



DINOSAURS

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INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of the existence of dinosaurs and similar marine and air reptiles, these remarkable creatures have captured the attention and imagination of people of all ages (Figure 1). In fact, it is not uncommon to frequently see a picture, article, movie (i.e., Jurassic Park 1, 2, and 3), a television program on the latest dinosaur discovery and how dinosaurs lived and died.



Figure 1. These animals continue to excite all ages

One of the interesting aspects about dinosaurs is their size, which in certain cases far exceeded the proportions of the largest modern land animals that are alive today. When observing a skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex or Brachiosaurus, it is obvious these creatures were unique and very different from the animals we see today, yet it is interesting that dinosaur fossils are found in remarkable numbers on every continent on earth which indicates they were a plentiful animals! As an example, modern classification systems lists over 700 species of dinosaurs, and about 30 new species are named each year.

Without a doubt, these unique animals not only draw attention from young and older people alike but have also stimulated people's desire to know more about the past history of dinosaurs. To answer common questions about dinosaurs, let's look at some known scientific discoveries, common theories, and most importantly, what the Bible has to say about these exceptional animals.

Instead of using the typical literary style that incorporates sequential paragraphs, lets break our discussion into a question and answer type of format.

WHAT MAKES DINOSAURS UNIQUE

To begin, dinosaurs did not have wings, flippers, or fins. To be classified as a dinosaur, the creature must have (1) a specific hip structure, (2) weight-saving openings in the skull, and (3) live on land:

HIP STRUCTURE

Dinosaurs had hips that placed their legs beneath them (like an elephant) as illustrated in the Triceratops skeleton in Figure 2. Modern reptiles have legs that come off the sides of their bodies and then down (i.e., alligators, lizards, etc.), which is referred to as *splayed*. Vertical legs designate an erect stance – *column legs* – and are capable of supporting significantly more weight than splayed hips/legs.

SKULLS

All dinosaurs had skulls with peculiar openings in their sides as illustrated in the T-Rex skull in Figure 3. These openings or windows may have been used to save weight and are known as *fenestrae*.

LAND

Dinosaurs lived *exclusively* on land. Therefore, some prehistoric reptiles were not really dinosaurs. Examples of reptiles that do not fit into the category of dinosaurs were marine animals that did not have lizard hips (i.e., the marine reptile Plesiosaur) and flying reptiles (i.e., Pteranodon).

It is also important to mention that reptiles normally grow during their lifespan. However, remember that pre-flood conditions were significantly

different from modern conditions and would have favored dinosaurs with an unlimited food supply. Humans lived long periods of time before the flood, so it is likely that dinosaurs did also, hence their enormous size for some species.

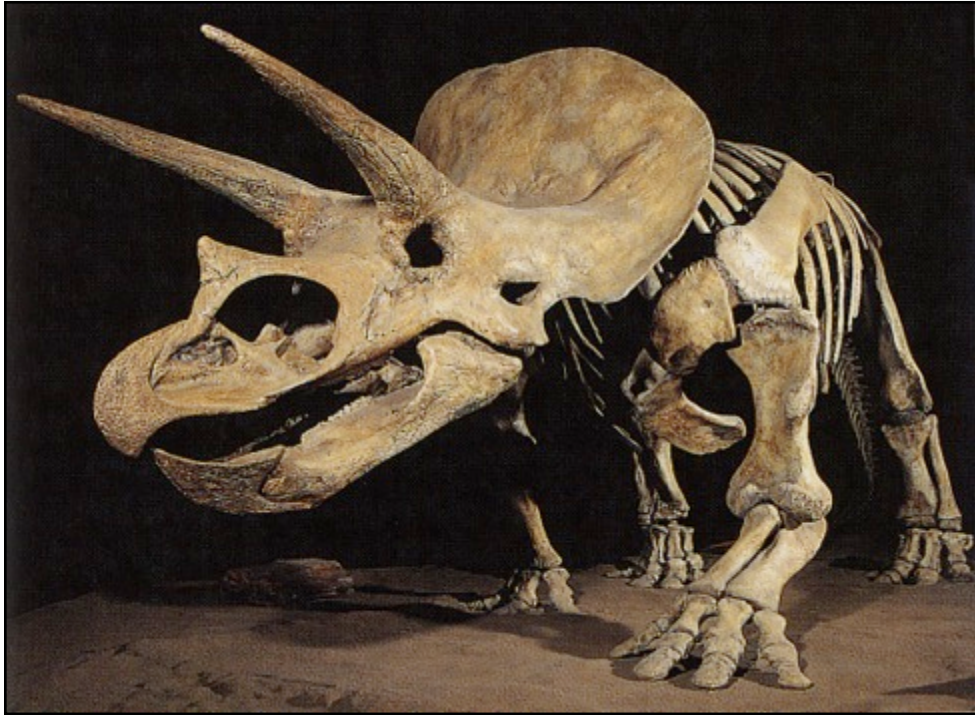


Figure 2: The legs of dinosaurs are directly below their body



Figure 3: Dinosaur skulls had openings or windows

WHEN WERE DINOSAURS DISCOVERED

Actually, a better question would be – *when were dinosaurs rediscovered?* To answer this question, let's look at some dinosaur history. Chang Qu wrote about “dragon bones” found in Sichuan Province, China, around 300 B.C. Today, they would probably be called dinosaur bones so the history of dinosaur artifacts is not new. Nevertheless, the first official drawing and description in scientific literature of a dinosaur bone occurred in 1677. The large bone was found in England in 1677 and was initially categorized as belonging to an ancient species of “human giants.” Although the original specimen was lost, it is now believed it was part of the femur of a dinosaur that today is called *Megalosaurus*.

In 1819, a British fossil hunter found some fossils that were thought to belong to an ancient large version of a modern reptile. Then, in 1822, tooth and jaw fragments were found that were much larger than modern reptiles. In 1824, the name *Megalosaurus* was published with a description from the previously mentioned tooth and jaw fragments.

As the term dinosaur had yet to be invented and with additional unknown fossils being found, Sir Richard Owen, a comparative anatomist, coined the term dinosaurian (from the Greek *deinos* meaning fearfully great, and *sauros* meaning lizard – or terrible lizard) in 1841 and by recognizing them as a suborder of large, extinct reptiles, the age of dinosaur-type reptiles were popularized! Since the 1800's, thousands of dinosaur fossils have been discovered on every continent, including the Polar Regions! As a side note, the first dinosaur fossil found in the United States was a thighbone in New Jersey in 1787. Although it has since been lost, more fossils were later found in this area.

DOES THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY REFER TO DINOSAURS

The Bible does not specifically use the term dinosaurs as Sir Richard Owen did not use this name until 1841. However, we know that God created dinosaurs and man on the *sixth day* of creation:

(24) *Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind;” and it was so.*

(25) *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. (26) Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good”*

Genesis 1:24-26

The preceding portion of scripture contains three important perspectives that will be expanded on in later sections:

- Cattle and beasts in verses 24-25 represents all kinds of large four-legged animals
- Beasts of the earth in verses 24-25 is different from and larger than the cattle, so this would include dinosaurs
- As man was also created on day 6, dinosaurs and man coexisted

Although the Bible does not specifically refer to dinosaurs in the previous scriptural account – or in any other scriptural account – the Bible does refer to an animal in Job, Chapter 40 (most scholars place the book of Job *after* the flood of Noah) that must have been a dinosaur. In speaking directly to Job:

(15) "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox. (16) See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. (17) He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. (18) His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. (19) He is the first of the ways of God; only He who made him can bring near His sword. (20) Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there. (21) He lies under the lotus trees, in a covert of reeds and marsh. (22) The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. (23) Indeed the river may rage, yet he is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth. (24) Though he takes it in his eyes, or one pierces his nose with a snare"

Job 40:15-24

Behemoth is a generic term that is used in the Old Testament for large cattle or land animals but the description in this passage suggests an extraordinary creature. Although the hippopotamus and elephant have been suggested by some as qualifying candidates from the details in the passage, the short tails of the hippo and elephant are hardly consistent with verse 17 (Figure 4). Many scholars believe that God is describing His most impressive creation of *land* animals. Interestingly, the creature that fits all the characteristics of the Behemoth of Job 40 is a sauropod dinosaur such as an Apatosaurus or a Brachiosaurus. In verse 23, God was not saying that this creature lived in the Jordan River, but was illustrating how much water it could ingest since Job was familiar with the Jordan River.

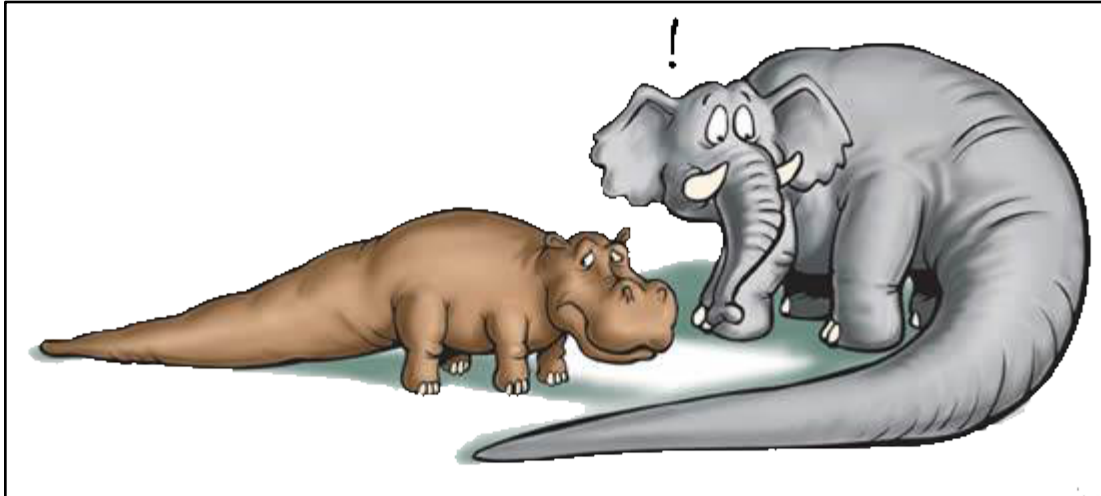


Figure 4. Hippos and elephants do not have tails like a cedar

While God is directly speaking to Job in Chapter 40, God also defines another mighty creature in Job 41 that is not a land dinosaur but a creature that lives in the ocean and was unequaled on earth as follows:

(1) *"Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? (2) Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? (7) Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? (12) I will not conceal his limbs, his mighty power, or his graceful proportions. (13) Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? (14) Who can open the doors of his face, with his terrible teeth all around? (15) His rows of scales are his pride, shut up tightly as with a seal; (16) One is so near another that no air can come between them; (17) They are joined one to another, they stick together and cannot be parted. (18) His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. (19) Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out. (20) Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. (21) His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth. (22) Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him. (23) The folds of his flesh are joined together; they are firm on him and cannot be moved. (24) His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone. (25) When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of his crashings they are besides themselves. (26) though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; nor does spear, dart, or javelin. (27) He regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. (28) The arrow cannot make him flee; slingstones become like stubble to him. (29) Darts are regarded as straw; he laughs at the threat of javelins. (30) His undersides are like sharp potsherds; he spreads pointed marks in the mire. (31) He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. (32) He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. (33)*

On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. (32) He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride"
Job 41:1-2,7,12-34

The term Leviathan appears in 4 other Old Testament texts (Job 3:8, Psalms 74:14, Psalms 104:26, and Isaiah 27:1). In each case, Leviathan refers to some mighty creature that can overwhelm man but was no match for God. Since this creature lives in the sea among ships (Psalm 104:26), it was some form of a monster sea reptile that is unknown to modern science and cannot be *specifically* matched to any fossilized creatures. The only fossilized remains that have



Figure 5. Sarcosuchus

similar attributes to the description of Leviathan is Sarcosuchus the “super croc.” This gargantuan reptile was over 40’ long, weighed over 8 tons, and had jaws that were lined with 100 teeth that resembled railroad spikes. Furthermore,

its bony armor-plating scales (called scutes) were closely overlapping shields that were tightly sealed together and covered the creature from head to tail. Figure 5 illustrates the size difference between the fossilized adult skull of a large crocodile and the skull of *Sarcosuchus*!

Of particular interest are verses 19-21 that indicate Leviathan was capable of breathing fire and smoke from its mouth and nostrils. Although there are numerous legends about fire-breathing dragons, this is not a far-reaching perspective as the modern Bombardier Beetle (the arsenal insect) has similar attributes as follows:

- The beetle is equipped with twin chambers at the rear of its body
- These chambers store hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide
- To keep these chemicals from violently reacting if mixed, the beetle adds a mysterious inhibitor that prevents the hydrogen peroxide from oxidizing the hydroquinone
- When the beetle is threatened, the aforementioned chemicals are directed into two combustion tubes where they are mixed with two enzymes – catalase and peroxidase
- The chemicals and catalysts react to form the chemical quinone
- The ensuing chemical reaction allows the beetle to fire an irritating mixture of gas, smoke and steam at 212 degrees F at a potential attacker

WHAT DOES MODERN SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DINOSAURS

MODERN SCIENCE

Most secular textbooks state that dinosaurs lived 225 to 65 million years ago before going extinct. Supposedly, some catastrophic event (a meteor striking the earth is one of the more popular suppositions) resulted in the extinction of dinosaurs, but not before they began to evolve into birds. Modern science also denies the possibility of man and dinosaurs existing at the same time.

THE BIBLE

The Bible clearly states in Genesis 1:20-23 that marine and flying creatures were created on the fifth day of creation, and Genesis 1:24-25 states that land animals were created on the sixth day of creation. As man was also created on the sixth day of creation, man co-existed with dinosaurs and the large flying reptiles along with marine reptiles. Most dinosaurs disappeared during the global flood of Genesis 7:1-24, but two from each species were preserved on the ark. After the flood, the number of years dinosaurs existed is open to speculation.

From these two brief accounts, it is easy to see that they are diametrically opposed and have nothing in common. In the following sections we will look at how scientific evidence supports the biblical account of dinosaurs while offering a lack of support for the evolutionary account.

HOW ARE DINOSAUR FOSSILS FORMED

There are two explanations regarding the formation of fossils – evolutionary and creationist. Lets look at the evidence – or lack of evidence – for both explanations.

EVOLUTIONARY

The evolutionary description for the formation of fossils –including dinosaur fossils – is initially based on the premise there was never a catastrophic global flood as outlined in Genesis. For a graphic evolutionary illustration, lets overview the popular book *Dig Into Fossils, A Guide For Collectors* to see how secular evolutionary science explains “How An Animal Can Become A Fossil.”

Following the order of the illustrations of Figure 6, page 7, lets assume an animal dies in the ocean:

- An animal dies and sinks to the bottom of the ocean and is covered by sediment
- The soft body tissues will dissolve and leave a mold. The mold will ultimately fill up with sediment and minerals that harden over time, forming a cast
- Over eons of time, the earth moves and brings the fossil towards the surface
- Ultimately, the earth erodes and the fossil is exposed and becomes visible

CREATIONIST

A creationist looks at the formation of fossils from a meaningfully different viewpoint that is based on a worldwide catastrophic flood that *quickly* overwhelms and buries all land dwelling animals in sedimentary deposits that can be found all across this earth:

“(21) And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. (22) All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. (23) So He destroyed all living things that were on the face of the ground: Both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive”

Genesis 7:21-23

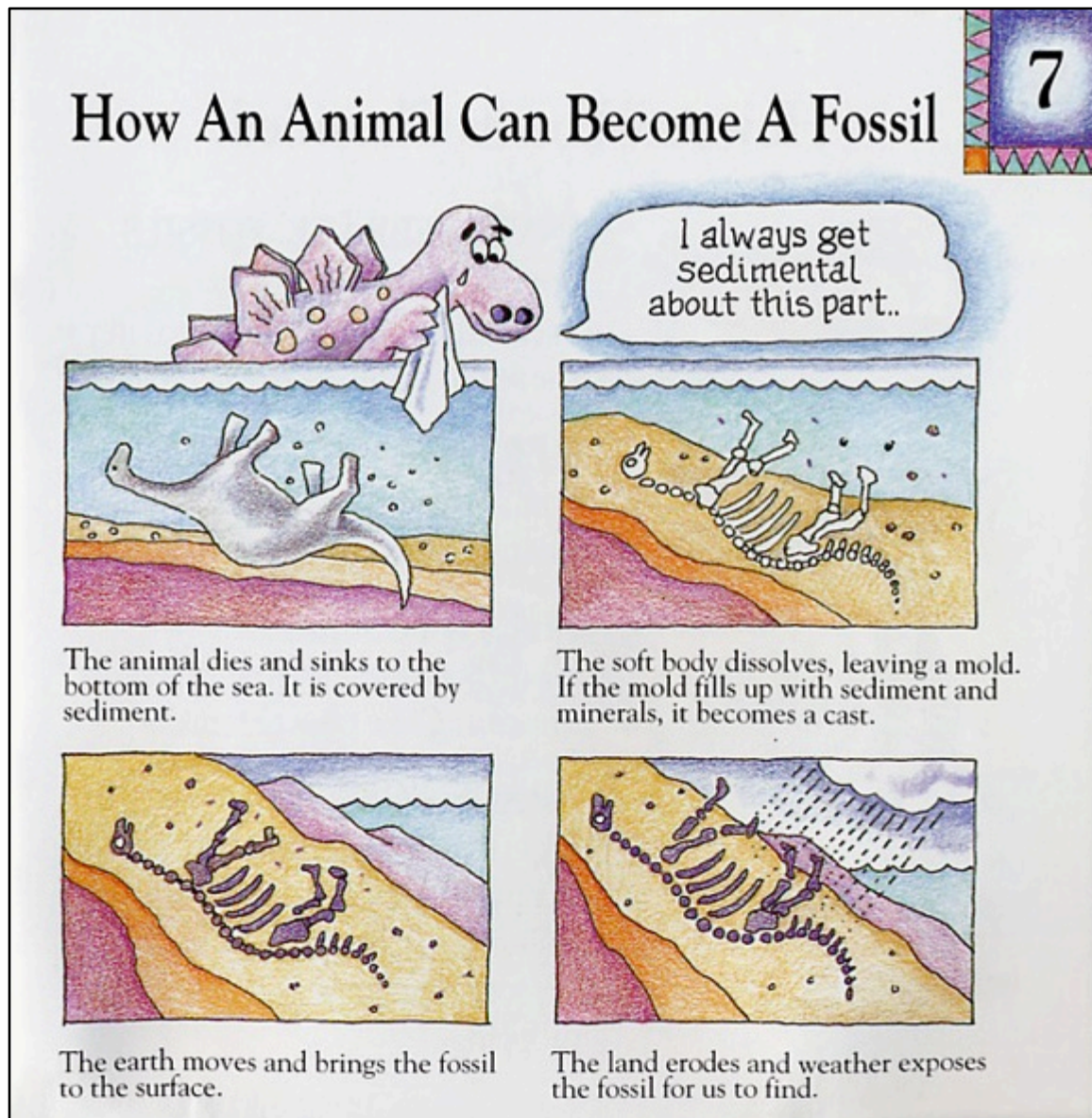


Figure 6: A secular explanation for the formation of fossils

Notice that the primary difference between the previous two definitions is **a global flood and time**. The creationist definition is based on a catastrophic global flood that *quickly* buries plant and animal life in sedimentary deposits as this action will eliminate destruction of the plant or animal by:

- Rapid decomposition due to bacteria and natural chemical processes
- Natural scavengers
- Oxidation by oxygen in the air that causes decomposition
- Ground and water chemicals that decompose and dissolve everything, including bones and teeth

The global flood that caused a rapid type of catastrophic sedimentation that quickly overwhelmed plants and animals should produce large numbers of fossil graveyards around the world in addition to plants and animals that have been buried together that do not normally co-exist. Not surprisingly, this is exactly what is found around the world. A clear example of catastrophism (global flood) is the vast fossil graveyards in the sedimentary crust all around the earth (sedimentary rocks make up 75% of the earth's rocks) where fossils can be found by the billions, and often with other plants and animals that were not indigenous. As an example:

- Fossils of fish are found by the billions in Scotland, New York, California, Wyoming
- Dinosaur fossils are common in New Mexico, Alberta, Tanzania, Belgium
- Insect fossils are abundant in Colorado, the Baltic Nations, Caribbean Islands
- Over 200 plant and animal species have been catalogued in the Hagerman Fossil Beds in Idaho
- The Mammoth beds of Siberia and Alaska
- Mastodon fossils in Florida
- Thousands of jumbled dinosaur fossils in Dinosaur National Monument, Utah
- Horse fossil beds in France
- Vast coal beds around the world that are fossilized remains of plants
- Thousands upon thousands of dinosaur fossils in the Hell Creek Formation, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas which encompass hundreds of square miles

It is important to remember that evidences of a worldwide flood can be found in more than 270 flood stories and historic records found in many parts of the world. As an example, flood legends can be found in the following civilizations:

- Hawaii
- China
- Toltec (Toltec Indians of ancient Mexico)
- Babylonia

In direct opposition to the creationist definition of fossil formation is the evolutionary explanation that is based on a process that requires sediment to slowly bury a plant or animal. Remember that unless there is catastrophic action, normal sedimentation is a slow process. This results in a dilemma for the evolutionary definition of fossil formation. Fossils cannot be formed by a slow sedimentary process as a dead plant or animal will be destroyed by scavengers

and/or decompose before being covered by sediment. If slow sedimentation resulted in fossils, one should find millions of bison fossils in the Great Plains of America. Not surprisingly, bison fossils are not found. The evidence of vast global fossil beds from a catastrophic global flood in concert with the evidence that few if any fossils are being formed today are graphically confirmed by the following quote:

“Comparatively few remains of organisms now inhabiting the earth are being deposited under conditions favorable for their preservation as fossils. It is, nevertheless, remarkable that so vast a number of fossils are imbedded in the rocks”

William J. Miller, Emeritus Professor of Geology, U.C.L.A.

It is interesting to note that the recent epic nodosaur fossil discovery in Canada was explained by the following comment:

“It’s believed that the nodosaur was carried out to sea after being swept away by a flood. As it sank, it likely created an impact crater and was rapidly covered by sediment. Because it was buried so quickly, nothing was able to scavenge the animal and it wasn’t able to decompose very much before it actually got fossilized”¹

DO WE KNOW HOW DINOSAURS LOOKED



Figure 7. Specific dinosaur reconstructions can be speculation

While more discoveries are currently being made, most dinosaur reconstructions are made from incomplete fossilized skeletons that vary from almost complete to just a few fossilized bones. Therefore, the color, type of skin, presence or absence of scales, appendages, soft parts, what the dinosaur ate, and in some cases, the stance can be conjecture and is often the result of an artist's speculation (Figure 7).

HOW BIG WERE DINOSAURS

Although some dinosaurs were enormous, the *average* size of dinosaurs was the approximate size of a dog or a sheep. However, the larger dinosaurs were enormous. As an example, two of the largest dinosaurs were the



Fig 8. Compared to man, some dinosaurs were immense creatures

Argentinosaurus at 130 feet long and weighing 106 tons, while the *Ultrasaurus* was 100 feet long and weighed 100-150 tons. As a simple comparison, the African

elephant weighs about 5 tons. Compared to man, the larger dinosaurs were huge creatures as illustrated in Figure 8. As a point of interest, the three dinosaurs illustrated in Figure 8 are the Ultrasaurus (tallest), Supersaurus (next tallest), and the Brachiosaurus (lowest).

As previously mentioned, many dinosaurs were not *supersized* but actually could be quite small.² As an example, portions of the skeletons of Tinysaurus and Compsognathus could be held in a person's hand. To date, the smallest dinosaur fossil that has been found is the Epidexipteryx Hui at 9-inches long. Obviously, Hollywood has glamorized the larger dinosaurs such as Brachiosaurus and the T-Rex to the delight of worldwide audiences.



Figure 9. Not all dinosaurs were large

HOW MANY SPECIES OF DINOSAURS EXISTED

The answer to this question varies depending on the source, such as Scientific American, National Geographic, etc. However, the most common figures are:³

- 700 different species have been identified
- 540 have been named

A new species of dinosaur is discovered, on average, every 10 days. For the year of 2016, 31 species had been reported.⁴ Evidently, God created the dinosaurs in great abundance and variety.

WAS THE ARK LARGE ENOUGH FOR DINOSAURS

Noah's ark was an immense boat. Remember, it was the height of a four-story building, the length of 1.5 football fields, and contained about one-and-one-half

million cubic feet! As previously stated, the average size of a dinosaur was the size of a sheep or dog. Obviously, there were very large dinosaurs that would have been difficult to place on the ark (Figure 10). Therefore, full grown large dinosaurs would not have been chosen, as younger, partially grown dinosaurs would have been more appropriate. It is also important to remember that this also applies to other large animals such as elephants and giraffes, and that God brought the appropriate animals to Noah and the ark (Genesis 6:20).



Figure 10. It was not necessary to put large dinosaurs on the ark

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS

This is a question that has stumped scientists since the discovery of dinosaurs in the 1800's. As there is not one sure scientific answer, let's look at this question from two divergent viewpoints, modern science and the Bible.

MODERN SCIENCE

Not all dinosaurs lived at the same time. The first appeared on earth some 205 million years ago; the last lived around 65 million years ago. During those 140 million years, the earth went through three main eras or ages; the Triassic, the Jurassic, and the Cretaceous. Then, it seems, the dinosaurs died out.⁵ Among evolutionary scientists there is no consensus of opinion with respect as to the cause.

Popular secular scientific views as to what happened include, but are not limited to, the sun became too hot or cold, the climate became too dry or wet, the earth's magnetic field reversed, a supernova exploded near the earth sending radiation throughout the earth, and a comet or giant meteor struck the earth with devastating results that killed most life on earth including the dinosaurs.⁶ Today, a popular theory is based on a giant meteor striking the earth in eastern Mexico (asteroid impact theory – the Chicxulub Crater), causing a global catastrophe that wiped out 80% of life on earth.⁷

Nevertheless, it is important to mention that the mainstream evolutionary viewpoint centers on the theory that before the dinosaurs died out they evolved into birds,⁸ and thus they are not extinct, but are flying around us today (we will expand on this theory in a following section) and are often seen in common birdfeeders.

THE BIBLE

According to the Bible, all land creatures and birds of the air died in the flood except the animals on the ark (Genesis 7:21-23). Remember that prior to the flood, land animals were vegetarians (Genesis 1:30), and the pre-flood earth was covered with lush vegetation so habitable conditions for dinosaurs and all living creatures were ideal. However, after the flood dinosaurs faced a more hostile world that had seasons, an ice age, significantly less vegetation available for food, and mankind has historically always hunted large animals. Additionally, dinosaurs have characteristically been considered to be cold-blooded (dinosaurs are considered to be reptiles) even though some modern scientists believe dinosaurs were either intermediate-blooded (mesotherms) or warm-blooded (endotherms).⁹ In the absence of hard data, and assuming dinosaurs were cold-blooded and depended on heat for survival, a post-flood environment would have been very difficult.

Therefore, it is likely that the dinosaurs found survival extremely challenging in a post-flood world and slowly became extinct, as numerous other species of animals have done throughout history (scientists estimate that we are losing 1-5 species per year).

WHAT DID DINOSAURS EAT

MODERN SCIENCE

According to secular science, look at the type of teeth the dinosaur had, where it lived (which is not generally known), the contents of rare fossilized stomach remains, and scarce coprolite (dung) fossil finds that are hard to match to a particular dinosaur. The primary mechanism is the type of teeth as it is assumed

that plant-eaters (herbivores) usually have blunt teeth that are useful for stripping and grinding vegetation. Meat-eaters (carnivores) usually have large strong jaws and sharp teeth for tearing into meat and breaking bones to access bone marrow. Given these constraints, *“all you can do is guess a dinosaur’s diet based on the type of teeth the dinosaur had.”*¹⁰

THE BIBLE

From a biblical perspective, Genesis gives valuable insight into dinosaur diets. Prior to the global flood, animals as well as people were entirely vegetarian in nature:

(29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. (30) Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food;” and it was so
Genesis 1:29-30

However, after the global flood, Genesis indicates there were not only significant changes in dietary constraints but also the relationship of animals to mankind:

(1) So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. (2) And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all of the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. (3) Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs”
Genesis 9:1-3

From this portion of scripture, it is clear that the mankind-animal relationship changed, as mankind was free to eat animals as well as green herbs and mankind’s relationship with animals also changed from acceptance to dominion, fear, and dread. Additionally, animals were given into mankind’s hand, which evidently was not true before the flood. Many scholars believe that at this point in time, the diet of animals (dinosaurs) changed from entirely vegetarian, to vegetarian and meat-eaters, depending on the type of dinosaur.

DID MANKIND COEXIST WITH DINOSAURS

This question can be easily answered from a modern secular scientific and biblical perspective, although the answers are diametrically opposed.

MODERN SCIENCE

As dinosaurs allegedly lived 225 to 65 million years ago and man supposedly appeared about 100,000 thousand years ago,¹¹ mankind did not coexist with

dinosaurs.

THE BIBLE

Obviously, Adam and Eve and their descendants observed dinosaurs before the Flood as both were created on day six of creation (Genesis 1:24-27), and after the flood as dinosaurs and the family of Noah coexisted after leaving the ark. However, the real question is how long did dinosaurs exist in post-flood chronology before going extinct?

Interestingly, there are numerous forms of evidence – some more debatable than others – that indicate dinosaurs have lived until recent times. Following are some of the examples:

- Engraved images of dinosaur-like creatures on rock walls are found in South America, Africa, China, Australia, Europe, and North America (i.e., Grand Canyon, Utah). As an example, Figure 11 depicts a petroglyph (highlighted in white) in Arizona's Havasupai Canyon in what is believed to be an Edmontosaurus type dinosaur

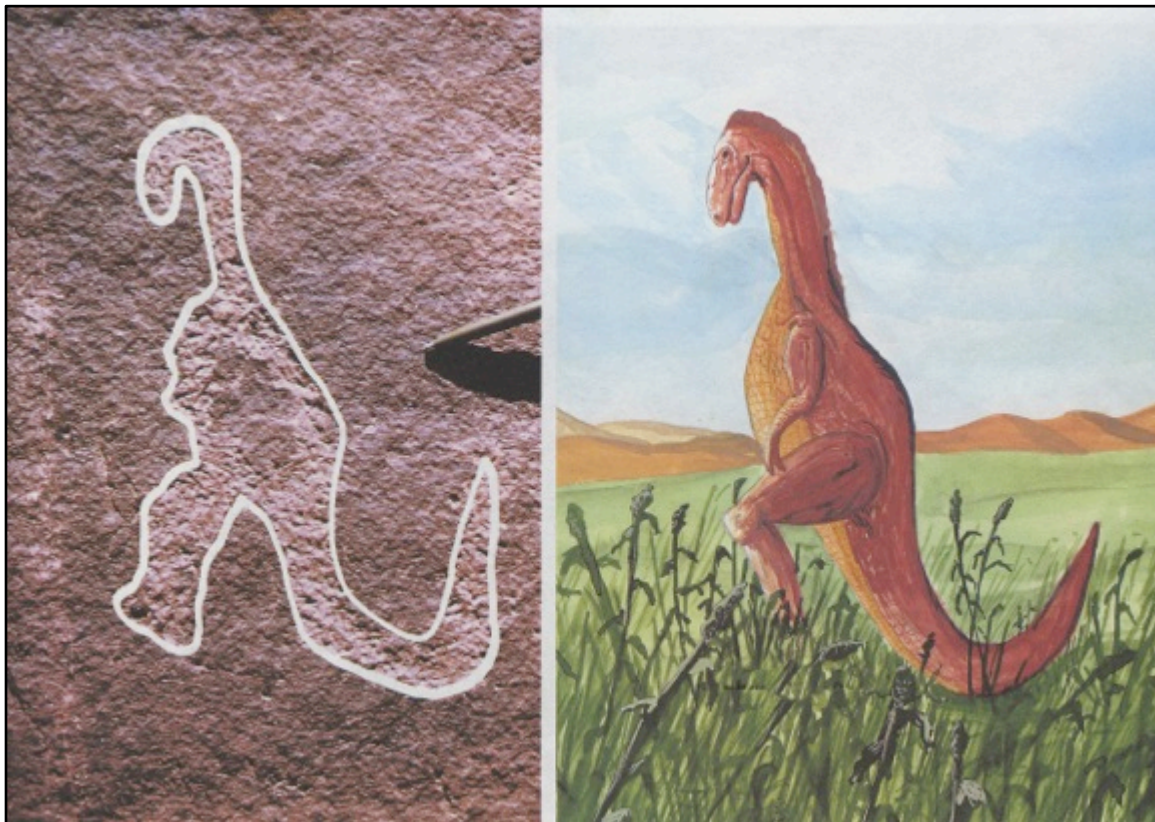


Figure 11. Apparent dinosaur petroglyph in Arizona

- Allegedly found in ancient tombs in the Ica and Nazca valleys in southern coastal Peru (home to the renowned Nazca Lines that are unexplainable to

modern science), numerous stones from pre-Colombian cultures (600 AD to 1200 AD) are on exhibition at the private Cabrera Museum in the village of Ica that display clear dinosaurian representations such as Triceratops, Stegosaurus, and Apatosaurus. Figure 12 is known as the Ica Stone and depicts an anatomically correct sauropod type dinosaur standing upright with column legs and an upright tail. *Remember that the images in Figures 11 and 12 were likely drawn from animals that were familiar to the illustrator*



Figure 12. Ica Stone

- Dragons are reputed to have lived up through the Middle Ages when brave knights would slay these beasts (i.e., Alexander the Great, King Beowulf, etc)
- Reported personal sightings in Chronicle of 1405 AD of giant reptiles at Bures in Suffolk in the British Isles
- Mariners have told of dragons in the oceans even up until recent times
- *Additional examples of dinosaur type creatures living in recent times can be accessed at **Dinosaurs In The Historical Record**, October 2016, by John Jensen Jr*

The previous examples are a *brief sampling* of numerous figurines, stones, petroglyphs, pictographs, engravings, carvings, pottery, mosaics and legends depicting and describing large reptile-like creatures that were based on animals that humans actually saw alive and/or were familiar with. Although, some of these examples are well documented as to origin and authenticity, credibility can

be dependent on a person's worldview and resultant viewpoint. However, a recent technical finding has given a large measure of scientific credibility to the recent existence of dinosaurs. In 2005, a research group led by Dr. Mary Schweitzer, University of Montana, reported the discovery of fresh red blood cells, hemoglobin, soft fibrous tissue, intact bone cells, fragments of collagen (primary protein in bone), Carbon-14 (C_{14}) and complete soft blood vessels in the fossilized femur (leg bone) of an alleged 68 million year old T-Rex (Figure 13).¹² Remarkably, the tissue had retained its pliable and soft characteristics that allowed it to be stretched and then return to its original shape. This discovery provides direct physical evidence that the T. rex fossil was not millions of years old which stands in direct contradiction of contemporary dating systems.

Interestingly, the research group led by Dr. Schweitzer was not the first to detect such tissue. For several decades, researchers have reported detecting amino acids in dinosaur fossils,¹³ and microscopic observations of dinosaur cells and potentially even proteins.¹⁴ These reports attracted a minimal amount of attention and/or curiosity from the general scientific community until Dr. Schweitzer published her findings – in color – in the prominent science journal *Science* that reaches a wide and scholarly readership. Not surprisingly, this discovery created an enormous amount of skepticism, as it was obvious that if dinosaur fossils are at least 65 million years old, any residual tissue should have decomposed millions of years ago.

Yet, relatively short time frames for the deterioration of organic material in fossils is not unknown to the scientific community. As an example, in 2007, Dr. Schweitzer and her co-authors admitted that the “*present state of knowledge*” holds that there will be “*total degradation of recognizable organic materials in days or years.*”¹⁵ This conclusion is enhanced by three additional scientific perspectives:

- A secular lab that specializes in analysis of archeological samples has concluded that the warmer climate of the Hell Creek, North Dakota, formation (where the T. rex fossils were found) would accelerate collagen degradation, resulting in only 1% remaining after less than 15,000 years
- Protein decay models demonstrate that under certain ideal conditions, some protein can survive for several thousand years. These models are fully consistent with proteins in a 4,000 to 6,000 year old T. rex fossil. However, they directly contradict claims that protein can survive in a 68-million-year-old T. rex fossil
- The active life of radioactive carbon (C_{14}) has a limit of about 50,000 years to be detected in a fossil. Any fossil examined for C_{14} after this time frame should be *carbon dead*. Therefore, the Schweitzer T. rex fossil that is alleged to

be 68 million years old should be carbon dead many times over. Yet, significant levels of C_{14} remain in a variety of fossils (including Schweitzer's T. rex fossil) as well as coal and other so-called "pre-historic" organic materials^{16.17}

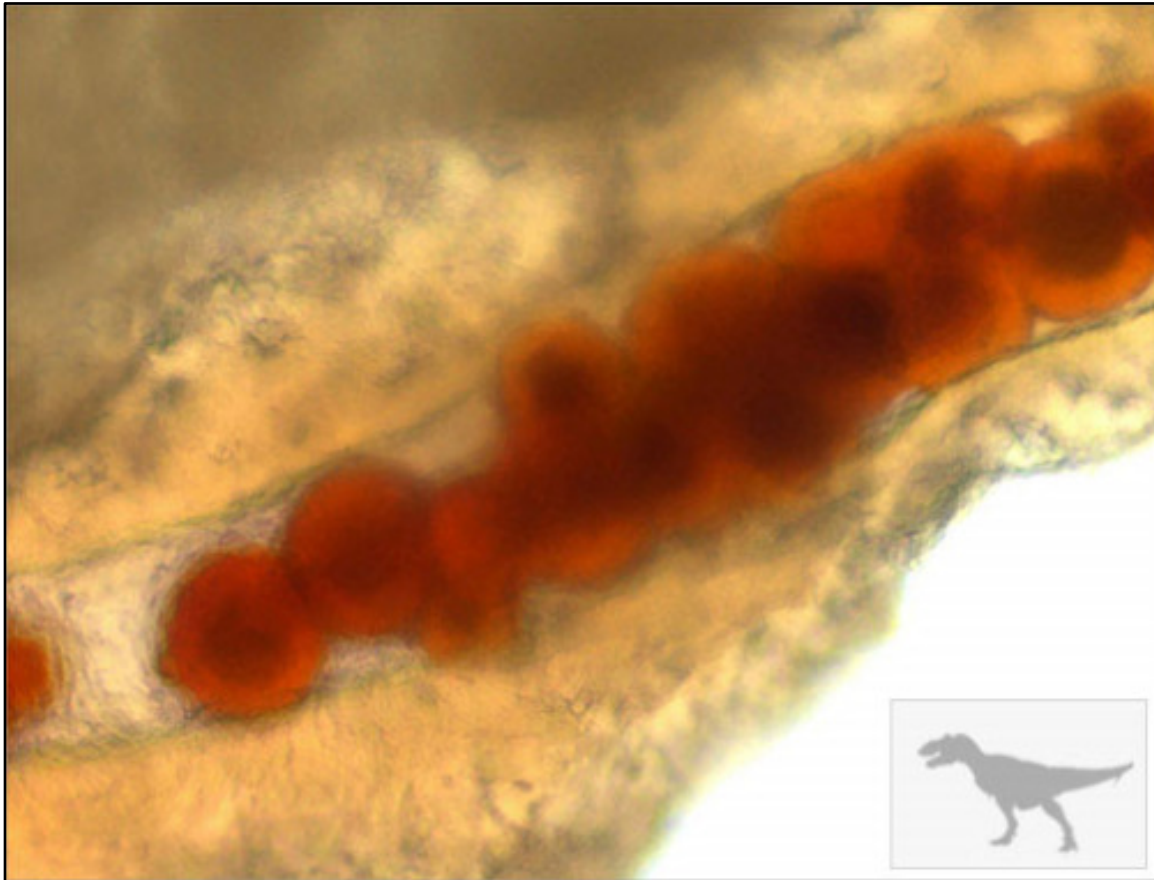


Figure 13. Fresh red blood cells and hemoglobin from a T-Rex leg bone fossil

Additionally, the discovery of the presence of soft tissue, fresh blood cells and proteins not only dissolves the underpinnings of the evolutionary timescale, but also demonstrates there never was an "age of dinosaurs," never an "age before humans," and never an "age of long evolutionary progression." There is only one Earth history. This is not a history of life crawling up from the pre-biotic ocean and/or swamp through vast ages, but a recent history; a history of God's created world; a history revealing His creative power. It is a history that serves as a testimony that He; and not eons of time, created all things.¹⁸

The exciting discovery (which is not the first for Dr. Schwitzer or other scientists) makes an obvious statement – *"It is inconceivable that such things could be preserved for millions of years. Evidence of hemoglobin, and the still-recognizable shapes of red blood cells, in ancient dinosaur bone is a powerful testimony against the*

*whole idea of dinosaurs living millions of years ago. It speaks volumes for the Bible's account of a recent creation."*¹⁹ So, if dinosaur bones cannot be millions of years old, how old are they? The simple answer is – *a few thousand years old, not millions of years old!*

IS IT POSSIBLE DINOSAURS ARE STILL LIVING TODAY

If some of the previous dinosaur questions are open to speculation (and they definitely are), then this question is the most speculative of all! It is a fact that numerous plants and animals that supposedly lived millions of years ago and allegedly became extinct are still living today. This conundrum was coined by Charles Darwin as "living fossils" and is used to describe living creatures that have not only stood the test of time but have remained largely unchanged for millions of years.²⁰ Obviously, this enigma poses a serious problem for long age evolutionists – *why would some creatures remain virtually unchanged for millions of years from those found in the fossil record, while others changed radically?* Although there are numerous examples, following are four well-known living fossils:

- **Coelacanth Fish**
Known as the living fossil, this fish supposedly went extinct with the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago but was discovered in 1938 by a South African fishing trawler. Numerous coelacanths have been discovered since 1938 and all fish are the same as the coelacanths that were supposedly fossilized 65 million years ago²¹
- **Wollemi Pine Trees**
Wollemi pine trees were common during the claimed age of dinosaurs and were thought to have been extinct for millions of years. However, they were discovered in 1994 in a canyon 93 miles from Sydney, Australia, and have not changed since the fossil record²²
- **Elephant Sharks**
Located off the waters of Australia and New Zealand, this fish (and its DNA) has not changed for an alleged 420 million years²³
- **Ctenophores**
Also known as comb jelly, these creatures first emerged an alleged 700 million years ago and have not changed²⁴

These examples are living proof that some animals and plants thought to be extinct for the evolutionary time scale of millions of years are still living, but can dinosaurs also still be living yet remain undiscovered in modern times? Dinosaur sightings have been reported in Africa for centuries from the Likouala region of the Republic of Congo, which is a large area that is largely unknown to outsiders (including numerous unsuccessful scientific expedition attempts to this

region). This area is about the size of Florida and is plagued with political instability/civil war, inhospitable terrain, venomous snakes and disease.

Indigenous Africans of the Congo region have consistently described a large aquatic reptile they call “Mokele-Mbembe” (the “blocker-of-rivers”) and will readily identify a sauropod-type dinosaur when shown pictures of various types of dinosaurs. Eyewitness accounts range from the 1940’s through at least 1990, and imprints of clawed feet and other tell-tale animal trail marks in the jungle around the swamps clearly show evidence of a large, heavy creature that is not a crocodile, hippopotamus or elephant.²⁵ So, is this possible? The answer is definitely open to speculation and further investigation, which is ongoing.

DID DINOSAURS EVOLVE INTO BIRDS

Similar to some previous questions, the answers from a modern evolutionary and secular scientific perspective and a biblical viewpoint are diametrically opposed. So, let’s compare the modern scientific perspective and the biblical account and then summarize these two diverse viewpoints.

MODERN SCIENCE

The perspective from evolutionary science is primarily based on the history of evolution, specifically applied to the evolution of dinosaurs to birds over millions of years. Quoting directly from Scientific American:²⁶

How Dinosaurs Shrank and Became Birds

Modern birds appeared to emerge in a snap of evolutionary time. But new research illuminates the long series of evolutionary changes that made the transformation possible.

Modern birds descended from a group of two-legged dinosaurs known as theropods, whose members include the towering Tyrannosaurs rex and the smaller velociraptors.

The theropods most closely related to avians generally weighed between 100 and 500 pounds – giants compared to most modern birds – and they had large snouts, big teeth, and not much between the ears. A velociraptor, for example, had a skull like a coyote’s and a brain roughly the size of a pigeon’s. For decades, paleontologists only fossil link between birds and dinosaurs was archaeopteryx, a hybrid creature with feathered wings

but with the teeth and long bony tail of a dinosaur. These animals appeared to have acquired their birdlike features – feathers, wings, and flight – in just 10 million years, a mere flash in evolutionary time.

To explain this miraculous metamorphosis, scientists evoked a theory often referred to as “hopeful monsters.” According to this idea, major evolutionary leaps require large-scale genetic changes that are qualitatively different from the routine modifications within a species. Only such substantial alterations on a short timescale, the story went, could

account for the sudden transformation from a 300-pound theropod to the sparrow-size prehistoric bird Iberomesornis

THE BIBLE

Genesis, Chapter One, specifically describes the creation of birds and dinosaurs as follows:

(20) Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let the birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens. (21) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind." And God saw that it was good. (22) And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." (23) So the evening and morning were the fifth day
Genesis 1:20-23

(24) Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth (includes dinosaurs), each according to its kind;" and it was so. (25) 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. (31) Then God saw that everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day
Genesis 1:24, 25, and 31

SUMMARY

Obviously, the current evolutionary theory of dinosaurs evolving into birds – that is very popular within the secular scientific community – is in direct opposition to the biblical account. However, if the evolutionary dinosaur to bird theory were true, we should find fossils in the fossil record that are part bird and part dinosaur and/or see a slow transition from dinosaurs to birds. Predictably, there are no such clear transitional forms, and this includes the highly contentious fossil – *Archaeopteryx* – that is the poster child of the dinosaur to bird theorists.

A fatal problem for this theory is the fact that many of the rock layers that contain dinosaur fossils also *contain fossils of fully formed birds*. This fact was recently highlighted when medical doctor and biologist Dr. Carl Werner traveled 160,000 miles to visit 10 dinosaur fossil dig sites around the world and 60 natural history museums. This research discovered that:^{27,28}

- Fossil researchers have found all of the major animal phyla groups living today, fossilized alongside the dinosaurs in the same rock strata

- Modern birds were also found alongside dinosaur fossils, including parrots, penguins, owls, sandpipers, albatross, flamingos, loons, cormorants, and avocets
- Museums around the country were not displaying what scientists were finding in dinosaur fossil digs – that modern bird fossils were in the same fossil layers as dinosaurs. This fact was actively being withheld in active museum displays around this country
- Because they lived and died at the same time, dinosaurs and birds do not show an ancestor-descendant relationship.²⁹

An example of the desire to prove the evolution of dinosaurs into modern birds was contained in the November 1999 issue of National Geographic magazine. The lead article was titled “Feathers For T-rex?” (Figure 14) which alleged that evidence of feathers had been found on fossilized dinosaur remains in China. However, in the rush to publish this article, National Geographic did not conduct the necessary validation of the fossil find and were embarrassingly caught with faulty evidence. As a result, National Geographic was forced to publish a full-page retraction of the Feathers For T-rex article and describe how their rush to publish the article ultimately resulted in an embarrassing situation.

Amusingly, the Curator of Birds at the Smithsonian wrote an open letter to National Geographic regarding their evolutionary propaganda machine as follows:³⁰

“The idea of feathered dinosaurs and the theropod origin of birds is being actively promulgated by a cadre of zealous scientists acting in concert with certain editors at Nature and National Geographic who themselves have become outspoken and highly biased proselytizers of the faith. Truth and careful scientific weighing of evidence have been among the first casualties in their program, which is now fast becoming one of the grander scientific hoaxes of our age – the paleontological equivalent of cold fusion”

Storrs L. Olson, World Authority on Birds

Of interest, some of the common evolutionary explanations for flight involve dinosaurs running and flapping their emerging wings, and one day they began to fly. An alternative supposition is that small dinosaurs climbed trees, then jumped and glided to the ground. Interestingly, if dinosaurs did slowly evolve into birds, *natural selection* would have eliminated any dinosaur that only had partial wings and would have been unable to adequately function as a dinosaur or a bird.

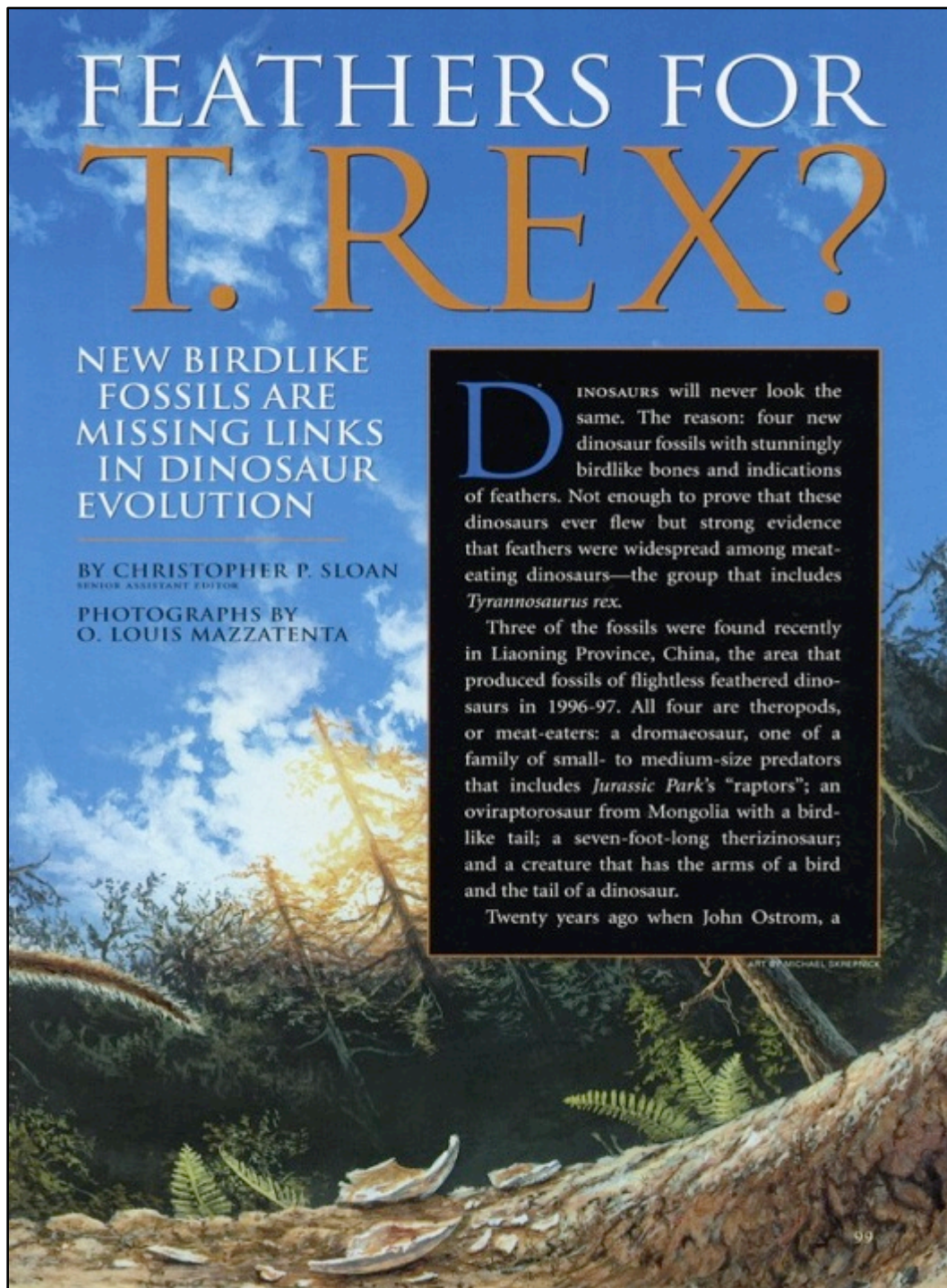


Figure 14: An embarrassing story for National Geographic magazine

Not surprisingly, fossil paleontologists/researchers have found all of the major animal phyla groups living today in the same rock strata, including fossilized birds alongside dinosaurs. This fact not only disproves the evolutionary theory of slow gradual evolution of life from a common ancestor, but also validates the biblical account of the creation of birds and

dinosaurs. A highly recommended book and DVD on this subject is Living Fossils, Evolution: The Grand Experiment, Vol. 2 by Dr. Carl Werner, New Leaf Press, 2007, Figure 15.

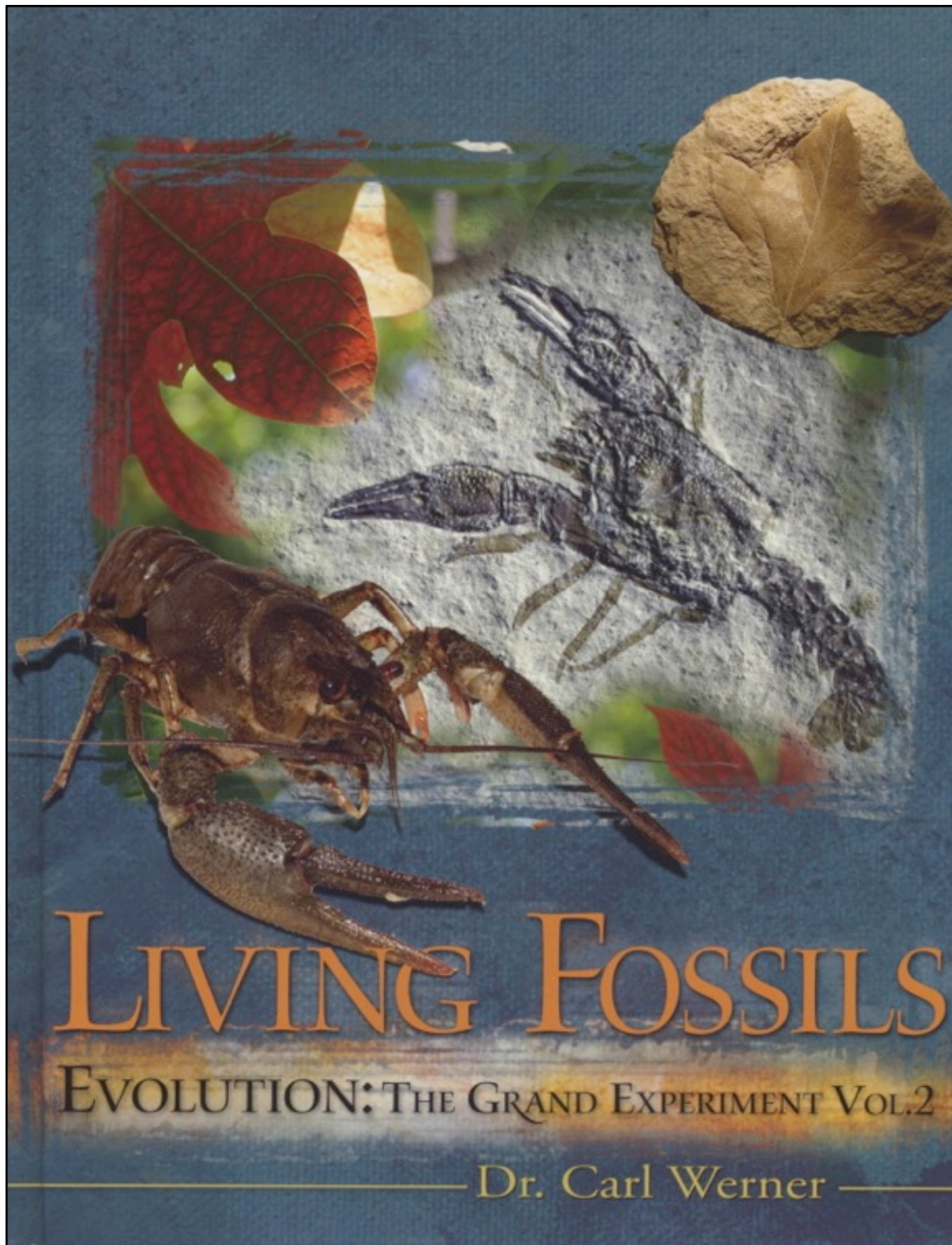


Figure 15. Living Fossils, Evolution: The Grand Experiment Vol 2

WHAT WERE DRAGONS

For thousands of years, dragons have long been popularized by legends (i.e., the Chinese supposedly bred dragons) and even some credible eyewitness accounts that are hard to discount. These creatures have been found in an astounding number and on every continent of this earth, and as a consequence, have become embedded in human culture. There are five main types of dragons:

- Wyverns
- Serpents
- Sky dragons
- Classical dragons of the west
- Neo-dragons
- As well as numerous subspecies and varieties

Dragon legends are compelling in their sheer number and similarities from around the world. As an example, they have been reported in Babylon, America, Greece, United Kingdom, China, Africa, South America, and eyewitness accounts and encounters have been chronicled as follows:³¹

- Marco Polo in *The Travels of Marco Polo*
- John of Damascus in an essay *On Dragons and Ghosts*
- Athanasius Kircher in *Mundus Subterraneus*
- Job in Job 40 and 41
- Marcus Tullius Cicero in *On the Nature of the Gods*
- Flavius Josephus in *Antiquities of the Jews*
- Herodotus in *Ophies Pteretos*
- Cassius Dio in *Early Roman Accounts*

Dragons are referred to in Psalm 91:13, Psalm 74:13, Isaiah 27:1, Isaiah 43:20, etc. The word “dragon” (Hebrew – *tannin*) appears in the Old Testament at least 21 times. If *tannin* is replaced with dinosaur, it does fit in the biblical text so these creatures may be the same or similar creatures as some types of animals that are referred to as dinosaurs. The Bible does refer to dragons on land, in the water, and in the air (Isaiah 30:6).

CONCLUSION

During this discussion, we have summarized the fascinating subject of dinosaurs. However, the real question is “*what is the best explanation for your purpose in life?*” If creation is true (and the evidence from science and Scripture indicate that it is), then each person should be concerned with their future destiny and specifically, where you will spend eternity? The Bible clearly says, “all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and those

without a personal acceptance of God will spend eternity in a lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

However, God has provided an alternate choice, and that choice is a free gift that only needs to be accepted by you – *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16), and – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).* This is God’s message to you, so have you accepted his free gift of eternal life?

RESOURCES

Additional information on Creation, the Flood, and dinosaurs can be easily obtained from the following selected books and websites:

- Answers In Genesis
www.aig.org
- Institute Creation Research
www.icr.org
- NET Bible
www.netbible.com
- The Collapse of Evolution
3rd Edition, Scott M. Huse, Ph.D.
Baker Books, 1997
- Refuting Compromise
Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D.
Master Books, 2004
- The Genesis Record and The Genesis Flood
Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. & John C. Whitcomb, Th.D.
Baker Book House, 1998
- Dinosaurs, The Lost World & You
John D. Morris, Ph.D.
Master Books, 1999
- The Great Dinosaur Mystery Explained
Ken Ham
Master Books, 2000
- Guide to Dinosaurs
Institute For Creation Research, 2014
- Dinosaurs By Design
Dr. Duane T. Gish
Master Books, 2004

- The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible
Paul S. Taylor
Faith Kidz, 1989
- A Guide to Dinosaurs
Michael K. Brett Surman, Ph.D.
Fog City Press, 2003
- Prehistoric Journey, A History of Life on Earth
Kirk R. Johnson, Ph.D., and Richard K. Stucky, Ph.D.
Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Fulcrum Publishing, 2006
- Dinosaurs, The World's Most Terrifying Creatures
Veronica Ross, Author
Backpack Books, 2005
- Dragons Of the Deep, Ocean Monsters Past and Present
Carl Wieland
Master Books, 2005
- Dragons, Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs
Bill Looney, Author
Master Books, 2011
- Dragons, A Natural History
Dr. Karl Shuker
Barnes & Noble Books, 2003
- Dinosaurs and Creation
Dr. Donald B. DeYoung
Baker books, 2000
- The Fossil Record
Dr. Gary and Mary Parker
Master Books, 2006
- Echoes of the Jurassic
Kevin Anderson
CRS Books, Chino Valley, AZ, 2016
- Dinosaurs By Design
Dr. David Menton
Answers In Genesis, 2003
- Dinosaur DNA Trumps Mammoth
James J.S. Johnson, Th.D.
Acts & Facts, June 2017
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Dr. Carl Werner
New Leaf Press, 2007
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- 3. www.pubsugs.gov
- 4. www.phys.org/news/2016-12-dinosaur-species
- 5. Dinosaurs, the World's Most Terrifying Creatures
Veronica Ross, Author
BackPack Books, New York, 2005
- 6. www.web.ccbce.com/multimedia/BLB/faq/nbi/672
- 7. www.nationalgeographic.com
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Dr. Alan Feduccia, Paleornithologist
Yale University Press, 1996
- 9. www.livescience.com/51162-dinosaurs-warm-blooded
- 10. www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/anatomy/diet.com
- 11. www.humanorigins.si.edu/education/introduction-human-evolution.com
- 12. The Real Jurassic Park, Earth, June 1997
M. Schweitzer and I. Staedter
- 13. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol 69, Abelson
- 14. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol 60
- 15. Proceedings of the Royal Society B, vol 274, Schweitzer
- 16. www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v19/i4/blood.asp?vPrint=1
- 17. Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth, ICR, Vardiman and Snelling, 2005
- 18. Echoes of the Jurassic, Kevin Anderson
CRS Books, Chino Valley, AZ
- 19. Ibid
- 20. www.io9.gizmodo.com/12-of-the-most-astounding-living-fossils-known-to-science
- 21. www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/groups/coelacanths
- 22. www.scientificamerican.com/artful-amoeba/the-lost-valley-of-the-wollemipine
- 23. www.io9.gizmodo.com/12-of-the-most-astounding-living-fossils-known-to-science
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reprinted from Quanta Magazine on June 12, 2015, Emily Singer
- 27. Living fossils, Evolution the Grand Experiment, Vol 2, Dr. Carl Werner

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