

Pope Benedict's Recent Statement on Evolution

What It Really Means

In light of Pope Benedict's recent statement last week that the theory of evolution is not at odds with the Christian faith,¹ a few qualifications are in order.

First, if it could be shown that the theory of evolution were true, then we as faithful Catholics would have to admit that the book of Genesis must be interpreted in light of this scientific fact. We would simply conclude that Genesis is merely a symbolic book giving symbolic information, not literal history. So, in that sense, we can affirm what the pope has said, at least indirectly. As St. Augustine once said:

But if they are able to establish their doctrine with proofs that cannot be denied, we must show that this statement of Scripture...is not opposed to the truth of their conclusions.²

But affirming the pope's statement just begs the questions:

(1) Does the pope know that evolution is a fact, or, for that matter, even a legitimate hypothesis?

(2) Has the theory of evolution been proven or has it been falsified?

As to the first question, I think it is an undeniable fact that Pope Benedict is not a scientist and has not sufficiently studied the pros and cons of evolutionary theory to be able to give any support as to whether it is true or false. In fact, I know that Pope Benedict has not sufficiently delved into the scientific issues of evolutionary theory, since the people who are close to him and have actually talked to him about this particular subject have told me so. In this case, I think these words of St. Augustine ring true:

To them I answer that these things should be examined with very subtle and demanding arguments to determine truly whether or not it is so; but I do not have the time to undertake and pursue these investigations, nor should such time be available to those whom we desire to instruct for their salvation and for the needs and benefit of the Holy Church.³

As such, Pope Benedict's recent statement that evolutionary theory is not at odds with the Christian faith is simply a polite gesture to the scientific community that even if evolution were proven to be true, it would not falsify, much less harm, the Christian faith. True science and true religion cannot be at odds. It is only false science and false religion that will constantly be at odds.

¹English:hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070724_clero-cadore_en.htm; Italian:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2007/july/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070724_clero-cadore_it.html.

² The Literal Interpretation of Genesis Book 2, Chapter 9, paragraph 21.

³ The Literal Meaning of Genesis, Book 2, Chapter 10.

By the same token, however, a Catholic must be diligent to investigate the scientific issues surrounding the theory of evolution and not be intimidated by every Richard Dawkins or Stephen Gould who, as the world's version of esteemed scientists, claim that evolutionary theory is true. Not only are these men avowed atheists, the evidence shows that they have little if any scientific evidence for their claims. Their goal is to make it appear as if Genesis has nothing to say regarding man's origin and that anyone who questions evolutionary theory is a scientific buffoon. In light of that ploy, St. Augustine has a strong admonition for the Christian who is swayed by such boasts:

"But more dangerous is the error of certain weak brethren who faint away when they hear these irreligious critics learnedly and eloquently discoursing on the theories of astronomy or on any of the questions relating to the elements of this universe. With a sigh, they esteem these teachers as superior to themselves, looking upon them as great men; and they return with disdain to the books which were written for the good of their souls; and, although they ought to drink from these books with relish, they can scarcely bear to take them up."⁴

And with Augustine's admonition, Pope Pius X shows why his words are so apropos for today:

Human science gains greatly from revelation, for the latter opens out new horizons and makes known sooner other truths of the natural order, and because it opens the true road to investigation and keeps it safe from errors of application and of method. Thus does the lighthouse show many things they otherwise would not see, while it points out the rocks on which the vessel would suffer shipwreck.⁵

So let's look a little deeper into this issue. What evidence is available today such that if Pope Benedict had it presented to him it would force him to put a qualifying addendum onto his recent statement that evolutionary theory and Christianity are not at odds? If the evidence is strong enough (as we will show momentarily), the whole edifice of evolution would fall down like a house of cards. With no exaggeration I can tell you that it is precisely this kind of evidence that has been kept from Pope Benedict, and all the popes of the twentieth century, by the agenda-driven gatekeepers at the Vatican, the Pontifical Academy of Science (PAS). It consists of close to one hundred members. The PAS chooses its own members and then sends the recommendation to the pope for approval. As it stands, every one of the one hundred members is an evolutionist. Not one scientist who supports creationism, no matter what his credentials, has been allowed in the ranks of the PAS since its existence. Unfortunately, it is from the PAS that the pope receives most of his information about whether the theory of evolution is true or false, and he and all the popes in the last century have been given a steady diet that evolution is true. So I don't expect anything more from them or Pope Benedict. On this particular issue the popes have been severely handicapped. The pope hardly knows about the other side of the story, much less can he be expected to make an intelligent decision on its merits. The only thing he can do is make conciliatory gestures to the scientific community (such as he did recently in saying that if evolution were true it would not be at odds with the Christian faith). That is as far as he can go, or will ever go on this

⁴ The Literal Meaning of Genesis, Book 1, Chapter 20, Para. 41, Ancient Christian Writers, *ibid.*, p. 44.

⁵ Pope Pius X, encyclical of March 12, 1904, Lucinda Sane, 35.

issue. So, if any of you creationists were dismayed by the pope's recent statement, don't be. He is merely stating what St. Augustine stated long ago, as noted earlier.

But the question remains: since Pope Benedict has obviously been kept in the dark by the PAS, is it the case that the PAS, in cooperation with the scientific community, knows there exists evidence that has immediately falsified evolution and is keeping this information from the public? I can safely say that the answer to that is a resounding yes. We shouldn't be surprised at this. St. Paul warned us in Romans 1:18-20 when he spoke of God's creation as the evidence for His existence that, in turn, men who hate God would seek to "suppress" the evidence for His existence in an effort to deceive the world that He doesn't exist. As St. Paul puts it:

...all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. (Rom 1:18-20 RSV).

What evidence are they suppressing and why are they suppressing it? Let's answer the second question first (why are they suppressing it?) and we will do so by their own testimony:⁶



Richard Dawkins, Oxford: "alleged human bones in the Carboniferous coal deposits. If authenticated as human, these bones would blow the theory of evolution out of the water." (*Free Inquiry*, V.21, No.4, 10/11/2001) [See web site <http://edconrad.com/>]

Richard Dawkins, Oxford "...there are certain things about the fossil record that any evolutionist should expect to be true. We should be very surprised, for example, to find fossil humans appearing in the record before mammals are supposed to have evolved! If a single, well verified mammal skull were to turn up in 500 million year old rocks, our whole modern theory of evolution would be utterly destroyed. Incidentally, this is a sufficient answer to the canard, put about by creationist and their journalistic fellow travelers, that the whole theory of evolution is an 'unfalsifiable' tautology. Ironically, it is also the reason why creationist are so keen on the fake human footprints, which were carved during the depression to fool tourist, in the dinosaur beds of Texas," (*The Blind Watchmaker*, 1986, p.225). (NB: Footprints are not fakes since CT scans validated them <http://ianjuby.org/delk/>. Therefore evolution from a common ancestor has been utterly destroyed).



Steven M. Stanley, Johns Hopkins University: "There is an infinite variety of ways in which, since 1859, the general concept of evolution might have been demolished. Consider the fossil record – a little known resource in Darwin's day. The unequivocal discovery of a fossil population of horses in Precambrian rocks would disprove

⁶ I thank my esteemed colleague, Hugh Miller, for these series of references.

evolution. More generally, any topsy-turvy sequence of fossils would force us to rethink our theory, yet not a single one has come to light. As Darwin recognized, a single geographic inconsistency would have nearly the same power of destruction." (*The New Evolutionary Timetable*, 1981, p. 171).



NOVA TV Special, *God, Darwin And The Dinosaurs*: "...dinosaur footprints, side by side with humans. Finding them would counter evidence that humans evolved long after the dinosaurs became extinct and back up...[the] claim that all species, including man, were created at one time."



Ernst Mayr, Harvard: "Creationists have stated that humans and dinosaurs were contemporaries in time...Were this momentous statement true the names of its discoverers would thunder down the corridors of time as individuals who made one of the most outstanding discoveries of the twentieth century." (Gish-Mayr Debate, Evansville, Indiana. 1984).



Niles Eldridge, American Museum of Natural History: "We have been looking at the fossil record as a general test of the notion that life has evolved: To falsify that general idea, we would have to show that forms of life we considered more advanced appear earlier than the simpler forms." (*Monkey Business*, p. 46, 1982).



Louis Jacobs, Southern Methodist University, Former President of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology: "...co-occurrence of men and dinosaurs. Such an association would dispel an Earth with vast antiquity. The entire history of creation, including the day of rest, could be accommodated in the seven biblical days of the Genesis myth. Evolution would be vanquished." (*In Quest of the African Dinosaur*, p. 261).

So, has modern science found irrefutable evidence that dinosaurs co-existed with humans? Yes, the evidence has been found but it is being systematically suppressed. You can imagine why they suppress it. If evolution can be so easily falsified, then the whole structure of modern atheistic society will come to a screeching halt and men will once again have to submit themselves under the vigilance of God, Scripture and the Church, just as they did in the Middle Ages. For today's modern man, that scenario is a fate worse than death, and thus they will do anything and everything to keep this information from you. If a scientist from a college or university even dares to suggest to his students that dinosaurs and

humans co-existed, he would be fired on the spot. If you don't believe this, see the movie by Ben Stein titled "Expelled" that was released a couple of years ago.

So where is the evidence that dinosaurs existed with humans? All over the place. Allow me to give you just a few references that you can look up for yourself, courtesy of my scientific colleague, Hugh Miller, who has personally performed the excavations that prove the case.

Dinosaurs Co-Existed with Humans

(1) The finding of bone collagen and flexible tissue in alleged 68 to 85 million year old dinosaur bones where none should exist as discovered by evolutionists Dr. Jack Horner and Dr. Mary Schweitzer has thoroughly confused the evolution community as such materials should not last much more than 30,000 to 100,000 years even under the best of conditions. See the following websites:

<http://catholicintl.com/scienceissues/trex2.pdf>

<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/dinosaur/blood.html>

<http://www.thefirstsixdays.com/EvidenceofMenandDinosaursArticles.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6548719.stm>

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaur.html>

(2) Fossil dinosaur and human footprints together or separately have been found in the geologic column. These footprints and several human handprints including the famous and historical Burdick track and others have been shown to be valid by CT scans of the Delk and Burdick tracks.

<http://ianjuby.org/delk/>

<http://www.bible.ca/tracks/>

www.creationevidence.org.

(3) Pristine fossil human-like footprints continue to be discovered with dinosaurian ones under tons of Cretaceous rock on almost every excavation along the Paluxy River in Texas. Observe a first-hand review and photos of some of the pristine prints that Hugh Miller has personally helped excavate through the years since 1983. Among the books confirming the Paluxy River discoveries is one by Helfinstine and Roth.

www.dinosaurc14ages.com (see section on "footprints")

http://www.kolbcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=135:texas-tracks-and-artifacts&catid=11:media-reviews&Itemid=76

At the Glendive Montana Dinosaur and fossil museum one can view the open display of the cast of the famous Taylor trail of human and dinosaur footprints Paleontologists have been lately performing CT scans the famous Leonardo, The Mummy Dinosaur, touted as the world's best preserved dinosaur and settling controversy of the past.

(4) The Paleo Group in their C-14 dating of the fossils including dinosaur bone collagen and/or bone bioapatite from Texas to Alaska have obtained concordant radio carbon ages internally in each dinosaur bone and with the ages of fossil wood by AIG's Dr. Andrew Snelling. The dates for the dinosaur bones range from about 23,000 to 39,000 radio carbon years. Carbon-14 ages can be reduced several times as there are many problems with the C-14 theory. Contamination with younger material like fungus, bacteria, humic acid etc. are removed by normal pre-cleaning treatments just as in washing your clothes. www.earthage.org etc.

Answers in Genesis and Institute for Creation Research in their RATE projects have radio-carbon dated coal, diamond and other fossils including fossil wood from Australia to the USA. These results have demolished the millions and billions of years claimed by Dalrymple.

<http://www.icr.org/article/carbon-dating-undercuts-evolutions-long-ages/>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v2/n1/radiocarbon-in-diamonds>

<http://www.icr.org/article/carbon-dating-undercuts-evolutions-long-ages/>

(5) Realistic and embellished dinosaur depictions world-wide in all cultures supports the coexistence of man and dinosaurs just as every culture world-wide has some form of tradition regarding the flood of Noah. Based on the fact that there are far more depictions of various species of dinosaurs suggests that dinosaurs were more prevalent than mammoths and mastodons and that some species of dinosaurs out-last the mammoths.

See "Dragons or Dinosaurs" @ www.cloudtenpictures.com or <http://www.dinosaursandman.com/>

(6) All the above is supported by lab and flume research studies that show that: (a) Mudstones, that are roughly 66 % of the geologic sedimentary strata could only form in rapid flowing waters not in stationary lakes over 1000's and millions of years (b) Walther's in the late 1890's studied sediments in the Bay of Naples and discovered that sediments do NOT form one on top of the other as a function of time. (c)

predictions and confirmation of the above (a and b) by lab and flume studies by sedimentologist Guy Berthault and field studies by the Russian geologist, Dr. Alexander Lalomov and dozens of articles and thesis field research reports listed in the technical journal of CRSQ for many geologic basins agree with lab, flume and field studies

<http://www.sedimentology.fr/>

www.dinosaurc14ages.com

(sections on Mudstone forming; World-wide research; Grand Canyon Research; and, Conferences)

Would some dedicated and courageous individual please get this information to Pope Benedict XVI.

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July 21, 2010