

Notes from the Panorama of Science

The Dinosaurs of Job 40 and 41

Introduction

One of the main purposes of Job is to call us to a firm belief in Creation and in the plan of the ages: that is, redemption; Paul's preaching always began with this in the preaching of the Gospel to the Greeks and to those not understanding special creation. This integral part of Job shows that God was the Creator and Sustainer of creation. As a part of this demonstration of God's majestic and humbling creation, Job 40 and 41 recounts a description of two now extinct and probably reptilian creatures, Behemoth and the Leviathan. Behemoth is likely a gargantuan sauropod while Leviathan is possibly a monstrous blue whale-sized ichthyosaur or mosasaur. Verse-by-verse descriptions are discussed here. Also, in this brief study, the Creation days, 5 and 6, are discussed, and important Biblical facts regarding dinosaurs (and reptilian marine beasts) are presented. These mighty fearsome beasts lead us to think of our great, terrible, and mighty God as well as our need to remember that the Lord is ever-merciful and forgiving.

The Biblical Foundations

The following is an update on standard creationist thinking regarding dinosaurs and the Christian.

1. God created the large marine reptiles and winged reptiles (pterosaurs) on Day 5, and dinosaurs and man on Day 6 of Creation Week.

In verse 21 (Genesis 1), "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good," the

"whales" here included horrific monsters like the large marine reptiles. I note that blue whales are today's largest animal and perhaps the most massive of all time.

2. Most Dinosaurs died in the global Flood of Genesis, Chapters 7–8.

Why is this? In Genesis 6:5,7; 7:4b, we read, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. Genesis 7:21–23 states emphatically, "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." This was God's punishment on mankind and his dominion for his wickedness. Secular scientists do generally accept that some major catastrophe as the impact of an asteroid killed the dinosaurs. The main secular belief is that a 10–15 km asteroid struck the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, known as the Chicxulub crater, but this is disputed (Clarey, 2017).

The actual catastrophe, which may have involved asteroid and meteor collisions (as well as catastrophic plate

tectonics), was the Flood of Noah. 2 Peter 3:6 states, "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." Certainly, without God's providential care and intervention, even of the Ark, all life would have ended. Later, most of the dinosaurs which had been taken on the Ark (young ones) died due to the climatic changes or by hunting by humans. There may have been some dinosaurs surviving from the Ark still living at Job's time for him to see and possibly even at the present time in remote regions.

3. Dinosaurs were originally plant eaters but some became carnivorous following the Curse (Genesis 1:29–30; 2:16; 9:3–5; Staubach, 1991).

4. Men and dinosaurs lived contemporaneously.

Most likely, juveniles or young adults were put on the Ark. The size of dinosaurs taken on the Ark only averaged 70–100 kg (154–320 pounds), or about sheep sized (Clarey and Tomkins, 2015).

5. Job had first-hand experiences with the post-Flood environment.

It is possible that Job's experiences occurred only 300 years or so after the Flood. (Job 22:15–17; Morris, 1988). The Flood was followed by a brief ice age in Northern climates making more rain and snow even in Job's now arid climate. Job 38:22 states, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail." Job 38:29–30 continues, "Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? ...and the face of the deep is frozen."

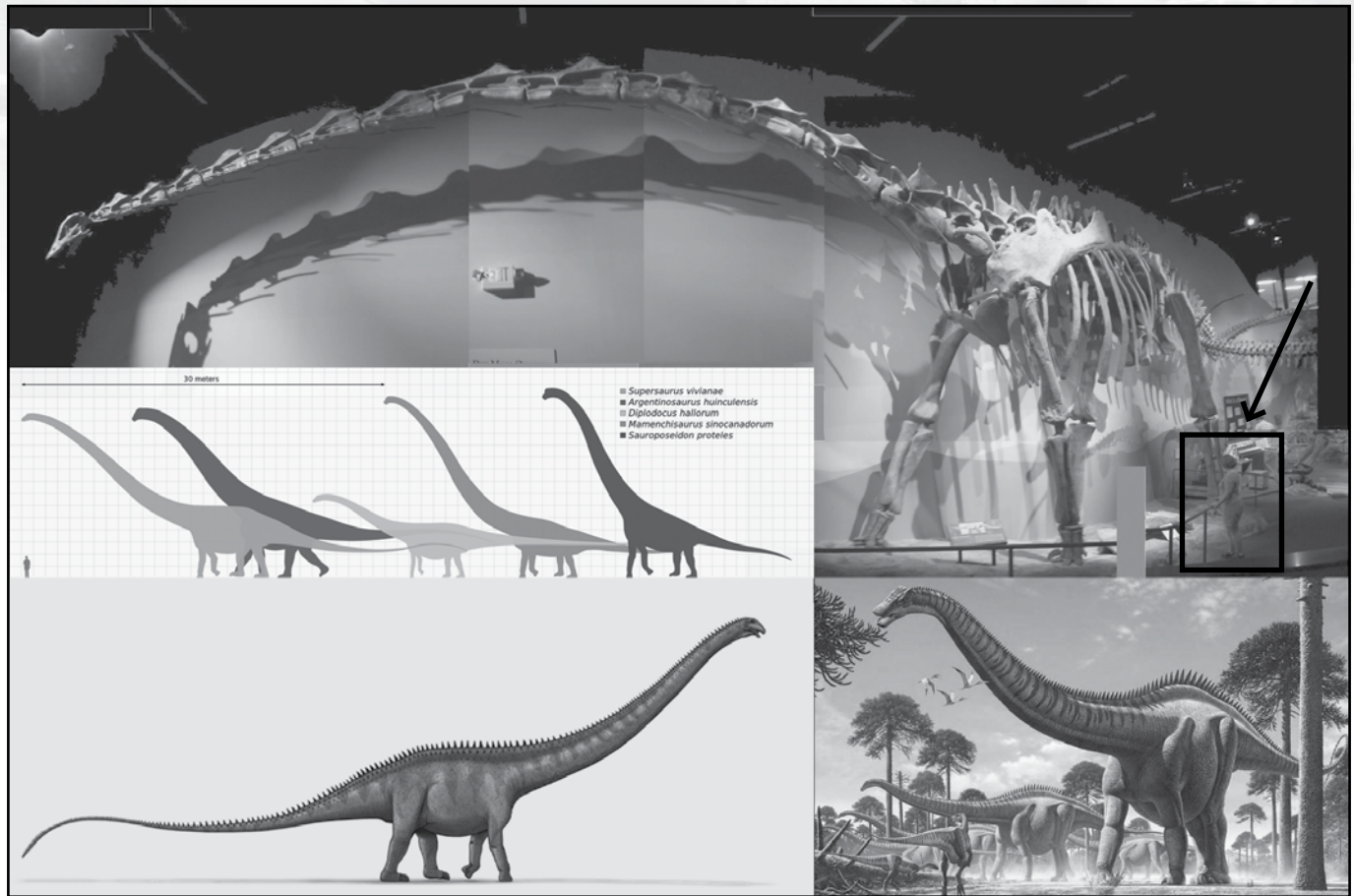


Figure 1. From the description, Behemoth is a sauropod. One of the largest sauropods unearthed is the Supersaurus. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/70/Supersaurus_moal.jpg.

Uz is probably in Aram in the area of Damascus (Syria) today, with a cool arid climate (dry, less than 10 inches of rain per year).

6. One of the main purposes of the book of Job is to call us to a firm belief in Creation.

One of the main purposes of Job is to call us to a firm belief in Creation and in the plan of the ages, and in redemption; Paul’s preaching always began with this in the preaching of the Gospel to the Greeks and to those not understanding special creation. This integral part of Job shows that God was the Creator and Sustainer of creation. The other was to

show Satan and the world that the real reason the Christian serves God is not selfishness—that God gives us special favor and gifts—but that the Christian loves God because he created us, loves us unconditionally, and because He gave Himself for us on the Cross.

The Introduction to the Discussion (Job 40:1–15): God Confronts Job from a Whirlwind

In the previous chapters, 38 and 39, God speaks directly to Job. He tells about the wonders of nature that he has created. He talks with him about the heavens and his animals. Job was a true man

of God. He served the Lord with his whole heart, and had a good testimony. He revered God, and he humbled himself before God. But don’t think for one moment that Job was without sin. He was a sinner like all of us. In his conversations,

- 1) He complained to God. (Job 19:7–12)
- 2) He presumed that God was mistreating him. (Job 16:6–7)
- 3) Job acted like he knew more than God: He hoped God would let him defend himself and set Him straight. (Job 23:1–9)

But when he was confronted with the majesty and intricacy of creation and the

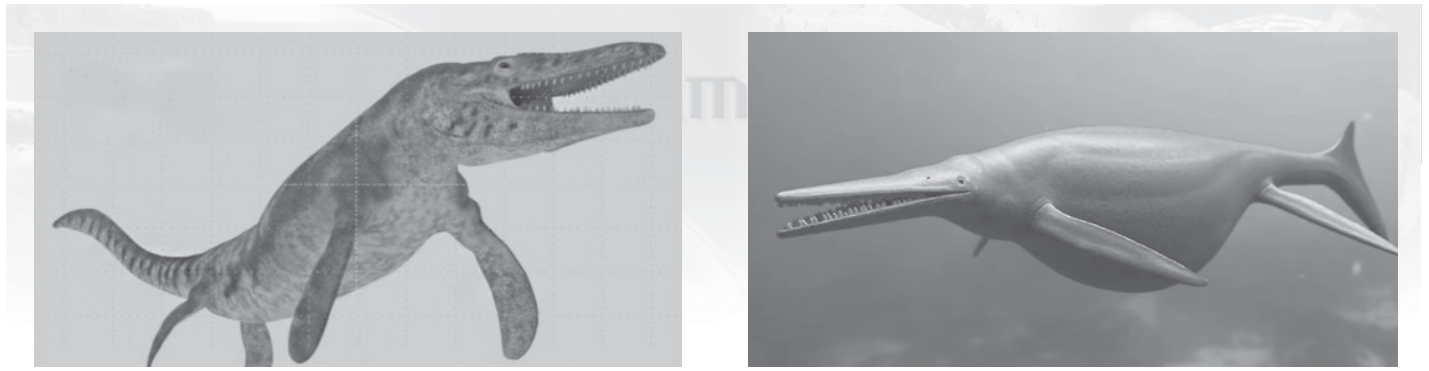


Figure 2. Mosasaur on left. On right is the *Stenopterygius quadriscissus* or “Lil stock Monster” (largest ichthyosaurs, length: 120’; larger than blue whales).

purpose it implies, his problems become insignificant and his own complaints and questions, frivolous. Job could only acknowledge his vileness and could no longer defend his righteousness. He awaited further instruction as God gave a revelation of two of the fearsome animals of creation—Behemoth and Leviathan. He spends nearly two chapters (40, 41) telling him about two beasts, the most fearsome beasts of all time (Job 40:19—“He is the chief of the ways of God,” but now extinct).

Behemoth, Job 40

Verse 40:15 declares, “Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee [He was created the same day as man]; he eateth grass as an ox.” The Behemoth is described here as a vegetarian. Verse 16 declares, “Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in his stomach muscles.” It is muscular and powerful. Verse 17 says, “He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.” It has a long strong tail which swings about like a stiff cedar tree rather than a snake. This is used to identify the beast as a sauropod. Verse 18, “His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his ribs are like bars of iron.” His bones and ribs are like bars of brass and steel. “He is the chief of the ways of God,” (alive then, now extinct:), “he that made him can make his sword to approach unto



Figure 3. *Spinosaurus* depiction, in usual habitat (coastal waters).

him.” He is largest or chief of God’s land animals. Only God could slay or trap him. God would not allow dinosaurs to proliferate with man since they could destroy him from off the Earth. Verse 20 states, “Surely the mountains

bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.” This dinosaur eats tons of food each day, mountains are his playgrounds. He likely runs in packs, groups, or herds. Verse 21 recounts, “He lieth under the shady trees, in the



Figure 4. Ferocious teeth of a mosasaur. (A giant *Tylosaurus proriger* mosasaur on display at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.)



Figure 5. Eyes of Ichthyosaurus. https://www.reddit.com/r/Nature_wasmetal/comments/feeyuu/eye_of_the_ichthyosaur/.

covert of the reed, and fens.” (The word, “fens” is בצה or bitstsâh which means “marsh,” or “marshy places.”) Verse 22, “The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.” He dwells in the deep jungle, in marshy areas. Verse 23 states, “Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.” He drinks great amounts of water and is unconcerned with rapids. He is definitely a land dweller. Sauropods have a distinctly



Figure 6. Bombardier Beetle spraying high temperature jet of gas. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3sxJNt8CYw>.

long and muscular tail, long necks, massive elephant-like bodies and legs, and relatively small heads. This appears to be the beasts referred to here.

The Leviathan Job 41

Editor’s comment: Although there is no way to know exactly what leviathan was, previous authors have speculated it was a *Spinosaurus* (Clarey, 2015) or a *Deinosuchus* (Thomas and Biddle, 2023). Clarey makes the case that Leviathan like the *Spinosaurus* was a semi-aquatic reptile. See Figure 3.

(Here, the author shows that the mosasaur has some attributes [like the fossilized skin of a crocodile] yet is an ocean-going reptile, *Ichthyosaurus* has the fantastically large eyes as mentioned in Scripture and has the gigantic size. I regard the *Spinosaurus* as a coastal marsh-dwelling dinosaur. See the following.)

Job 41:1 recounts, “Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?” Psalms 104:26 recounts, “There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.” Leviathan is

a great marine reptile. Job 41:6 notes, “Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?” This beast would provide a great seafood banquet. Verse 7 states, “Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears?” This beast is impossible to catch! Verse 4 to 5 says, “Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible roundabout. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal.”

It has a great mouth, jaws, teeth, and is tightly scaled, Figure 4. Verse 18 states, “By his neesings (sneezings) a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.” It has great eyes (The *Ichthyosaurus* has 11-inch eyes. See Figure 5.). Does this refer to bioluminescence or fire? Verse 19 says, “Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out.

Verses 20–21 states, “Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.” How could an animal be fire breathing? There is a beetle called the bombardier beetle. This beetle is a native of Central



Figure 7. Skin of a Tylosaurus (large 15-m Mosasaur). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosasaur#/media/File:Tylosaurus_skin.jpg.

America, and has a nozzle in its hind end that acts like a little flame thrower. It sprays a high-temperature jet of gas (fueled by hydroquinones and hydrogen peroxide with oxidative enzymes) for protection. Now, if a Central American beetle has a built-in flame thrower, so could Leviathan! (See Figure 6.)

The history of every culture is filled with stories of fire-breathing dragons. Many fossil dinosaur skulls contain unexplained, empty passages. Scientists have not been able to guess the reason for these passages. Would it make sense that some dinosaurs used these passages as “gas tanks” for the combustible mixture used to breathe smoke and fire?

Job 41:25 states, “When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves.” The Leviathan has tremendous size. When he rises out of the water, he is a fearful sight! Verse 27 states, “He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.” Verse 26 says, “Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.” He is very powerful, fearless, fearsome. Verse 30 says, “Sharp stones are under him: he spreadeth sharp

pointed things upon the mire. Its skin is such that he can rest on sharp surfaces and leave impressions. Skin impressions of an ichthyosaur appear to be rough and scaly. (Figures 7 and 8.)

A statement is given about the mosasaur skin in the scientific journal *Biology Letters*: “The dermal cover comprises keeled and possibly osteoderm (armor like skin and bones)-reinforced scales that presumably contributed to an anterior–posterior channeling of the water flow and a reduction of microturbulent burst activities along the surface of the skin” (Lindgren et al., 2009). This skin is noted on present-day crocodiles.

Verses 31–32 say, “He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment. He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary.” He has bioluminescence. “Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.” He is the most ferocious, fearless beast on earth. Isaiah 27:1 states, “In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that

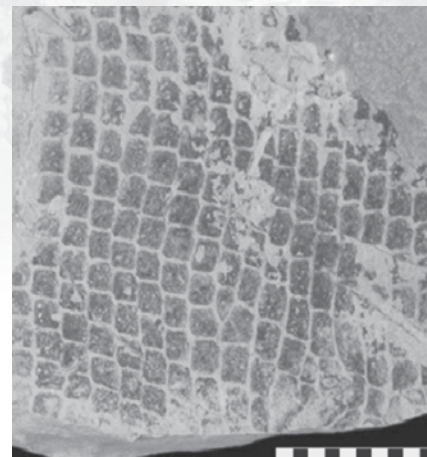


Figure 8. Mosasaur skin. (100 cm scale). Scales from a claimed 85 million-year-old mosasaur; Bo Pagh Schultz / Johan Lindgren / Johan A. Gren. *Science News*, 9 January 2014.

is in the sea.” He is a sea-going reptile, a dragon. A mosasaur reproduction is given in Figure 9.

The Purpose of These Terrible Creatures

When we think of the mighty fearsome beasts we need to think of our great and terrible, mighty God! John R. Rice (1977) has said, “We ought to fear the dreadful and terrible God.” Nehemiah 9:32a says, “Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God,” Deuteronomy 7:21 states, “Thou shalt not be afraid at them: for the Lord thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.” Deuteronomy 10:17 states, “For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:” Hebrews 10:31 states, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” But we also need to remember the Lord is ever-merciful and forgiving. Psalm 103:8,10 says, “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow

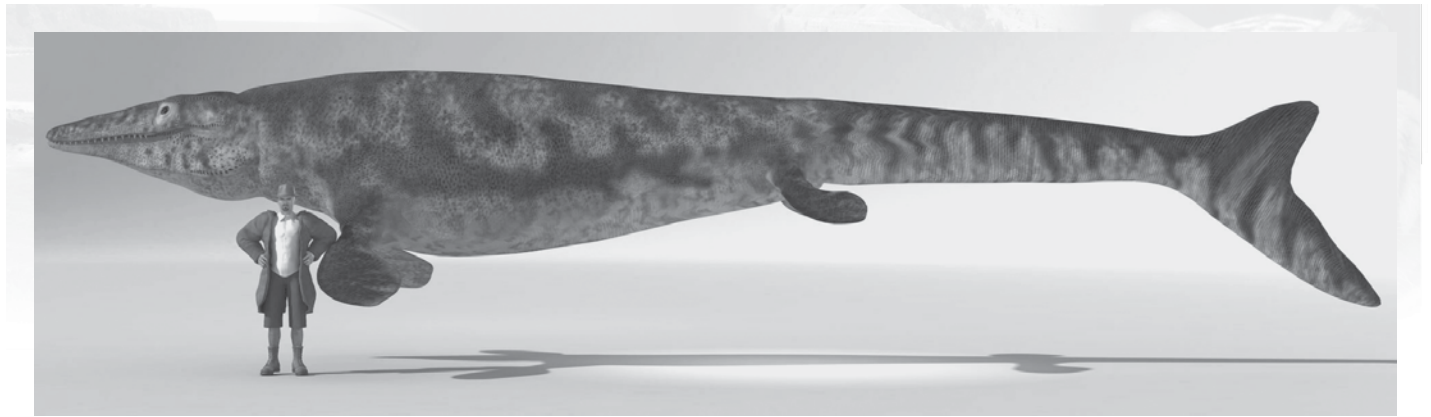


Figure 9. The mosasaur (reached lengths up to 57 feet) compared to a man like Job. <https://www.fossilera.com/pages/how-large-did-mosasaurs-get>.

to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.” But regardless, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the mighty Creator God.

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