

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON DINOSAURS

SECULAR THEORIES

- According to evolutionists, dinosaurs evolved 235 million years ago, long before man arrived on the scene
- Because secularists believe that, since the first human ancestors evolved 5-7 million years ago and modern humans evolved around 200,000 years ago, no humans lived with dinosaurs
- Such theories also claim that dinosaurs disappeared around 65 million years ago, probably due to some cataclysmic event
- Two hypotheses for explaining this cataclysmic event exist:
 1. Massive Volcanism Hypothesis – sustained, intense, widespread volcanic eruptions contributed to the demise of the dinosaurs
 2. Impact Event Hypothesis – a large asteroid or meteor hit the earth causing a “nuclear winter” that wiped out the dinosaurs
 - “In 1980, a research team...proposed that a giant impact was responsible. Such an impact would throw so much dust into the atmosphere that it would have blocked sunlight by about 10-20%. Such an aerosol could take over a decade to dissipate. And in this time, many of the land plants and phytoplankton, the bases of the land and sea food chains, would be wiped out. The next year, the supposed ‘smoking gun’ was discovered, Chicxulub crater in Yucatan, Mexico, over 180 km in diameter. This seems to be the result of an impact by a meteorite about 10 km across, releasing the energy of 62.6 billion Hiroshima bombs...”¹
- Despite the widespread belief in these theories of dinosaur extinction, many problems with them exist
 1. If there was a cataclysmic event 65 million years ago that led to their demise, then other animals even more sensitive to climate change (i.e. frogs) should have also died...but they survived
 2. If there really is a 60+ million-year gap between man and dinosaurs, then do we explain petroglyphs and other forms of ancient art that depict humans interacting with such familiar dinosaurs as the triceratops, stegosaurus, tyrannosaurus, and the sauropods?



¹ Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 246.

3. Many isolated cultures from around the world share stories of dragons and pictures of such in their art – from Egypt to India and even the Sioux Nation, there are tales of encounters with dragons and flying dinosaurs



A bronze Persian pot manufactured toward the end of the 1st Millennium AD



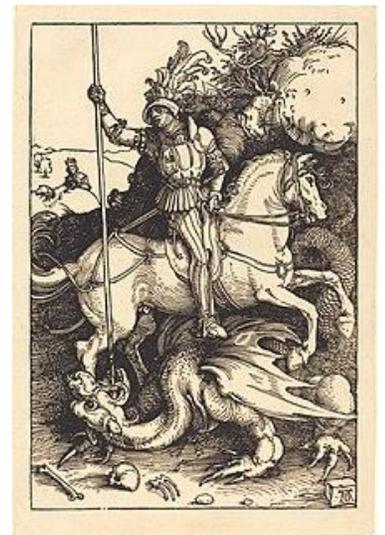
A Chinese dragon depiction From the Tang Dynasty (618-906 AD)



A stegosaurus-like carving from an 800-year old Cambodian temple



- One of the most famous accounts is that of St. George slaying the dragon
- St. George is believed to be born in Turkey around 280 AD and died in 303 AD as a Christian soldier under Diocletian's persecution
- Legend says that he attacked and killed a dragon that was terrorizing the townspeople of a city in Libya
- He became the patron saint of England in 1327 AD

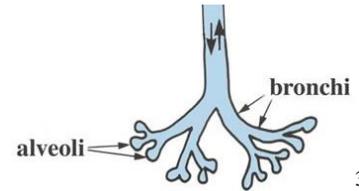


- Another dominant secular theory concerning dinosaurs is that they evolved into birds
- Evolutionists have long believed that birds evolved from reptiles, with Thomas Huxley speculating in the mid-1800s that birds came from dinosaurs
- Many evolutionists believe that birds are essentially modern short-tailed feathered dinosaurs
- The notion that theropod (bipedal with hollow bones and three-toed limbs) dinosaurs evolved into birds has almost certainly become one of the most widely accepted "facts" of evolution
- However, many arguments refute such a notion:
 1. The Bible clearly states that birds were created on day 5 and dinosaurs on day 6, clearly demonstrating that birds and dinosaurs originated separately
 2. There were multiple bird kinds (plural) created on day 5

3. Dinosaurs were reptiles and therefore cold-blooded creatures; whereas, birds are warm-blooded creatures – “The difference between cold- and warm-blooded animals isn’t simply in the relative temperature of the blood but rather in their ability to maintain a constant body core temperature. Thus, warm-blooded animals such as birds and mammals have internal physiological mechanisms to maintain an essentially constant body temperature... ‘endothermic.’ In contrast, reptiles have a varying body temperature influenced by their surrounding environment and are called ‘ectothermic.’”²
4. There is a major difference between avian and reptilian lungs



Avian “flow-through ventilation”

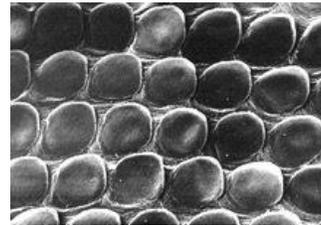


Reptilian diaphragmatic bi-directional air flow

5. There is no evidence that feathered dinosaurs existed – there is no evidence for “sceathers” because feathers are profoundly different from scales in their structure and growth



Close-up of a feather



Close-up of scales

6. The theropod dinosaur that is believed to have evolved into birds is poorly designed for flight (*T. rex*)
7. Birds balance and walk from the knee not the hip as the bipedal dinosaurs did

- So, dinosaur-to-bird evolution did not/cannot occur
- The Bible clearly teaches that birds were uniquely created after their kinds on day 5

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- Some people think that because the word “dinosaur” is not found in any English translation of the Bible (including the 1611 KJV) that the Bible does not mention dinosaurs
- However, the word “dinosaur” wasn’t invented until 1841 by Sir Richard Owen, a famous British anatomist and first superintendent of the British Museum
- Upon seeing the bones of *Iguanodon* and *Megalosaurus*, he realized that they represented a unique group of reptiles that had not yet been classified
- He was the first to coin the term “dinosaur,” meaning “terrible lizard,” which comes from two Greek words: *deinos* (meaning “terrible, potent, fearfully great”) and *sauros* (meaning “lizard, reptile”)
- So, the word did not even exist when the 1611 KJV translation was done
- However, despite the fact the term doesn’t occur in the Bible doesn’t mean the Bible doesn’t address dinosaurs

² <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/feathers/did-dinosaurs-turn-into-birds/>

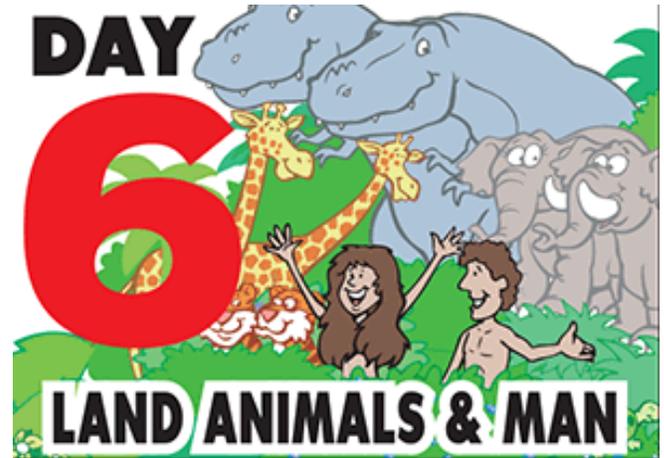
³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

Their Creation

- According to Genesis 1, all land-dwelling creatures were made on day 6 of creation week

Genesis 1:24-25 ~ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.



- Because dinosaurs were land-dwelling creatures, they must have been included in the group of animals that were created on day 6
- Adam and Eve were also made on day 6...so dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, not separated by millions of years
- This means that dinosaurs and humans would have been alive at the same time and there would have been dinosaurs in the Garden of Eden
- “From the fossil record, we know about 50 different kinds of dinosaurs were alive on the earth before the Flood described in Genesis 6–9. Just over 1,650 years passed between the Creation and the Flood, so it seems likely that humans and dinosaurs must have interacted during this time, but they may have lived in different areas and not necessarily right alongside one another. However, with the vast number of fossilized dinosaurs we find across the globe that were buried as a result of the Flood (even in Antarctica), it would be hard to argue there was never contact between the two.”⁵
- And dinosaurs could not have died out before people appeared because dinosaurs had not previously existed
- And since death, bloodshed, disease, and suffering are a result of Adam’s sin, dinosaurs must have died after sin entered the world, not before

Romans 5:12, 14 ~ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned... 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ~ For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

- Additionally, the presence of “behemoth” in Job 40 (Job lived after the Flood) only fits with something like a sauropod dinosaur
- “Behemoth” is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *behemot*

Job 40:15-19 ~ Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 Behold now, his strength in his loins And his power in the muscles of his belly. 17 He bends his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are knit together. 18 His bones are tubes of bronze; His limbs are like bars of iron. 19 He is the first of the ways of God; Let his maker bring near his sword.

- Although the marginal notes in most Bibles suggest Behemoth could have been a hippopotamus (NASB, NLT) or an elephant (NIV, KJV), the terminology implies an animal must larger than that:

⁵ <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/when-did-dinosaurs-live/dinosaurs-eden/>

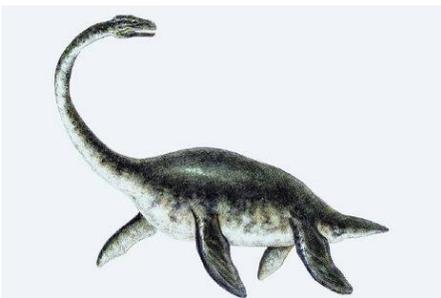
- “tail like a cedar” – clearly neither the hippopotamus or the elephant have a tree-like tail, but a large dinosaur like *Brachiosaurus* did
- “first of the ways of God” – this suggests that this was the largest land animal God had made, something not true of the elephant or hippopotamus

What About Dragons?

- Another reference to dinosaurs in the Bible may be the “sea monsters” and “dragons” it mentions
- There are many dragon legends from around the world
- “Just as Flood legends are based on a real global Flood (Flood of Noah) – dragon legends are possibly based on actual encounters with real animals that today we call dinosaurs. Many of these land-dragon descriptions do fit with what we know about dinosaurs.”⁶
- These universal legends of giant reptiles perhaps point to real contact between human beings and dinosaurs or some other creature no longer seen in the modern world

Genesis 1:20-22 ~ Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” 21 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; and God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

- In addition to the great variety of sea creatures that God created on day 5, He also created the “sea monsters” (*tannin*)...although the word is sometimes translated as “whale” (KJV), it is better rendered “dragon, serpent, or monster” (cf. Ex 7:9-10, 12)
- “The reference to one specific kind of creature seems significant. Why are the *tannin* singled out? Perhaps the answer is found in the fact that ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian mythology was filled with fantastic tales about sea monsters. These were supposed to be gods, and the ancient pagans feared these sea-creature deities, as if they were the embodiment of evil. Such myths were common at the time Moses wrote this account. So here the biblical text simply states that God created even the largest, more monstrous creatures of the deep. They are not gods to be feared; they are created beings like every other form of life God created. And the biblical text underscores that fact, debunking all the pagan myths about them.”⁷



Plesiosaurus



Elasmosaurus



Mosasaurus

- Was the Loch Ness Monster one of these creatures?
- There are other Bible passages about dragons that lived in the sea

Psalm 74:13-14 ~ You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters. 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

⁶ <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/when-did-dinosaurs-live/what-really-happened-to-the-dinosaurs/>

⁷ MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, 129.

Psalm 104:25-26 ~ There is the sea, great and broad, In which are swarms without number, Animals both small and great. 26 There the ships move along, And Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.

Isaiah 27:1 ~ In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

Job 3:8 ~ Let those curse it who curse the day, Who are prepared to rouse Leviathan.

Job 41:1, 8, 10, 12-29 ~ Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord?...8 Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle; you will not do it again!...10 No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him; Who then is he that can stand before Me?...12 I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, Or his mighty strength, or his orderly frame. 13 Who can strip off his outer armor? Who can come within his double mail? 14 Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth there is terror. 15 His strong scales are his pride, Shut up as with a tight seal. 16 One is so near to another That no air can come between them. 17 They are joined one to another; They clasp each other and cannot be separated. 18 His sneezes flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. 19 Out of his mouth go burning torches; Sparks of fire leap forth. 20 Out of his nostrils smoke goes forth As from a boiling pot and burning rushes. 21 His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes forth from his mouth. 22 In his neck lodges strength, And dismay leaps before him. 23 The folds of his flesh are joined together, Firm on him and immovable. 24 His heart is as hard as a stone, Even as hard as a lower millstone. 25 When he raises himself up, the mighty fear; Because of the crashing they are bewildered. 26 The sword that reaches him cannot avail, Nor the spear, the dart or the javelin. 27 He regards iron as straw, Bronze as rotten wood. 28 The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones are turned into stubble for him. 29 Clubs are regarded as stubble; He laughs at the rattling of the javelin.

- Some claim this animal was a crocodile; however, crocodiles are not sea creatures
- Others claim this was a killer whale or great white shark; however, its description better fits some sea-going dinosaur
- There is also mention of a flying serpent in the Bible

Isaiah 30:6 ~ The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through a land of distress and anguish, From where come lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent, They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who cannot profit them;

- Although the word “dinosaur” strictly refers to animals that lived on the land, the sea reptiles and flying reptiles are often grouped with the dinosaurs
- Hence, the sea dragons could have included dinosaur-type animals

Were There Dinosaurs on the Ark?

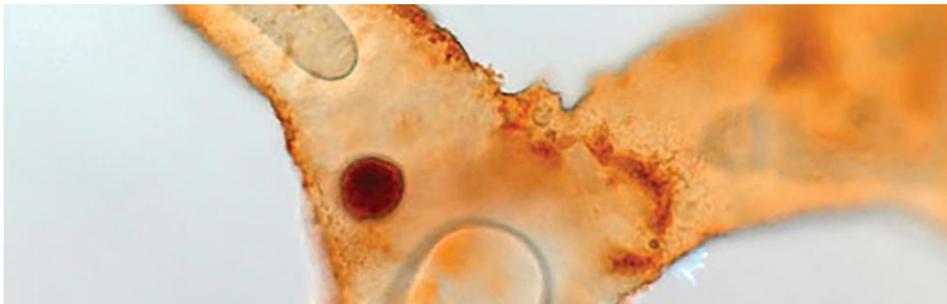
- Nothing indicates that any of the land animal kinds were already extinct before the Flood; thus, there must have been dinosaurs on the ark
- Although there are about 668 names of dinosaurs, there were perhaps only 50 different “kinds” of dinosaurs
- It is not hard to conceive of dinosaurs being on the ark since the average size of a dinosaur is actually the size of a sheep
- Also, God most likely brought Noah two juvenile sauropods rather than two full-grown ones (reptiles can keep growing as long as they live; thus, the large dinosaurs were probably very old ones)
- Additionally, dinosaurs would have repopulated the earth after the flood via the representative pair of each dinosaur kind that was on the ark
- In order for that to occur, young dinosaurs in the prime of their reproductive life (and therefore smaller) would have been on the ark

Genesis 8:17-19 ~ Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18 So Noah went

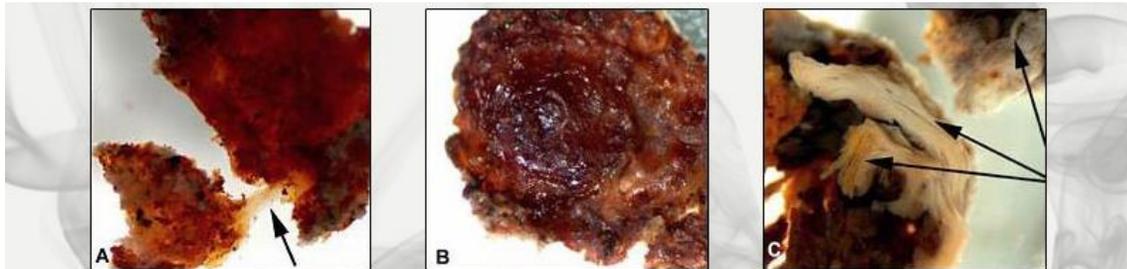
out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark.

NOT MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD

- In addition to Biblical evidence that dinosaurs are not millions of years old, there is also physical evidence
- “For the last two decades, Dr. Mary Schweitzer, although a committed (theistic) evolutionist herself, has been rocking the evolutionary/uniformitarian world with discoveries of soft tissue in dinosaur bones. These discoveries have included ligaments, blood and bone cells; flexible blood vessels; proteins like collagen, osteocalcin, actin, and histones and DNA. But under measured rates of decomposition, they could not have lasted for the presumed 65 Ma since dinosaur extinction, even if they had been kept at freezing point (never mind the much warmer climate proposed for the dinosaurs).”⁸



9



MAJOR PROBLEM FOR EVOLUTION: SCIENTISTS DISCOVER T-REX BLOOD CELLS & SOFT TISSUE ¹⁰

- Unfossilized dinosaur bones could not have survived for millions of years unmineralized
- “If creationists are right, dinosaurs died off only 3,000–4,000 years ago. So would we expect the preservation of vessels, cells, and complex molecules of the type that Schweitzer reports for biological tissues historically known to be 3,000–4,000 years old? The answer is yes. Many studies of Egyptian mummies and other humans of this old age (confirmed by historical evidence) show all the sorts of detail Schweitzer reported in her *T. rex*. In addition to Egyptian mummies, the Tyrolean iceman, found in the Alps in 1991 and believed to be about 5,000 years old, shows such incredible preservation of DNA and other microscopic detail.”¹¹
- Thus, such findings of soft-tissue and red blood cells pose a serious threat to the evolutionary model, but clearly fit a biblical understanding of creation only 6,000 years ago

⁸ Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 241-242.

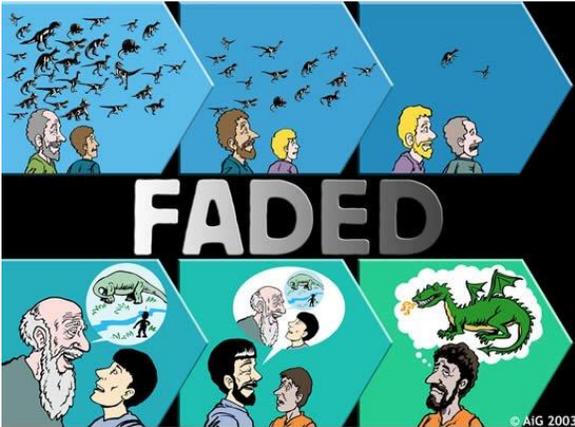
⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2017/09/19/more-dinosaur-soft-tissue-finds-2017/>

¹⁰ <https://creationstudies.org/articles/science/age-of-the-earth/212-c-14-trex-tissue>

¹¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/fossils/3-soft-tissue-in-fossils/>

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

- How do we account for the extinction of the dinosaurs?
 1. Most likely they simply died out after the flood because their population never grew large in the post-diluvian world



- The world that the animals on the ark entered after the flood was very different from the one they knew before it
- Because the flood had devastated it, it was now a much more difficult world to live in and survive
- One basic problem for post-flood dinosaurs was environmental change, making it more difficult to find the right types and sufficient quantities of food to sustain them
- Also, diseases in the post-flood world may have contributed to their demise

2. Human may have hunted them for food and sport

- Following the flood, man was given permission from the Lord to eat animals

Genesis 9:2-4 ~ The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. 3 Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. 4 Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.

- Thus, it is likely that early post-flood man could have hunted dinosaurs to extinction for food or fame or self-defense
- The extinction of the dinosaurs is most likely best explained by the way in which an estimated 20,000 to 2 million species that scientists believe may have gone extinct over the past century alone...a combination of climate change and the proliferation of the human species after the worldwide flood of Noah's day
- They went extinct for the same basic causes that other plants and animals have gone extinct
- There is even the possibility that dinosaurs still exist in remote areas of the world that have not yet come under our complete dominion