
Lesson 18 — DINOSAURS



“Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox ... He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword!”

[Job 40:16, 19]

Dinosaurs have been captivating the minds and imaginations of little children and adults alike for generations. But where do they fit in the Biblical narrative? After all, hasn't science proven that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago and then became extinct long before mankind arrived on the scene? What does the Bible say about dinosaurs? Did Noah bring dinosaurs on the ark? Is there any evidence that mankind lived alongside dinosaurs?

All of these questions and more deserve to be answered from a Biblical worldview, which is why dinosaurs get an entire lesson unto themselves. While naturalistic evolution conveniently places dinosaurs in a prehistoric Jurassic age that supposedly took place hundreds of millions of years ago, the Bible provides a much different testimony.

God created the heavens and earth and everything in them in six, ordinary, 24-hour days. The Biblical record demonstrates that the creation itself actually is around 6,000 years old, nowhere close to the proposed billions of years of evolutionary history. The Bible also says that God created all the animals after their own kind on Days 5-6 of creation week. That means that the dinosaur kind would have been created by God about 6,000 years ago.

Furthermore, the global flood of Genesis explains how the dinosaurs were buried alive, creating massive dinosaur fossil beds found all over the earth. And you may be surprised to discover that Noah would have had ample room on the ark to fit the numerous dinosaur kinds, especially considering that even the biggest dinosaurs most likely were young juveniles and much smaller than the full-size adults.

Whether or not you have ever considered such claims, let's take a deeper dive into the Biblical, archaeological, and historical evidence that rewrites the script on dinosaurs.

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? ... Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth is terror. His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal.” [Job 41:1-2, 14-15]

Dinosaurs in the Bible

Many skeptics and believers alike are more than surprised to discover that dinosaurs are mentioned in the Bible. The word “dinosaur” literally means “*terrible lizard*” and wasn’t coined until the mid 1800s, when huge reptilian creatures began to emerge in the fossil record. Before the term dinosaur became popularized, there was another universal word used for these massive reptiles — dragons.

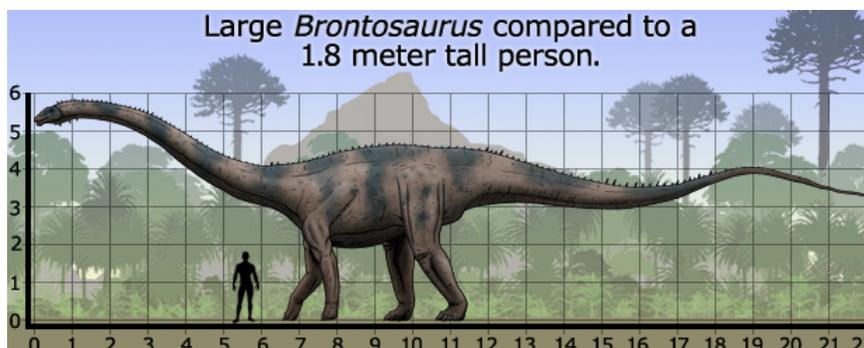
The word dragon is found in English Bible translations over 30 times, being used both figuratively and literally. The Hebrew term most often translated as “dragon” in the Old Testament is the word — *tanniyn*. This word has a variety of meanings, including serpent, monster, beast, great fish etc... For example, when God created “the great sea creatures” on Day 5, the Hebrew word *tanniyn* is used.

Furthermore, the Bible also makes reference to *Leviathan* as a dreadful dragon or ancient sea monster that causes fear in hearts of men. Although *Leviathan* can be interpreted symbolically as the chaos and darkness of the sea and even spiritually as the great Serpent or Dragon — aka the devil — the Bible also describes this dragon in striking detail, which only makes sense if it also were a real creature.

- ❖ Read Job 41. Write down as many details about the Leviathan as you can. Do you think this passage is describing a literal creature? Why or why not?

The book of Job also provides another detailed description of a beast called the behemoth that “*ranks first among the works of God*” [Job 40:19]. Although many Bible commentaries try to classify this animal as an elephant or hippopotamus, the Bible paints a different picture entirely. There is no creature alive today that meets all the criteria for the behemoth.

- ❖ Read Job 40:15-24. How does God describe the behemoth in this passage? What type of dinosaur matches the description of behemoth?



Dinosaurs in History

What do the writings of Alexander the Great, Beowulf, Marco Polo, and Saint George have in common? You guessed it. These ancient chronicles all make reference to dragon encounters. Before you dismiss these legends as pure fantasy, you should study the overwhelming testimony throughout the ancient world that provide detailed descriptions of real dragons. Nearly every civilization has some form of dragon legend, which gives credence to the fact that dinosaurs once lived as contemporaries to mankind.

“The dragons of legend are strangely like actual creatures that have lived in the past. They are much like the great reptiles which inhabited the earth long before man is supposed to have appeared on earth. Dragons were generally evil and destructive. Every country had them in its mythology.” [World Book Encyclopedia, 1973, p. 265]

Furthermore, there have been major archaeological discoveries of ancient artifacts that clearly depict dinosaurs — often alongside man and other animals. These detailed artifacts, stone carvings, and cave drawings predate the modern classification of dinosaurs, which means that the humans who made them would have seen these dinosaurs with their own eyes. It is impossible for an evolutionists to admit that humans and dinosaurs were contemporaries in the past because such an admission would immediately discredit their theory and destroy the foundations of the evolutionary timeline.



Dinosaurs in Archaeology

Finally, it is important to understand that the archaeological evidence and fossil record actually is in favor of Biblical creation. For example, there have been dozens of discoveries in the past 20 years of soft tissue and even red-blood cells in fossilized dinosaur bones. To date, there has been no adequate evolutionary answer to explain why soft, organic tissue has been found in fossils that are supposedly hundreds of millions of years old. These discoveries prove that dinosaurs are more likely thousands, not millions of years old. When all the evidence is gathered, it becomes clear that dinosaurs were made by God on Day 6 of creation week and lived alongside humans before gradually going extinct.