

# Dinosaurs

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“Can Creation be Supported by Scientific Evidence?”)

I think Christians have certainly been confused about the issue of dinosaurs for the last 150 years. Basically dinosaurs were sort of rediscovered in about 1809 when the first dinosaur skeleton was found by a dentist in England. Then they put one together and over the next 30 years people began finding these huge bones of giant lizards and they called them dinosaurs.

Actually the word dinosaur was invented in 1841 by Richard Owen. So the Christians of the 1800's thought, “Well, where do dinosaurs fit into the picture, we don't know.” And some began to compromise the clear teaching of the Bible which says God made the world 6,000 years ago. They began to say, “Well maybe there's a gap between verse 1 and verse 2. And “The Gap Theory” was invented to stick the dinosaurs in the gap and forget about them. Progressive Creation and The Day Age Theory and lots of different wild theories were invented which are not true. And their purpose was to try to stick millions of years into the Bible.

The fact of the matter is the earth is not millions of years old and we don't need to compromise our Bible with the idea that the earth is billions of years old, it simply isn't. And we'll cover more of that in a later program, how you can show the earth is not billions of years old.

But that still raises the question, “If the Bible is right, where do dinosaurs fit in?” Let me give you just a quick history here of what the Bible teaches the world was like and we'll cover more on this later. The Bible says that God made the world in six days. He did it about 6,000 years ago. Then the world lasted about 1650 years until the flood came in the days of Noah. During the time that we call the pre-flood era, things were very different. People lived to be more than 900 years old. The Bible says Adam was 930, Methuselah was 969. Things were very different before the flood, and we'll cover later why they lived so long.

But here they were living to be 900 years old. Animals were growing to be huge, everything was much bigger before the flood came in this perfect world that God had made. The flood destroyed everything and today we live in a junkyard compared to what Adam and Eve had. But before the flood, if you put reptiles in a situation like that, reptiles never stopped growing. People stop growing when they're 16 or 18 or 20, they stop growing, at least vertically. Reptiles never stop growing. They grow all their life. So in the pre-flood world the reptiles would grow to be 60 or 70 or 80 feet long. Dinosaurs were just big lizards that lived with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They did not live millions of years ago.

Then Noah took dinosaurs on the ark. He was probably smart enough to figure out that you don't have to bring the biggest ones you can find, just bring two babies, be sure to get a pink one and a blue one. And after the flood two things happened to these dinosaurs. The climate was a lot different after the flood, people didn't live as long, the life spans dropped off to 400 and then 200 and then 100. And the same thing was happening to the dinosaurs. The big ones simply couldn't survive. They couldn't live long enough, some couldn't live long enough to reproduce. They certainly couldn't live long enough to get as big as they did before and so the dinosaurs were dying off from the climate changes.

## **Did Dinosaurs Coexist with Man in Early History?**

Back in those days they called them dragons. There are all sorts of stories all through history about people killing dragons. Beowulf slew a dragon and Gilgamesh slew a dragon and if you read all the stories about people killing dragons that are given all through history you'll say, "You know it sure sounds like they're killing dinosaurs here. The descriptions are very, very similar to what we know about dinosaurs." Dinosaurs, after the flood, had a hard time surviving because the climate was indeed so different, things were just simply more hostile. There's been overwhelming evidence that dinosaurs have lived with man all through human history, only they were called dragons back in those days. If you look at all the ancient literature, you see dragons mentioned all through there.

What happened, as the population of people began to grow after the flood, the population of big animals began to diminish. There are probably no grizzly bears in your town right now but I bet there might have been 500 years ago before people moved into that area. When people move into an area, they don't want to live next door to a big ferocious animal and that's what happened to the dinosaurs. They were killed off. They called them dragons.

If you look at the Catholic Bible, you'll find it's got two extra chapters in the book of Daniel. In Daniel chapter 14, it tells about Daniel killing the dragon that the Babylonians worshipped. When they dug up part of the old city of Babylon that was ruined in 600 B.C., they found carvings of dinosaurs on the walls—dragons. Now why would they have dragons on the walls in Babylon in 600 B.C.? Well, they lived with them, at least they knew about them. The rumor is that King Nebuchadnezzar actually had a dinosaur in captivity in a cage. Alexander the Great reported in 300 B.C. that his soldiers were scared by dragons when they conquered part of India.

A Roman mosaic shows two long-necked dragons fighting. How did the Romans know about this in the second century after Christ? A famous man named Saint George was pictured slaying a dragon. He later was killed for his faith because he was a strong Christian. But there are all sorts of legends about Saint George killing dragons. The old Beowulf poem says Beowulf slew Grendel the Dragon by pulling off his arms. A Babylonian cylinder seal, found from about 600 B.C., showing a man pulling the arms off of a dragon. Apparently you could pull the small arms off and they would bleed to death. I don't know. But there are stories and pictures on pottery of dinosaurs living with man all through human history. They certainly did not live millions of years ago. Even today many countries have a dragon as part of their emblem. There's a Russian medallion showing a man killing a dragon. A Bulgarian postage stamp has a man killing a dragon.

I think we've been teaching the kids something that's not true. We've been telling them dinosaurs lived millions of years ago and that just isn't true. The Vikings, just 1,000 years ago, had dragon heads on their ships. There are all sorts of Scandinavian legends about somebody slaying a dragon. The famous Scandinavian warrior named Sigurd slew the dragon Fafnir and rescued the treasure that the dragon was hiding, or something, or somebody hid it in a cave and the dragon was living in the cave.

In 1271 A.D. Marco Polo came back from China and reported that the Emperor of China was raising dragons to pull his chariots in parades. Now why on earth would Marco Polo say something like that just 700 years ago? Well, I think he probably said that because the Emperor of China was raising dragons to pull his chariots in parades. Here we've been teaching the kids that these critters lived millions of years ago and they certainly did not. There's evidence from history they've always lived with man. Carvings of dinosaurs are found on the walls of the Grand Canyon. The Indians apparently hunted dinosaurs. Several

canyons out west have Indian petroglyphs including pictures of dinosaurs. Now how did the Indians know about dinosaurs?

Another painting shows a cave in Australia where the Aborigines painted a picture of a dinosaur. An Italian fellow killed a dragon and had it mounted for a museum display in Italy. Just a few hundred years ago there was a dinosaur on display, not the bones, the skin, stuffed by a taxidermist.

When the Spanish Conquistadors went down to South America in Peru, they came to the area around Ica, Peru, which has the driest desert in the world. In this desert they found strange stones. The Conquistadors said, "These stones have animals carved on them that are very strange. We've never seen an animal like this." They came to be known as the Ica Stones. This took place in the Nazca Desert where the giant images are found that you cannot see unless you are flying over them in an airplane, they are so huge you have to be in the air to actually see these things. But these stones were probably buried between 500 B.C. and 500 A.D. About 50,000 stones have been found so far. One man, Dr. DeCarra, has 11,000 of them in his museum down there in Ica, Peru. Dinosaurs are carved on these stones, some very small stones, some stones are very large but they have dinosaurs carved on them. Every known dinosaur and some unknown dinosaurs are found carved on the Ica Stones. Now how did the Indians know about this 2,000 years ago? Quite a few of these stones are in America now. You have to put them in a museum, you can't have them for an individual. But I have several friends who have gone down there and studied the Ica Stones. They say, "Yeah, there's dinosaurs and humans carved on these stones together. Sometimes the human is riding on the dinosaur. Here's an Indian chief cutting the head off of a dinosaur. Here's a fellow riding one."

Dinosaurs and people lived together. In Mexico, in Acanbaro, Mexico, they found 33,500 stones similar to this. Humans and dinosaurs carved on the same stones. When the stones were analyzed, they found they had an oxidized coating on them that would take hundreds of years to oxidize that much, so they certainly weren't done recently.

I think if we look at it realistically we'll say, "Look I think it's evident that dinosaurs and man lived together."

### **Other Accounts of Dinosaurs in Historical Writings**

During the age of sailing ships from about the time of Columbus up until about 100 years ago when they put diesel engines and steam engines on the boats (they make a lot of noise now), but when the boats were more quiet just with wind power, there are literally thousands of legends of people sighting sea monsters. Why would so many ships' captains come back and say they saw a sea monster? Over and over, you read the old log books and they report sighting a sea monster. And the descriptions certainly sound like they are seeing a dinosaur.

A missionary, Hans Edgar, to Greenland reported sighting a sea monster. The Bishop of Norway reported a sea monster in 1755. Captain Peter McKay on board HMS Nautilus reported sighting a sea monster. He said, "My whole crew watched it for 20 minutes. It just went right under the boat." He said, "If it had been a man of mine acquaintance I could have recognized him easily with the naked eye." And they were looking at it through telescopes. Got very good views of this thing.

Many stories exist in the last few hundred years of the days of sailing ships about people sighting these sea monsters. A famous man, who later died on the Titanic, was one of the officers, in 1907 he reported he saw a sea monster swimming south of Ireland.

Everybody said, "Well, he's crazy, of course." In the book *Titanic: Triumph and Tragedy* the author said, "However imaginative the young officer may have been..." In other words, if you claim you saw a sea monster, we know you're crazy. There's a great prejudice against reporting sighting a sea monster, obviously. I mean if you came back from a fishing trip and say, "Hey, I saw a dinosaur," they're going to buy you one of those long-sleeved jackets that ties in the back and put you in a rubber room. They're going to think you're nuts.

But if you look at it from a biblical perspective, it makes sense. Dinosaurs have always lived with man. A German submarine commander reported that when he sank a British ship during World War I, a gigantic sea animal came flying up out of the water from the explosion. It had four big flippers. Some type of plesiosaur. There are legends all through history of people sighting these dinosaurs. They certainly did not live millions and millions of years ago like the textbook says.