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## **Horse Evolution**

I recently had the privilege of taking a course on "Teaching Science in the 21st Century." Unfortunately, the class revolved around change; that meant evolution was the key foundation. Anyway, the class (130 teachers) was required to go on a field trip to the John Day Fossil Beds here in Oregon. There we heard John Fiedor, the Park Ranger, explain the fascinating evolution of the horse. The following is the sad tale.

The first step of this program involved showing a modern day horse foot containing two long bones which come to a point and lay flat against the bigger bone (To help visualize this imagine two bones lying flat against the back of your shin bone coming to a point a couple inches above your ankle). These two bones are very sensitive and that is why when you tap a horse behind its leg it will lift the leg up. However, we were told that these bones were like our vestigial organs; that is they have no purpose or benefit but they simply are remnants or "leftovers" due to the evolutionary change. In this case, these two bones were said to be all that is left of what used to be two additional digits or toes. Today, the horse has only one digit; its hoof. The ranger went on to explain that the further one goes back in time the more digits the horse had, in fact, at one time a creature with 3 toes in back and 4 toes in front existed. (Hyracotherium or Eohippus).

Next, we went and watched a video showing further evidence of horse evolution. We were taught that 50 million years ago the forests were rather tropical jungles where food was more tender and easier to eat. However, about 40 million years ago the ecology changed bringing grasslands filled with silica content, forcing the horse to grow stronger and larger teeth. But, to allow for the teeth getting longer and larger, the eye socket needed to move further back. Finally, because there were not as many places to hide on the grasslands as there was in the jungles, the horse grew larger with legs that could carry it quickly to escape other predators. Eventually evolution left us with what is today's modern horse, known as Equus.

In a nut shell, the first horse was Eohippus which led to Hippos and then Equus. There were many horses in-between each of these but these are the main three in the horse line.

After this the class went to look at casts of horse skulls and teeth. There were many oohs and aaahhs from teachers who were amazed at such "evidence". Naturally this was difficult to see knowing that each one of these people would go back and teach this to their students, which is why I am writing this; to combat what was shown that day.

While working with these casts Ranger John came up and explained that when working in science, the word "probably" means quote, "It really happened." Not only that, but just prior to closing the program Ranger John added these comments regarding Darwin's observations of living species: "That's how Darwin got his theory of evolution. . . I'm sorry to say this because some of you won't agree but [because of the fossil record] evolution is a fact."

That was the so called unbiased scientific information that all these teachers received to take back for their students, but never once

were they informed of what other evolutionist are saying about horse evolution. Michael Denton in, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* writes, "Considering that the total number of known fossil species is nearly one hundred thousand, the fact that the only relatively convincing morphological sequences are a handful of cases like the horse, which do not involve a great deal of change, and which in many cases like the elephant may not even represent phylogenetic sequences at all, serves to emphasize the remarkable lack of any direct evidence for major evolutionary transformations in the fossil record. A great deal has been made of the horse series and other similar cases. The traditional view is that they provide powerful evidence of the reality of evolution; and that what has happened in the case of the horse happened in all other cases, but the fossil links were not preserved or have not yet been discovered. In other words, the horse is the exception which proves the rule" (Denton, p.185). Why weren't we told that many of the supposed links of the horses have never been found? Because that doesn't make the data fit evolutionary theory. Instead of waiting for evidence to support their theory, they drew pictures of intermediates from what they believed they should look like, and told the unsuspecting learner, "here is proof of evolution".

What about Eohippus? Again, we were told that was the first horse which was very small and had 3 toes in back and 4 in front. The problem with this is today there is an animal still living called the hyrax. This creature has a skeleton very similar to that of Eohippus yet it has not "evolved" to what the present day horses are. If evolution were true Eohippus, nor anything like it, should be found today.

Michael Denton again remarks, "The difference between Eohippus and the modern horse is relatively trivial, yet the two forms are separated by 60 million years and at least ten genera and a great number of species. . . . If the horse series is anything to go by their numbers must have been the 'infinite' that Darwin imagined. If

ten genera separate Eohippus from the modern horse then think of the uncountable myriads there must have been linking such diverse forms as land mammals and whales or mollusks and arthropods. Yet all these myriads of life forms have vanished mysteriously, without leaving so much as a trace of their existence in the fossil record" (Denton, p. 186).

If evolutionists are willing to admit the fossil record comes up with a blank in regards to evolution, why were we taught the fossils proved that "evolution is a fact" by Ranger John?

In fact, Darwin admitted that in his day the fossil evidence was the most serious objection against his theory. Ranger John also agreed with this in Darwins time but not today. However, David Raup who was the curator of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago where over 20% of the fossil species known to man are housed, stated the following in his 1979 and 1983 issue of the Field Museum Bulletin: "Well, we are now about 120 years after Darwin, and knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded. . .ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin's time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be discarded or modified as a result of more detailed information."

Imagine that, Darwin didn't have any fossil evidence and now we have even fewer examples.

Finally, we will conclude with three last facts which stand against horse evolution: 1) Horse fossils should not be found below one another in the rocks. However, bones of Eohippus are often found on the surface; 2) It is argued that Eohippus grew larger until it became what is now the modern horse but still today we have varying sizes in horses, some of which are only about three feet

tall; and 3) Eohippus and the modern horse both have 18 pairs of ribs yet the supposed intermediates like Orohippus had 15 and Pliohippus had 19. This is not the normal process of change thought to be in evolution.

Just as a creationist would expect, we find no horse with part grazing and part browsing teeth nor do we find any toes partly developed in the fossil record. Rather we find variations among kinds scattered throughout in the strata layers. Just like today you have different types of monkeys in different sizes or even different horses in different sizes, so too was the world of the past.

## **Robert Jastrow's E.T.**

Robert Jastrow, a leading evolutionary astronomer and director of SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence), recently explained why we aren't able to communicate with "aliens" in Discover Magazine. He explained that the universe is billions of years older than the earth which means "aliens" have had much more time to evolve; in fact, they are now invisible. What Mr. Jastrow finally alludes to is that these invisible "aliens" are actually the spirits that so many new age gurus are now contacting.

Evolution is taking a new direction into the spiritual realm. We must keep praying for this nation as now we defend both creation and God as creator, rather than the "great evolved spirit."