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Question:

"Are any mythological creatures mentioned in the Bible?"

by Elmer Towns

*Answer: There are certainly many strange creatures mentioned in the Bible. Some descriptions are symbolic and are simply meant to represent certain nations, people, or ideas in prophetic visions; these creatures were never intended to be taken literally.*

Elmer, how do you know? Did the Bible say that or are you just making that up because those creatures prove the Bible to be nothing more than an ancient book of gruesome, violent, immoral fairy tales?

*Other passages are indeed describing a real beast,*

Elmer, how do you know those passages were describing a real beast? Were you there? Do anthropological discoveries support that?

*although the names provided by translators were sometimes taken from mythology.*

Elmer, why would translators use mythological names instead of the ones God provided? And why would God allow that?

*The King James Version, translated in 1611, contains several mentions of mythological creatures, including the unicorn, the dragon, and the fearsome cockatrice.*

Elmer, I’m surprised that you would admit that they were mythological creatures because biblical literalists not only disagree with you, but would probably burn you at the stake for heresy for even suggesting that they were mythological.

*Beasts in prophetic visions*

*The apocalyptic portions of Daniel and Revelation contain famous visions of strange creatures. Both books describe four creatures with the heads, bodies, limbs, and wings of different combinations of animals—heads of lions with wings of eagles, etc. These are not mythological but symbolic descriptions of angelic beings.*

Elmer, can you back up that claim? Which verses support that?

*Revelation predicts “locusts” with human faces, women’s hair, lions’ teeth, and scorpions’ tails, topped off with wings.*

Gee Elmer, I can’t imagine why anyone would think of the Bible as a book of ancient fairy tales.

*Also, in Revelation 9:13–19, an army of 200 million horsemen ride horses with the heads of lions, breathing fire and sulfur, and sporting tails like serpents with heads. The descriptions of these strange creatures are figurative—in other words, the visions are symbolic of real beings, nations, or judgments in the future.*

Elmer, once again, do you have any proof or are you just making shit up because these fairy tales are so embarrassing to your beliefs?

*Dragons*

*Today, we associate dragons with storybook fare and medieval folklore.*

Elmer, you left out "The Bible."

The difference between storybook fare, medieval folklore, and the Bible is that the first two usually don't contain immoral rules to live by.

*There are many mentions of “dragons” in the Old Testament (e.g., Psalm 148:7; Isaiah 43:20; Micah 1:8), mostly in the KJV. As we mention in our article on dinosaurs, the obscure Hebrew word tanniyn indicates some kind of very large or hideous creature. This animal is mentioned 18 times in the Old Testament as both a land and sea dweller. Other versions translate it variously as “great sea creature” or (in other contexts) “wolves” or “jackals.” It is most likely a general term for undesirable creatures, possibly a reference to dinosaurs and other now-extinct reptilian creatures.*

Elmer, those who wrote the Bible didn't have a clue about dinosaurs, nor would any human until the first fossils were found a couple of thousand years later.

*Revelation 10 mentions a dragon, as well. In this context, the dragon is identified as Satan (Revelation 20:2). Since his appearance as a serpent to Eve, Satan is often characterized in a reptilian manner. The dragon metaphor helps us picture Satan, who is all too real.*

Elmer, what evidence do you have that Satan is real?

I said "evidence," Elmer. The Bible is only evidence that humans had already begun writing fairy tales a long, long time ago.

Also, a dragon is not a reptile – it is a mythological creature.

*Mythological Creatures in the KJV*

*The King James Version of the English Bible was translated in the early 1600s. While the translation is commendable for its overall accuracy and beauty of style, it has a few weaknesses.*

Elmer, greatest understatement of the century.

The Bible has more contradictions than it has ... verses.

*One is that, when the translators of the Old Testament came across a Hebrew word of uncertain meaning, they sometimes used an exotic English word to replace it.*

Elmer, didn't you ever wonder why they didn't just ask God?

Isn't that what prayer is for?

I mean if God is watching them translate His Word, something that people's eternal lives depend upon, wouldn't He nudge them with an invisible hand or poke them with a dildo or something, to help them so that they didn't screw up the most important thing He ever communicated?

Now we have dozens of different versions and no one can figure out what the Hell God said. It's like the Tower of Babel all over again.

Now I think I finally understand that Trinity bullshit ... God is Moe.

*Satyrs*

*In Isaiah 13:21 and 34:14, the KJV and RSV translate the Hebrew sa`iyr as “satyr.” The Hebrew word is translated 55 times in the KJV as “he-goat” or “hairy.” However, the word was also thought to imply demon-worship associated with goats, and so we find the word translated “devil” twice and “satyr” in the aforementioned verses.*

Elmer, as editor-in-chief, I think your God should be fired.

Where is Donald Trump when you need him?

“God ... you’re fired!”

*However, based on the context of each passage in Isaiah, it is almost certain that wild goats are intended by the Hebrew sa`iyr, not the goat-man creature of legend, and certainly not the faun of classical myth.*

Elmer, think about what you've dedicated your life to: defending violent, bloody, ancient fairy tales and trying to convince people that they are true. But you have one secret weapon, don't you Elmer?

The Threat.

As long as people believe that an evil invisible monster will torture them forever after they die ... "you people" will be able to keep your ancient death cult open for business.

*Unicorns*

*Hebrew word re'em, signifies a horned animal similar to the aurochs, a now-extinct ancestor of today’s domestic cattle. For some unknown reason, the translators of the KJV chose to substitute “unicorn” for the name of this horned animal each time it occurred: e.g., Deuteronomy 33:17; Psalm 22:21; and Isaiah 34:7.*

Elmer, "some unknown reason?" That's the best defense you've got?

Also, I noticed in your article on unicorns that you tried to dismiss the animal as something other than a horse with a horn. Unfortunately for you, if you go to the Wikipedia page on unicorns: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicorn>

you'll discover a picture of a unicorn painted in 1602, several years *before*  the King James Version came out in 1611, and that picture makes it very clear that they were talking about a horse with a horn.

Oddly, scientists have yet to locate any fossils of horses with horns. Imagine that?

*The Bible, in its original languages, never actually mentions unicorns.*

Elmer, there are no original biblical manuscripts for *any* of the Bible's 66 books, and since the books that do exist have all been extensively edited, there is no way to know what was in those original texts ... which is actually pretty fortunate for you guys.

*Cockatrices*

*The cockatrice is a legendary monster, half-rooster and half-snake, with the ability to turn people to stone at a glance.*

Hey Elmer, that sounds like a perfect monster for Grimm’s Fairy Tales. But you just confessed that it is in your Bible; and since the majority of Christians believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, literally true ... you've got a lot of splainin' to do.

You are going to have to convince the majority of Christians to believe you instead of their pastors, the majority of whom, think you are full of shit. After you've completely changed the face of Christianity, then you can start working on rational people.

*It may not be so well known as other mythological beings today, but, at the time the KJV translation was made, the cockatrice was a pervasive myth in Britain.*

Elmer, the King James Bible is still the most pervasive myth in Britain, and much of the western world.

*The word cockatrice was used to translate the Hebrew tsepha`, which properly means “poisonous serpent or viper,” in four of its five occurrences: Isaiah 11:8; 14:29; 59:5; and Jeremiah 8:17. John Wycliffe used cockatrice in his 1382 Bible translation, and the KJV translators retained the term.*

Elmer, how come we never hear about kangaroos in the Bible?

Or penguins? Or polar bears?

How come the only real animals mentioned in the Bible live in a tiny desert that can be covered in one month by a guy on a donkey?

*Behemoth*

*In Job an animal called “behemoth” is described as an example of the many things God has accomplished that Job could not even fathom (Job 40:15–24). Behemoth is almost certainly a real creature, although some Jewish scholars hold it is a symbol of chaos. The beast is most popularly identified as a hippopotamus or elephant, although some of its physical characteristics, particularly the tail “like a cedar,” do not match up with either animal.*

Elmer, a tail made of wood doesn't match up with *any* animal.

*Most young-earth creationists believe behemoth is a dinosaur similar to the apatosaurus or diplodocus.*

Elmer, from Job 40:16

“*Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly*.”

Well looky there, Elmer!

Dinosaurs didn’t have navels (they laid eggs).

Busted!

*Leviathan*

*The leviathan is described in Job 3:8 and 41:1–34, immediately after the behemoth and for the same purpose. Isaiah 27:1 and Psalm 74:14 and 104:24–30 also mention the leviathan. The name itself means “coiled one,” and its description indicates a monstrous, serpentine sea creature. The leviathan breathes fire, has scales harder than iron, can crush anything in its jaws, and, according to Psalm 74, has multiple heads.*

Elmer, I wouldn't doubt that scientists have found fossils of animals with multiple heads since we can find them today. But I think you may have a long, long wait ahead of you if you are hoping they find a fossil of an animal that could breath fire.

*It is possible that leviathan was a sea-dwelling dinosaur;*

Elmer, think about that one: God creates a fire-breathing dragon and then sends it off to live ... in the ocean?

No wonder it went extinct: every time it tried to catch dinner, the damn water kept putting the flames out.

*the book of Job certainly seems to describe an actual beast, created by God. Elsewhere in Scripture (such as in Psalm 74), the creature is used as a symbol for evil or the enemies of Israel.*

Elmer, thanks for finding one of those contradictions that you guys claim aren't in the Bible.

*Leviathan appears in multiple legends and texts outside of Hebrew culture, including a Ugaritic text, a Hittite legend, and a pictorial representation from Tel Asmar dated around 2350 BC.*

Elmer, the date you just gave occurred a thousand years before they started writing the Old Testament, which is why honest biblical scholars admit that almost everything in it was hijacked from previous sources.

Well, everything except the talking donkey. I’ll give them credit for coming up with that one all on their own.

*These pagan myths present a beast similar to that described in the Bible, with the same or nearly the same name, but it is used as a personification of chaos to be subdued at the end of time. Whether these myths were based on a real sea creature, and whether the Israelites were familiar with the myths or the creature itself, is unknown.*

Elmer, but if God inspired the Bible, He would have known. And He spoke as if they were real. If I were you Elmer, I would be real careful about contradicting God. He has one of the worst tempers in recorded history ... and fantasy.

*Nephilim*

*One of the strangest and most disturbing beings described in the Bible is the Nephilim. We have an article on the Nephilim explaining them in far more detail, but, in short, the Nephilim were likely the offspring of demons and human women (Genesis 6:1–4 and Jude 6). The Nephilim are also mentioned in Numbers 13:33, but it is likely that by this time in Israel’s history “Nephilim” was used as a term for any tall, intimidating people, such as those found in Canaan at the time and elsewhere called “giants.”*

Gee Elmer, I just can't figure out why rational people keep ridiculing your ancient Holy Book as a collection of fairy tales.

But my favorite stories are still the two about the Sun: one story where it freezes in the sky for a whole day and another where it actually goes backwards.

Anyone who can believe that can believe ANYTHING you tell them. The trick is to find a good motivator, you know, like threatening them with eternal torture if they don't believe it.

As long as you believe that those ancient, gruesome, immoral fairy tales are true Elmer, there is nothing I, nor any other rational person can do to help you. Only you can summon the courage to stand up to the threats from the Spirit World; and I'm sad to say ... I just don't see that happening in your case, Elmer.

*Recommended Resource:*

*Bible Answers for Almost all Your Questions by Elmer Towns*

Elmer, I've got a better one:

"Afraid of Hell?" by neo

<http://theskepticarena.com/myBook.aspx>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/>

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

A theory challenging the invariability of the speed of light

could soon be tested

The speed of light in a vacuum is considered to be one of the fundamental constants of nature. But while general relativity is one of the cornerstones of modern physics, scientists know that the rules of today did not hold at the birth of the universe.

To be so uniform, light rays must have reached every corner of the universe, otherwise some regions would be cooler and more dense than others. But even moving at 300,000 km/sec, light was still not travelling fast enough to spread so far and even out the universe’s temperature differences.

To overcome the conundrum, cosmologists have proposed a theory called inflation, in which the fledgling universe underwent the briefest spell of the most tremendous expansion. According to inflation, the temperature of the cosmos evened out before it exploded to an enormous size.

But there is no solid proof that inflation is right, and if so, what sparked such a massive period of expansion, and what brought it to an end. The problem with inflation is that it can always be fine tuned to fit anything.

A new theory proposes that light tore along at infinite speed at the birth of the universe when the temperature of the cosmos was a staggering ten thousand trillion trillion degrees Celsius. Under these conditions, light reached the most distant pockets of the universe and made it look as uniform as we see it today.

This new theory does away with inflation and replaces it with a variable speed of light. If correct, the theory would leave a signature on the ancient radiation left over from the big bang: the cosmic microwave background radiation.

The theory predicts a clear pattern in the density variations of the early universe, a feature measured by what is called the “spectral index.” Scientists predict a very precise spectral index of 0.96478, which is close to the latest measurement of 0.968.

If measurements over the next 5 years shifted the spectral index away from their prediction, it would rule out the new theory.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

William Harwood

no biography

as I was unable to determine which William Harwood

“The difference between faith and insanity is

that faith is the ability to hold firmly to a conclusion

that is incompatible with the evidence,

whereas insanity is the ability to hold firmly to a conclusion

that is incompatible with the evidence.”