

Reply to Styxhexenhammer666

Rebuttal of 'The top ten lies of Christianity'

Introduction

This is a formal response to a video diatribe against Christianity by the above on YouTube on 2 February 2011. 'Styxhexenhammer666' is his YouTube channel alias; I understand that his real name is Tarl Warwick [born 1988] and he lives in America. He claims to be a Libertarian and is certainly very Right-Wing. He has achieved millions of views on YouTube with his very precise commentary on geo-political and social issues and US politics.

I actually like the guy since he appears to be sincere, intelligent and focused on getting at the truth. In fact I sometimes listen to his commentary on current affairs because he exposes the truth far more than the mainstream media. However, he is also an occultist, though I don't know how deep and what sort; however, he categorically does not worship Satan. With these credentials he is obviously anti organised religion and Christianity in particular.

He made a video in 2011 called, '*The top ten lies of Christianity*', which has had 324,534 views and many supportive comments. This follows his usual well-read, analytical style and his fame will convince many listeners. However, his arguments are flawed and need to be rebutted (though some of his points are not actually relevant to evangelical apologetics).

For his benefit I will explain that I am a Biblical Christian, of the sort categorised in America as evangelical; though I would not identify with many who call themselves Fundamentalists since that group is very mixed. I would identify with historic Christians and particularly those of the Augustinian, Calvinistic or Reformed variety, but I will not be pigeon-holed in some denominational grouping. I take my authority from the Bible, which I believe is the inspired word of God though written by frail men. I believe that Byzantine (not Alexandrian) texts provide the safest manuscripts on which to base the NT but I am not a KJV-only advocate.

Though I am rebutting Tarl's arguments, I do this with a view to doing him good and hope for his recantation and conversion if God wills.

Rebuttal of his ten lies of Christianity

10: There is a lack of evidence for evolution

He claims that the fossil record, genetics and even archaeology (showing that humans have changed?) prove evolution. Sadly he gives no evidence for his claim.

Firstly this is only an indirect attack on Christianity, which claims creationism. Since evolutionary theory is only a hypothesis and not a proven scientific fact it matters little to Christians what the world claims about origins. Tarl appears to just accept evolution as real when it is only a hypothesis.

I could leave that there and move on, but I will add a few salient points.

There is a huge mass of literature by very eminent scientists that deny Darwinian evolution. These include secular as well as Christian experts. Very few modern scientists blindly accept traditional Darwinism because too many discoveries have been made that demolish his position. Such secular scientists do not necessarily accept creationism, but seek alternative answers (such as Punctuated Equilibrium). They try to establish a type of evolution but not according to Darwinian theory.

The basic theory of Darwin has been exploded; that is that simple creatures evolved slowly over millions of years into complex creatures beginning as a chemical slime on rocks. There is not a shred of proof for any of this. There is no known mechanism for life to begin from chemicals in water, Neither is there any known genetic mechanism for a species to add data to its genome (mutations do not add information but omit it).

Furthermore, the idea that single-celled life-forms are very simple and can evolve into more complex life-forms is destroyed by the fact that single-celled animals are actually extremely complicated nano-technology factories. There is no such thing as a simple life-form. Micro-organisms have multiple complex organs and features, included motors, and propulsion.

In the heart of the cell are the DNA molecules where the genetic structure resides. Chemical units called nucleotides are arranged in four types on each DNA molecule. These form the templates, like a language, from which the proteins needed by the cell can be copied. The nucleotide sequence is a coded message. Much more has yet to be understood how this all works; how this code is read, decoded, and utilised. The complexity is massively sophisticated; there are even processes to correct faulty copying and sometimes more than one message is encoded in the same DNA sequence.

Even the larger properties of cell structures are complex, such as the whip-like flagellum or tiny hairs of some single-celled organisms, which contain complex motors. Micro-organisms often use tiny hairs to move in liquid. Some have various numbers of cilia, little hairs that each act like an oar. A single cilium contains over 200 different kinds of proteins and is complex in design, having tubes within tubes, with strands and rods aligned down the length. The motor powering the cilium is within it, thus they can be made to move when separated from the cell wall.

Other single-celled animals have a flagellum, a larger organ that acts like a propeller. The motors that drive these appendages are incredibly complicated consisting of the filament (propeller), a universal joint, different types of bushing, rods (drive shaft), rotors, several layers of membranes and so on. These motors are not situated in the filament but in the

cell at the base of the filament. Energy is supplied by a flow of acid through the bacterial membrane. It requires about 240 proteins to function, most are not understood but some are known to switch the motor on and off and others to micro-design the tail-filament. The structure is very similar to an electric motor, but more complicated. This whole arrangement is irreducibly complex and must have been designed; it had to come complete with all parts and working. Evolution cannot explain how this could have been generated slowly with each new part being developed but having no purpose alone.

The ‘earliest’, ‘simple’ creatures, which are supposed to have given rise to more complex species, were not simple at all, but were irreducibly complex and required a designer. For further examples of complexity in microbiology see *Darwin’s Black Box* by Michael Behe (not a Christian).

So the fundamental factor of Darwin’s theory is flawed; there are no simple creatures that evolve into more complex ones.

Now we could add hundreds of pages of more facts destroying evolutionary theory but this is not the place for it. To say that evolutionary theory is a fact is simple a lie.

9: The Bible is a reliable historical guide

Tarl seems to be using out-of-date archaeological sources for this claim. It used to be said by early archaeologists that the Bible was unreliable and they sought to disprove it. However, time after time the discoveries actually proved the Bible correct. In fact, the discoveries made archaeologists re-write history books to get in line with what the Bible had said for thousands of years, such as the fact of a Hittite Empire in the Taurus mountains. After years of embarrassing finds, today archaeologists search the Bible before doing digs to try to help them get the relevant facts.

From cover to cover the OT’s statements about history have been proved correct despite many centuries of sceptics attacking its historicity. Listing examples of these would occupy too much space here.

Tarl specifically mentions the Exodus denying even that the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt let alone the Exodus itself.

There is a great deal of secular evidence for a mysterious major cataclysm in Egypt that ruined the country and is not explained in hieroglyphs. The reason for this is that later Egyptian historians were not going to admit that Egypt was despoiled by its own slaves who wrecked the economy and killed the Pharaoh in the Red Sea. This possibly explains the Hyksos invasion of Palestinians.

One of the problems in Egyptology, now being recognised, is that the traditional academic dating for the Pharaohs is wrong, possibly by a couple of hundred years. This makes it difficult to correlate known events with the Biblical text. However, new discoveries and claims by Egyptologists like David Rohl have adjusted the timeline through new understanding and show that it exactly lines up with Biblical statements.

‘The NT was not written contemporary to the events that actually occurred.’

Again this is false. Textual data has been discovered in recent decades to show that many Christian works were written very soon after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. It is now believed that the synoptic Gospels were written much earlier than previously thought. The earliest Gospels (Mark, Matthew) were certainly written within 20 years of Jesus’ resurrection, some say earlier. Recent scholarship (e.g. John Wenham, *Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke*) now claims that Matthew was the first Gospel written around

40, Mark was written around 45 and Luke around 54. Other biographies appear to have been written before that but are now lost. Copies of Jesus' sayings also circulated from immediately after the cross.

The apostolic letters also confirmed the events of the Gospels and the earliest of these, Galatians, was written in Ephesus by Paul about 13-18 years after the cross. The Thessalonian letters were written about 50. Considering that the apostles had huge amounts of work to do preaching the Gospel far and wide and organising the local churches, sitting down to direct the writing of a Gospel was not their first priority. Nevertheless, they produced them soon enough.

Not long after Galatians Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, about 25 years after the cross which contained a whole chapter explaining the resurrection of Jesus and naming eye-witnesses that would have been alive at the time of writing.

He was seen by Cephas, [Peter] then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 1 Cor 15:5-8

This denies that the Gospels were written late, with Mark as the first Gospel written after 65. That is old, outdated scholarship. Furthermore there are secular historians and administrators that mention the fact of Jesus and some attest to his messiahship. These include:

Historical figures

We trust the historicity of many famous ancient personalities despite the fact that we have no contemporary sources confirming the details of their lives and words. These would include: Socrates, Alexander the Great and even the later Julius Caesar. Biographies of these only appeared many years or even centuries later, yet no one doubts them.

Josephus

Flavius Josephus [born Joseph ben Matthias, c.37–c.100] was a Jewish general that defected to Rome after capture in 67, during the Jewish War, becoming a major historian for the Romans. In his book *The Wars of the Jews* he says,

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.¹

This is hugely significant since Josephus was a Pharisee, a natural enemy of Jesus.

Regarding the issue of this being a forgery, the debate has gone back and forth over centuries with sceptics claiming that a non-Christian Jew could not have said this. However, the modern consensus by Josephus scholars is that it is genuine, with perhaps the words 'if it be lawful to call him a man' alone being a Christian interpolation.

¹ Flavius Josephus, Wars of the Jews, 3.3.

Josephus was writing history for the Romans to explain events in Judaea, so it would be sensible to give an evaluation of the origin of the Christian movement that was spreading across the empire and affecting all classes of people. It seems that he was using a source document that had commonality with Luke's Gospel and particularly the Emmaus conversation. So it is not unusual for him to make these statements in this context.

Pliny the Younger [Christians in Bithynia c.112, Pliny, *Epp X* (ad Trajan), xcvi.]

This man was the governor of Pontus and Bithynia from 111-113. We have letters he sent to Emperor Trajan, including one on early Christians. He explains that Christians meet on a fixed day of the week before dawn to sing responsive hymns to Christ as God and to bind themselves to each other by an oath. He explains how he persecuted them when denounced.

This proves that Christ was worshipped as God around the end of the first century. This also proves that the Gospel of Christ had spread to the region in northern Turkey close to the Black Sea where various churches were in existence, which were persecuted by the Romans.

Pliny says that 'many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms.' Within 70 years of the cross, the Gospel was impacting northern Turkey to the extent that even rural areas had significant numbers of Christians, which worried Pliny. This does not happen if Jesus never existed.

There are many other non-Biblical sources of data for Christ. I will itemise some of these.

Secular sources	Christian sources
Tacitus [c.60-c.120]. The trial of Pomponia Graeccina, <i>Annales</i> xiii.32. The Neronian Persecution, <i>Annales</i> , xv.44.	Papias [c.60-c.130]. Quoted in other church fathers.
Lucien of Samosata [2 nd c.].	Polycarp [c.70-160]. <i>Letter to the Philippians</i> . Quotes in other historians.
Suetonius [c.75-160]. The expulsion of the Jews from Rome, <i>Vita Claudii</i> , xxv.4. The Neronian Persecution, <i>Vita Neronis</i> , xvi. <i>Lives of the Caesars</i> , 26.2.	Eusebius of Caesarea [c.265-c.339]. Church historian, multiple mentions and quotations.
Thallus the Samaritan. Quoted in other historians.	Clement of Rome [active 90-100]. <i>1 Clement</i> .
The Talmud. <i>Toldoth Yeshu</i> . <i>Sanhedrin</i> , 43a.	Ignatius. <i>Ad Eph</i> . vii.2.
Trajan. Trajan to Pliny, Pliny, <i>EppX</i> . xcvi.	Irenaeus. <i>Adv. Baer</i> . III. XVIII; V.xxi.1; II.xxii.4; V.i.1.
Celsus	<i>The Didache / Epistle of Barnabas</i> .
Mara Bar-Serapion. <i>Letter</i> , 2.114.	Quadratus [2 nd c.]. <i>Apology</i> .
Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus of Lydda. (c.95).	Justin Martyr. <i>Apology</i> (c.150) I, xlvi.1-4; II, xiii.
Phlegon [1 st c.]. Quoted by other historians.	Tertullian [c.160-240]. <i>De praescriptione haereticorum</i> , (c.200) vii. <i>Apology</i> , xxi.
	<i>The Shepherd of Hermas</i> .

The NT apostolic record alone, written shortly after the cross, is sufficient historical evidence for the fact of Jesus' existence; but there are secular strands of evidence as well. In addition, how could it be explained that millions of people became Christians all over the world, of all ranks of life, and all went through years of willing persecution under ten different Roman emperors, if Jesus wasn't actually real?

In short, there is far more historical evidence for the existence of Jesus than for most ancient historical figures.

Finally, modern Christians all over the world claim to have fellowship with Jesus as he promised they would. Christians experience the living Christ in prayer, communion, meditation and church fellowship in spiritual ways that cannot be easily described. I certainly experience living fellowship with the Lord Jesus constantly and have done since 1971. In fact, I would say that without Christ I would never have survived the vicissitudes of life.

8: Charles Darwin converted to Christianity before death

Some believe the testimony of Lady Hope that stated this; others do not. I have no care about it one way or the other; it is not a matter of importance to Christian apologetics.

However, Charles in his young life had been religious. He was baptised in 1809 as a baby into the Anglican Church, though he and his siblings worshipped in a Unitarian Church with their mother. It is common in history that apostates often begin to doubt as they approach death and seek comfort again in their early religion.

Charles also began to doubt some of his conclusions since he had written of his concern that no intermediate fossils ('missing links') had been found, which he had expected. He also stated that he now believed that the human eye could never have evolved.

I have no idea whether Charles Darwin ever genuinely believed in Christ, but there is some evidence that as he approached his maker he began to doubt his earlier claims.

Therefore, this is not a lie of Christianity at all, but it may be that some unwise supposed Christians may have made this claim.

7: Noah's Ark has been found on Mt Ararat

Again this is not a matter of relevance to Christian apologetics. Christians assert the truth of the Biblical testimony of the Ark but not any claimed finding of it today. Unless the wood was petrified or covered in mud it is not likely to have survived exposed on a mountain for over 4,300 years.

The Bible explains that 'the Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat' (Gen. 8:4); this is a wide region, not a specific mountain. If the animals in the ark were at the top of a high, glaciated mountain, how would many of them have been able to get down?

Because of glaciers, earthquakes and other cataclysms, the Ark could not have survived unless God preserved it by some miracle. The Bible does not mention its survival or even that the wood was important at all.

This also is not a lie of Christianity.

Denial of the global flood

Tarl also denounces the Biblical statement of the flood itself, saying that there is no evidence for such a deluge.

An answer to this would take very many pages and much cross-referencing, which I have no time for here. Suffice to say the following:

- Every culture in the world has legends of a global flood and very many of these carry very similar themes. The best well-known is the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*. This was written in cuneiform on twelve clay tablets in c.2000 BC, and discovered among the

ruins of Nineveh. The epic contains an account of a great flood that has close parallels with the Biblical story. There has to be some explanation how a similar flood appears in the histories of nations from the Americas to China.

- How else do you explain the presence of a strata of sedimentary rock throughout the world?
- A flood also explains the presence of huge numbers of fossils, including animals caught in the process of giving birth then overcome by water and preserved in mud.
- The rapid burial of petrified logs points to a sudden catastrophe. They are fallen, have branches stripped off but retain their bark. Forests were uprooted and deposited elsewhere. Gradual processes cannot account for this.
- Ephemeral markings e.g. ripple marks, rain imprints, worm trails and animal tracks are found everywhere. The formation of these is not observed today since weather, erosion and sedimentation destroy them. Their preservation depends upon abnormally rapid and complete burial. Even the Sphinx shows signs of water erosion.
- There are numerous cases of preservation of soft tissues in the fossil record, even in the most ancient strata. These could not have been formed by a slow, uniformitarian process. Rapid burial is indicated.
- The vast Tibetan Plateau consists of sedimentary deposits thousands of feet thick, 3 miles above sea level.
- The progression from simple to complex life forms in the fossil record is better explained by the ability of some animals to escape a catastrophe (such as a flood), i.e. marine invertebrates → fish → amphibians → reptiles → mammals. Those that could move further faster got further away from the impending catastrophe and were buried last. Exceptions would be logical in this process but exceptions are a serious problem to evolutionists since they represent a reversal of the progression of life. Note that there are numerous examples of animals buried in an attitude of terror in asphyxiation. There are also caves and fissures where many types of animal from different climatic zones were thrown together by a cataclysm. Evolution cannot explain this.
- Mammoths were killed in millions instantly in north polar regions with flesh and hair intact, food on tongues, eyes and red blood cells well preserved, by a sudden sustained freezing. Uniformitarian principles cannot explain this. Only a sudden catastrophe, such as a flood, makes sense.²

There is very good scientific evidence, and circumstantial historical evidence, for a global flood in history.

6 Ancient Ica stones proves that dinosaurs and humans co-existed.

The Bible does not rely upon these 'ancient' stones.³ However, it is clear that dinosaurs and humans must have co-existed in the pre-flood era according to the Biblical narrative of creation.

In fact there is copious evidence in nature proving this co-existence but it is continually covered up by the establishment since it would contradict evolution and all that is built upon it.

² After the flood Earth's weather became more extreme. Rain, snow, sleet and ice appeared for the first time according to the Bible. In the unstable conditions after the flood, some regions knew an ice age for a time.

³ Supposedly ancient carved stones found in Ica Province of Peru. Some diagrams depict dinosaurs and advanced technology. These are now recognised as a hoax, as it was discovered that they were created by a scheming farmer.

In summary:

Fresh Dinosaur Bones

Many dinosaur bones have been found recently which appear to be remarkably preserved. For example: A research team in Northern Alaska, under geologist Prof. John Whitmore, recovered *Lambeosaurus* from the Liscomb Bone Bed on the glacier fed Colville river, which was frozen but not fossilised and weighed 80 pounds. Some items located there still have ligaments attached. This team brought back over 200 pounds of unfossilised dinosaur bones.⁴ Is it logical to presume that these are 65 million years old?

Dinosaur bones found in Alberta, Canada were encased in ironstone nodules shortly after being buried which prevented water from invading the bones which '*cannot be distinguished from modern bone*'.⁵

Biologist Dr. Margaret Helder alerted lay people that there were documented finds of 'fresh' unfossilised dinosaur bone in 1992 written up in *Geological Society of America Proceedings* abstract 17, p548 and K. Davies, *Journal of Paleontology*, 61(1): p198-200.⁶

Dinosaur Blood

Red blood cells from a T. Rex have been found by scientists at Montana State University. A T. Rex skeleton was unearthed in the USA in 1990 and the bones brought to the lab at Montana State University. It was noticed that some parts of the leg bone had not completely fossilised. Mary Schweitzer and her team investigated a small section under a microscope and found blood vessel channels. Inside these channels were tiny round objects, translucent red with a dark centre and colleagues shouted 'You've got red blood cells'. Schweitzer's boss, famous palaeontologist Jack Horner, suggested that she try to prove that they were not red blood cells. She states that so far they have not been able to do this.⁷

The team has tried to isolate DNA from the specimen but this is difficult since DNA can be found almost everywhere (fungi, bacteria, fingerprints etc.). Unidentifiable DNA sequences were found but it cannot be certain that these are not jumbled sequences from present day organisms. This does not apply to haemoglobin, however, the protein which makes blood red and carries oxygen. The evidence that haemoglobin has survived in this bone is as follows:

- The tissue was coloured reddish brown, the colour of haemoglobin, as was liquid extracted from the dinosaur tissue.
- Haemoglobin contains heme units. Chemical signatures unique to heme were found in the specimens when certain wavelengths of laser light were applied.
- Because it contains iron, heme reacts to magnetic fields differently from other proteins - extracts from this specimen reacted in the same way as modern heme compounds.
- To ensure that samples had not been contaminated with certain bacteria which have heme (but not the protein haemoglobin), extracts of the dinosaur fossil were injected over several weeks into rats. If there was even a minute trace of haemoglobin present in

⁴ *Creation ex nihilo* Magazine Vol 19.3, June-August 1997, p49; Creation Science Foundation (UK), Leicester.

⁵ Philip J. Currie & Eva B. Koppelhus, *101 Questions about Dinosaurs*, Dover Pub. (1966), Ref 1, p12.

⁶ *Creation ex nihilo* Magazine Vol 14 (3), p16

⁷ M. Schweitzer & T. Staedter, The Real Jurassic Park, *Earth Magazine*, June 1997, p55-57.

the T. Rex sample, the rat's immune system would build up antibodies against this compound. This is exactly what happened in carefully controlled experiments.⁸

As haemoglobin cannot survive over 10,000 years, the presence of it in an existing dinosaur bone is testimony that dinosaurs cannot be 65 million years old.

Dinosaur and human footprints together

There are many cases where Dinosaur and human footprints are present in the same rock formation. There are even some cases where these tracks cross over each other. One example of the latter is the Paluxy River in Texas. A film called 'Footprints in the Stone' was made about this particular area. In 1982 the American humanist association financed a team to investigate these tracks and there were accusations of fraud. Further appraisements showed that these accusations were false.⁹

The Paluxy riverbed, near Glen Rose, contains fine tracks of Brontosaurus (now Apatosaurs) and Tyrannosaurs which identify the formation as Cretaceous. The tracks are so well preserved that it is very difficult to maintain that they have sustained weathering for 120 million years. However, in the same riverbed, at the same depth and only a few yards from the dinosaur tracks 'unmistakable human tracks'¹⁰ have also been discovered by Dr. Roland T. Bird of the Dept. of Vertebrate Palaeontology, The American Museum of Natural History.¹¹ Photographs of these prints in limestone are visible in: *Man's Origin, Man's Destiny*, A. E. Wilder-Smith, Bethany Fellowship, (1975) Fig 6-21; including dinosaur and human footprints in the same shot (Fig 21). [Many of the tracks have now been cut out of the rock and sold; others have been washed out in river floods and lost.]

Some educational textbooks have shown photographs of the dinosaur footprints to demonstrate that they exist in 140 million-year-old rock but cropped the human tracks (which are many and include adult and children footprints). Other publications accepted the dinosaur tracks but stated that the human one's were false! Why not the dinosaur one's? There is no evidence that either have been falsified. Due to the exceptional quality, the Brontosaurus prints have been extensively photographed and published.

There are now many places in the world where human and dinosaur footprints have been found in the same rock. Such places include the aforementioned Paluxy River (Texas), Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Arizona, New Mexico, the Turkmenian plateau and Tumbler Ridge in British Columbia.

Human tracks in Carboniferous and Cretaceous rocks

Carboniferous formations are up to 310 million years old according to geologists. Human footprints have been repeatedly found in such formations but are never mentioned in educational textbooks. This cannot be accepted by the scientific establishment:

On sites reaching from Virginia and Pennsylvania through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and westward toward the rocky mountains, prints similar to those above [referring to several accompanying photos] and from five to ten inches long have been found on the surface of exposed rock, and more keep turning up as the years go by. ...

If man, or even his ape ancestor, or even the ape ancestor's early mammal ancestor, existed as far back as in the carboniferous period in any shape, then the whole science

⁸ Creation ex nihilo Magazine Vol 19:4, September-November 1997.

⁹ See Malcolm Bowden, *True Science Agrees with the Bible*, p187-188, Sovereign Pub.; *Ape Men Fact or Fallacy*, p234, Sovereign Pub..

¹⁰ The footprints have clear toe, heel and arch imprints.

¹¹ R.T. Bird, *Natural History*, (May, 1939), p225, 302.

of geology is so completely wrong that all geologists will resign their jobs and take up truck driving. Hence, for the present at least, science rejects the attractive explanation that man made these mysterious prints.¹²

The Missouri tracks are 9½ long and just over 4 inches broad at the heel. The width at the forward end of the track, by the toes is 6 inches. The prints have five toes and an arch which is distinctly human. The being that left the prints was a biped which walked upright. Prof. C. W. Gilmore of the Smithsonian Institution collaborated on investigating these finds and *Antiquities* published photographs of the tracks.¹³

Similar tracks have been found in Arizona, California and New Mexico. Some of these tracks are large, five toed humans, paralleling the giants mentioned in the Old Testament.¹⁴ Like the Glen Rose tracks, they appear in Cretaceous formations.

Cave drawings of dinosaurs

R. Daly reports that in 1924 a drawing of a dinosaur was found on the walls of a canyon in Arizona.¹⁵ In 1929 the Curator of a Californian museum, found a carving of a dinosaur 15 feet high and 80 feet long on its hind legs in the same canyon.¹⁶ There are many other such artefacts.

Human cultural items in dinosaur rocks

Again there are very many of these which are usually ignored by the scientific press, not all of them can be fakes. A few include:

- A nail was found in Cretaceous rock.¹⁷
- Human skeletons were found in Cretaceous rock.¹⁸
- The jawbone of a child in Miocene coal.¹⁹

The sheer amount of documented evidence (only a very small portion of which is referred to here) shows that there are serious questions which have to be answered by evolutionist critics. What is concerning is that many of these items are either ignored or disparaged without proper evaluation by scientific establishments.

Dragons in cultural memory

Much could be said on this subject, but a few thoughts will have to suffice. All human cultures retain stories, words and legends about monsters and dragons which required destruction by men. Why would people possess words for dragons? Can they simply be dismissed in the same way as elves and goblins? Even the Bible mentions Behemoth and Leviathan. These narratives can only be explained as poetic descriptions of dinosaurs like Apatosaurus and Hadrosaurs. Crocodiles and elephants do not approach a satisfactory explanation. Acceptance of the existence of dinosaurs as dragons contemporaneous with men is no more difficult to accept than the massive achievements of the ancients in

¹² Albert C. Ingalls, *The Carboniferous Mystery*, *Scientific American* (Jan 1940), CLXII, 14. Cited in Wilder-Smith, p139-140.

¹³ *Antiquities*, May 10, 1938.

¹⁴ Gen 6:4; Num 13:33; Deut 2:11,20, 3:11,13; Jos 12:4, 13:12, 15:8; 17:16; 1 Chron 20:4,6,8; 1 Sam 17; 2 Sam 21:16,18,20,22;

¹⁵ R. Daly, *Earth's Most Challenging Mysteries*, (1972), p72, referring to *Evolutionary Geology*, p133.

¹⁶ See Malcolm Bowden, *True Science Agrees with the Bible*, p187-188, Sovereign Pub.

¹⁷ E. Fange, *Time Upside Down*, *Creation Research Society Qtly*, June 1974, 11/1, p16.

¹⁸ C. Burdick, *Discovery of Human Skeletons in Cretaceous Formation*, in 'Speak to the Earth', Presbyterian and Reformed Pub. (1975), p127ff; and *Creation Research Society Qtly*, 10/2:109.

¹⁹ E. Fange, *Time Upside Down*, *Creation Research Society Qtly*, June 1974, 11/1, p16.

building a pyramid with such a huge amount of geodesic and astronomic information contained in its measurements. So much so that it is impossible for modern man to repeat such a structure.

So, there is scientific evidence that dinosaur fossils are recent not millions of years old and that man co-existed with them.

5: The sounds of hell.

This regards a hoax audio clip of sound recorded from deep within the earth.

This has nothing to do with Biblical Christianity. In fact hell is a place prepared for the Devil, his angels and all non-believers but it is not inhabited yet. The Bible explains that the dead go to Hades, the place of departed spirits to await sentencing. Condemnation to hell only occurs after the Final Judgment, which is yet to occur.

I understand that the groups of supposed Christians claiming this is real are in fact organisations that I would consider as heretics and apostates. This nonsense has nothing to do with true Christian apologetics.

4: Many scientists are converting to Christianity.

Again this has nothing to do with Christian apologetics.

I, and everyone else, have no idea how many scientists are Christian. However, I suspect that it is far greater than people guess. I have met many and read the books of many.

There are grounds to say that many modern scientists are now denying Darwinian evolution but not that they are all converting to Christianity.

Whether they are or not does not impact on Christian apologetics.

Tarl also claims that as people become more educated (i.e. including scientists) they tend not to be interested in organised religion.

Whether that is true today I cannot say, but it is certainly not true in history. Most of the greatest minds in Western culture in the modern age were either Christians or Theists. Very many of the greatest scientific advancements were made by Christians like Isaac Newton or Michael Faraday.

3: The existence of Jesus is indisputable.

See the arguments and quotes in number 9.

No significant historian will deny that Jesus existed, even if he hates Christianity. Josephus' record alone is sufficient to disprove this, written within 40 years of Jesus' resurrection. The multiple Christian witnesses in literature, both in terms of Scripture and the early church theologians, provide hundreds of citations about Jesus life, death and resurrection and some of these were written within a dozen years of the cross.

Why didn't more Roman historians write about Jesus?

Because their life may have depended on what they said.

Asserting that Jesus was God and that he was raised from the dead was idolatry to Roman emperor worship. Highlighting the wonders of Jesus' ministry would have been an affront to Roman religion. They would have treated Christianity just like one of the many pagan superstitions or Greek mystery religions – not worth bothering with.

The same applies to Jewish historians. The Jews did everything they could to hide the fact that Jesus was raised, making claims that the disciples stole the body (overcoming Roman soldiers and becoming outlaws!). In fact the disciples were initially fearful and in hiding until Jesus came to them.

By the time of Josephus things had changed. Christianity was becoming a major force in the empire with Christians openly worshipping Jesus from Britannia to Persia. Also Josephus could put Jesus in the context of his own people's history.

2: The present KJV represents the Christian canon.

Tarl mentions the various Gnostic Gospels and other pseudepigrapha. He also mentions that the canon was decided at Nicea '*which was a Catholic thing*'. All of this is actually wrong.

The early church was flooded with all sorts of literature claiming divine origin and of more sober stories about Jesus which were well-meant but were flawed. The apostles realised that they had to record their own authoritative testimony, which God inspired, as he said he would. Thus the Gospels were written by apostles or apostolic delegates under apostolic control. Matthew was an apostle. Mark was a colleague of Paul and wrote under the direction of Peter. Luke was a colleague of Paul and wrote under Paul's directions. John was the disciple that Jesus loved. The inspiration behind the books of the NT was readily understood by the churches at large, but it took time for this to be formalised.

The Gnostic gospels were fraudulent and written from an apostate perspective, mixing heresy and mysticism with unsubstantiated claims. These were discarded by the early church. If you read such things, as well as well meaning other early Christian writings, you can see why they are not deemed to be inspired.

The early church had to gather to determine which of the many books extant were authoritative and this took some time. It was not a formal decision made by a committee, but was an organic thing where the church gradually came to the same conclusion and then this was formally accepted by an ecumenical council of churches, but not Nicea. It was formally ratified by the third council of Carthage in 397 AD. However, the NT was already determined by the second century as various lists of books show.

The Council of Nicea was not '*a Catholic thing*' since the papacy had not been formally established at that time. The church at Rome was important but the bishop of Rome was not yet dominant over other metropolitan bishops. In fact, if anything, the council was dominated by eastern theologians under the authority of Constantine.

So the Christian canon of sacred books is accurately represented in the King James Bible, as in many other Bible versions.

1: The Book of Revelation refers to the end of the world.

Tarl states that it was written in the time of tyrannical emperors and refers to Nero (whose gematria²⁰ is 666) as the antichrist and was not written to represent the end of the world.

Well this is plain fantasy. In fact the book itself states that it was written about the whole Gospel age, the period from the time of Christ to the end of the world and afterwards. It was written to encourage people throughout all church history that God is in control of world events, including church persecution – the things that are now and the things that will take place afterwards.

²⁰ A Kabbalistic method of interpreting the Hebrew scriptures by computing the numerical value of words, based on those of their constituent letters.

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. Rev 1:19

Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this. Rev 4:1

The end of the world is described in various places, along with the events, which will transpire prior to the end. This is chiefly explained in chapters such as chapter 13, 17, 18 etc. It explains the rise of a fascist world empire that is ruled by Satan through proxies on earth who will dominate politics, culture and religion, while persecuting Christians world-wide.

The end of all things is explained: the sentencing of the devil and evil men to the Lake of Fire (hell) and the restoration of the earth as a paradise for Christians under the reign of Christ. For example: the new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1); sentencing sinners to hell (Rev 21:8); the bride of Christ, the new heavenly Jerusalem, the city of God (Rev 21:9-10) – these are all future events after this world has ended.

Hardly anyone in history has denied that Revelation contains references to the end of the world²¹ (even those that promoted the view that Nero was the antichrist).²²

Nero

Regarding the 666 character (13:18), it was not a reference to Nero who had been dead for nearly 30 years when Revelation was written in about 95. In fact the emperor persecuting Christians at the time, who had banished John to Patmos where he wrote Revelation, was Domitian, not Nero.

Six is the Biblical symbol for man, mankind, falling short of perfection (number 7). Three is symbolic of God, the Trinity. Six cubed (to the power of three) is symbolic of man trying to be God; the ultimate act of rebellion. This was the original lie of the Devil ('you will be like God, knowing good and evil', Gen 3:5) and in the end it will be the lie (Rm 1:25) that permeates mankind on the Earth. Man will promote himself as God, following Satan – then the end will come.

In short, Nero is not in the frame as the antichrist and Revelation is not solely about his time period (Nero died in 68).

Why didn't the end of the world come in the time of Jesus since Jesus said it would be in that generation?

He refers to such verses as:

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Matt 16:28

Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. Matt 23:36

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Matt 24:34

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Mk 13:38

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Lk 21:32

²¹ The tiny minority that do, Preterits, have always been denied as heretics.

²² Many foolishly claimed that historical characters were the antichrist (beast), including: Nero, Napoleon, Hitler and the Pope.

Tarl also condemns Christians for taking such verses metaphorically but taking others literally in a cherry-picking fashion. Let's unpack this.

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Matt 16:28

And He said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power'. Mk 9:1

But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God. Lk 9:27

The eschatological symbolism employed by Jesus here pictures the triumph of the kingdom; Jesus is not specifically teaching about the end in great detail; he does that in Matt 24, Mk 13 and Lk 21.

Seeing the Son of Man coming in His kingdom may refer to a number of incidents where Jesus was revealed in glory demonstrating his kingship. For example, the transfiguration, the resurrection, or even Pentecost. The kingdom of God was already in the hearts of men and he was already king but the disciples would soon see objective expressions of this. Since the transfiguration immediately follows this incident in the narrative, it seems logical that Jesus was referring to that expression of his kingly power.

Another possibility is that 'till they see the kingdom of God present with power' refers to the church, which was then few and despised, but shortly afterwards would encompass many thousands. All the apostles, except Judas, lived to see the awakening on the day of Pentecost and the vast numbers of conversions that followed.

Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. Matt 23:36

This is the culmination of a condemnation of the Pharisees. This condemnation, 'on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth' (v 35) would be enacted upon that generation, which it was in the Jewish rebellion, the destruction of the temple and the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later, i.e. within their lifetimes. [In the OT a generation is 40 years.]

Matt 24:34, Mk 13:38, Lk 21:32 are also parallel passages.

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

This is within the passages that talk about the end and what leads up to it.

However, this is very complicated. Jesus uses rhetoric that combines two separate things, the one being a picture of the other. He refers to the destruction of Jerusalem as a cataclysmic event, which he predicts and uses this as a rhetoric device to picture the end of the world, another cataclysm. The two weave together in the speech.

It is the destruction of Jerusalem that that particular generation would witness, which occurred 40 years later.

So there is no problem here whatsoever. There is no discrepancy. The Biblical record holds true. Christians are not being disingenuous.

Conclusion

I have no ill will to Tarl; indeed I hope that he reads this explanation (which I will send to him) and that he reconsiders the claims of Christ and his Gospel. Indeed, I will pray for him to have a revelation of Christ and see the truth of the Gospel.

Despite my respect for his acute political analysis, I am afraid that on this subject he is just plain wrong.

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