



Ransom Notes



Cluck Cluck and T-rex

Could Chicken Little be a descendent of Barney, the children's purple cartoon dinosaur?

What a shock, as I read the headlines on today's apparent source of 'all wisdom,' my computer. Hold your breath. It's true: Chickens really are descendants of **dinosaurs**, walking the Earth as one of the **closest living relatives** to the **Tyrannosaurus rex**. A site popped up on my email site called, 'Interesting Facts.' (hello@interestingfacts.com)

Now, I admit, I am drawn to strange and interesting thoughts and facts, as they often become the skeleton of an idea for a Ransom Note. This fact, however, made my eyeballs blink three extra times. Further googling continued by saying that scientists really consider all birds a type of dinosaur.

I will not go into much other basis for this dramatic fact, except to say, in 2008, scientists performed a molecular analysis of a shred of 68 million-year-old *Tyrannosaurus rex* protein. They found it compared to a variety of proteins in many different animals, including our little fluffy, humble chick. (By the way, how much is a 'shred' of protein?)

The scientific knowledge is far above my education level. This senior sees little, if any, overt similarities between a rugged, mean looking, thirty-forty feet long, seven to nine ton, ugly, huge boned creature and the wee, yellow, fluffy, future source of my breakfast scrambled eggs. There was a small note that perhaps baby T's were possibly covered in feathers, so maybe that would help make a chicken connection. But then, what do I know about chromosomes and genetic lineage?

I'm glad they did not find dinosaur protein in my blood samples when preparing for heart surgery. Our family has not even done extensive genealogy studies to trace our ancestors. There is, though, a heritage connection of which I am thrilled to acknowledge. Paul, in Romans 8:14-17 helps us trace that lineage.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

We are adopted children of God, which makes us part of His family, with a family name Christian. Adopted children and a person's biological children are legal equals. Granted, a molecular analysis of protein of the natural born and adopted will not match, but each has equal ability to inherit.

We each belong to the human race, and then as a Christian, also belong to God's family. The Ephesians learned that regardless whether Jew or Gentile, they were "*no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone*" (Ephesians 2:19).

The scientists undoubtedly spent many moons of study to make the chicken and T-rex Connection. Determining genealogy connections in any family can be difficult. My question today is, how difficult would others experience if they searched to discover your adopted heritage with God? Do you know a silent follower who either intentionally or simply by neglect, fails to make public his family of God connections? Would an adopted member of Christ's family skip opportunities to share publicly his Christian identity by missing worship, failing to publicly witness in daily conversations, or rarely becoming part of the labor team any family/church requires, if they are to function smoothly?

Our researchers studied, I'm confident, for weeks. God, however, is all knowing. He is able to recognize His children. Individuals may hide from friends but their heavenly father knows His children. God does not have to find a family protein connection. Therefore, let each of us be proud of our heritage, sharing with others the invitation to become members of God's family.

Be a Living Descendent of His Family and Invite Others to Join Your Adopted Family

Post Script: Just for fun, a search found only two reference to 'chickens' in the New Testament and none in the Old Testament. Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 basically express the Lord's sadness as he looked over the city of Jerusalem and said, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*" The thought that Jesus cared so much for others and made this mother hen analogy, makes my heart weep. Mama hens try to protect their families.

Then I tried to visualize a dinosaur reaching down from his huge body, but with arms only three feet in length, cuddling his baby offspring. The image is not soft and tender. Apparently T-rex three foot arms would be similar to a six foot human with five inch arms. This would be a tough job for a human or a dinosaur to protect their young.

Glad God is caring for each of us, and holding us in His arms.