9</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
 consuming fire came from his mouth,  
 burning coals blazed out of it.

This description of God's anger in II Samuel is obviously figurative, as is the description of the Leviathan in Job 41.

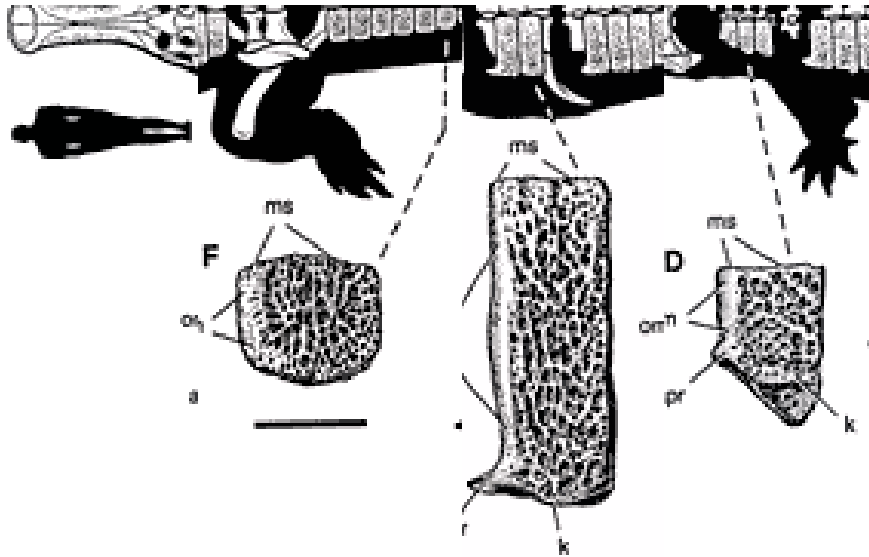
SuperCroc's armor is pictured in Job 41 as follows:

<sup>13</sup> Who can strip off its outer coat?  
 Who can penetrate its double coat of armor?  
<sup>14</sup> Who dares open the doors of its mouth,  
 ringed about with fearsome teeth?  
<sup>15</sup> Its back has rows of shields  
 tightly sealed together;  
<sup>16</sup> each is so close to the next  
 that no air can pass between.  
<sup>17</sup> They are joined fast to one another;  
 they cling together and cannot be parted.

Then compare this description from Job to *National Geographic's* depiction of the overlapping bone shields, called “scutes,” that covered SuperCroc's back.<sup>11</sup> As can be easily seen, the two descriptions are a perfect match. See below:

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<sup>11</sup> [http://www.supercroc.org/supercroc/main-graphics/crock\\_illustration/e\\_a.gif](http://www.supercroc.org/supercroc/main-graphics/crock_illustration/e_a.gif)



(For detail on how well Job 41 matches SuperCroc, see, *National Geographic's* DVD: "SuperCroc," running time: 90 Minutes. See also *National Geographic*, October 28, 2012 and *National Geographic Special on SuperCroc*, December, 2001.)

Notice that Job also said of leviathan, "Nothing on earth is its equal." That is true of SuperCroc, and only SuperCroc, in that no dinosaur or other land dwelling creature, past or present, could stand up to it.<sup>12</sup> Paleontologists think, by the way, that SuperCrocs routinely killed and ate dinosaurs (as pictured in the artwork above).

Even Tyrannosaurus Rex couldn't compete with SuperCroc since SuperCroc was almost twice as big, could drag its adversary into the water and drown it, had a bite twice as strong and had full body armor.

The match of Job 41 and SuperCroc should not surprise us since Job, the person, and SuperCroc lived at the same time and in the same general location. The context of Job 41 also fits SuperCroc very well. In this setting, God was comparing Job to the most impressive creatures that God had made. Being compared to a sauropod and SuperCroc would have made Job feel pretty small, especially when God was actually comparing Job to the Supreme Being who had made them.

SuperCroc, however, like the dinosaurs it is thought to have eaten for lunch, is said by evolutionists to have been extinct for 65 million years or more. So once again, the dating used for SuperCroc, as well as for dinosaurs, turns out to be totally inaccurate.

<sup>12</sup> On the matter of size, compare SuperCroc at 10 tons, to T Rex-6 tons, killer whales-6 tons, great white sharks- 4 tons, grizzly bears-1/2 ton.



Evolution isn't fact; it's a construct; it's theory. It can be useful just as Freudian theory is useful in the field of psychology or just like behaviorism is a useful theory. Being a useful paradigm, or theory, however, doesn't mean that something is true.

As mentioned above, all of Scripture centers on the fulfillment of the promise made in Genesis 3:15. When, on the Cross, Jesus said, "It is finished," he meant that the head of the Serpent had been crushed. Satan had been defeated. The promise of Genesis had been fulfilled. Jesus meant that His mission was finished—a mission described by John the Baptist as follows: "Behold the lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29).

When he rose from the grave, Jesus fulfilled other Messianic prophecies such as Psalm 16:10 which reads: "because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay." The resurrection was additionally God's statement that the demands of justice had been fulfilled; that the sins of all people had been atoned for.

Evolution cannot be proven because it's not true, but Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that all the Bible said about Him is true. About this resurrection, Paul said: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born" (I Corinthians 15:3-8).

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!