



DINOSAURS IN THE BIBLE

**A Biblical Take
On History's Most
Fascinating
Creatures**

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Dinosaurs have been the subject of controversy among many Christians throughout the years. Many Christians believe that dinosaurs could not have existed since their existence does not support the Biblical point of view, others disregard the Bible as true because the history of dinosaurs doesn't tie in with Biblical teaching, and then there are those that just ignore it and accept that dinosaur existence is just something that we will never understand.

The truth is, instead of proving the Bible wrong, dinosaur history actually confirms that all the events in the Bible are real accounts and did take place in history.

All that is needed is for us to take everything we've learned about the history of dinosaurs in school, throw it out the window, and begin to look through history from the Bible's point of view.

To understand the Biblical history of dinosaurs, we will go through some common questions people have that cause them to doubt either dinosaurs or the Bible altogether. With our mind unclouded by what we previously learned about dinosaurs, we will be able to see clearly how these creatures support Biblical history in many ways.

WHAT IS A FOSSIL?

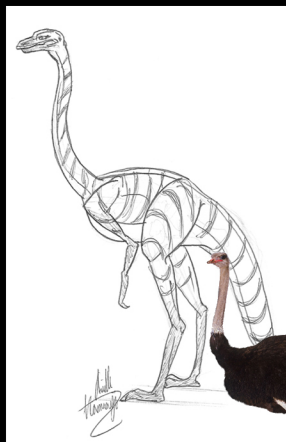
A fossil is an ancient dead animal or plant—or something left by them. Usually they are found buried in mud or sand that, over time, had turned into rock. Now, thousands of years later, we find them in the rock layers of the earth. If the fossil is petrified, rock has replaced parts of that plant or animal. The kind of dinosaur fossils that have been found include: Bones, teeth, claws, spikes, horns, bony plates, eggs (sometimes with unborn babies), "gizzard" stones, dung, footprints, imprints of skin (very rare), and stomach contents (very rare).

HOW ACCURATE ARE SCIENTIST'S FOSSIL FINDINGS?

Contrary to popular belief, not very accurate. Even the famous "Brontosaurus" never even existed. A dinosaur skeleton was discovered with its head missing. To make the skeleton complete, a scientist added a skull that was found 3 or 4 miles away, creating the Brontosaurus. No one knew of this until much later. The skeleton actually belonged to a diplodocus.

Putting a dinosaur skeleton together is not easy. It is like putting together pieces of a jigsaw puzzle... without the original picture to look at for reference. Many scientists have made complete pictures of dinosaurs based on just a single tooth or leg. These pictures are based on many guesses and very little facts. The ideas turn out to be wrong when more facts are discovered. Unfortunately, some scientists have not been careful with their descriptions of dinosaurs. They tell grand stories of how dinosaurs looked and behaved... but this is all based on guesswork. Every dinosaur painting is sure to contain some wrong information... no artist ever saw a living, breathing dinosaur...complete with skin, flesh, and color.

Imagine never seeing a giraffe or an ostrich skeleton. One day you find a bunch of bone pieces in the ground and try to put them together to form a skeleton. From that skeleton, you try to draw a picture of what you think the animal looked like when it was alive. No matter how good of an artist you are, it would take a miracle for you to be able to draw a giraffe or an ostrich correctly just by looking at bones and using your imagination.



Above is an example of an ostrich skeleton, and an artist's interpretation of what an ostrich might have looked like just by using its bones as a reference. The picture on the right corner is what the actual ostrich really looks like.

WHERE DID DINOSAURS COME FROM?

Dinosaurs were created by God on the sixth day of creation, the same time all the other land animals and humans were created (although the water animals and birds were created on the fifth day of creation). They did not live millions of years before humans, but lived at the same time. Human fossils have been found that were tested to be just as old as dinosaur fossils, and some dinosaur bone fossils still contain half of the dinosaur's original bone. These findings aren't surprising since our earth isn't much older than 6,000 years.

ARE DINOSAURS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE?

Dinosaurs are most definitely mentioned in the Bible, the best descriptions being the "Behemoth" and the "Leviathan". Both are mentioned in the book of Job by God, who was reminding Job of His power by referring to some of the things that He created.

Job 4:15-24 mentions the Behemoth as a massive land animal that ate "grass like an ox", "moves his tail like a cedar (tree)", his bones being like "strong pieces of brass", and that this animal was so large it could even drink up the Jordan river. Some people have thought the Behemoth to be a hippopotamus or an elephant, but neither animals has tails as thick as a cedar tree! The Behemoth easily could have been a reference to a diplodocus or an apatosaurus.

The Leviathan is mentioned in Job 41, Psalm 104:26, and Psalm 74: 14. These passages refer to a terrible sea monster, which sounds a lot like an aquatic dinosaur. Some people suggested the Leviathan to be merely a symbol of something or someone, but the Bible clearly states the Leviathan to be a physical sea creature. There have been dinosaur fossils found that could have been the Leviathan mentioned in the Bible, but even looking at the animals around us today, some are capable of doing amazing things that could only be designed by a powerful creator.



A dinosaur fossil going through the tedious process of excavation.

DRAGONS IN THE BIBLE AND HISTORY?

Many have asked the questions... where did the idea of dragons come from and why are they mentioned in the Bible?

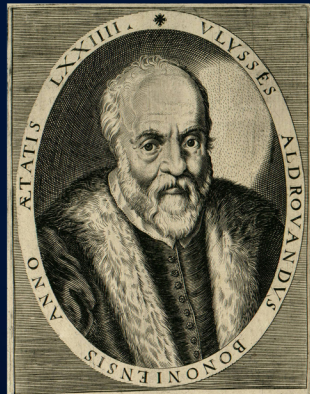
The answer is more simple than some people think. Dinosaurs and dragons are actually one and the same. Before 1841, the most common word for dinosaurs was "dragon". The word "dinosaur" is actually a modern term. It would make sense to have the term "dragon" used in the Bible, since the King James English translated version was written in the 1600s.

As many of us are aware, there are many ancient people all over the world that have told tales of unusual, reptile-like creatures they referred to as "dragons". This is not a coincidence that so many different cultures around the world would have such similar descriptions of a supposed "made up mythical" creature.

Scientists also agree that legends are almost always based on facts, not just pure imagination. If we look around us, anything imagined or created by a human being was inspired by something that has already been created. We are the created, not the Creator. We cannot imagine something unless we have seen it before.



A painting from the 1600s of Saint George slaying a dragon.



Drawing of Ulysses Aldrovandus.

Dinosaur Sighting in the 1500s?

Here is an interesting account of a scientist from the 1500s:

“A scientist named Ulysses Aldrovandus carefully described a small "dragon" seen along a farm road in northern Italy. The date was May 13, 1572. The poor, rare creature was so little that a farmer killed it just by knocking it on the head with his walking stick. The animal had done nothing wrong but hiss at the farmer's oxen as they approached it on the road.

The scientist got the dead body and made measurements and a drawing. He even had the animal mounted for a museum. It had a long neck, a very long tail and a fat body. The skeletons of a number of ancient reptile-like creatures match this basic description.”



A dragon from ancient Mesopotamia (ca. 5000 bc)

HOW DID DINOSAURS BECOME EXTINCT?

There are at least 55 different theories how dinosaurs became extinct, but most have been rejected because of problems with the facts. The most common theory we hear of is of a large meteorite that hit the earth which created a huge dust cloud that covered the earth. Since it took years for the dust to clear up, many plants died because of lack of sunlight and the planet became a cold place and eventually the dinosaurs died out too. The problem with this is that:

- 1 - It doesn't agree with the Bible.
- 2 - Scientists have not found a crater hole like that anywhere.
- 3 - If the meteorite collision actually happened, then other forms of life like birds, small vertebrates, crocodiles, insects, flowering plants, freshwater plants and animals, various types of sea life, etc. would not have been able to survive either.

What we know for sure is that the world had been effected one way or another by a global disaster. What other disaster could be greater than...

THE BIBLICAL FLOOD?

Most, if not all of us, know the story of Noah and the flood. God commanded Noah to build an ark and have his wife, three sons (and their wives), enter in with two of every kind of beast (male and female). (Genesis 6 and 7).

Many people have made comments that Noah could not possibly fit all the animals of the world (including dinosaurs) into the ark plus have enough to feed them. Therefore, dinosaurs (even if they existed) must have become extinct before the flood.

Fitting animals and supplies onto the ark is not an issue in the very least. God clearly instructed Noah exactly how to build the ark, and He knew exactly what the ark needed to accommodate for the time period that Noah, his family, and the animals would be aboard.

It actually makes sense to have had younger animals enter the ark, since food consumption would be less and mating wouldn't become an issue. Dinosaurs that were taken on the ark were most likely not full size, although there are only a few species that are very large to begin with.



The account of the flood in Genesis supports massive dinosaur fossil findings better than any other theories.

But, surprisingly, the flood is not the ultimate culprit of how dinosaurs became extinct. The flood is the culprit of why so many dinosaur fossils (amongst other animals and plants) can be found all over the world.

The earth must have looked very different when Noah and his family emerged from the ark. Many believe this is when animals began to hunt each other to survive, and the time when God gave Noah and his family permission to eat meat. Many animals probably died out from the landscape change, climate change, and new predators, but this is still not the ultimate reason for dinosaur extinction. The real culprit is...

Man. If we look in history, many documented animal species became extinct through the carelessness of man. If it wasn't for the past and present conservationists that God has blessed us with, there would be a lot more extinct species in our world.

Men in the ancient world were made saints and highly honored if they were to kill a "dragon" (dinosaur). This, among many other factors that exist today among people and animals, is humans moving into animal habitat and trying to rid the area of disturbing creatures that could be a nuisance to them and their flocks, killing animals for meat and other purposes, killing out of fear, or killing to gain a certain high status.

Sadly, the ultimate extinction of dinosaurs is the poor choices made by man, the very beings that have been appointed by God to keep and care for His creation.

FOSSILS PROVE THE FLOOD TO BE TRUE?

The main ingredients for perfect fossils are:

- 1 - Quick burial.
- 2 - Water, in the right amounts.
- 3 - Suitable minerals.

Only a great event like the flood would leave the evidence that we find today. For instance, one would expect to find billions of dead creatures buried by water in mud and sand (now hardened into rock). And that is exactly what scientists do find around the world.

- Thousands of dinosaur bones can be found where they were washed together by violent flood waters and buried under mud, sand, and rock. Many of the animals were torn apart and their bones broken and jumbled up. The mud and sands hardened like concrete to form the great layers of fossil rocks we find today.

- Quick flood burial would be the ONLY WAY that so many dinosaurs and other things could have become fossilized in the way scientists have found them. Animals and plants will fossilize ONLY if they are buried quickly and deeply—before predators, decay, and weather destroy them.

Dinosaurs were most likely not as ferocious as portrayed in movies. Even the mighty T-Rex was very slow. Its teeth were not rooted well and would be lost in battles. Its small front legs were too weak for grabbing and killing large dinosaurs. The problem with thinking the Tyrannosaurus Rex was a super killer is that the teeth on its fossils show little or no tooth wear. The tips of its teeth are in perfect condition, yet the T-Rex fossil came from an adult. If the T-Rex was a killing dinosaur, there would be some tooth wear from biting through bones and tearing off hunks of meat.



Man is the most likely cause of dinosaur extinction.

WERE DINOSAURS AS FEROCIOUS AS PORTRAYED IN MOVIES?

Most likely not. Dinosaurs were not very intelligent creatures. Hollywood tends to embellish truths for entertainment purposes, and dinosaurs are a perfect candidate. Even if we look at the modern crocodile or alligator (which really do look like prehistoric dinosaurs) most species are not a threat to humans as long as they can keep their privacy. Many human attacks by animals occur because of the animal feeling threatened and acting in self-defense.

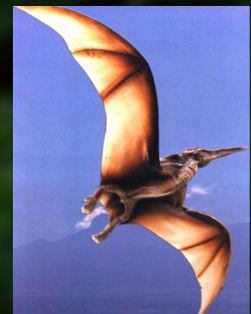
ARE THERE DINOSAURS LIVING TODAY?

It may be possible. Here are some recent accounts of supposed dinosaur sightings:

"Natives in a very remote jungle in Africa have repeatedly told of seeing large animals a lot like the sauropod (long-necked) dinosaurs. A group of natives may have killed a small one in 1950. Some scientists have studied the reports and are planning trips deep into the jungle. They hope to find a dinosaur still alive."

"Natives living in northern Zimbabwe described a strange flying animal which they called the "kongamato". It was not a bird but more like a reddish-colored lizard with bare, bat-like wings. The distance between its wing tips was four to seven feet. The scientists showed natives pictures of various animals, both living and extinct. Each person interviewed said the Pterodactyl was most like the kongamato. These animals are supposed to live mainly in a huge, dense area called the Jiunda Swamp.

Researchers have heard of animals like this in other places, too."



The "kongamato" sited by natives in Zimbabwe was probably a Pterodactyl.





WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF DINOSAURS?

Everything God has created was created for only one sole purpose... for His own glory and majesty. When the Bible mentions the leviathan, it brings up this creature only to prove how great God is. If God could create such an amazing, gigantic, fearless creature, how much more greater is He than anything in this world. Dinosaurs, like everything around us, show us how great and glorious God is. The sad truth is that we have strayed from our sole purpose of giving glory to our Creator. So many souls these days feel empty and lost and try to do so many things to fulfill their desires and be happy, but they can't. Why? Because deep inside all of us, our soul knows why we were created and Who we were created for. We were created to give God glory, and we cannot give Him glory if we live in sin. Either way, whether we die in sin and go to hell or die in Him and go to heaven, God's name will still be glorified one way or another, and His power and might will be revealed to all creatures of the earth.

“THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER: FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL THINGS, AND FOR THY PLEASURE THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED.”

-REVELATION 4:11

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