The Latest on Dinosaur Soft Tissue (Faith & Science Update)

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“Some evangelists, whose chief weapon is the production of a sense of sin, would find themselves extraordinarily short of ammunition if they were obliged to use nothing but the recorded words of Christ” (J. B. Phillips).

“One need not make Darwin an enemy, for the natural theologians had already sealed their fate when the opted for apologetics, the attempt to prove Christianity to modern skeptics, over witness, the attempt to live in such a way that God’s true story becomes visible and attractive to the world. Seeking to make belief in God universally acceptable, indeed universally unassailable, the natural theologians overstepped their bounds, and, like Icarus, with his wings of wax, eventually came crashing to the ground” (Scott Bader-Saye).

“Paradox as a habit of mind preserves us from simplistic linearity and literalism and keeps us attentive to the complex ways in which, so often, the opposite is true. This habit of mind is deeply biblical; indeed, to listen for the uses of paradox in Jesus’ recorded teachings is to recognize how it always points us to a higher plane of understanding” (Marilyn Chandler McEntyre).

“I used to think that the angels in the Bible began their messages with ‘Do not be afraid’ because their appearance was so frightening. But I have come to think differently. I suspect that they begin this way because the quieting of fear is required in order to hear and do what God asks of us” (Scott Bader-Saye).

Any more stuff available for this?
tact and can be “recognized” by antibodies. She is able also to sequence these proteins by mass spectrometry and has identified eight collagen polypeptide sequences in the Hadrosaur fossil. About the amazing preservation of the bone matrix, Schweitzer writes, “The matrix was virtually indistinguishable from recent demineralized ostrich bone imaged under the same parameters.” It is truly remarkable that an 80 million-year-old Hadrosaur’s bone matrix and the bone matrix of an ostrich look almost identical under the microscope.

The evidence may be suggesting that either the soft tissue somehow can survive 80 million years of background radiation (biologists doubt that soft issue can survive for 10,000 years), or the dinosaur fossil is not 80 million years old, but rather thousands of years old. While on the one hand the raw radiometric readings exist, on the other hand, the amazing preservation of soft tissue in the fossilized bones cannot be denied.

Scientists will no doubt go back to their laboratories to attempt to find a theory explaining how soft tissue somehow can survive millions of years. Revisiting the theory and assumptions of radiometric dating. In this instance, it is particularly necessary to distinguish between the radiometric readings and the interpretation of the readings.

What is clear is that the theory of macro-evolution needs millions of years in order to function. The implications of Schweitzer’s research are significant. Because the validity of her initial claim of discovering soft tissue containing biomolecules in dinosaur bones has now been confirmed, her latest research strongly suggests that there may not be enough time for macro-evolution to be real. This conclusion is deeply encouraging to creationists who by faith accept that life on earth is recent. Again, the truth of the unfaithing reliability of the Word of God is being supported by the records of nature, God’s second book.

Correction: In the previous “Faith and Science Update” entitled “A Mountain of Evidence” (PD, 12:4, p. 50), the sentence beginning “Only the Cambrian granite of Steamboat Rock . . . ” should read “Only the basalt material of Steamboat Rock . . . .”

REFERENCES

1 D. B. DeYoung, Thousands, Not Billions: Challenging an Icon of Evolution: Questioning the Age of the Earth (Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books, 2005).
5 Mary H. Schweitzer, et al., ibid.

D euteronomy 28:1 promises: “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.”

It is a signal honor to be “high above all the nations of the earth.” Many feel this way about their home country. My family and I felt proud of our country when we visited the Kennedy Space Center and gazed in awe on a colossal Saturn V rocket. Such mind-bogglingly complex and powerful machines produced millions of pounds of thrust to propel Apollo astronauts literally high above all the nations of the Earth—a quarter of a million miles to the Moon. Teamwork, vast resources, and awesome brain power accomplished something that no other country has done.

We were also proud on the morning of January 16, 2003, as we sat by the water at Port Canaveral, Florida, looking intently at a bulbous object a few miles away. All at once, a cloud of smoke arose, and space shuttle Columbia majestically rode a fiery plume into space one more time—one last time.

Is this what Deuteronomy is talking about—human achievement by human strength and expertise, such as winning the space race or the arms race, or Switzerland shutting out New Zealand 5-0 in an America’s Cup yacht race? No. In Deuteronomy 28:1, it is the Lord who achieves the lofty placement of His people.

The next verse says: “All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God.” This is a radical paradigm shift: Rather than human beings pursuing success and then achieving their goal, it is success that pursues them. David expresses the same idea at the end of his Shepherd’s Psalm: “Surely your goodness and unfailling love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps. 23:6; NLT).