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Introduction

“Dinosaurs!” If your mind doesn’t race immediately to a movie, then just hearing the word might cause your imagination to open the floral curtain of lush tropical rain forests or peer through the mist of moss-draped cypress swamps. Lurking in these beautiful and rather intimidating places are strange monsters of gargantuan size. These were once real monsters, not just the imagination of some inventive author. They were actually hatched or born, knew hunger and pain, grew and played, matured and had families. They sought food and shelter, breathed air, felt the hot summer sun and the cool evening breezes. They were fellow creatures of planet earth, yet aliens to us because they are now so foreign to our daily life.

The main purpose of this book is to introduce you to the Biblical view of dinosaurs and natural history, referred to here as Jehovah’s Park. The second purpose is to briefly compare the Biblical view to the popular naturalistic/evolutionary view, referred to here as Jurassic Park. The evidence is compelling and interesting, so enjoy your journey through Jehovah’s Park versus Jurassic Park.

Chapter One - Perspectives

Biblical Spectacles versus Naturalistic Spectacles

Before we go any further, it’s important to establish some ground rules. Scientific facts are interpreted, and all scientists are fallible, biased human beings. Those who believe the Bible to be the authoritative, inerrant, infallible, revealed, inspired Word of God in every area will interpret even scientific facts through that belief system. Others interpret the facts through the Naturalistic belief system. True Naturalism rules out supernatural explanations; everything must be explained by totally natural, physical means. Evolution is the naturalist’s explanation for life.

It’s as if scientists use special glasses through which they view the facts. The Naturalistic Spectacles give a very different picture than the Biblical Spectacles reveal, even though the facts are the same. The spectacles used to read the facts greatly alter how they are viewed, researched, and interpreted by the scientist, and how they are presented to the public.

Naturalistic Spectacles are used to view and interpret facts in most places, including many seminaries, and Christian schools and colleges. Many Christians are unaware that a scientifically valid interpretation exists using Biblical Spectacles. They believe the Bible yet view things, including their Bible, through Naturalistic Spectacles. This produces a variety of views, which fall in between strict young earth creationism, called Biblical Creationism, and Absolute Naturalistic Evolutionism. These in-between views include Old Earth Creationism, Progressive Creationism, and Theistic Evolution, which are defined in the glossary.

Most people don’t realize that contradictions arise when Scripture is viewed through Naturalistic Spectacles. An example is viewing death as being a natural part of God’s creation, or death existing before man sinned rather than being a direct consequence of man’s sin. (For more information on this, please refer to Appendix F.) To compensate for these contradictions, the Bible usually ends up being molded to fit man’s

fallible, ever-changing scientific interpretations, which were made through Naturalistic Spectacles in the first place!

The perspective of this book is to look at the scientific facts through Biblical Spectacles and to expose readers to a perspective that is not “politically correct” and therefore frequently unknown. This is not meant to be offensive to those who might hold other views, but rather to broaden their awareness of this perspective and the evidence which supports it. Considering that most scientific facts will be interpreted through one of these two views, it’s important to understand the conclusions and guidelines used by each. A very brief summary is given here, while a more in-depth explanation may be found in Appendix A.

Biblical Spectacles

The foundation of Biblical Creationism is accepting Genesis as a literal history, to be believed as it is written. This is the most important part of putting on (scientifically) Biblical Spectacles and leads to the following conclusions and guidelines. The earth is about 6000 years old. Living things reproduce only after their own kind (which is a broader category than species). This allows for a large number of variations within each kind (such as dogs, wolves, jackals, hyenas, etc.), but not changes to a different kind (such as fish turning into frogs or frogs turning into lizards). The original creation was perfect with no death or disease until after Adam and Eve sinned, which brought the whole creation under the curse of death, the state in which we now see it. Because of sin and the curse, devolution, not evolution, occurs. Mutation (copying errors in genetic material) causes a loss of hereditary information, not the creation of new traits and new kinds of life forms. The fossils and rocks in which they are found are relatively “young” (less than 6000 years old) and “of catastrophic origin,” formed by the worldwide Flood of Noah’s time and its after-effects.

Dinosaurs through Biblical Spectacles were created 6000 years ago and lived alongside man both before and after the Genesis Flood.

Biblical Spectacles

- 1. The earth is about 6000 years old.**
- 2. Living things reproduce only after their own kind.**
- 3. Death is a direct consequence of man’s sin.**
- 4. Mutation causes a loss of genetic information.**
- 5. Devolution is occurring, not evolution.**
- 6. The rocks and fossils are relatively young and of catastrophic origin.**
- 7. Man and dinosaurs lived together.**

Naturalistic Spectacles

A view of the universe through the Naturalist’s Spectacles leads to very different conclusions. The earth is about 5,000,000,000 (5 billion) years old. Living organisms do change ‘kind,’ moving from lower to higher life forms (evolution, not devolution). Death and extinction have always been a part of the earth’s history and help in the gradual

evolutionary climb from one kind to another through natural selection and survival of the fittest. (Please realize, through Biblical Spectacles, natural selection is God's way of allowing the best-suited individuals to perpetuate their kind and pass on their beneficial genetic characteristics, which they already possess, to their offspring.) Adaptation through genetic mutation causes the appearance of new traits and eventually new kinds of life forms. The fossils and rocks in which they are found were laid down gradually over millions and billions of years.

Through the Naturalist's Spectacles, dinosaurs died off around 65 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. People didn't evolve until about 3 million years ago, so man and dinosaurs missed meeting by over 60 million years.

Please notice that these viewpoints are diametrically opposed. There is not a good way of compromising or blending these two systems.

Naturalistic Spectacles

- 1. The earth is about 5 billion years old.**
- 2. Living things change kind, leading to more complex organisms.**
- 3. Death and extinction assist in the evolutionary climb in complexity.**
- 4. Mutation gives rise to new traits and eventually new life forms.**
- 5. Evolution, not devolution, is occurring.**
- 6. The rocks and fossils are ancient and were gradually laid down.**
- 7. Dinosaurs died off long before man evolved.**

Empirical Science versus Historical Science

It is important to realize that both creation and evolution fall outside of the realm of empirical science, which involves models, hypotheses, and theories testable by observation and experimentation. No one saw God speak the universe into existence, nor has anyone ever seen change-in-kind evolution and adaptation/mutation causing an increase in genetic information. Neither event can be experimentally repeated. Creation and Evolution are historical sciences. They must be studied by investigating the effects of past events using observable evidence as clues. It is similar to forensic science; the scientist strives to determine what happened in the past from the pieces of the puzzle not yet destroyed by time. Strive as he might, he cannot be sure his conclusions are correct. Eyewitness accounts are extremely helpful in determining the truth about the past and in evaluating the observable evidence.

No eyewitness accounts of the Naturalistic history exist, so as with Biblical Creationism, scientists must place their "faith" in the scenario they choose to explain past events. The sad part is that most people don't realize we are being taught Naturalism and Evolution as if they were scientific facts, even though they're not. When we watch movies, go to museums or read books about dinosaurs, we are usually presented with the Naturalistic/Evolutionary interpretation. We are being shown the universe through the Naturalist's Spectacles, as if no other viable, logical, scientific view exists. We are so inundated with the Naturalistic perspective of dinosaurs that most Bible-believing individuals have very little, if any, idea how dinosaurs fit into their Bible. They wouldn't

have a clue how to explain a Biblical view of the great reptiles to a non-Bible-believing friend or loved one.