

“What made the dinosaurs suddenly go extinct?”

That seems to be the big question today in the popular circles of paleontology (the study of fossil life). But is it really the right question to be asking? Doesn't this question already take for granted a popular but blind assumption about the dinosaurs?

“Did the dinosaurs suddenly go extinct?”

Rather than debating about the tenuous theory that a meteorite killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, shouldn't the public be asking whether they suddenly died off, are really all dead, or even if there was a 65 million years ago?

There are lots of reasons to believe that dinosaurs have always lived along side of man and that there may very well still be a few types of dinosaurs alive today.

“Why aren't dinosaurs mentioned in history?”

Well, the word 'dinosaur' wasn't even invented until 1841, and the word 'prehistoric' wasn't invented until 1861. Prior to the early 1800's the notion of dinosaurs as prehistoric animals was not intellectual, neither among the general public nor among the scientists. But in the 1800's a popular movement began in academia. It suddenly became popular to be an atheist, at the very least a scoffer of traditional godliness. So the scientific community began to embrace naturalism (the idea that nature is all that there is), not for scientific reasons but for moral and philosophical reasons.

Once this movement began, dinosaurs were rediscovered, so to speak, but this time the fossils were to be interpreted in light of a naturalistic explanation of how the world came to be. The atheistic philosophy was superimposed onto the facts to arrive at a conclusion contrary to established history. Thus, since the scholars of Western Europe had not seen a dinosaur lately, they concluded that dinosaurs must have lived millions of years ago. But to do this, the academic world had to ignore a rich history of human-dinosaur interaction. The key to spotting their willful ignorance is that prior to the 1800's dinosaurs were called dragons.

“Wait a minute! Dragons are just legend!”

Are they really? Dragon legends are found everywhere in the world in cultures completely isolated from each other by time and space. And yet the dragons in the stories are all the same creatures.

Gilgamesh slew a dragon. Beowulf slew a dragon. St. George slew a dragon. The Babylonians kept a pet dragon that they worshiped. The American Indians and Africans hunted dragons and left cave paintings of them. The Central American Indians carved tens of thousands of picture of varieties of dragons onto rocks. Fossilized dinosaur tracks are found along side those of humans in Texas, and human footprints have been found in strata that contain dinosaur bones. The stories go on and on, and yet it's always the same reptilian creatures that the cultures called "dragons". If these cultures were just making the dragons up, why didn't one or two of them invent a fire-breathing hamster or duck for instance?

“But that was then. What about today?”

Even today dinosaurs and other allegedly extinct creatures are still being reported. There are countless stories of people sighting sea monsters in the water and washed up on the shore all over the world; they have been photographed and documented in local newspaper and magazines. A Japanese postage stamp bearing the image of a plesiosaur has been made to commemorate one of their fishing boats, which apparently caught one of these creatures east of New Zealand. [Some pictures are available at the web address: <http://www.drdino.com/Articles/dinos.jsp>] There are reports of pterodactyls (flying reptiles) coming out of rural Kenya and parts of Indonesia and of sauropods (long-necked dinosaurs) coming out of the Congo swamp. More than 11,000 people have claimed to see the Loch Ness monster alone, and they all describe the same creature. Just maybe all of these people have actually seen something.

The scientific world has already conceded to the fact that the Coelacanth (a lobe-finned fish) is still alive today after it was found off the coast of Madagascar. Yet this fish had been classified as having gone extinct 410 million years ago. If this fish is still around, why couldn't dinosaurs still be around? They very well can be. In fact, such findings bring into question whether the species is really millions of years old to begin with.

“The Bible even talk about dinosaurs!”

It certainly does. In the creation account, the *Book of Genesis* uses words in the original Hebrew to describe animals that are inclusive of dinosaurs. So dinosaurs are not excluded in the creation.

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ 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.”

Genesis 1:20-21

The word translated 'living creatures' literally means: the living things that teem and wriggle. This is an astonishing observation for a people that we today consider 'primitive'. This term is inclusive of organisms all the way from giant squids down to the microscopic zooplankton and phytoplankton. The word translated 'great sea creatures' is taniym, and it's root verb means: to elongate. These elongate creatures can be whales, but they can also be other serpentine animals. For instance, this same word is used to describe the serpent that Moses' staff turned into in the *Book of Exodus*.

“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. 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.”

Genesis 1:24-25

Here, the Hebrew word translated 'cattle' is behaymaw. It literally means: a large dumb animal. This is quite inclusive of the dinosaurs and other creatures, not just the average dairy cow. The Hebrew word chay translated 'beast' is also inclusive of fierce and wild dinosaurs.

In the *Book of Job*, God confronts Job after he complains to the Lord for an answer. God then begins to deal with Job's real underlying problem. The Lord asks Job more than 40 rhetorical questions designed to remind Job that he doesn't have to know it all, and that God knows what's best more than he does. Towards the end of his sermons to Job, God confronts the man with questions about two peculiar animals.

“Look now at the behemoth. See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his

stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. He is the first of the ways of God; only He who made him can bring near His sword. Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there. He lies under the lotus trees, in a covert of reeds and marsh. The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. Indeed the river may rage, yet he is not disturbed."

Job 40:15-24

Some people site this animal as a hippopotamus or an elephant. This is patently absurd. The creature lives in the swamp and eats grass, but it has a tail like a cedar tree. What animal today has such a feature? It is enormous; the phrase 'first of the ways of God' means that it is the largest creature that God ever made. Currently, the largest creature known of is the largest member of the sauropod family of dinosaurs. A creature that is over 150 feet long with a tail like a tree and a neck to match, a rib cage like iron bars and leg bones like steel girders. This dinosaur is a perfect match for the description.

Another passage that is probably speaking about a dinosaur is found again in the *Book of Job*, chapter 41.

"Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? ...Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens? Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? Lay your hand on him; remember the battle--never do it again! Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. ...I will not conceal his limbs, his mighty power, or his graceful proportions. Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? Who can open the doors of his face, with his terrible teeth all around? His rows of scales are his pride, shut up tightly as with a seal; one is so near another that no air can come between them; they are joined one to another, they stick together and cannot be parted. ...Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as

from a boiling pot and burning rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth. Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him. The folds of his flesh are joined together; they are firm on him and cannot be moved. ...His undersides are like sharp potsherds; he spreads pointed marks in the mire. ...On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride."

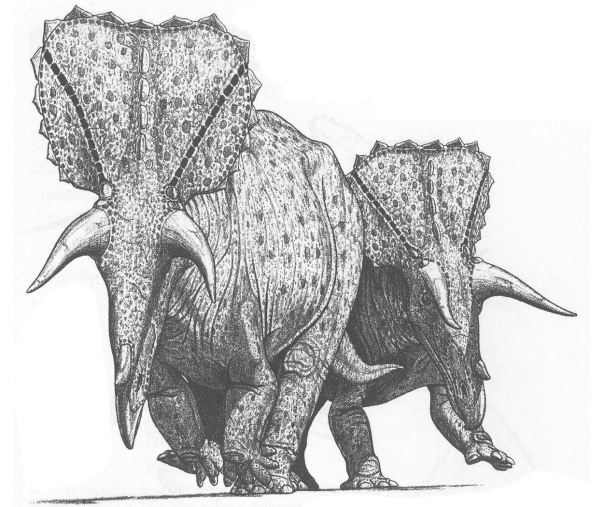
Job 41

Some people have called this a crocodile or a whirlpool. Whirlpools don't have scales, and crocodiles don't breath fire. The only reasonable conclusion is that this describes an enormous terrifying untamable armor-plated sharp-toothed fire-breathing dragon. And is that really so hard to believe? We know that there are/were lots of animals this big. We have flies that glow in the dark, beetles that shoot explosives, and fish that make electricity, why is a lizard that breathes fire so unfathomable? In all honesty, these things are quite reasonable, even scientifically. [More info at: <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/dinosaurs/leviathan.html>] The alien nature of a concept and its establishment as a quaint fairy tale in our minds does not dictate whether or not something is true.

Today, we have traded facts for fables and fables for facts. Humanists and atheists have used dinosaurs to fool us into believing an ancient myth. We have embraced as a fact the lie of an ancient mother earth and her creature offspring whose formations are by blind chance. And we have reduced to a fable, what almost all of the generations before us knew to be basic history concerning dragons. But to the contrary, it is the dragons that are fact and the 'millions of year' that are the fantasy.

Satan couldn't fool Adam about the dinosaurs; Adam named them. Satan couldn't fool Noah about the dinosaurs; Noah fed them everyday on the ark. But now that the dinosaurs our out of sight and thus out of mind, Satan has fooled us about these awesome creatures of God by teaching a naturalistic theory of evolution.

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Whatever Happened to the Dinosaurs?

A scientific and biblical perspective

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