

salvation. It is much more than this. The Bible is the ***History Book of the Universe***, and tells us the future destiny of the universe as well. It gives us an account of when time began, the events of history such as the entrance of sin and death into the world, the time when the whole surface of the globe was destroyed by water, the giving of different languages at the Tower of Babel, the coming of the Son of God as man, His death and resurrection, and the new heavens and Earth to come.

Ultimately there are only two ways of thinking: starting with the revelation from God (the Bible) as foundational to *all* thinking (biology, history, geology, etc.) resulting in a ***Christian worldview***; or starting with man's beliefs (the evolutionary story) as foundational to *all* thinking, resulting in a ***secular worldview***.

Most Christians have been indoctrinated through the media and education system to think in a secular way. They tend to take secular thinking *to* the Bible, instead of using the Bible to *build* their thinking (*Rom 12:1,2; Eph 4:20-24*). If one begins with an evolutionary view of history (for which there were no witnesses or written record), then this way of thinking will be used to explain the evidence that exists in the present. Thus, we have the evolutionary explanation for dinosaurs above. But if one begins with the biblical view of history from the written record of an eyewitness (God) to all events of history, then a totally different way of thinking, based on this, will be used to explain the *same* evidence. Thus, we have the biblical explanation as given above.

Where Did Dinosaurs Come From?—Fossil bones of what we now call dinosaurs are found around the world. Many of these finds consist of just fragments of bones, but some nearly complete skeletons have been found. Scientists have been able to describe many different types of dinosaurs, based on distinctive characteristics such as the structure of the skull, limbs, etc. However, there appears to be variation in the definition of just what makes an animal a dinosaur.

The Bible tells us that God created all the land animals on Day 6 of Creation Week. Because dinosaurs were land animals, this must have included the dinosaur kinds.

Evolutionists claim that dinosaurs evolved from some reptile that had originally evolved from amphibians. But they cannot point to any clear transitional (in-between) forms to substantiate their argument. Dinosaur family trees in evolutionary books show many distinct types of dinosaurs, but only hypothetical lines join them up to some common ancestor. The lines are dotted because there is ***no*** fossil evidence. Evolutionists simply cannot prove their belief in a nondinosaur ancestor for dinosaurs.

Who Discovered Dinosaurs?—Secular books say that the first discovery of what later were called dinosaurs was in 1677 when Dr. Robert Plot found bones so big they were thought to belong to a giant elephant or a giant human.

In 1822, Mary Anne Mantell went for a walk along a country road in Sussex, England. According to tradition, she found a stone that glittered in the sunlight, and showed it to her fossil-collecting husband. Dr. Mantell, a physician, noticed that the stone contained a tooth similar to, but much larger than, that of modern reptiles. He concluded that it belonged to some extinct giant plant-eating reptile with teeth like an iguana. In 1825 he named the owner of the tooth *Iguanodon* (iguana tooth). It was Dr. Mantell who began to popularize the “age of reptiles.”

From a biblical perspective, however, the time of the above discoveries was actually the time when dinosaurs were ***rediscovered!*** Adam discovered dinosaurs when he first observed them.

When Did They Live?—Evolutionists claim dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. But it is important to realize that when they dig up a dinosaur bone it does not have a label attached showing its date! Evolutionists obtain their dates by ***indirect*** dating methods that other scientists question; and there is much evidence ***against*** the “millions of years.”

The Bible states that God made all things in six normal days. He made the land animals, including dinosaurs, on Day 6, so they date from around 6,000 years ago—the approximate date of creation obtained by adding up the years in the Bible.

Furthermore, from the Bible, we see that there was ***no*** death, bloodshed, disease or suffering before sin. If one approaches Genesis to Revelation consistently, interpreting Scripture with Scripture, then death and bloodshed of man and animals came into the world only ***after*** Adam sinned. The first death of an animal occurred when God shed animals' blood to clothe Adam and Eve (*Gen 3:21*). This pictured the Atonement—foreshadowing Christ's blood that was to be shed for us, and His righteousness that was to clothe us. Thus, there could ***not*** have been bones of ***dead*** animals before sin—this would undermine the gospel.

This means that dinosaurs must have died after sin entered the world, not before. Dinosaur bones could ***not*** be millions of years old, because Adam lived only thousands of years ago.

Does The Bible Mention Dinosaurs?—If people saw dinosaurs, it seems that ancient historical writings, such as the Bible, would mention them. The King James Version (**KJV**) was first translated in 1611. Some people think that because the word “dinosaur” is not found in this, or other translations, the Bible does not mention dinosaurs.

It was not until 1841, however, that the word “dinosaur” was invented. Sir Richard Owen, a famous British anatomist, and the first superintendent of the British Museum (and a staunch anti-Darwinist), on viewing the bones of *Iguanodon* and *Megalosaurus*, realized these represented a unique group of reptiles that had not yet been classified. He coined the term “dinosaur” from Greek words meaning “terrible lizard.” So the word “dinosaur” would not be in the KJV—the word didn't exist when it was translated.

Is there another word for “dinosaur”? There are ***dragon*** legends from around the world. Many “dragon” descriptions fit the characteristics of specific dinosaurs. The Hebrew word commonly translated “dragon” in the KJV (Hebrew: *tan*, *tannin*, *tannim*, *tannoth*) appears in the Old Testament some 30 times. There are passages in the Bible about “dragons” that lived on the land—“he [Nebuchadnezzar] has swallowed me like a dragon” (*Jer 51:34*), “the dragons of the wilderness” (*Mal 1:3*). Many biblical creationists believe that in many contexts, these could refer to what we now call dinosaurs. Indeed, *Strong's Concordance* lists “dinosaur” as one of the meanings of *tannin*/*m*.

“God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, after their kind” (*Gen 1:21 NASV*). The Hebrew word for “sea monsters” (“whales” in KJV) is the word translated elsewhere as “dragon” (Hebrew: *tannin*).

There are other Bible passages about dragons that lived in the sea: “the dragons in the waters” (*Psalms 74:13; see Isaiah 27:1*). Though

the word “dinosaur” strictly refers to animals that lived on the land, the sea reptiles and flying reptiles are often grouped with the dinosaurs. The sea dragons could have included dinosaur-type animals such as the *Mosasaurus*. Job 41 describes a great animal that lived in the sea, *Leviathan*, that even breathed fire. This “dragon” may have been something like the mighty 40-ft. (*12m*) *Sarcosuchus imperator* (Super Croc), or the 82-ft. (*25m*) *Liopleurodon*.

There is also mention of a flying serpent in the Bible: the “fiery flying serpent” (*Isaiah 30:6*). This could be a reference to one of the pterodactyls, which are popularly thought of as flying dinosaurs, such as the *Pteranodon*, *Rhamphorhynchus* or *Ornithocheirus*.

Not long after the Flood, God was showing Job how great He was as Creator, by reminding him of the largest land animal He had made (*Job 40:15-19*):

Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: He that made him can make His sword to approach unto him.

The words “chief of the ways of God” suggests this was the largest land animal God made. So what kind of animal was “behemoth”?

Bible translators, not being sure what this beast was, often transliterated the Hebrew to *behemoth* (**KJV**, **NKJV**, **NASV**, **NIV**). However, in many Bible commentaries and Bible footnotes, “behemoth” is said to be “possibly the hippopotamus or elephant.” Some Bible versions actually translate it this way. Besides the fact that the elephant and hippo were ***not*** the largest land animals God made (some of the dinosaurs fareclipsed these), this description does not make sense, since the tail of behemoth is compared to the ***large cedar tree*** (*vs17*). An elephant's tiny tail (or a hippo's tail that looks like a flap of skin!) is quite unlike a cedar tree! Clearly the elephant and the hippo could not possibly be *behemoth*. No ***living*** creature comes close to this description. However, behemoth is very much like *Brachiosaurus*, one of the large dinosaurs.

What Do The Bones Say?—There is also physical evidence that dinosaur bones are not millions of years old. Scientists from the University of Montana found *Tyrannosaurus rex* bones that were not totally fossilized. Sections of the bones were like fresh bones and contained what seems to be blood cells and hemoglobin. If these bones really were millions of years old, then the blood cells and hemoglobin would have totally disintegrated. Also, there should not be ***fresh*** bones if they were really millions of years old. A report by these scientists stated:

A thin slice of *T. rex* bone glowed amber beneath the lens of my microscope...the lab filled with murmurs of amazement, for I had focused on something inside the vessels that none of us had ever noticed before: tiny round objects, translucent red with a dark center...Red blood cells? The shape and location suggested them, but blood cells are mostly water and couldn't possibly have stayed preserved in the 65-million-year-old *tyrannosaur*...The bone sample that had us so excited came from a beautiful, nearly complete specimen of *Tyrannosaurus rex* unearthed in 1990...When the team brought the dinosaur into the lab, we noticed that some parts deep inside the long bone of the leg had not completely fossilized...So far, we think that all of this evidence supports the notion that our slices of *T. rex* could contain preserved heme and hemoglobin fragments. But more work needs to be done before we are confident

enough to come right out and say, “Yes, this *T. rex* has blood compounds left in its tissues” (*M. Schweitzer and T. Staedter, June 1997*).

Unfossilized, duck-billed dinosaur bones have been found on the North Slope in Alaska. Also, creation scientists collected unfossilized frozen dinosaur bones in Alaska. Evolutionists would not say that these bones had stayed frozen for the many millions of years since these dinosaurs supposedly died out (according to evolutionary theory). Yet the bones could not have survived for the millions of years unmineralized. This is a puzzle to those who believe in an “age of dinosaurs” millions of years ago, but not to someone who builds his thinking on the Bible.

What did Dinosaurs Eat and How did They Behave? Movies like *Jurassic Park* portray most dinosaurs as aggressive meat-eaters. But the mere presence of sharp teeth does ***not*** tell you how an animal behaved, or what food it ate—only what kind of teeth it had (for ripping food and the like). Originally, before sin, ***all*** animals, including the dinosaurs, were vegetarian—“And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so” (*Gen 1:30*).

This means that even *T. rex*, before sin entered the world, ate only plants. Some people object to this by pointing to the big teeth that a large *T. rex* had insisting they must have been used for attacking animals. However, just because an animal has big, sharp teeth does not mean it eats meat. Many animals today have sharp teeth but are basically vegetarian. Bears have teeth with carnivore features, but many, if not most, are mainly vegetarian. The giant panda has sharp teeth like a meat-eater, but it eats bamboo. To “explain” why it has teeth like many meat-eaters today, yet it eats bamboo, evolutionists have to say that the giant panda ***evolved*** as a meat eater, and then ***switched*** to bamboo.

Before sin, God described the world as “very good” (*Gen 1:31*). Some cannot accept this concept of perfect harmony, because of the food chain that they observe in today's world. However, one cannot look at the sin-cursed world, and the resultant death and struggle, and use this to reject the Genesis account of history. Everything has changed because of sin. That's why Paul describes the present creation as “groaning” (*Rom 8:22*). One must look at the world through the Bible's “eyes” to understand it.

Some argue that people or animals would have been hurt even in an “ideal” world. They contend that even before sin, Adam, or an animal, could have stood on small creatures, or scratched himself on a branch. Now these sorts of situations are true of today's fallen and imperfect world. It suffers from the effects of the Curse (*Rom 8:22*). One cannot look at the Bible through the world's “eyes” and insist that the world before sin was just like the world we see today. We do not know what a perfect world would have been like, continually restored and totally upheld by God's power (*Col 1:17; Heb 1:3*). We have never experienced perfection; only Adam and Eve did before sin.

We do get glimpses from Scripture, though. When the Hebrews wandered in the desert for 40 years, their clothes and shoes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell (*Deut 8:4; 29:5 & Neh 9:21*). When God upholds things perfectly, wearing out or being hurt in any way is not even an option.

Think of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They came out of the fire without even the smell of smoke on them (*Dan 3:26,27*).

Again, when the Lord upholds perfectly, being hurt is not possible. In a perfect world, before sin and the Curse, God would have upheld everything, but in this cursed world, things run down.

Why Do We Find Dinosaur Fossils?—Fossil formation requires a sudden burial. When an animal dies, it usually gets eaten or decays until there is nothing left. To form a fossil, unique conditions are required to preserve the animal and replace it with minerals, etc. Evolutionists once claimed that the fossil record was formed slowly as animals died and were gradually covered by sediment. But they have acknowledged more recently that the fossil record must involve catastrophic processes. To form the billions of fossils worldwide, in layers sometimes kilometers thick, the organisms, by and large, must have been buried quickly. Many evolutionists now say the fossil record formed quickly, in spurts interspersed by millions of years!

According to the Bible, because the earth was full of wickedness, God sent a global Flood “to destroy all flesh, in which is the breath of life, from under the heavens” (*Gen 6:17*). God commanded Noah to build the Ark into which he would take his family and representatives of every kind of land-dwelling, air-breathing animals, that God Himself would choose and send to Noah (*Gen 6:20*). This must have included dinosaurs.

How Did Dinosaurs Fit On The Ark?—Many people think of dinosaurs as large creatures that would never have fit into the Ark. But the average size of a dinosaur (based on the skeletons found over the earth) is about the size of a sheep. Only a few dinosaurs grew to extremely large sizes. Dinosaurs laid eggs, and even the largest dinosaurs were very small when first hatched. Remember that the animals that came off the Ark were to repopulate the earth. Thus, it is realistic to believe that God sent *young adults* to the Ark, which would soon be in the prime of their reproductive life, not fully grown creatures.

Some might argue that the 600 or more named species of dinosaurs couldn't have fit on the Ark. But representative “*kinds*” of land animals boarded the Ark (*Gen 6:20*). Dinosaur names have tended to proliferate, with new names being given to just a few pieces of bone, or a skeleton that looks similar to one that is a different size, or in a different country. There were probably fewer than 50 distinct groups or kinds of dinosaurs that had to be on the Ark. Biblical creationists have pointed out that there can be many species descended from a “kind.” For example, there are many types of cats in the world, but all cat “species” probably came from only a few “kinds” of cats originally.

The land animals (including dinosaurs) that were not on the Ark drowned. Many of the dinosaur fossils were buried at this time, around 4,500 years ago, preserved in the layers formed by the Flood—thus the millions of fossils.

Why Don't We See Dinosaurs Today?—The world was devastated by the Flood. It became a much more difficult place in which to survive. After the Flood, God told Noah that from then on, the animals would fear man, and that animal flesh could be food for man (*Gen 9:1-7*). Even for man, the world had become a harsher place. To survive, the once easily obtained plant nutrition would now have to be supplemented by animal sources. Both animals and man would find their ability to survive tested to the utmost. We can see from the fossil record, from the written history of man, and from experience over recent centuries, that

many forms of life on this planet have not survived that test.

We need to remember that many plants and air-breathing, land-dwelling animals have become extinct since the Flood—either due to man's action or competition with other species, or because of the harsher post-Flood environment. Many groups are still becoming extinct. Dinosaurs seem to be numbered among the extinct groups. Why then are people so intrigued about dinosaurs, and have little interest in the extinction of the fern *Cladophlebius*, for example? It's the dinosaurs' appeal as monsters that excites and fascinates people. Evolutionists have capitalized on this fascination, and the world is full of evolutionary propaganda centered on dinosaurs. Dinosaurs have been portrayed as something mysterious. This has resulted in the thinking of even Christians being permeated by evolutionary philosophy.

If you were to ask at the zoo why they have endangered species programs, you would probably get an answer something like this: “We've lost lots of animals from this earth. Animals are becoming extinct all the time. Look at all the animals that are gone forever. We need to act to save the animals.” If you then asked, “Why are animals becoming extinct?” you might get an answer like this: “It's obvious! People killing them, lack of food, man destroying the environment, diseases, genetic problems, catastrophes like floods—there are lots of reasons.”

If you then asked, “Well, what happened to the dinosaurs?” the answer would probably be, “We don't know! Scientists have suggested dozens of possible reasons, but it's a mystery.”

The factors that cause extinction today, which came about because of man's sin—the Curse, the aftermath of the Flood (a judgment), etc.—are the same factors that caused the dinosaurs to become extinct.

Why Does It Matter?—Although dinosaurs are fascinating, some may say, “Why are dinosaurs such a big deal? Surely there are many more important issues to deal with in today's world, such as abortion, family breakdown, racism, promiscuity, dishonesty, homosexual behavior, euthanasia, suicide, lawlessness, pornography and so on. In fact, we should be spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, not worrying about side issues like dinosaurs! Actually, the evolutionist teachings on dinosaurs that pervade society *do* have a great bearing on why many people *will not* listen to the gospel, and thus why the social problems mentioned above abound today.

If we accept the evolutionist teachings on dinosaurs, then we must accept that the Bible's account of history is false. If the Bible is wrong in this area, then it's not the Word of God, and we can ignore everything else it says that we find inconvenient.

If everything made itself through natural processes, without God, then God does not own us and has no right to tell us how to live. In fact, God does not really exist in this way of thinking, so there's no absolute basis for morality. Without God, anything goes—concepts of right and wrong are just a matter of opinion. And without a basis for morality, there's no such thing as sin. And no sin means there's no judgment to fear from God, and there's no need for the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Millions of Years and The Gospel—The teaching that dinosaurs lived and died millions of years before man directly attacks the foundations of the gospel in another way. The fossils, of which dinosaurs form a part, documents death, disease, cruelty,

suffering and brutality. It's a very ugly record. Allowing for the millions of years for the fossil layers means accepting death, bloodshed, disease and suffering, *before* Adam's sin. But the Bible makes it clear that death, bloodshed, disease and suffering are a *consequence of sin*. God warned Adam that if he ate of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” he would “surely die” (*Gen 2:17*). The Hebrew translated “you shall surely die” actually means “dying, you will die.” In other words, immediate, spiritual death (separation from God) would be followed by a process of physical decay, ending eventually in bodily death.

After Adam disobeyed God, the Lord clothed Adam and Eve with “coats of skins” (*Gen 3:21*). To do this God shed the blood of animals. God requires the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins. “Without shedding of blood is no remission” (*Heb 9:22*). What happened in the Garden of Eden was a picture of what was to come in Jesus Christ, who shed His own blood on the Cross as “the Lamb of God” (*John 1:29*).

If the shedding of blood occurred *before* sin, as would have been the case if the Garden of Eden was sitting on a fossil record of dead things millions of years old, then the foundation of the atonement is destroyed.

This big picture also fits with Romans 8, which says that the whole creation “groans” because of the effects of the Fall. It was not groaning with death, suffering and disease before man sinned. Christ died and shed His blood because death is the penalty for sin (*Rom 6:23*), and He “bare our sins in His own body on the tree” (*1 Peter 2:24*). Paul discusses this in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15.

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 make it clear that there will be “a new heaven and a new earth” one day where there will be “no more death” and “no more curse” (*Rev 21:4; 22:3*)—just as it was before sin changed everything. Obviously, if there's going to be animals in the new Earth—they will not die, they will not eat each other, and they will not eat the redeemed people!

Thus, the teaching of millions of years of death, disease and suffering before Adam sinned is a direct attack on the foundation of the message of the Cross.

If we accept God's Word, beginning with Genesis, as being true and authoritative, then we can explain dinosaurs and make sense of the evidence we observe in the world around us. In doing this, we are helping people see that Genesis is absolutely trustworthy and logically defensible, and is what it claims to be—the true account of the history of the universe and mankind. And what one believes concerning the book of Genesis will ultimately determine what one believes about the rest of the Bible. This, in turn, will affect how a person views himself or herself and others, and what life is all about including their need of salvation.■

—Adapted from the writings of Ken Ham

DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs are used more than almost anything else to indoctrinate children and adults in the idea of millions of years of Earth history. However, the Bible gives us a framework for explaining dinosaurs in terms of thousands of years of history, and solving the mystery of when they lived and what happened to them.

According to Evolutionists—Dinosaurs first evolved around 235 million years ago, long before man evolved. No human being ever lived with dinosaurs. Their history is recorded in the fossil layers on Earth, which were deposited over millions of years. They were so successful as a group of animals that they eventually “ruled” the earth. However, around 65 million years ago, something happened to change all of this—the dinosaurs disappeared. Most evolutionists believe some sort of cataclysmic event—such as an asteroid impact—killed them. But many evolutionists claim that some dinosaurs evolved into birds, and thus they are not extinct, but are flying around us today!

According to the Bible—Dinosaurs first existed around 6,000 years ago. God made the dinosaurs on Day 6 of Creation Week (*Gen 1:20-31*), the same day He made man. So dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, not separated by eons of time.

Representatives of all the *kinds* of air-breathing land animals, including the dinosaur kinds, went aboard Noah's Ark. All those left outside the Ark died in the cataclysmic circumstances of the Flood—many of their remains became fossils.

After the Flood (around 4,500 years ago), the remnant of the land animals, including dinosaurs, came off the Ark. Because of man's sin, the judgments of the Curse and the Flood have greatly changed Earth. Post-Flood climatic change, lack of food, disease and man's activities caused many types of animals to become extinct. The dinosaurs, like many other creatures, died out.

Why Such Different Views?—Whether one is an evolutionist, or one accepts the Bible's account of history, the evidence for dinosaurs is *the same*. All scientists have the same facts, the same world, the same fossils and the same living creatures.

If the “facts” are the same, then how can the explanations be so different? The reason is that scientists have only the present. Dinosaur fossils exist only in the present. But scientists are trying to connect the fossils in the present to the past.

The science that addresses this is known as *historical* or *origins science*, and it differs from *operational science*. Origins science deals with the past, which is not accessible to direct experimentation, whereas operational science deals with how the world works in the here and now, and is open to repeatable experiments. Because of difficulties in reconstructing the past, those who study fossils (paleontologists) have different views on dinosaurs.

A paleontologist who believes the record in the Bible, the Word of God, will come to different conclusions than an atheist who rejects the Bible. Willful denial of God's Word (*2 Peter 3:3-7*) lies at the root of many disputes over “historical science.”

Many people think the Bible is just a book about religion or