

SCARY CREATURES in the BIBLE

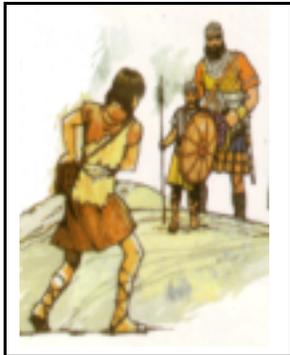
Genesis 1:21 -- And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind;...



Introduction:

1. When we were children we used to be afraid of the dark, but our parents would console us that there was nothing in the closet or under the bed. And we grew up coming to realize that there were no monsters, but that they were all a figment of Hollywood's imagination. We went to the movies to be terrified, but we grew wise to the ways of special effects and no longer feared what went bump.
2. Yet the devil now lulls us to sleep telling us that there are no monsters, no evil, nor even a devil himself. And even if there were, they are no more. Really?

A. Scary Men



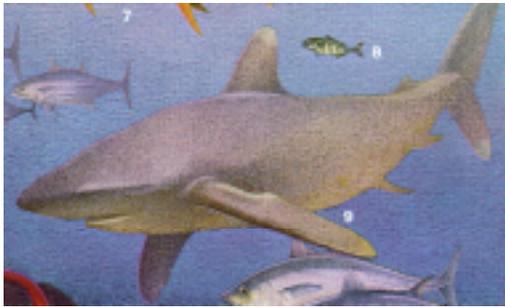
1. One of the scary creatures in the Bible that we are all familiar with is the Philistine Giant, Goliath. The story of how the young man David had to meet his challenge is found in 1 Samuel 17. In verse 4, the Scriptures tell us the Giant was six cubits and a span. A cubit is about 445 mm, so Goliath would have been about 2890 mm or almost 9 feet 6 inches tall.
2. But Goliath is not the biggest man we meet in the Bible. Another is Og, the king of Bashan. In Deuteronomy 3:11, it states that his bed was 9 cubits long. That would make him a third again as tall as Goliath, or around 13 feet tall.
3. The writer of Deuteronomy also remarks that Og was what was left of the remnant of the *Rephaim*. The *Rephaim* are also mentioned in Deuteronomy 2:11,20-21. The Moabites called them the *Emim*, or "Terrifying Beings". In the Greek: "Titans".
4. In both references they are compared to the *Anakim* (Deuteronomy 1:28), a proverbial gigantic people who occupied early Palestine, and described by the Israelites as "*People bigger and taller than we...*" Added to by the spies: "*There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight*" (Numbers 13:33). The *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, under "Goliath" says that the bones of men of such stature have been excavated in Palestine.
5. One misconception that needs to be addressed is Genesis 6:4 where it reads: "*The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were mighty men of old, men of renown.*" The KJV translates *Nephilim* as "giants" from one definition of "long-necked." However, a better translation would be either: "attackers, robbers, or bandits." Further misapplied is the concept that the offspring of angels (sons of God) mated with human women to produce these giants. What the context is trying to say is that the lineage of Seth intermarried with the lineage of Cain and men grew evil continually (Genesis 6:5).
6. But this brings up another kind of monster: evil men (no matter what their stature). In the Old Testament we are introduced to men like Ahab (1 Kings 16:30-31) of whom it is said that: "*He did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him. And it came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam...*"
7. In the New Testament Paul warns Timothy: "*But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived*" (2 Timothy 3:13).

B. Horrific Demons

1. There are more than big and evil men that haunt the realms of this earth. The book of Revelation reveals that at one time the Abyss was opened and out of it came its occupants, described as having faces of men, but hair of women, with teeth like lions and wings and tails like scorpions (Revelation 9:1-11).
2. This was the time of the ministry of Christ, when demons were allowed to possess men and caused them all sorts of torment.
3. One awesome encounter was in the location of the Gerasenes where it is reported by Luke (and Mark) that there was a man possessed by a "Legion" of demons [A Roman Legion was anywhere from 4000 to 6000]. The man lived naked among the tombs and was so strong, when bound with shackles and fetters, he used to tear them from him (Luke 8:26-33).
4. Although now thoroughly restrained by the Lord Jesus, they still promote false doctrines and have a hand in our temptation (1 Timothy 4:1).



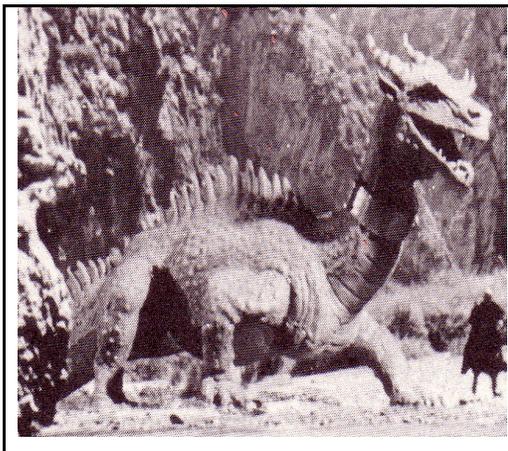
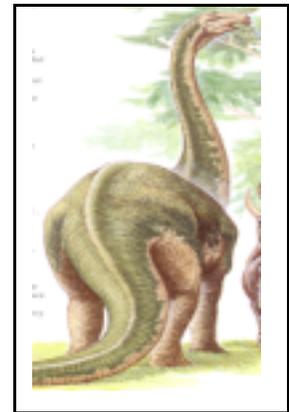
C. Terrifying Monsters



1. In reference to the incident of Jonah, Jesus said: "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the Sea Monster..." The translation here for the Greek *ketous* is better than "whale" (Matthew 12:40). In Jonah 1:17, it is remarked that it was a creature "appointed" by God, and not made on the spot. The *Pulpit Commentary* observes that the Mediterranean White Shark is 25

feet long (as long as the shark in "Jaws") and has been known to swallow men whole.

2. Another fantastic creature found in the Scriptures is the *Behemoth*. Its description is: "He eats grass like an ox.... his strength is in his loins, and his power is in the muscles of his belly... He bends his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together, his bones are tubes of bronze; his limbs are like bars of iron, he is the first of the ways of God; let his maker bring near his sword... If a river rages, he is not alarmed; he is confident, though the Jordan rushes to his mouth. Can anyone capture him when he is on watch, with barbs can anyone pierce his nose?" (Job 40 15-24) Although the term is also used for the hippopotamus, this is obviously an ancestor whose "tail is like a cedar."



3. There is also found in Job the *Leviathan*, a vicious creature that is so fierce that no one dares to arouse him. He has "mighty strength... outer armor, double mailed... terrible teeth and strong scales and no one can open the doors of his face... whose sneezes flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth goes burning torches and sparks of fire leap forth. With smoke pouring from his nostrils, his breath kindles coals, and a flame goes forth from his mouth. The sword that reaches him cannot avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin... When he raises himself up, the mighty fear." (Job 41:1-34).

- The prophet Isaiah mentions still another phenomenal apparition: "Do not rejoice, O Philistia, all of you, because the rod that struck you is broken; for from the serpent's root a viper will come out, and its fruit will be a *Flying Serpent*" (Isaiah 14:29). Also, "The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through the land of distress and anguish, from where come lioness and lion, viper and *Flying Serpent*..." (Isaiah 30:6). The Bible at least recognizes the existence of reptiles that could fly.



The Greek Historian Herodotus, in 450 B.C. wrote: "There is a place in Arabia... to which I went, on hearing of some winged serpents; and when I arrived there, I saw bones and spines of serpents, in such quantities as it would be impossible to describe. The form of the serpent is like that of a water-snake; but he has wings without feathers, and as like as possible to the wings of a bat."

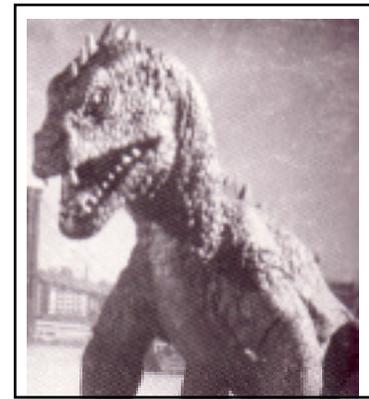
Josephus, the Jewish historian, adds that Moses and the Israelites ventured upon "ground that was difficult to pass over, because of the multitude of serpents (which it produces in vast numbers... some of which ascend out of the ground unseen, and also fly in the air...)"

D. Co-Existence with Men: The Moral to the Story

- In Genesis 1:24-31, we find that God made most of these creatures (except demons) on the sixth day along with mankind. Although evolutionists and mythologists would have us believe they died out millions of years before man, the Bible clearly shows them co-existing with us.
- Other evidence is recent artifacts from Mexico (hundreds) showing early man's accurate portrayal of figurines of dinosaurs. There are also over hundreds of Inca burial stones showing these great lizards, and many Indian Petra glyphs, like the one shown here at Natural Bridges National Monument in South East Utah depicting dinosaurs.



- Also, in the Palaxy River at Glen Rose, Texas, are tracks of dinosaurs concurrent with those of men, preserved for all time in the river's bed.



- Though there are still some nasty creatures running around, today we must focus on evil men and the Dragon himself (Revelation 12:9). This is why we need God to help us through our trials and to know that we can resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7).