ORIGINS

Genesis 2-9

Session 8: Evolution Part 2

James River Community Church
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Scientists have described about 250,000 different fossil species (millions of fossils are in museums), yet, according to evolutionists, that is a small fraction of those that lived in the past.

French zoologist Pierre Grassé says – “Naturalists must remember that the process of evolution is revealed only through fossil forms... only paleontology can provide them with the evidence of evolution and reveal its course or mechanisms” –

George G. Simpson, *The Major Features of Evolution* – “It remains true, as every paleontologist knows, that most new species, genera and families, and that nearly all categories above the level of families, appear in the [fossil] record suddenly and are not led up to by known, gradual, completely continuous transitional sequences.”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2CEPBUi8nI
Outline

1. Genesis 1-11 (Introduction)
2. Genesis 1:1-31 (Universe Part 1) – Big Bang Model
3. Genesis 1:1-31 (Universe Part 2) – Old and Young Earth Models
4. Genesis 1:1-19 (Earth) – Days 1 to 4
5. Genesis 1:1-19 (Earth) – Formation and Age
9. Genesis 1:26-2:4a (Humans) – Male and female, Rest

On-line at http://www.jamesrivercommunitychurch.org
Evolution: Objectives

- Understand the fossil record
- Understand the place for dinosaurs
- Understand key events in scripture affecting the earth and living things
  - Creation
  - Fall
  - Flood
  - Division
You might be a fossil, if…

- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work anyway.
- The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

1. **You have a hard skeleton or shell** – Soft parts get eaten or decay
2. **You have are to die where you can be buried quickly or catastrophically**
   - Near sand and mud such as rivers, lakes and seas.
   - Whatever you do, don't die on land, far from water
   - Get buried before a scavenging animal eats you.
   - Get buried before waves and currents scatter your remains.
   - Get buried before other animals bore or dissolve their way into your skeleton to make a home.

3. **You live in the sediment or sea floor** – More likely to fossilize than those floating or swimming above the bottom.
4. **You must be compressed into rock by soil strata above** – As the sand and mud builds up above you, eventually the layer you are in hardens to rock.
5. **You work you way up to the top of the surface for scientists to see you**
6. You (or what’s left of you) made it – you’re a fossil!
Evolution: The Fossil Record

- “The fossil record (all fossils known to science) is life’s evolutionary epic that unfolded over 4 Billion years as environmental conditions and genetic potential interacted in accordance with natural selection….i.e. a movie recording the history of life. The problem is that only a small fraction of the frames are preserved, and those that have been preserved have often been chronologically scrambled. Viewed in this way, reconstituting the movie seems intractable, and yet science has done so”*

- “The movie frames that survive reveal great leaps from apparent ancestor to descendent with no intermediaries, …Species or entire taxa suddenly appear in the sparse fossil record with no certitude of ancestry. Others disappear with similar suddenness.”*

* Dickinsonia Fossil*
Precambrian (600 M Years Old)
16 mm X 14 mm
White Sea Summer Coast, Russia

* Imprint of a tree fern. From (Fossilmuseum.net)
“Even without fossils, however, comparison of sequences (of DNA, RNA and proteins) alone confirm evolution… The process of evolution by natural selection “conserves” important DNA coding sequences over vast expanses of geological time.”*

But Junk DNA has been disproven!

“If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?” — Milton Berle

“I was a young man with uninformed ideas. I threw out queries, suggestions, wondering all the time over everything; and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire. People made a religion of them.” — Charles Darwin

* Beatle or crab. From (Fossilmuseum.net)
Evolution: The Dating Challenge

- “A substantial hurdle is that rock strata that preserve fossils typically lack the radioactive elements needed for radiometric dating.”*
- “Radioactive elements are common only in rocks with a volcanic origin (igneous), and so the only fossil-bearing rocks that can be dated radiometrically are volcanic ash layers”*
- “Consequently, paleontologists rely on stratigraphy to date fossils”*

* From (Fossilmuseum.net)
Evolution: The Dating Challenge

- A Field Museum fact sheet states, "Scientists think Sue died near a fast-moving river…Because of the position the bones were in, scientists think that rushing water flipped Sue’s pelvis onto her head.”*

- "….there have been no precise radiometric ages derived from the Hell Creek Formation" (Hell Creek Formation: A 2001 synthesis Geological Society of America Special Paper 361, 2002 (Johnson, Nichols, Hartman)

- Blood vessels, hemoglobin, and red blood cells were discovered inside the femur of a different T. rex. Unlikely, it could have been preserved for 67 M years

*Tyrannosaurus Rex (Sue)Fossil*
Silurian (67 M Years Old)
25 mm diameter
Discovered 80-90% of disorganized bones in 1990 by “Susan” Hendrickson sticking out of a cliff (Hell Creek Formation) in South Dakota.

* From (Fossilmuseum.net)
Evolution: Dating

- In 2005 - “Dr. Schweitzer (NC State) ... has succeeded in isolating soft tissue from the femur of a 68-million-year-old dinosaur. ... it's still transparent and pliable, and microscopic interior structures resembling blood vessels and even cells are still present. ... It certainly taxes one's imagination to believe that soft tissue and cells could remain so relatively fresh in appearance for tens of millions of years”

- In 2009 - Fossilized squid that contained a sac of ink so well-preserved that it could be used in a pen for writing, found in rock that is considered to be 150 M years old.

- In 2011 – Mosasaur that contained soft tissue and biomolecules in the bones
Evolution: Are fossils extinct?

- Coelacanths were very ancient fish who lived before, during, and after the time of the dinosaurs.
- However, like the dinosaurs, the coelacanths vanished from the fossil record (some 80 million years ago)(?).
- However, before they seemingly went extinct they lived prosperously for nearly 400 million years(?).
- But in 1938, coelacanths were found alive and well off the coast of South Africa living at a depth of around 120 to 250 meters. Since then, other colonies of coelacanths have been found in various areas such as the coast of Madagascar, Indonesia, Mozambique, and Comoran.
Evolution: Are fossils extinct?

- Crocodiles are one example of living fossils. They appeared with all their physical structures fully formed and have survived down to the present day without undergoing any change at all over a period of around 100 million years (there are crocodile fossils dating back 140 million years).
- There is no differences between the 100-million-year-old fossil crocodile and those alive today.
- The percentage of still-living species (e.g. living fossils) is very, very high throughout all the strata, and varies from place to place for each stratum in different localities (100’s with links on wikipedia.com)
Evolution: Gradual evolution?

- **Phyletic gradualism** – Theory that evolution generally occurs uniformly and by the steady and gradual transformation of whole lineages.

- In 1972 (Eldredge and Gould) proposed that “the degree of gradualism commonly attributed to Charles Darwin is virtually nonexistent in the fossil record, and that stasis (little net evolutionary change for most of their geological history) dominates the history of most fossil species”

- **So, Punctuated Equilibrium Theory** – Significant evolutionary change occurs from rare and rapid events of branching speciation (species splits into two distinct species)

- **Now the accepted theory!**
Evolution: Gradual sedimentation?

- **Polystrate** (many layers) fossils – fossils that cut through at least two sedimentary-rock layers
- Polystrate trees – often twenty feet or more in length. Fossil was formed relatively quickly; otherwise it would have decomposed while waiting for strata to slowly accumulate around it
- For example, at the Joggins, in Nova Scotia, there are many erect fossil trees that are scattered throughout 2,500 feet of layers.
Horse: Evolution or Other genera?

- Increase in size (15 in to 5 ft);
- Reduction of lateral digits;
- Increase in width of incisors;
  Replacement of premolars by molars.
  Increases in tooth length, crown height of molars.
- Actually, fossils belonging to entirely different species that once lived in India, South America, North America and Europe were arranged in order of size—from small to large.
- So far, different researchers have come up with more than 20 different equine evolution scenarios.
- Horses living today have also been discovered in the same rock strata as Eohippus. (52 million years ago). This means that the horse and its supposed ancestor were both living at the same time,
Before the Fall, Adam names the birds and land animals: 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man (adam) to see what he would name (called out) them; and whatever the man called each living (breathing) creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names (called out) to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals – Genesis 2:19-20

Naming all the animals?
- God brought the animals to Adam
- Adam only named land vertebrates (i.e., livestock (large mammals), birds, and wild animals); not sea life or insects.
- We don’t know how specific was the naming (i.e. species, genus, families, etc)
- Only 64,000 vertebrate species
- Only 8,000 vertebrate genera (genus)
Creation: Climate

- **Before the Creation of Man, there was a vapor canopy in the sky:** And God said, “Let there be a firmament between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the firmament and separated the water under the firmament from the water above it. And it was so. – Genesis 1:6-7

- **Before the Creation of Man, water came from springs and created a mist:** Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. – Genesis 2:5-6

- **Before the Fall, Eden was temperate:** Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (and probably not too cold!)

- **After the Flood, the climate now has regular clouds and first rainbow (and, presumably, rain):** And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds – Genesis 9:12-14
Creation: Climate

No rain for 1500 years?
• Water came up from the ground
• Temperate climate
• Waters could have been held in an atmospheric layer above firmament
• But, the water cycle is a function of sun and seas (i.e., evaporation, condensation, precipitation) which have not changed
• Rainbows could have appeared before the Flood, but not been considered "a sign"
**Creation: Climate**

- **Before the Flood**, average lifespan of pre-Noahic patriarchs = 857.5 years (Genesis 5)
- **Before the Flood**, giants lived on the earth: ⁴ The Nephilim(giants) were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown – Genesis 6:4
- **After the Flood**, average age of 1ˢᵗ 10 generations after Noah = 317.1 year (Genesis 11) eventually topping out at 120 years (Genesis 6:3)

**Did people really live that long? And were they really tall?**

- Physiologically, why do we die at all?
- Man (and woman) created perfect and immortal
- Sin brought mortality, probably to all creation
- The ground was cursed after the fall, potentially spreading disease. The whole creation groans with pains of childbirth (Rom 8:22)
- Extra-biblical evidence for long life spans is found in the Sumerian King List.
- Environment before the flood was tropical, higher in carbon dioxide and oxygen, perhaps enveloped by a canopy that protected against radiation
- Significant fossil record for very large animals and humans (14-16 ft tall)
1. **At creation, God receded the waters to “expose” land and brought forth edible plants:** And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. — Genesis 1:9-10

2. **After the Fall, God curses the ground and changes its constituency. He also curses the plants and creates weeds:** To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed (‘arar) is the ground (adamah) because of you; through “painful” toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground…” — Genesis 3:17-19
Creation: Major Geology changes

3. **At the Flood, “springs” of the deep burst forth:**  
   In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.  
   And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights – Genesis 7:11-12

4. **After the Flood, God either promises to not curse the ground again (or removes the curse from the ground altogether) and regulates or establishes the days and seasons:**  
   The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.  
   “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” – Genesis 8:21-22

5. **100 years after the flood, a great earthquake occurred:**  
   Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg[earthquake/ division/channel] because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan – Genesis 10:25
## Creation: #3 – The Flood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Flood Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Scripture(s)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Flood begins</td>
<td>Gen. 7:10-11</td>
<td>The fountains of the great deep were burst open, the windows of the heaven were opened.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Ark is lifted off the ground</td>
<td>Gen. 7:17</td>
<td>The continuing narrative tells us that the ark was not moved until the 40th day of the Flood. The rain continued to fall past this date and increased greatly (7:18).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Ark lands on the mountains of Ararat; floodwater’s sources are restrained</td>
<td>Gen. 7:24-8:4</td>
<td>It was at the climax of the Flood that the ark rested on the mountain (or hill). On this date, the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed. The rain was restrained (8:2). The waters would now begin to decrease.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>224</td>
<td>Tops of the hills were seen</td>
<td>Gen. 8:5</td>
<td>On this date, Noah could begin to see the tops of the hills rising above the waters. This is 74 days after the ark rested on its hill.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>264</td>
<td>Raven is sent out</td>
<td>Gen. 8:6-7</td>
<td>This raven was sent to scout out the land, but would fly around for the next 107 days until the land was completely dry.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>271</td>
<td>Dove is sent out the first time</td>
<td>Gen. 8:8-9</td>
<td>The dove was also sent out as a scout, but sufficient dry land was not found, so it returned to Noah.</td>
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<td>278</td>
<td>Dove is sent out the second time</td>
<td>Gen. 8:10-11</td>
<td>The dove was sent back out, and came back this time with a freshly plucked olive leaf. Noah now knew that the waters had subsided. This was only 7 days after he sent the dove the first time.</td>
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<td>285</td>
<td>Dove is sent out the third time</td>
<td>Gen. 8:12</td>
<td>This time, the dove found sufficient dry land for its purpose and did not return to Noah.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>314</td>
<td>Waters were dried from off the land</td>
<td>Gen. 8:13</td>
<td>The water had mostly dried from off the ground, but there was just enough left on, and soaked in, that Noah could not exit just yet.</td>
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<td>371</td>
<td>The land had completely dried out</td>
<td>Gen. 8:14</td>
<td>The different Hebrew word in verse 14, compared to verse 13, tells us that the ground was now completely dry so God tells Noah and his crew to leave the ark (8:15-19).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evolution: Summary

- Fossils require rapid deposition, coverage, and compression, and eventual erosion
- Circular logic for geologic column and fossil record
- Sedimentary rocks are primarily a result of the Noahic flood (To be discussed later).
- Fossils represent a certain geographic area and not geologic age; e.g. marine fossils on top of mountain ranges
- “In general, the probability that an organism becomes fossilized is very low”
- Flight has “evolved” many times (e.g. birds, bats, flies, and bees)
- Extinction does not mean evolution
- Similarities in DNA and anatomy do not require a common ancestor
- Significant fossil deposition at the flood, combined with high pressures produced fossil fuels

**Common descent or Common designer?**

Next week – Evolution Part 2: Eden, Sin, The Flood