

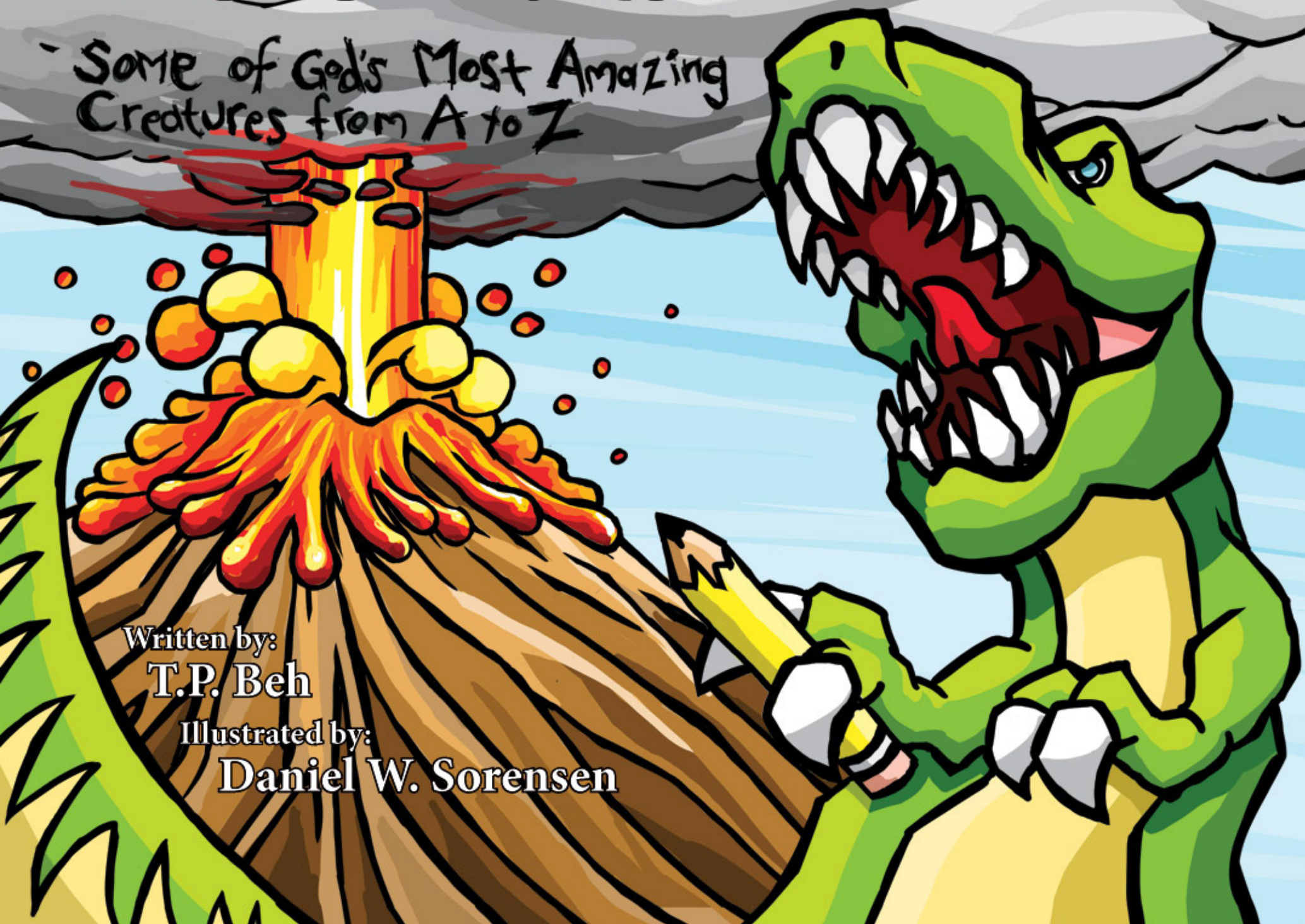
T is for T.Rex

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SOME of God's Most Amazing
Creatures from A to Z

Written by:
T.P. Beh

Illustrated by:
Daniel W. Sorensen



Introduction

Do you love dinosaurs like I do? I'm guessing that if you're reading this book the answer is a big "yes"! Dinosaurs are amazing creatures, and it's a lot of fun to think about how they might have looked and lived, as well as what happened to them. The size some of them reached, their odd "reptilian" appearance and the large horns, claws, teeth and other strange features fascinate us and appeal to our imaginations.

Because dinosaurs are generally thought to be extinct and little is known about their behavior, they make for great characters in fictional movies, books, TV programs, comic books, magazines, etc. Unfortunately, much of what we "know" (or think we know) about these "terrible lizards" is based more on Hollywood and popular imagination than on scientific facts—even the images we have of them are largely based on artistic interpretation. For everything we know about them comes from fossil evidence, like footprints, coprolite (fossilized poop) and bones. (In recent years even some fossilized dinosaur skin and organs have been found!) However, while fossil evidence like this can give us clues about how dinosaurs walked, what they ate and how they looked, it is limited in what it can tell us, especially about things like their coloration and how they behaved.

For, while fossilized dinosaur *bones* exist in the present, and though scientists can study them and perform repeatable tests on them to come up with objective, testable results, as far as we currently know, dinosaur *behavior* existed only in the past. And scientists are no better at answering questions about the past than are lawyers and historians—or novelists and filmmakers (whose stories are judged more by their popularity than by their truthfulness). For instance, while we know from their fossils that *T.rex* had large claws and sharp teeth, how can we be sure how they were used? Most people, including evolutionists, assume that large teeth and sharp claws mean the animal was a meat eater. However, scientists know of many animals with sharp teeth and claws today that are just vegetarians, so scientists cannot objectively determine *T.rex's* diet because they have never observed *T.rex* behavior.

If only we had a record of what happened back when *T.rex* was around written by a reliable witness, then we could know how dinosaurs behaved. Well, it turns out that we do! The Bible is just such a record of earth's history written by the only One to witness it from the beginning: God Himself. And the Bible tells us that God originally created all animals to eat plants (GENESIS 1:29-30). It also tells us that Sin brought death and struggle into God's original, perfect Creation, and that some animals (and people) thereafter began to kill others (GEN. 3-4). Today, some animals with big claws and sharp teeth, like panda bears, still reflect their original creation and eat only plants, while others, like tigers, reflect the Corruption of our world that took place following Sin and now eat meat. Even the diet of that ferocious "predator," the grizzly bear, is about 80%-90% plants! So, when it comes to *T.rex* claws and teeth, what we can be sure of is that they were originally used to gather and chew vegetation. As creation scientist Dr. Gary Parker likes to say, "What we see in God's world agrees with what we read in God's Word."

Apart from finding solid fossil evidence—like *Tyrannosaurus rex* teeth embedded in the bone of another dinosaur (and there is such evidence)—we can only speculate that they became meat eaters. And while skeletons, even nearly complete ones, can give us a general idea of what dinosaurs looked like, no one knows exactly how they appeared or how they acted. Therefore, while all illustrations based on fossils involve some "artistic license," we have sought to represent the animals in this book as accurately as possible based on biblical and scientific facts.

T is for T.rex

Some of God's Most Amazing Creatures from A to Z

C O N T E N T S

ALLOSAURUS

BRONTOSAURUS

CEOLOPHYSIS

DIMETRODON

ERYOPS

FLYING REPTILES

GASTONIA

HADROSAUR

IGUANODON

JAXARTOSAURUS

KRONOSAURUS

LEVIATHAN

MONOCLONIUS

NANOTYRANNUS

OTHNIELIA

PLESIOSAURS

QUETZALCOATLUS

RAPTORS

STEGOSAURUS

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

UINTATHERIUM

VOLCANODON

WOOLLY RHINO

XIPHACTINUS

YAVERLANDIA

ZYGORHIZA

A

is for

A L L O S A U R U S

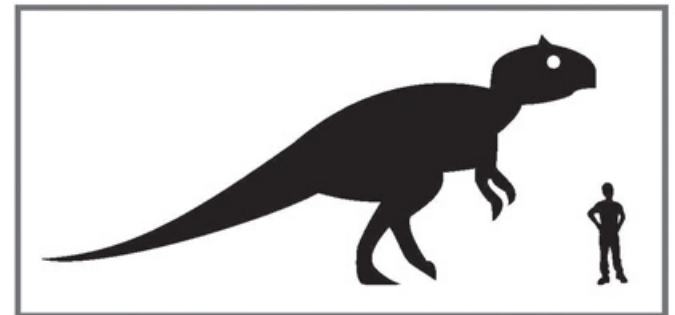
The Allosaurus was, of core-us,
a dinosaur that looks carnivorous.

In the Garden of Eden, which God made all good,
plants and not us would have been his food.

We could have lived with dinos 'til Sin changed what we eat,
and some animals, perhaps like allosaurs, began to eat meat.

Then, with its big claws and sharp, knife-like teeth,
an Allosaurus could prob'ly have eaten three or four of us!

Allosaurus (AL-uh-SORE-us, "Different Lizard") was bi-pedal (walked on two legs), had two short horns above its eyes, could reach 35 feet in length, stand up to 17 feet tall, weigh over two tons, and had sharp teeth and three large claws on each foot and hand. Allosaurs are usually pictured as predators, and perhaps even hunted in packs like wolves. Their fossils are primarily found in the western United States—one mass *Allosaurus* gravesite in Utah has produced bones from over 40 individuals from juveniles to adults! This strongly suggests that they were killed, buried and fossilized by a great catastrophe, such as Noah's flood in the Bible (GENESIS 6-9), and not by any normal processes operating in nature today—a great example of the truth that God's Word is the surest guide to understanding God's world. And since the Bible also says that all land animals were created on the 6th day of creation, before the Flood allosaurs also co-existed on earth with men, though hopefully not too closely!





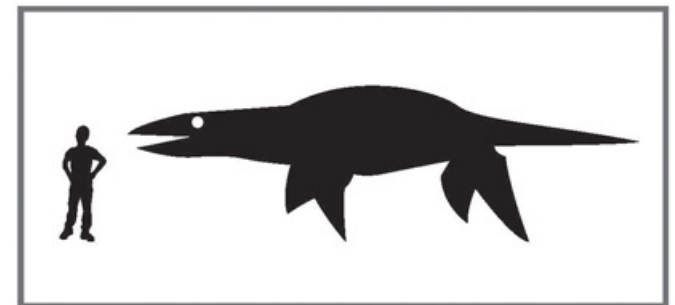
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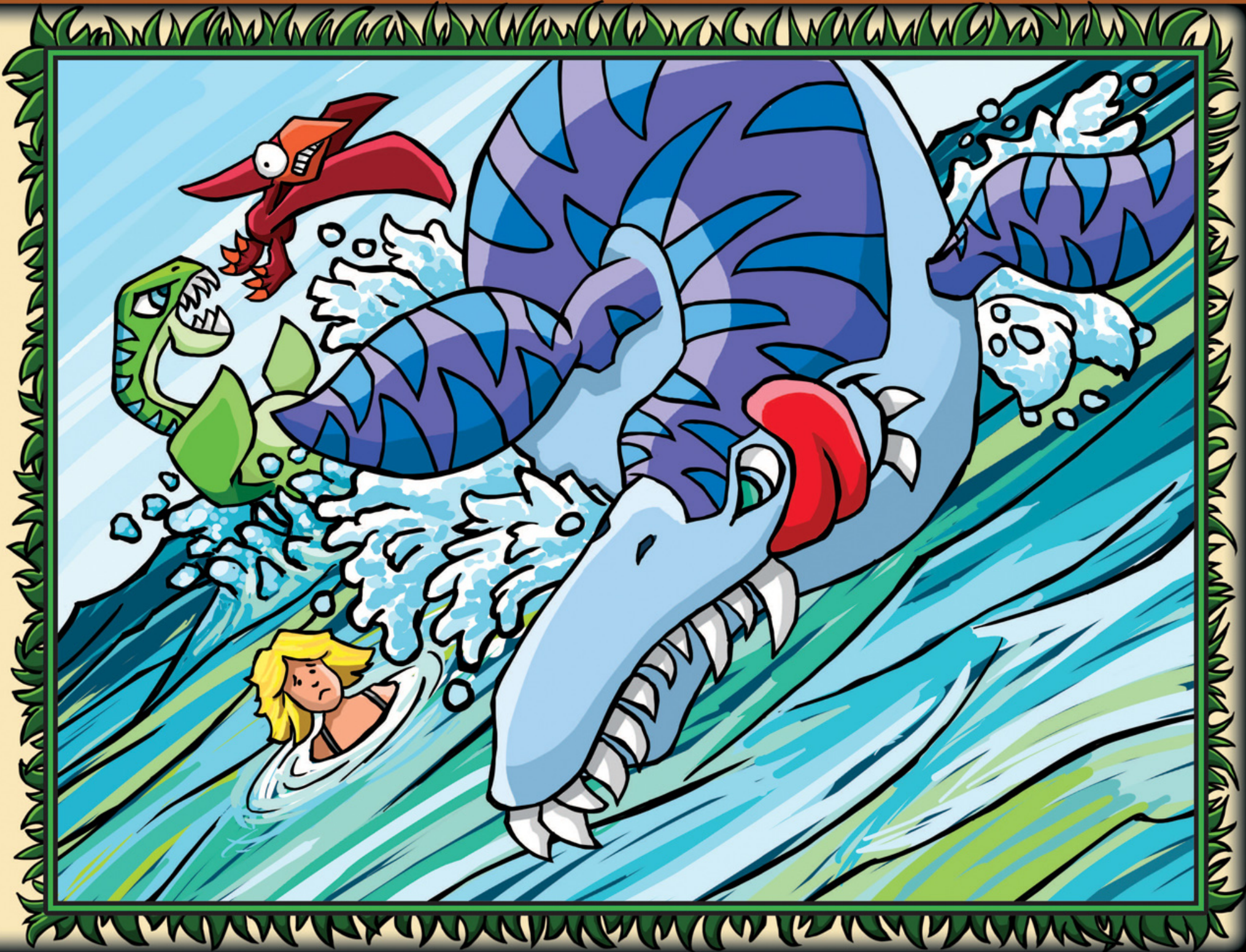
is for

K R O N O S A U R U S

“Oh, no, Doris, it’s a Kronosaurus!”
someone yelled, as she swam in the Outback Sea.
But the huge marine reptile just grew a big reptilian smile,
as he spied Doris attempting to flee.
“Where’s your mojo?” asked the hungry Krono.
Replied the terrified Dory, “I don’t know.
Just don’t eat me!”

Kronosaurus (CROW-no-SORE-us, “Kronos’s Lizard”—named after the mythical Greek god, Chronos) was a large, short-necked pliosaur with four flippers, a short tail and a huge head that was about one-fourth the length of its body. Considered a ferocious, predatory marine reptile, it lived in the sea and breathed air like a whale, grew to over 30 feet long and had big, conical teeth, thought to crush the shells of some of its favorite prey—ammonites and turtles. However, as a top predator, it probably also ate fish and other marine reptiles, even the long-necked plesiosaurs! Pliosaurs, like *Kronosaurus*, and plesiosaurs would be terrifying creatures to encounter in the ocean. While evolutionists claim these creatures lived over 65 million years ago in the Cretaceous seas, they resemble the “sea serpents” mentioned in our (roughly) 3,500-year-old Bible (see letter L) far better than whales or sharks. In fact, museums kept fossils of marine reptiles in boxes labeled “sea serpents” into the 1800s, and sightings of sea serpents, such as the Loch Ness Monster, continue to be reported today. Could such fearsome creatures still exist? Fossils of kronosaurs have been found in the “Outback” of central Australia and in Columbia.





U

is for

U I N T A T H E R I U M

Uintatheres looked rather weird,
with knobby heads and big teeth like shears.

They show up in the fossil record
quite fast then disappear,
which is why it's hard to take a photo
with a living Uintathere.

In fact, you'll seldom see a Uintatherium
outside of a natural history museum.

Uintatherium (you-IN-tah-THEER-ee-um, "Uinta Beast or Mammal") was not a dinosaur, but a strange-looking, rhinoceros-like mammal with three pairs of bony knobs on its head. One of the plant-eating megafauna ("large animals"), like mammoths or mastodons, that supposedly "evolved" after the extinction of the dinosaurs, its teeth were more like a tapir's and its bones were more like an elephant's. *Unitatherium* could grow to over five feet high and 13 feet in length and weigh more than two tons. Males had downward-pointing, dagger-like incisor teeth or tusks in their upper jaws that could be nearly a foot long. Uintatheres appear suddenly and without intermediate or transitional forms in the fossil record, not gradually as Darwinian evolution says "new species" should, and they disappear just as fast. That's because they didn't evolve from something else but were created on Day 6 like dinosaurs (GEN. 1:24-25)—and, sadly, like most of the dinosaurs that got off the Ark, they did not continue to survive in the post-Flood world. Like many of God's creatures, their existence contradicts and confounds evolution. *Unitatherium* bones have been found in late- and post-Flood sediments of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and East Asia.

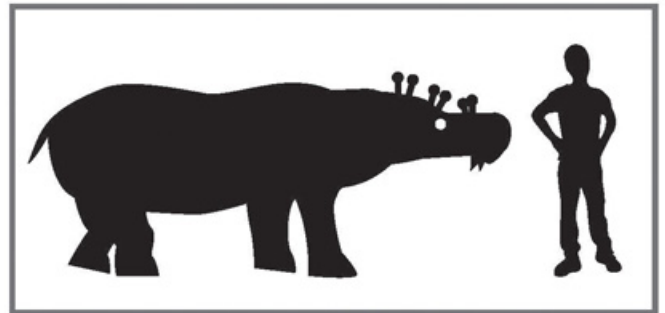


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HISTORY

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