

Washington County News

Thursday, November 25, 1999 page 1A & 9A

When did the dinosaurs roam? by *Teresa Hicks*

How do dinosaurs and the Bible correlate, and how does evolution play a role in that question? Those were among the topics discussed Saturday, Nov. 20, by Dr. G. Thomas Sharp in his program "The Truth About Dinosaurs" in the Washington High School gym.

Sharp said the struggle between the theories of creation and evolution is not a scientific debate but a wrestling match between two beliefs. Neither theory is scientific but is a belief system about the past that cannot be observed not reconstructed, he contended.

"The essential difference between creation and evolution is that creation explains all things as the result of divine and orderly design requiring only a few thousand years, while evolution explains things as a result of chance and accident requiring billions of years." said Sharp, founder and president of Creation Truth Foundation, Inc., in Noble, Okla.

Sharp presented the program to approximately 225 people from communities around Washington along with a group of students from Salina. Since Sept. 15 of this year, the program has been shown to over 18,600 students, teachers and parents in Christian schools, churches and various conventions. A program similar has also been presented in several public schools.

Several casts, or replicas, or dinosaur fossils were on display in the gym for viewing prior to Sharp's presentation. Displayed were the skulls of a woolly mammoth, triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex, hadrosaurus, pachycephalosaurus, and tylosaurus and the leg bone of a hadrosaurus. There were also skulls of an American bison and a fossilized bison along with a beaver and fossilized beaver.

"Much of what is in text books today and reported in the media is not strongly adhered by the scientific group," said Sharp. "Among scientists the talk is different, more towards proof of creation."

He said creation is believed to have taken place in six days with all the theories and laws of nature being set in that time and continuing to this day, while the belief of evolution is that evolution had either stopped or happens so gradually or so quickly that it cannot be observed.

To measure the accuracy of both views, individuals must compare the predictions of the views with what can be observed in the world today, he said. The prediction fitting what is observed with no modifications or alterations is most likely the more accurate, Sharp noted.

He applies some of the predictions to the first law of thermodynamics--the conversion of mass to energy or one form of energy to another form of energy or one form of matter to another, in that there will be the same amount of mass/energy in the universe.

Creation predictions are:

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Dinosaurs, like all other living things, appeared from the beginning fully formed within definable limits--life from life.

- Fossil records would reveal only distinct species without transition. Bees are bees and bison are bison, maybe just a little bigger depending upon the age of the animal.
- Fossils would be buried under layers of water-borne sediment showing evidence of catastrophic burial.
- Evidence of man dinosaurs living together throughout the history of the earth.

Evolution predictions are:

- Dinosaurs evolved from some ancestral animal by slow and gradual modification over a million years--life from nonlife.
- The fossil record shows a long progressive series of animal ancestors leading up to dinosaurs such as fish to amphibians to reptiles. Millions of transitional forms should appear in fossil record, he said.
- A plausible reason for extinction of dinosaurs remains unknown among evolutionists, he said, contending the most commonly held involves a catastrophe producing flood like results.
- No evidence that men and dinosaurs lived together.

For use of fossils as evidence, it must be understood that fossils are made from a sudden death of a life form and burial by a watery substance. Many of the rock layers and fossils laid down record such a catastrophic event, and the geological strata itself is record of a watery catastrophe, he said.

"Historically, the only recording of a major water event is Noah's flood in the Bible," said Sharp.

Destruction by a meteor would have burned up life forms and left no evidence, he claimed. He said there is no scientific evidence to prove that any single or several species could become extinct suddenly, with other species of animal or life forms to remain living.

The fossils which have been found do not show any transitional form, but instead every fossil has been distinct in its species or type and is not a combination of two species, he said. Sharp told of a fossilized bee dated to be 35 million years by scientist. That bee was much like bees today. Fossilized clams from the Paleozoic period are like the clams of today.

"What we think dinosaurs should be is what we see or hear on television, books, museums and the media," said Sharp.

An example he gave was how the tyrannosaurus was thought to be ferocious. Now scientists under the leadership of Dr. Jack Horner have come to believe after reexamining the skeletons of these creatures that they were not as ferocious as once believed. They were unable to fight nor were they predators but were more a giant scavenger--big buzzard, so to speak.

He went on to tell how the Java man, Nebraska man and Piltdown man were either hoaxes or misidentified fossils. The skull of the Piltdown was kept in a vault for 40 years and finally was opened for examination in 1953. After a study of the skull, it is was revealed to be the skull of an old man and the jaw bone of an ape which had been shaved down to fit.

He also discussed dinosaurs in the Bible saying that the word dinosaur means "those terrible lizards" and was created in 1841 by Sir Richard Owen after the Bible was translated into English in 1611. The biblical word for dinosaur is said to be the Hebrew word, tannin, translated into dragon, he said. A description of what Sharp feels to be a dinosaur can be found in Job 40:15-19 in the writings about a behemoth.

The Creation Truth Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1989 by Dr. Sharp to foster a return in complete faith and practice to the biblical foundation. Sharp has been a science educator since 1964 teaching from seventh grade to graduate level. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Purdue University, a master of science degree from the University of Oklahoma and Ph. D. from South Florida Theological Seminary.

Sharp has written many books and produced many videos on the subject of creation vs. Evolution and dinosaurs. For more information dealing with these subjects, the foundation has a website, www.creationtruth.com, or write to Creation Truth Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1435, Noble, Oklahoma, 73068.

The program was sponsored by interested individuals and the Christian Churches of Washington and Morrowville.