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IN SIX DAYS: DAY SIX, PART 1

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Genesis 1:24-25:

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

What can we say about these verses? Since they pretty much say it all, maybe we should just pack up and go home! I'm just kidding, of course. In these few words there is a world of information to explore. I suppose it's kind of cruel to get your hopes up for a short sermon and then tell you, *No, we're going to be here for a while!*

At the beginning of the sixth day, which, as you recall, is evening by our reckoning (even now, Jewish days begin at sunset), God speaks and forms terrestrial animals from the elements of the earth: *Let the earth bring forth the living creature.* "Living creature" is again the Hebrew word *nephesh*, which has to do with souls. God made physical housing, bodies, of the various animals, but the animals are more than just living carcasses--they are living souls! They have desires, wills, and emotions; well, most of them seem to, anyway. There are a few that seem to have no conscience at all.

I'm going to talk to you about one such animal, a pet owned by my family when I was a child. My father had always wanted an English bulldog, like our famous Uga here in Georgia. He used to joke about it, saying that they had a face only a mother could love. Oh, but he wanted one of those dogs! I remember as a very young child my father had an Model T Ford in the garage which was sort of a weekend project for him. He got it running well enough to drive us on our own street but we never went very far because the body needed a great deal of work. I seem to remember a lack of floorboards; but oh, it was fun when dad pulled that car out, cranked it up, strapped us in, and drove. Yes, I realize original Model T's had no seat belts but he had installed some for us as I recall. Well, one day he sold that Model T and with a portion of the money he purchased a bulldog puppy. Of course there was no other name for him but "Spike." Spike, however, had some wires crossed. It turns out he was inbred and he was lacking some mental capabilities. My mother grew to despise him because he didn't behave as normal dogs do. He would growl at us if we got near him while he was eating, and he would eat anything, including SOS pads. The final straw for her was the time that I was playing chess with my older brother, and my brother started winning. I pointed at my brother and said, "Get him, Spikey, get him!" and the dog attacked--not my brother, but me! His tooth went right through my lip; you can see the scar there under my mustache even now. I went to the hospital and Spike went to--actually, I'm not sure where he went. We were all very sad, except my mother; but it didn't take long to realize that Spike had been growing more aggressive and that we were better off without him.

Spike was clearly "defective" and certainly not operating according to the Creator's original

specifications. We will discuss the reason for this in an upcoming sermon; but my point is in part that even in such a defective creature, there was desire and will and emotion. Molecular structuring cannot account for these intangible attributes. Animals are more than just machines made of molecules; they are living beings, endowed by their creators with capacities for pleasure, anger, sadness, and compassion. We hear stories about animals that risk their lives to save people. We can form emotional bonds with them. I mean, have you ever had a pet that could just tell when you were sad? I'll bet you have!

Some of you may remember the heroism of animals TV or Hollywood productions like Rin-Tin-Tin, Lassie, or Benji. What makes those stories plausible is that there are real stories of animals doing remarkable things. A Jack Russell terrier named George from New Zealand saved five children being attacked by pitbulls, and died in the process.¹ A family dog named Buddy saved a one year old child from a burning house in Kentucky.² There are numerous agencies that recognize and award such examples of animal bravery, and the stream of stories seems inexhaustible. If animals are programmed through evolution to merely be "survival machines," then there is no place for such behavior in that model. In fact, animals should invariably be expected to be hostile and aggressive. However, if we understand that God created animals and that they serve His purposes, then we can see that such behavior seems reasonable, and that all hostile behavior is aberrant. Yes, hostile behavior and carnivorous appetites are a violation of the Creator's original design. Let's skip a few verses and look at verse 30:

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

According to God's original design, all animals ate vegetation. That design was corrupted as we shall see later in the series; but originally, God made animals to eat plants. You may say, "Well now, how is that even possible? Have you seen the teeth of some of these creatures? There's no way a lion could eat grass! It's digestive system isn't tuned for that!" There are a few things we should keep in mind here:

First, animals today have adapted to a different type of diet because of the effects of the curse which we will discuss when we get to chapter 3.

Second, we do not have access to remains of the original kinds; we only have access to their various descendants.

Third, we do not know what physical changes, if any, may have occurred when the curse of Genesis chapter three was introduced.

Fourth, we know that even today there are many animals with carnivorous features, like jagged teeth, that are strictly vegetarian, like fruit bats (which have very scary looking teeth, by the way!) and other animals, even large animals, that can eat meat but which largely are herbivorous, like bears. Consider this:

1 "Dog That Died Saving Children to Get Animal Bravery Award." Available at <http://www.newzealandnews.net/story/456914>

2 "Dog Saves Tot from Fiery Inferno." Available at <http://fortheloveofthedogblog.com/news-updates/dog-saves-tot-from-fiery-inferno-video>

Interestingly enough, although camels are herbivores, males have sharp front teeth. If scientists had discovered the skull of a camel without knowing what living ones were like, they might well have reconstructed it as a vicious meat-eater, based on its jaws and teeth.³

Fifth, among animals which are considered to be primarily carnivorous, there are still evidences of herbivorous diets. Allow me to give a few examples which I've paraphrased from an article:

Only female mosquitoes suck blood; and even among female mosquitoes, there are species in which the females get the nutrition they need from nectar.

Of seventeen reptile families, only one is almost entirely carnivorous, with most of the rest being herbivores and a few being insectivores. One species of monitor lizard is entirely fruitivorous, which is surprising since these large lizards normally eat large amounts of meat. Many of the lizards have very sharp, nasty teeth, like the dinosaurs now extinct; and yet eating meat is largely the exception rather than the rule.

Within the dog family, we should note that most of the small dogs survive on a mixed diet of meat and plants, and that even coyotes eat mainly fruit. Your domestic dogs eat dog food which is based on cereal.

The pandas are a major classification nightmare for evolutionists, but they appear to be related to bears according to the structure of their jaws. However, pandas eat only bamboo, even though their jaws appear to be designed for meat.

Did you know that there is a documented case of a vegetarian lion? It was raised by humans and would actually throw up if it sniffed a bone. "Even at four years old, the lion could not be trained to eat meat."⁴

Sixth, the Word of God assures us that a day is coming in which animals will return to their pre-carnivorous state. Isaiah 11:6-7 tells us,

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The final reason we can be assured that God made animals to eat plants is that He has given us His own testimony to the fact. The words He spoke in verse 29 are very clear: *Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed.* The word "behold" doesn't just mean, "Pay attention!" It indicates that a command follows. The original Hebrew of *I have given* is actually one word that indicates a rule is being set. There was no "Nature, red in tooth and claw" as Tennyson put it. The Bible also assures us that at the end of the sixth day, all that He surveyed was good--there was no suffering, no death, no predation.

3 Paula Weston, "Camels--Confirmation of Creation." *Creation* 19(4) (September 1997): 26-29. Available at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v19/i4/camels.asp>.

4 James Stambaugh, "Creation's Original Diet and the Changes at the Fall." *Technical Journal* 5(2) (August 1991): 130-138. Available at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/tj/v5/i2/diet.asp>.

At this point we need to go back and consider the classes God told us He made. According to verse 24, God desired to make cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the field. At the end of verse 24, we find that “it was so”--what He desired, He accomplished. Then verse 25 tells us the result, and we find the order reversed: beast of the field, creeping things, and cattle. Again here we find God doing things opposite of the evolutionary pattern. There is no idea of small creatures becoming more and more complex. There is nothing of the sort here. God created cattle, the domestic animals; creeping things, the little weasels and lizards and insects and such that live close to the ground; and the beasts of the field, the larger non-domestic animals such as dogs and elephants and primates, and yes, even dinosaurs and other kinds of animals now extinct.

Now, I know dinosaurs are supposed to have become extinct some sixty-five million years ago. What does the evidence actually show, though? What evidence do we have about dinosaurs?

Well, first, we have God’s own testimony about them. Did you know that God Himself describes two dinosaurs in the book of Job? God uses them as object lessons for job, and for the lesson to be effective, they would have had to have been animals Job could have known about; and He does so within an instructive list of traits of other animals which we still have with us today. Read Job 40. You will see reference to Behemoth, which is described as follows:

Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.

This is easy enough to understand--a creature made the same day as man and is a vegetarian.

Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.

His structure is such that his muscles are designed with great strength in the abdomen, not the neck, back, arms or legs like most other animals. This doesn’t sound very familiar to us, does it?

He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.

Some Bible commentaries and even some translations suggest that Behemoth is a hippopotamus or an elephant, but have you seen the tails of those creatures? They are tiny little things, those tails! A cedar is a tree and therefore elephants and hippos don’t qualify. So we have a creature here with a long, thick tail, like a cedar.

His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron.

So this creature has enormously strong bones, compared here even to iron and brass.

He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him.

Chief of the ways of God? What does that mean? It means simply that this is God’s largest creature! It’s huge. In fact, it’s so big that the only one who could possibly challenge it is God--He that made him can make His sword approach unto him.

He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.

The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.

Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.

Here the animal's behavior is described. It dwells in shallow water, which is why some have thought it was a hippo. But as we said, hippos have the wrong tail. What we have here is a description of a large water-dwelling dinosaur, such as the Diplodocus or Apatosaurus. You may have heard them called *Brontosaurus* in years gone by, but no longer so--the first *Brontosaurus* discovered was actually an adult form of a previous discovery, the *Apatosaurus*. In fact, that first specimen, which went on display in 1905, was a specimen that was found without a head, so the original paleontologist put a different head on it which was later found to be a head from a different species altogether.⁵ Be that as it may, these animals had a long neck and a long tail, and their design has been compared to that of a suspension bridge. With that long neck and long tail, the muscle strength was rooted in the belly, just as the Bible describes.

We won't have time this morning to look at the next creature in Job 41, but Leviathan seems to match the description of an *Allosaurus* or *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. God says of him,

Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.

In other words, If you touch him, if you try to subdue him, it will be the last thing you ever do! Here is the lesson:

None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

All of this is in the context of God showing Job just how powerful He is. These animals were used as object lessons for Job; but if God had used fairy tale, mythical animals, then the lesson is lost. It should be evident that we have written testimony in God's Word that man and dinosaurs co-existed.

There is other evidence, most of which I will not explore today other than to simply point out that just about every culture has written and/or oral traditions of dragons. We have them pictured in cave paintings next to pictures of other animals still with us today. We have preserved soft tissue from a *T. Rex*, which could not still be in existence if these animals had become extinct 65 or more million years ago.⁶

The point is that here in Scripture we have God's own testimony about His creative acts. On day six, he made the land dwelling animals, all of them, and gave them a rule to live by: they were to eat plants and the fruit of plants. He saw that all was good--no death, no decay, no suffering, and no lack of any kind in His creation at this point. God is almost, but not quite, finished with His creative acts.

5 Lee Krystek, "Whatever Happened to the Brontosaurus?" Available at <http://www.unmuseum.org/dinobront.htm>.

6 Hillary Mayell, "T. Rex Soft Tissue Found Preserved." *National Geographic* (March 24, 2005). Available at http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/03/0324_050324_trexsofttissue.html.