

**Introduction:**

Before leaving town for my meeting in Arkansas, I had received three questions. I believe we will have time to deal with each of these questions during one session. However, these three questions are completely different. We are going to roam from ancient history to modern issues and from the ethereal realms of the spiritual world to the practical hands-on application of scriptural authority.

**Discussion:**

- I. Is the devil an omni-present being? If not, how does evil seem to be everywhere?
  - A. Before answering this question we must first understand that any time we start speaking in infinite terms like “omni-present,” we finite people are going to run into roadblocks of understanding. Second, since the scripture was not written to explain every aspect of the spiritual realm, but rather to explain how we may be saved, we should expect to find gaps in our ability to answer these questions.
  - B. **Matthew 25:41** says that the devil and his angels will be confined into the everlasting fire just as those among us who are not faithful to the Lord will be. If the devil were omni-present, or present everywhere, then his presence could not be confined into the everlasting fire. The devil must not be omni-present. What are the exact limitations on his presence? I do not know.
  - C. Then how does evil seem to be everywhere? **Matthew 25:41** demonstrates part of the answer. In some way, the devil has angels or messengers. His work of evil influence will be partly conducted through them. Additionally, **Genesis 3** helps answer this question. The devil was present in the form of a serpent and personally tempted Eve to eat the fruit. However, it was the influence of the devil through Eve that tempted Adam in **Genesis 3:6**. The devil did not have to be actually present for the temptation to take place or sin to occur. Once that first sin occurred a domino effect of sinful influence began, which has permeated our entire world.
  
- II. Would it be wrong for a group of Christians to gather their own money and build a pavilion on the back of the property here since the money was gathered separately from the contribution?
  - A. This question came as a result of my sermon a few weeks ago, in which we learned that a local congregation needs to recognize the difference between the spiritual work which God has assigned to local congregations and the social, secular work which individuals can perform separate from the function of the church. We learned this from the example of **Acts 2:46-47**, where the church met daily in the temple, but individuals met in their own homes to do social things. We also noted **I Corinthians 11:20-34**, in which Paul rebuked the church because it was not eating the Lord’s Supper when it gathered together, but had turned the Lord’s Supper into a common feast in which some were going hungry and others were being greedy. Paul’s answer to the situation was to come together to eat the Lord’s Supper, but if you want the secular, social function of fulfilling hunger—eat at home.
  - B. So, what about our question? Can a group of Christians pool their own money and build a pavilion onto the back of this property? The question betrays the answer. Whose property is it? It is the property of the church, purchased to conduct the work of the church. While the collection of funds for the building may indeed be done separate from the church’s treasury, you cannot separate this pavilion from the work of the church if you are going to put it on the church’s property. What did Paul say? “Eat at home.” Put the pavilion on your own personal property, not the church’s.
  - C. Let’s go a step further. Could a group of Christians pool their money to build some sort of park or pavilion to allow Christians to get together? Of course they could. However, let me warn you of the slippery slope you will have just entered. Once this group of Christians purchases this property and pavilion, who really owns it? Who governs how it can be used? Will others be able to use it? Who decides? Who gets precedence in its use? Who will keep it up? How will it be passed down from generation to generation? Who gets to decide to sell it? If one person in the group moves, will the others have to buy out their share? Typically, this scenario is entered in by people who want to try to abide by the letter of the law, as they see it. But what they have actually done is bought something they always intended to be the church’s property and run by

the church. They simply established a second treasury, trying to claim it was not really the church's treasury. However, even when this venture is entered innocently, it inevitably leads to trouble that in the best case scenario will lead to hurt feelings among brethren. But in the worst case scenario will get the church wrapped up in work which distracts it from its spiritual mission of saving souls and involve it in the entertainment and recreation business.

III. How do dinosaurs and prehistoric man fit in with the Bible?

- A. At the outset, let me say that I cannot go very deeply into this subject. For the very simple reason is that it takes me out of my area of expertise and into someone else's. Perhaps someday we could invite brethren such as Don Patton or Buddy Payne to conduct a series that could go much more deeply into these issues than I can.
- B. But on the surface let me point out three things in regard to the issues of prehistoric men, dinosaurs and the Bible.
  - 1. Despite what our evolutionist friends tell us, there is increasing evidence that dinosaurs and men roamed the earth together. In Texas, a footprint trail has been uncovered that not only show dinosaur footprints in the same layer as human footprints, but actually has a human footprint embedded in a dinosaur footprint. That can only happen if the dinosaur and the human crossed paths in a matter days, but more likely minutes. Additionally, in South and Central America, figurines and drawings of dinosaurs have been discovered that predate our scientific discovery of dinosaurs. For more information go to [www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca) and follow the links about dinosaurs and humans.
  - 2. The Bible actually contains what I believe to be a pretty good description of a dinosaur. In **Job 40:15-24**, we do not have a description of any animal that lives on our planet today. But it is a pretty good description of a brontosaurus. Dinosaurs fit in the Bible the same way every other extinct animal does. God created them. They existed on this earth. Man probably steered clear of the dangerous ones. At some point, they became extinct. What caused that? Who knows, the Bible does not say. But then how many animals have become extinct for which the Bible offers no explanation.
  - 3. Finally, regarding how prehistoric man fits in with the Bible. Prehistoric men, as described by the scientific evolution crowd, do not fit in with the Bible at all. Their claim that they have found fossils of early manlike life forms that preceded homo sapiens is really quite bogus. Have they found fossils? Certainly. But is their explanation correct? That is highly debatable. They have found fossils of men and they have found fossils of animals. But that is it. These supposed scientists will find one small section of a skull and then draw a whole "man" based on it. Is that really a prehistoric man? Absolutely not. Look around you at the different shape heads that are just in this auditorium. If they found a fossil of our heads down the line, might they think it was some kind of prehistoric man? Keep in mind, even the scientists are still looking for the "missing link." Despite all their searching, by their own admission, they have not found any real evidence that links any other animal life to men on an evolutionary scale. I will paraphrase one friend of mine, "In the fossil realm there are some good men and some good apes and a lot of nonsense in between."
- C. Rest assured—science has yet to discover anything that repudiates the Bible story of our world. The only thing science has that denies the Bible is the scientists' preconceived notions that nothing exists greater than them. But one day they will all become believers. There will be no atheists on judgment day.

**Conclusion:**

Speaking of the judgment day, are you ready for it? On the day of Pentecost, nearly 2000 years ago some people asked a very important question when they realized they had crucified the Messiah. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's clear answer continues on today in **Acts 2:38**, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Have you done that? If not, why not right now?