

# In the Beginning

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In the beginning, the Big Bang created the heavens and the earth. Actually, that's false. The heavens came about 400 million years after the Big Bang, and the earth came about 9.1 billion years after the Big Bang. So the heavens and the earth did not even exist in the beginning at all. Rather, they came about a very long time after the beginning.

Why bother with such trivial details? There is an old expression, "the devil is in the details." It is true. Since the beginning, the Devil has always been in the details, as the Prophet says, "In the beginning, the Holy One spoke to the Devil."<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since the Devil was in the beginning with God, the Devil has been in the details since the beginning. This being the case, if we study the details of the beginning, then perhaps we can expose the Devil. So, without further ado, let us examine the details of the beginning.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." So begins the first chapter of Genesis. The Bible said it; therefore Jesus believes it – right? Not necessarily. Jesus Christ never quoted Genesis 1. You can search the entirety of the gospels, and you will not find one single instance in which Jesus Christ directly quoted Genesis 1, nor did he ever unequivocally affirm its truth. Some point to Mark 10:6-8 as a place where he did, but upon closer examination, Mark 10:6-8 is an affirmation of the second chapter of Genesis, and as such does not directly pertain to the first chapter of Genesis.<sup>2</sup> So let's skip Genesis 1 for now and fast-forward to Genesis 2.

## Adam and Eve and the Cave-People Too

Adam and Eve had neighbors. Their neighbors were cave-people who lived alongside them. The Biblical storyline, starting in Genesis 2, implicitly alludes to these cave-people several times. The term

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<sup>1</sup> *Yasna* 45:2, from the Gathas of Zarathustra

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:6-8, Matthew 19:5

## Snakes

Snakes evolved from four-legged lizards. They lost their legs when they began to slither. A very large number of intermediary forms in the fossil record provide evidence for this. *Coniasaurus* was a snake-like reptile that had an elongated neck, torso, and tail, but also had four short limbs.<sup>88</sup> Several fossils yield a range of dates from the early Cenomanian to the mid Santonian,<sup>89</sup> which is from 99.6 to 84.5 million years ago. *Haasiophis* was an advanced snake that had small yet distinct hind legs. It is from the early Cenomanian, corresponding to about 99 to 95 million years ago.<sup>90</sup> *Pachyrhachis* was an advanced snake from the Cenomanian that had well-developed hind legs, but no front legs.<sup>91</sup> *Podophis* was another advanced snake with legs from the same time.<sup>92</sup>

There are also a number of snake-like forms with limbs that lived in aquatic environments. The sea monster lizards, the mosasaurs, are considered to be a relative of snakes, on account of shared characters such as thecodont tooth attachment,<sup>93</sup> elongated body form, skull similarities, reduced limb size, a second row of teeth on the upper palate, and kinetic jaws (meaning the jaw can crack open like a break-action shotgun to enlarge the mouth). Another marine squamate, *Adriosaurus*, lived 95 million years ago. It was similar to a snake in that it had a long

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<sup>88</sup> Caldwell, M W; Cooper, J. *Redescription, Paleobiogeography, and Palaeoecology of Coniasaurus Crassidens Owen, 1850 (Squamata) from the English Chalk (Cretaceous; Cenomanian)*. 1999, Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 127, p 423-452

<sup>89</sup> Shimada, Kenshu. *Coniasaurus Owen, 1850 (Reptilia: Squamata), from the Upper Cretaceous Niobrara Chalk of Western Kansas*. 2006, Journal of Paleontology 80(3), p 589-593

<sup>90</sup> Rieppel, Olivier; Zaher, Hussam; Tchernov, Eitan; Polcyn, Michael. *The Anatomy and Relationships of Haasiophis Terrasanctus, A Fossil Snake with Well-Developed Hind Limbs from the Mid-Cretaceous of the Middle East*. 2003, Journal of Paleontology 77(3), p 539, 542

<sup>91</sup> Zaher, Hussam; Rieppel, Olivier. *On the Phylogenetic Relationships of the Cretaceous Snakes with Legs, with Special Reference to Pachyrhachis Problematicus (Squamata, Serpentes)*. 2002, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 22(1), p 104-109

<sup>92</sup> Rage J C; Escuillie, F. *Un nouveau serpent bipe`de du Ce´nomanien (Cre´tace´)*. *Implications phyle´tiques*. 2000, Comptes Rendus de l'Acade´mie des Sciences de Paris, Sciences de la Terre et des Plane`tes 330, p 513-520

<sup>93</sup> Lee, M S Y. *On Snake-like Dentition in Mosasaurian Lizards*. 1997, Journal of Natural History 31, 30314

years prior to *Archaeopteryx*. Hence, it is still possible that the perfect intermediary might be discovered.

After *Archaeopteryx*, early birds retained certain reptilian characters for a long time, such as toothed mouths instead of the typical beaks of modern birds. Their transition into truly modern forms was a long time in coming, and did not reach fruition until the Eocene and Oligocene – long after the dinosaurs became extinct. Thus, the amount of time it took natural selection to perfect the new form was much longer than the time it took rapid evolution to build the basic structure of the new form. As with the snakes, it appears that there are two mechanisms for evolution in play – rapid evolution of new forms by means of an unknown force, followed by gradual evolution of existing forms by means of natural selection.

### **Pterosaurs**

Pterosaurs were winged reptiles that ruled the skies during the time of the dinosaurs. They first appear in the fossil record near the Carnian-Norian boundary, soon after the dinosaurs made their debut, and they went extinct during the same catastrophe that the dinosaurs did. They were also closely related to dinosaurs.

Rapid evolution best describes the origins of the pterosaurs. According to Haines and Chambers,

In particular, pterosaurs suddenly appear in the fossil record as highly specialized fliers with no clear intermediates before them.<sup>112</sup>

They go from no representation in the fossil record to suddenly very adequate representation in the Norian, and quickly radiate into several new species to fill various ecological niches. The earliest among them is *Eudimorphodon*, which is found in various rocks of early Norian age, such as the Fleming Fjord formation.<sup>113</sup> Moreover, one pterosaur feature that was at one time considered advanced, namely the head crests of the

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<sup>112</sup> Haines, Tim; Chambers, Paul. *The Complete Guide to Prehistoric Life*. 2006, Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY, p 72

<sup>113</sup> Jenkins, F A Jr; Shubin N H; Gatesby S M; Padian; K. *A Diminutive Pterosaur (Pterosauria: Eudimorphodontidae) from the Greenlandic Triassic*. 2001, Harvard University, Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 156(1), p 151-170

# Evolution in the Bible

## Fallen Angels

The book of Enoch contains a rather disturbing passage that suggests a paranormal or supernatural element is involved with the process of evolution. Enoch says,

I saw a vision, and behold, I saw in the sky many stars falling and throwing themselves to the first star. They became cows like other cows, and they grazed with them. I looked again and behold, I saw all of them getting erect penises, and they started mounting the female cows. They got pregnant, and gave birth to elephants, camels, and donkeys.<sup>182</sup>

This passage is significant because it seems to convey the occurrence of what we today would call macro-evolution, that is, the evolution from one species into other entirely different species – in this case, cows becoming elephants, camels, and donkeys. Enoch implies that evolution was catalyzed by interference from stars that fell from heaven, who effected an evolutionary change by breeding biologically. Fallen stars are synonymous with fallen angels throughout ancient Jewish and Christian literature.

What is the book of Enoch? The book of Enoch is among the most important books found in the Bible of the Dead Sea Scrolls – the oldest Bible known to archaeology. The ancient Essenes, who were contemporaries of Jesus, lived in the desert to the east of Jerusalem. They copied books of the Bible onto scrolls, which were discovered in modern times, and are collectively known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They are the oldest copies of the Bible in the archaeological record.

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<sup>182</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Enoch 86:3-5