

**Review: Ken Ham, *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved: A Biblical View of These Amazing Creatures*, Master Books, Green Forest, AZ
April 1998 (August 2009 edn.)**

Pages: 183

Biblical Dino Primer

This provides a short description of the most popular created kinds of dinosaurs out of the estimated 50-odd, with further detail and references in the appendices. The second half links the issue of dinosaurs to the gospel which is critical given evolutionary and deep time cultural indoctrination.

Provenance of major discoveries like *Iguanadon*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Baronyx walkeri* are informative, as are anatomical data like *Brachiosaurus*, whose front legs were longer than its hind giving it a giraffe-like shape, and hollow vertebrae designed to minimise weight, maximise flexibility while maintaining strength.

On p. 68, Ken rightly points to the superiority of the Authorized Version in transliterating Job 40.15 as “behemoth”, as opposed to modern version which compromise with evolutionary science and “hippopotamus” and “elephant”. However, in other places (e.g. p.108) he prefers the NIV perversion, so is somewhat double-minded.

Overall, a good foundational look at dinosaurs.

Introduction (pp. 9-10)

I) What Happened to the Dinosaurs (p. 11-17)

The evolution story says dinosaurs evolved 235mya.

II) Dinosaur History (p. 18-86)

A 90% *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton was discovered in 1988 by Kathy Wankel in Montana, which the Montana State University excavated in 1990. These were the bones in which Mary Schweitzer found preserved dinosaur tissue.

The first *T. rex* bone was found by Barnum Brown in 1900 in western Wyoming. Brown named it *Dynamosaurus imperiosus* (“imperial powerful lizard”).

Brontosaurus was found to be incorrectly named as the discoverer put the wrong head on a skeleton.

T. rex was about 40 feet tall, weighed 8 tons and had 6-8 inch long teeth. Its *ilium* (upper pelvic bone) had a complex pattern of rough edges and ridges where the backbone attached to the sacral ribs. One strength measure of its femur bone was 9, comparable to an elephant ranging 6-14 units.

On 8/11/1990, Sue Hendrickson found a 90%-complete specimen which had evidence of a broken and healed fibula, rib and tail bones. There were also bite and puncture marks on the skull’s left side.

The first dinosaur find was in 1822 by Mary Mantell in Sussex. In 1825, her husband Dr Mantell named it *Iguanodon* (Iguana tooth).

Baronyx walkeri (“heavy claw”) was found by William Walker in 1983 in Sussex. It had a 12” claw.

Plesiosaurs were marine reptiles, not true dinosaurs, ranging from the 7ft *Plesiosaurus* to the 46ft *Elasmosaurus*. Their anatomy suggests a gliding-like motion in water.

Leviathan may have been something like *Kronosaurus queenslandicus*, 55-66ft long and weighing 50 tons, or, *Tylosaurus proriger*.

Pteranodon was a flying creature (“fowl of heaven”) not a true dinosaur. Its huge crest is thought to have been a counterbalance of its beak.

The larger dinosaurs may have simply been older specimens.

There may have been 50 dinosaur kinds which would have been taken on the ark.

On p. 68, Ken rightly points to the superiority of the Authorized Version in transliterating Job 40.15 as “behemoth”, as opposed to modern version which compromise with evolutionary science and “hippopotamus” and “elephant”.

Brachiosaurus' front legs were longer than its hind, giving it a giraffe-like shape. Two nasal openings were above the eyes on top of the skull. Its vertebrae were hollow to minimise weight and maximise flexibility while maintaining strength, a marvellous design. As its head was 25ft above its heart, blood pressure would be much higher so some pressure reduction system would have been necessary.

Triceratops was 30ft long and 11 tons, with a strength indicator of 12-21 units meaning it could gallop.

Geologists are the arbiters of whether a creature is extinct, but are liable for embarrassment when they turn up again, e.g., the coelacanth fish.

Evolutionists attempt to show dinosaurs were warm blooded, because birds are and they believe birds came from dinosaurs!

III) The Implications (pp. 87-106)

Appendix A - Endnotes (pp. 107-170)

Archosaurs are “ruling reptiles”.

Mary Schweitzer found chemical signatures unique to heme when her dinosaur tissue was put under laser light.

Hydrolysis and purine loss quickly degrade DNA, giving an upper limit of perhaps 50-100ky, not 66 million!

Sue suffered from gout, the build up of uric acid eroding bone and depositing sharp minerals inside joints.

One interpretation of Gn 7.2 is two pairs of unclean animals were taken aboard, as the “seven” for the clean means seven pairs. More clean animals were needed for the post-flood offerings.

A standard rail car could house 240 sheep-sized animals. To carry 35,000 would require ~145, and the ark is estimated to have had a capacity of 522.

The Dolly sheep clone egg was DNA-free as the nucleus was removed.

Appendix B: References (pp. 171-180)