

What about the Dinosaurs then?

There seems to be a current myth that people who think God created the world do not believe in dinosaurs. Of course, if we did deny the existence of dinosaurs then we would be denying solid evidence in the form of the fossilised skeletons and parts of skeletons that litter our museums today. The argument goes that therefore our belief in origins is also denying solid evidence and has no credibility. To be quite clear at the start, there is no conflict between an acceptance of the first part of the biblical book of Genesis as true history and the existence of dinosaurs. So how *do* dinosaurs fit into the Bible? You will not find the word 'dinosaur' in the Bible for one simple reason – the name was not invented until 1841 by Sir Richard Owen and the Bible was written a very long time before that, the King James version being translated into English in 1611. The term 'dinosaur' comes from the Greek words for 'terrible lizard'. Although the name does not feature in the Bible, there are tantalising descriptions of creatures that could be referring to dinosaurs or sea going or flying dinosaur-like creatures, for example, Job 40:15-19 describes a creature called 'behemoth' and if you read this it could be describing a dinosaur like a Brachiosaurus, or Ps 74:13 refers to the 'dragon that is in the sea', obviously a very large, impressive creature. Then there is Isaiah 30:6 which mentions a 'fiery flying serpent'. Significantly, Job may well be the oldest book in the Bible and at a time within a few hundred years of the Flood when dinosaurs were more numerous.

...on the 6th day

The Bible talks about God creating all the land-based creatures on the 6th day, the same day He created Adam.

This would mean that the dinosaurs were made on that day, that Adam would have seen them, and would have mixed with them. This would not be dangerous because all, according to the Bible, all creatures started off as vegetarian c.f. Genesis 1:30.

...Noah's flood

Then where are they today? Why do we only seem to have fossils of them and not the real thing? The Bible goes quite a long way to answering this. Genesis 6-8 records a world-wide flood, generally known as Noah's Flood. Noah took some of every land-based creature into the Ark he built under God's direction. After the waters died down, Noah, his family and the creatures on board came out onto a completely altered world. From here on we have to do some intelligent thinking as the Bible does not tell us explicitly what happened to any of these creatures – it is not its focus. The consequence of the globe being covered with water which then dried up would mean a lot of evaporation. There would also be much dust in the atmosphere from all the volcanic eruptions taking place during the flood year. This dust would cause there to be much less sunlight getting through and would lead to a drop in the overall temperature which in turn could lead to the greater formation of ice. The balmy conditions probably in place before the Flood would no longer pertain and it was a harsher, more extreme climate so that some creatures would have found it difficult to survive. This is possibly why the dinosaurs died out. There are tales all over the world that refer to large creatures, sometimes fire-breathing, and it would seem that people were aware of these beasts for quite a long time after the Flood, into recorded history.

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