

## **Go Ahead and Ask**

### **Part 3**

**6/24/20**

**Q: Pastor Jeff: Please reconcile some timelines. You talked about eyewitness descriptions of dinosaurs in the books of Job and Ezekiel, who lived in the thousands of years before Christ. Yet scientists would have us believe that dinosaurs roamed the earth hundreds of thousands of years or more in the past. Were they around for all those eons before God made Adam and Eve? Thanks for clearing this up!**

**A: The secular dinosaur timeline begins about 220 million years ago and has them going extinct about 65 million years ago. The Biblical timeline, however, places them at the very beginning of creation, about 6,000 years ago, with almost all of them going extinct about 4,400 years ago in Noah's Flood. Dinosaur fossils reveal their rapid burial, and the preservation of the original organic material from dinosaurs.**

**Fourteen biomaterials found in dinosaur bones and horns reveals that they died out thousands and not millions of years ago. They have even found soft tissue in some dinosaur bones.**

**As for carbon dating placing the dinosaurs millions of years back in history, radiocarbon ( 14 C) dating has traditionally been done with assumptions outside the Biblical framework,**

**namely this: Interpretations have been without any consideration for the possibility that the Flood of Genesis was an actual event. When we consider the worldwide flood of the Old Testament as part of actual history, the raw data will be seen to be highly inflated for the ages of living things further back in time.**

**For more extensive reading on this I would refer you to the website**

**<https://www.floodofgenesis.com/pterosaurs/?p=3156>. This address can be found in our archives by going to the TPC website and clicking on “resources.”**

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**Q: Genesis 9:22-25 “And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, 25“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”**

**What did the youngest son do to Noah?**

**A: This event took place following the flood and is the first mention of drunkenness in the Bible. Noah had planted a vineyard. Apparently some of the grape juice he collected fermented. There is no reason to believe he intentionally got drunk. His drunkenness resulted in disrobing and essentially passing out in his tent. What Ham did wrong was to mock his father's condition. Rather than respectfully cover him, he immediately went out and derided Noah to his two brothers.**

**Note how Shem and Japheth went into the tent backward and covered Noah. It says "their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. The reaction of the two boys compared to Ham's reaction is stark.**

**What Ham had done was to reveal his heart's attitude toward his father. It was of disrespect and loathing. The other two boys fulfilled the Scripture which says, "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses" (Prov. 10:12).**

**It may seem a small thing to us what Ham did, but to God it was a big deal. We note that Noah cursed, not Ham, but Ham's son Canaan. No doubt Noah, who walked with God, was speaking prophetically over Canaan's descendants, knowing by the Spirit what they would become.**

**Indeed, the Bible reveals that it was the descendants of Canaan that became the giants of the land of Canaan Israel was called**

**to drive out and exterminate. Ham had four sons in all and only Canaan's descendants experienced this curse.**

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**Q: I was brought up to believe you are physically buried when you die. Does the bible say anything about cremation? Is there anything wrong with being cremated?**

**A: One rule of Bible interpretation is to never speak where the Bible is silent. There is no Bible verse condemning cremation. We find the OT patriarchs and NT saints practicing burial, but no Bible verse condemns other options. If you think about it, cremation only accelerates the process of what happens to bodies that have been buried. We say at funerals: "Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust," which is exactly what happens with time to all bodies. We return to dust; dust that Jesus will resurrect into a brand new, glorified body at his return!**

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**Q: What did Jesus mean in Matthew 5:29-30, when he said, ""If your eye causes you to sin pluck it out, and if your hand causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away?"**

**A: Jesus would often use exaggeration to make a point, as He did here. For instance, He said that we could speak to a mountain and it would be removed. That is not LITERALLY going to happen. He was making the point that large obstacles**

**can be moved by faith in God. In the same way, these verses are not to be acted upon literally. Jesus is illustrating the need for us to sometimes be very severe with sin.**

**For instance, if something or someone in our life is causing us to stumble we should remove them from our life. Let's make this real. If your computer is making it too easy for you to stumble into pornography—pluck it out. Remove it. Whatever you must do to deal with the sin, do it.**

**Or, say you have a weakness with alcohol and are working someplace that makes it available and it's causing you to stumble—pluck it out. You should ask God to help you find a job that won't bring temptation to you. Jesus says it's far better for you to go through the necessary pain of ridding yourself of it than that you be carried into hell (literally or figuratively) because of it.**

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**Q: Is there a measure of sin to god?**

**A: I assume this person is asking whether some sins are worse than others. Although all sin merits the death penalty ("the wages of sin is death"—Ro. 6:23), and all sin requires the blood of Christ for forgiveness, God's Word reveals that some sins are indeed worse than others.**

**First, some sins have greater consequences to the sinner, as well as to those their sin affects. If a person loses his or her temper and says things hurtful to another, it is a sin. But it is not nearly on the same level as if he or she loses their temper and kills someone. THAT level of sin will bring far worse consequences in every way.**

**The apostle John speaks of how some sins do not lead to death and others do:**

**"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death."**

**Here John is talking about one who is repentant. If the sinner in mind is repentant, then his sin will not lead to death (spiritual).**

**Yet John says, "There is sin leading to death: I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is sin not leading to death" (I John 5:16-17).**

**It does no good to pray for forgiveness with someone who is not repentant. The best you can do is pray that God grants them repentance, not forgiveness. We can never ask for forgiveness on someone else's behalf. THEY THEMSELVES must**

**repent! If they don't repent, their sin will indeed lead to death, both spiritually and sometimes physically.**

**The bottom line is—ALL sin separates us from God! Isaiah writes, "But your iniquities have separated you and your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).**

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**Q: If there are no tears in Heaven how can that be if you have family members that might not be there?**

**A: The Bible does not reveal what we will know or not know, remember or not remember in heaven. John tells us in the Revelation, "Look, the home of God is now among men, and he will live with them and they will be his people; yes, God himself will be among them. 4 He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever. 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new!" (21:3-5)**

**Since there will be no tears or pain in heaven, it must be that nothing will be there that could cause pain, like the absence of lost loved ones. Whether that means some kind of merciful amnesia, I just don't know. But I do know that God can be trusted to totally fulfill His Word. Heaven will be a place of perfect joy, peace, bliss, worship, and fellowship with Jesus.**

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**Q: Can you speak to a deceased loved one. Can you communicate with them?**

**A: The Bible issues grave warnings about attempting to literally communicate with the dead. It warns against consulting with mediums and psychics in several instances.**

**"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you" (Deut 18:10-12).**

**"Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:31).**

**When a medium claims to have contacted the spirit of a deceased loved one, you can be sure that: 1.) They're phony and are manipulating you. 2.) They have contacted a demon spirit masquerading as the loved one.**

**People who involved themselves in these things very often experience depression, oppression, and torment. It opens a psychic doorway to hell that can only be closed by the power of God. In short, don't do it! Trust your departed loved ones to Jesus and trust God to carry you on after their death.**