

# DINOSAURS AND THE BIBLE

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Since childhood I have been fascinated with dinosaurs. There is just something about these “terrible lizards” that catches the attraction of children and adults alike. Another resurgence of interest in dinosaurs has arisen with the opening of the movie “Lost World”, a sequel to the vastly popular “Jurassic Park”. With dinosaurs running amuck on movie screens, people are again asking what the Bible says about dinosaurs. Such inquiries deserve an honest investigation.

Unfortunately, much misinformation has been told concerning when dinosaurs lived. Since there are no dinosaurs alive today (as far as we know), we must rely on the fossils of those that lived in times past. There are numerous fossil finds that have been made but no dates were stamped on the bones. This is where it can get tricky. If a scientist has a preconceived theory on how old a certain layer of rock is, then he will date the bone found therein accordingly. How does he know how old the rock is? By the presumed age of the bone found in it. Such circular reasoning is not uncommon. Radioactive dating methods are often employed but have been shown to give very unreliable results. The bottom line is that in order to preserve the integrity of the evolutionary geological time scale, dinosaur bones are arbitrarily dated from 65-225 million years, even when the evidence itself does not support such a conclusion. The problem is not the evidence, but its interpretation, and the theory of evolution is not the only interpretation. The creation interpretation must be considered.

Dinosaurs present no problem to the believer in the Bible account of creation. Dinosaurs are mentioned in the Bible—in the same verse that mentions kangaroos and groundhogs: “*And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good*” (Genesis 1:25). “*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them...*” (Exodus 20:11). Beyond these general references, Job 40 and 41 may have descriptions of dinosaurs. The book of Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible, and anyone familiar with dinosaurs will be able to see the similarities in the behemoth and leviathan. Why are there no dinosaurs today? The same reason there are no passenger pigeons—extinction. Why did they become extinct? A dramatic change in the earth’s weather and climate after the Flood has been cited as a possible reason for the demise of the dinosaur as well as the great drop in years that man is able to live. Many theories abound and we will probably never know for sure.

Some have swung the pendulum of illogical reasoning the other way and suggested that dinosaur fossils were planted by Satan to deceive us or even by God Himself to give the earth the appearance of age. Again, the problem is not the evidence, but the interpretation of the evidence. I reject the interpretations of evolutionists because they start with unproved and unreasonable presuppositions and then force them onto the evidence. Dinosaurs lived and died within human history. Dinosaur fossils exist because of the curse of death that Adam introduced into the world (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). The vast number of fossils gives evidence of a worldwide catastrophic Flood in which quick burial could take place. Fossils say *no* to evolution and *yes* to creation. Some dismiss this conclusion outright, but it is much more reasonable, in light of the evidence, than a theory in which life evolved from non-life and then developed into higher states by pure chance.

To demand that the Bible answer all the questions we may have about dinosaurs is unfair and unnecessary. The Bible records God's plan to redeem man. It is not an answer book for our curiosities. It gives us sufficient information concerning God and how we can live properly and righteously. Many mysteries of the past remain a part of those "secrets" we may never learn (Deut. 29:29), yet they should never become a source of doubt and unbelief. All our knowledge comes from facts that either we have been able to discover or God has revealed. We must accept both sources of knowledge—natural and spiritual. Both are provided by the Creator. The evidence for God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is clear and indisputable. It demands our faith and obedience. To accept any other way would be an intellectual and spiritual disaster.