

Dinosaurs

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Dinosaurs are big—too big to ignore. Evolutionists have been pointing out "the Bible doesn't mention dinosaurs. The existence of these giant reptiles disproves the Biblical account of creation." They ask, "How would Noah have ever managed to get those gigantic creatures on the ark?" They ask. "Why, if dinosaurs and men lived at the same time are there no fossil records of men and dinosaurs together?"

Christians, and particularly Christian parents, have been silent. Why should we care if there were dinosaurs or not? There are great reasons to care and to not be silent. But maybe we have just been ignorant.

All these questions have answers—and those answers are in the Bible. Let's take a look at dinosaurs and what God has to say about them—how they lived, why they died, what happened to them at the flood, and why dinosaurs and people don't appear to have lived together.

First of all, though, let's consider why it matters—and it does matter. If dinosaurs existed before people, then we can't believe Romans 5:12 which says 'Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned.' That leaves no room for death before Adam's sin. There is no space for creatures living, dying and evolving. There was no death before Adam's sin.

Romans 8:20-21 says that "*the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself, also, shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*" These verses make it clear that the endless cycle of suffering and death touched all creatures as the result of Adam's sin.

If evolutionists are correct, dinosaurs had to die before death ex-

isted. Their existence millions of years before people would call into question everything we believe about the Garden of Eden, the origin of sin, and the origin of death.

Then there is the "dinosaur trap." Dinosaurs have been one of the primary tools of evolutionists to entrap our children into their godless beliefs. Dinosaurs fascinate people, especially children. Whether they are friendly, like Dino in the Flintstones cartoons, or scary like the T-Rex and the raptors in the movie Jurassic Park, kids are attracted to the creatures. Watch the children at any dinosaur exhibit at a museum or zoo and you can see the fascination at work. That wouldn't be bad, except that children's books about dinosaurs invariably begin with such words as "Millions of years ago when the world was a swampy jungle, strange-looking creatures called dinosaurs roamed the earth."

Satan uses these creatures, created by God to give him glory, to cast doubts on the Bible and to subtly indoctrinate children in a system that has no place for God.

Children are constantly exposed to false statements, treated as facts. For example, Explorit, a science Web site for children begins the section on dinosaurs by saying, "Of course, no living human being has ever seen a live dinosaur."

How do you suppose the author knows that? Did he talk to Adam or Eve, or their billions of descendants through the ages? Has he talked to everyone who is now alive? He obviously didn't talk to Job.

Not only is it clear from the Bible that God created all of the land animals on the sixth day, according to Genesis 1, but also that Adam named them. Certainly, then, Adam, a living human being, saw them in order to name the types of animals. Let's now look at evidence that dinosaurs did live at the same time as people, were taken into the ark with the other animals, and did not become extinct until relatively recent times.

We can find many references to dinosaurs in the Bible, though the word "dinosaur" itself isn't found in the King James. It was translated in 1611, and the word "dinosaur" wasn't coined until 1841 when Sir Richard Owen came up with the name. He was a famous British anatomist and the first superintendent of the British Museum. Incidentally, he was not a follower of Darwin, but was a firm believer in creation. He was examining the bones of the Iguanodon and the Megalosaurus and came to the conclusion that they weren't a variation of known reptiles, but were in a class by themselves. He called the creatures "dinosaurs" from the Greek words for "terrible" and "lizards." A word not in existence until 1841 naturally wouldn't be in the 1611 translation. But we do see numerous references in the Bible, though, to creatures which are, no doubt, dinosaurs.

Most of those creatures are called "dragons." The word "dragon" or 'tan-neem' is used 34 times in the Bible. It is also translated as "serpent, whale, and sea monster." "Leviathan" and "behemoth" are also names for dinosaur-like creatures.

The behemoth is mentioned by God, Himself, in Job 40:15-24. God says to Job, "*Behold now behemoth.*"

Whatever kind of creature a behemoth was, Job could "behold" it, so it must have been alive and seeable. Many commentaries and even reference Bibles have notes that say this most likely was an elephant or even a hippo. Perhaps some of the description will work for those well-known animals. An elephant eats grass and it can possibly be said that "His strength is in his loins." But when we read on in Job 40 we see that, "he moveth his tail like a cedar." You don't have to be a zoologist to recognize that this description doesn't fit. Neither an elephant nor a hippo has a tail anything like tree. "His bones are strong pieces of brass. His bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God." (Job 40:18-19) God calls him the chief, the biggest, of His ways. Most likely the behemoth was a brachiosaurus or a diplodocus. Some of the fossils have shown the brachiosaurus to be as tall as 60 feet, weighing up to 100

tons, as much as 14 school buses. And they had powerful tails—like a cedar tree.

When was behemoth made? Genesis 1:24-31 says God created all the land animals on the sixth day. Evidently they were still around in Job's day because God said, "*Behold now behemoth which I made with thee.*" Clearly, God answers the question by this verse. Dinosaurs and men did live at the same time.

There is also the leviathan to consider. God spoke to Job about this creature in Job 41. Some think this to be a crocodile, but from the description God gives of him in Job 41:1-34, that idea is absurd. About the only similarity between the two is a set of sharp teeth. The leviathan has scales, which the crocodile doesn't. They are so closely set that they are airtight. From verse 23, we learn that the "*flakes (or fallings) of his flesh are joined together. They are firm in themselves. They cannot be moved.*" That would appear to mean that the leviathan shed his skin, perhaps like a snake, and left behind solid, tough, pieces of skin. Crocodiles don't do that, at least none do that we know of. The leviathan is impervious to arrows and spears. It is strong, breaking iron like straw and brass like rotten wood, according to verses 26 and 27.

The strangest attribute of the leviathan is that it breathes fire. In verses 19-21 we read, "*out of his mouth go burning lamps and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindleth coals and a flame goeth out of his mouth.*" Again, in verses 31-32, we read, "*He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment. He maketh a path to shine after him...*" He leaves behind a luminous trail as he swims in the sea.

These descriptions have made many scientists scoff. Stupid, they think, to believe in a fire-breathing sea creature.

But, when we consider the creatures we know about, it isn't so hard to allow for a fire breathing creature. Take the bombardier beetle, for example. This insect is just one-half inch long, but is amazingly equipped

with a natural explosion-producing mechanism. When the beetle senses danger, it internally mixes enzymes from one chamber of its body with other chemicals in another chamber. The combination makes a caustic spray which explodes from its body at 212 degrees F. The approaching spider, frog, or other predator is zapped with a flaming torpedo. The beetle has dual rear nozzles that can rotate like a B-17's gun turret, so it can fire those torpedoes with deadly accuracy.

How unbelievable—a beetle that can fire boiling bullets. Yet, it is true and documented. Maybe a fire-breathing dinosaur had something similar on a larger scale. A mixture of chemicals could make it breathe out caustic, burning breath.

We also know of at least one fish, the deep-sea anglerfish, which can produce light from itself. It is equipped with a built-in "fishing rod" complete with artificial "bait." The rod bends down from the top of its head and the bait dangles in front of its mouth so any fish trying to nibble on the bait is in a prime position to be snapped up and swallowed.

There is one problem with this handy, built-in fishing tackle. The angler fish lives a mile deep in the ocean. It's dark down there! But the fish puts off a luminescence that lights up the bait so it's prey can find it.

If God can, to display his glory, make a fish that can make its own light, could he not make a leviathan that leaves a luminescent trail behind it?

All through history and in nearly every culture there are stories and artwork of dragons—creatures which resemble dinosaurs. In 1902, a German archeologist named Robert Koldeway unearthed the Ishtar Gate in the ruins of Babylon. The gate was built in the time of King Nebuchadnezzar, about 600 BC. It was decorated with bas relief figures of lions, rimi (a type of extinct wild ox), and dragons. Are lions real? Why shouldn't a dragon creature be real? Psalm 91:13 places lions and dragons together, too. "*the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*"

The dragon of the Ishtar Gate is also known as the Marduk dragon. It's a strange creature—so strange that it is usually assumed that the creature is a mixture of several animals. It has a slender body covered in scales, a long, slender scaly tail, a long neck, and a serpent's head. The paintings show a long, forked tongue coming out of its mouth. It also appears to have hands or paws instead of claws on the front legs.

Other Babylonian artwork at that time shows the creature lying at the feet of King Nebuchadnezzar. The Apocryphal book of Bel and the Dragon—which isn't scripture and shouldn't be accepted as such, still is an ancient book. It tells of a living dragon "god" that Nebuchadnezzar kept and that the people worshipped. According to this story, he told Daniel, "How can you say this isn't a real god, when you can see him right there?" According to the story, Daniel answered by killing the dragon. That sounds like something Daniel might do, although we can't confirm this story. It does make us think, though, that possibly the dragon depicted on the walls of the gate was alive at the time of Nebuchadnezzar.

What is even stranger is the fact that this same "imaginary" animal turns up in ancient artwork all over the world in many different cultures. It looks just like the Sung Dynasty dragon, dated about 1200 AD. The same type of creature is represented on pottery and in figures throughout the ages in China. Sketches during the Han Dynasty (around 200 BC) show men hunting the creature.

The Egyptian God, Set, looks somewhat like the Marduk dragon, although it predated that image by a thousand years.

So was it a dinosaur—one who obviously lived at the same time as men? The *Massospondylus* dinosaur could be the model for these drawings through the ages. From the fossil records, we can tell it looked much like the dragon. It was about three feet high and thirteen feet long, including its long neck and tail. It had hand-like front claws with five fingers and thumb. It had a small head and peg-like teeth.

This is just one example of the same dragon figure and dragon that

appear in various areas of the world. Cave drawings, pottery, and primitive artwork from cultures around the globe show dragons.

Dragons figure prominently in Chinese legends and folklore, as well as in ancient artwork. The Chinese calendar uses 12 animals to depict the years. The dragon is one of those. Why would they use 11 actual animals and one imaginary one?

There are many tales of people fighting dragons in nearly every culture. The best known one, perhaps is St. George killing the dragon, which dates from 275 AD. The creatures in all of the stories resemble dinosaurs.

When Alexander the Great conquered parts of India in 326 BC, his soldiers were frightened by great dragons that lived in caves. They could have been some type of large lizard, or they may have been a pocket of surviving dinosaurs.

South American cliff drawings show lions, camels, and something that looks like a stegosaurus. The Anasazi of North America left behind pictures that look like the brachiosaurus.

So, we can safely assume that "dragons" and "dinosaurs" or "great lizards" are synonymous, and also that dinosaurs did not all die off suddenly in some cataclysmic event. In fact, there might still be some around today.

Scientists have found dinosaur bones that still contain un-fossilized material—not possible if the bones are as old as evolutionists claim them to be.

Every few years we hear of a fish or animal, thought to be long extinct, living in some remote corner of the world, like the coelecanth fish caught in the waters off Indonesia. So not only DID dinosaurs and men live at the same time, but perhaps, in some remote parts of the world, they still do! There are whole books written about modern sightings of dinosaurs, including *Dinosaurs, Dead or Alive?* *Cryptozoology* by Philip

O'Donnell, *Fossil, Fact or Fantasy?* by Joe Taylor, and numerous others and Web sites. Certainly, not all sightings are credible, but there are so many instances that we have to consider it at least a possibility.

So why aren't there fossil records of men and dinosaurs together? That's fairly easy to explain logically. They probably didn't live in close proximity to each other. Would you like to live in dinosaur country? Besides, fossils of vertebrates, particularly humans, are rare, anyway. To find them together would be highly unlikely—but may happen at some point. There are certainly plenty of archeological treasures still hidden to us. The archeologists haven't proclaimed themselves as "finished" having discovered all there is to find.

Another question that evolutionists pose is that, since all animals were vegetarian in the Garden of Eden, before sin and death, why do some animals—notably the dinosaurs—have sharp teeth?

Why do pandas need sharp teeth? They eat only bamboo. An evolutionist has to say they used to eat meat and switched to bamboo in order to explain it. Just as the panda uses those sharp teeth to tear into bamboo shoots, the animals that are now meat-eaters probably used those sharp teeth to eat tough, fibrous plants. How about just assuming that God knew what He was doing when he created the animals and gave them the appropriate teeth?

So it really causes no difficulty to recognize that dinosaurs lived in the Garden, before sin. We can also take it as literal truth in Genesis 6 and 7 when God says Noah took aboard the ark two of every living creature and seven of the "clean" creatures. We know, then, that the dinosaurs couldn't have all drowned—not if they were still "living creatures."

Besides, as we already have discussed, dinosaur-like creatures have been talked of for centuries.

But how did Noah get them all in the ark? Dinosaurs, after all, are

famed for their immense size. How could two of every one of the kinds of dinosaurs have squeezed into the ark and still left room for any other animals?

From fossil records, scientists have estimated that 50 pairs of dinosaurs would have covered all the species. Those would have contained the dna needed to account for all types of dinosaurs. Those 100 reptiles would not have had to be huge. We know that the average size of a dinosaur was actually the size of a sheep. Even the larger species could have been represented by a young, smaller creature. The largest reptile eggs discovered so far are the size of a football. Obviously, even behemoths and leviathans started life small.

They grew larger, but we don't know much about their growth cycle. We do know that reptiles, even today, grow larger as long as they live. A baby alligator is about 7 to 8 inches long and can grow up to 15 feet long in their 50 year or so lifespan. Now suppose that same alligator grew for 1,000 years? How big would it be? By the way, Wikipedia stated that alligators are known as "living fossils" because there are fossil records of alligators from 200 million years ago.

We know from the ages given in the Bible that people lived far longer before the flood. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. That is probably due to the protective vapor layer covering over the earth that existed before the flood. It stands to reason that animals and reptiles would live longer, too.

It also stands to reason that Noah would have taken young animals into the ark who would be able to breed and repopulate the earth. Just as it would make more sense for Noah to take a little, young alligator into the ark, he would have taken a small, young brachiosaurus with him. About 100 smallish reptiles could easily have fit into the ark.

But then, what happened to them? Why did they become extinct? The flood no doubt caused a massive change in climate. It was harder for all people and animals to find food. Survival was more challenging. Just as

animals become extinct today because their natural habitat is compromised, so the dinosaurs didn't fare well after the flood.

While, as we have seen, some did survive, they had shorter life spans, just as men did. They didn't have the time to grow as large. They also were prey to man and other animals without the advantage of size. Men have always strived to be "the tough man." And since they didn't have "tough-man contests" or even football, don't you imagine that there were many that wanted the title of being "the dragon-slayer"? By the way, most of the artwork through the centuries shows dragons as being much smaller than a horse.

Our adversary, the devil is one who 'deceives the nations.'
Dinosaurs and their fossils are one of the great tools he has been using.

He couldn't fool Adam into discounting their existence, as Adam named them 6,000 years ago. He couldn't fool Noah. He fed them 4400 years ago. It is evident that over the next 4000 years most dinosaurs died off or were killed by man. By 1809 they were nearly extinct. That's when we have the first large dinosaur skeleton discovered. Satan has seen this as a great tool to deceive modern man. His purpose is to cast doubt on God's word.

But the more we learn about these creatures, the more we see the glory of God in their creation. We must not allow the atheistic evolutionists to distort these truths—to take what the Lord has made and use it for the glory of atheism. We must be stirred up with jealousy for the LORD of Hosts, our glorious Triune God. They need not be a stumbling block or a tool in the hands of the enemy. We must, like many of the creation scientists, use dinosaurs as a means of capturing the interest of the children and to introduce them to the wonders of our glorious God, His handiwork, and most of all to the so-great salvation that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Parents, let me close with what the Apostle Paul reminded Timothy of in 2 Timothy 3:14-16.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

It is your responsibility to be diligent to see that your children are faithfully taught in the Scriptures so that the enemy cannot easily deceive them. But more than that, so they will have that which is able to make them wise unto salvation (salvation for now and eternity) through faith which is in Christ Jesus.