

INTRODUCTION

We hear and see it everywhere. Mainstream media portrays the message: “millions of years ago there was an ‘age of dinosaurs’, but they became extinct long before man appeared on this planet”.

I disagree, and I think there is good evidence against this message.

The conflict

A basic idea of evolutionary theory taught in science textbooks is that humans have appeared ‘only’ in the last 100,000 years or so. Humans are very late in the evolutionary calendar. In fact so late that if we were to use a calendar as an analogy, January 1st would be when the world started and humans appeared around Western Christmas at December 25th. This means for the evolutionist that dinosaurs appeared well before man, and therefore no compromise can occur that man co-existed with dinosaurs.

Dinosaur fossils

The bible speaks of a cataclysmic global flood around 4,500 years ago. I say cataclysmic because the impact was huge, Noah’s family and the animals had to remain on the ark for over one year. Multiple layers of water-borne sediments, now hardened into rock, right around the world, are powerful evidence of the geography-rearranging forces at work during the flood. These rock layers contain millions, if not billions of fossils. Many of these fossils are well preserved, meaning these creatures must have been buried quickly under loads of sediment. Ordinarily fossils are not preserved due to scavengers, or the ravages of oxygen-facilitated decay¹

Dinosaur fossil graveyards have been found around the world. One such graveyard is in Patagonia, South America. Some of the fossils are from quite large creatures such as the *Giganotosaurus*, measuring up to 14m long². Many small dinosaurs have been found there too, and they are all well preserved suggesting rapid burial and catastrophe.

¹ Anon., 2000. Flood link to fossilised dino family, *Creation* 22(4): 7; <creationontheweb.com/content/view/253>

² 2. Owen, J., for *National Geographic News*, 2006. Meat-eating dinosaur was bigger than T. rex, <news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0417_060417_large_dino.html>.

The bible does not mention dinosaurs

It's true that the word 'dinosaur' does not appear in the Bible. But 'dinosaur' is a modern word, coined by Sir Richard Owen in 1841. He derived it from the Greek words meaning 'terrible lizard' after seeing fossil bones of *Iguanodon* and *Megalosaurus*. It's understandable that 'dinosaur' does not appear in English translations of the Bible, because the tradition of English translation was set in the 1500s and 1600s with the Geneva Bible and the King James Version.

A biblical approach to dinosaurs:

- The original dinosaur kinds were made during Creation Week, around 6,000 years ago.
- The land-based dinosaurs were created on Day 6 of Creation Week, along with man. If there were aquatic dinosaurs, they were created on Day 5, along with the swimming reptiles (like the plesiosaurs) and the flying reptiles (like the pterosaurs).
- All air-breathing vertebrate land animals (including dinosaurs) that were not aboard Noah's Ark perished in the global Flood around 4,500 years ago. But they did not become extinct at that time because pairs of each kind were preserved on the Ark.
- It was from the Ark's landing site in (what is today known as) the Near East, or commonly called the Middle East, ('the mountains of Ararat'—Genesis 8:4) that the air-breathing land animals (including dinosaurs) began to repopulate the Earth.
- From the end of the Flood, the 'fear and dread' of man fell upon all the animals (including dinosaurs), coinciding with man being given permission to now eat meat (Genesis 9:2–4).

How could Noah fit all those huge dinosaurs on the Ark?

At first it seems improbable that dinosaurs could fit on the ark, and survive. However face value does not give the whole picture. Here's why:

Only around 55 dinosaur 'kinds'

Noah did not have to take all species on board of the Ark, but only pairs of each created kind. There is believed to be approximately 668 or so named species of dinosaurs, of which there has been estimated only 55 kinds.³ (See Fig A)

Also despite the public attention given to huge dinosaurs, most dinosaur kinds are actually a lot smaller – for example, *Compsognathus* was only as big as a chicken. Further the average size of all known dinosaurs was that of a small sheep.

Fig A



Photos by Don Batten

Skulls given different genus names Apatosaurus (top) and Diplodocus (bottom) which are clearly the same biblical kind.

³ For more on this, see Sarfati, J., 2004. *Refuting compromise*, chapters 7–8.

The ark was huge

According to the book of Genesis 6:14-16

“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood: make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.”

Most Hebrew scholars believe a cubit was approximately 18 inches (46 cm). So the ark would have been 450 feet long (137 m), 75 feet wide (23 m), and 45 feet high (14 m). Noah’s ark was said to have been the largest sea vessel ever built until the late 19th century. There are more interesting calculations to describe the size and stability of the ark, but time is lacking to detail this. Importantly excess space was available for all the animals of the ark including dinosaurs.

1. Unnecessary to have fully grown dinosaurs on the ark

Very large dinosaurs were not needed to present on the ark. Rather, juveniles could have easily been taken on board. This seems more logical as middle adulthood-long adulthood dinosaurs would be poor at reproducing compared to adolescence where fertility is much greater.⁴

Genesis 6:20 says “Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive”.

Notice it says ‘will come to you’; since God is speaking to Noah, God will do all the hard work of bringing the best and most appropriate pair of animal kind. Arguably when God makes the decision He gets it right.

Lots of dinosaur eggs have been discovered at various places around the world, but the largest is about 50 cm (20 inches) long. So, immediately after hatching out, the juveniles of even the largest dinosaurs were less than 1 metre tall.

Could the dinosaurs grow too big to stop them to exiting the door when it was time to disembark?

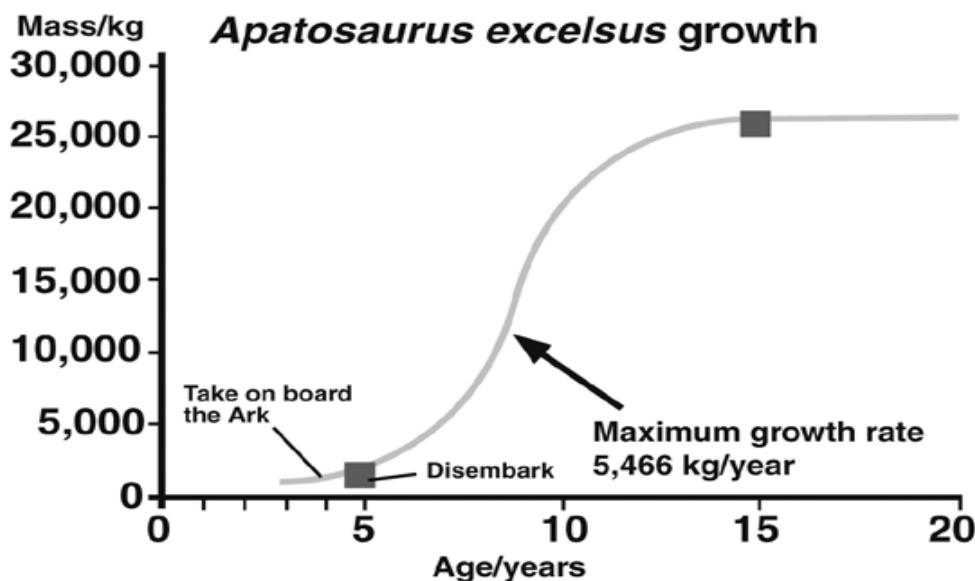
⁴ As reptiles have the potential to grow as long as they live, the large fossil dinosaur specimens that have been discovered were probably older ones. Sarfati, J., 2005. How did dinosaurs grow so big? *Creation* 28(1):44–47; <creation.com/dinogrowth>.

Growth studies of dinosaur bones show that this would not have been a problem (provided the juveniles were at the correct stage of growth when selected to go on board). Researchers who studied growth rings in dinosaur bones showed that dinosaurs had a type of 'adolescent growth spurt'^{5,6,7} For example, in the huge *Apatosaurus*, the spurt started at the age of about five years, when the dinosaur was only one tonne (bullock-sized). During the spurt, it grew at over five tonnes per year, then the growth levelled off at the age of 12–13, when it was about 25 tonnes (See Fig B). Other dinosaurs such as the 1700 kg (3700 lb) *Maiasaura* and the much smaller 20 kg (44 lb) *Syntarsus* and *Psittacosaurus* had the same sigmoid ('S'-shaped) growth pattern.

These studies suggest a means of fitting the animals on board. God could well have chosen specimens He knew would undergo their growth spurt as soon as they left the Ark. This would solve the common sceptical objections of fitting and feeding huge dinosaurs on the Ark. That is, the dinosaurs weren't actually that huge while they were on board. The growth spurt just after leaving the Ark would also mean that they could quickly outgrow potential predators.

Fig B

DINOSAUR GROWTH SPURTS



⁵ Erickson, G., Rogers, K., and Yerby, S., 2001. Dinosaurian growth patterns and rapid avian growth rates, *Nature* **412**(6845):429–433.

⁶ Erickson, G., Makovicky, P., Currie, P., Norell, M., Yerby, S., and Brochu, C., 2004. Gigantism and comparative life-history parameters of tyrannosaurid dinosaurs, *Nature* **430**(7001):772–775.

⁷ Sarfati, J., 2005. How did dinosaurs grow so big? *Creation* **28**(1):44–47; <creation.com/dinogrowth>.

How did the dinosaurs go extinct?

If we take the biblical approach that dinosaurs lived with man, which evidence does suggest, how did dinosaurs become extinct after the flood. I believe that there are two main problems with dinosaurs:

1. Change in climate – post flood the earth was damaged. Some of big species just probably couldn't survive.
2. Man killed them – meat, human superiority (heroic), and competition for land and food.

In yr 11 biology an interesting topic is studied called megafauna as part of evolution of Australian flora and fauna. Mega (big) fauna (animal) compares to some dinosaurs in size. These megafauna are now extinct and the explanations taught for their extinction are:

1. Changes in climate – in Australia the climate changed and aridity increased. Australia changed from cold and dry to warm and dry. The megafauna were not adapted to these conditions and gradually died out.
2. The arrival of humans – megafauna were large and slow-moving. This made them easy prey and they were hunted to extinction. Many of the megafauna became extinct at the time of the arrival of humans on the Australian continent.

This is what is taught in yr 11 biology and I think it is entirely probable that both the megafauna and dinosaurs became extinct due to these two basic theories.

Dragons

As mentioned before the word dinosaur is a modern word, described in 1841. The King James Version of the bible was translated in 1611, and subsequently there is no mention of the word dinosaur in the bible. However you will find the word dragon or associated forms. If you think about what a dragon is, it's effectively a dinosaur. Here are the different occurrences where the word dragon or other versions occurs in the bible:

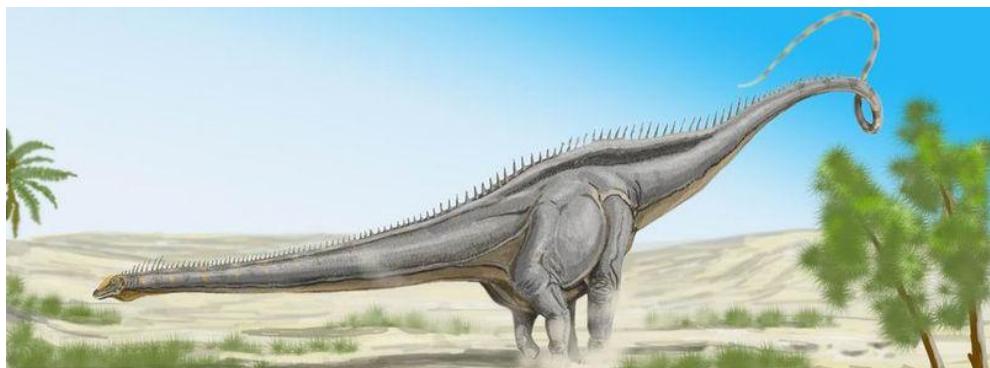
Psalm 73: 14 (Leviathan)
 Psalm 148: 7 (Sea creatures)
 Isaiah 27:1 (Leviathan)
 Jeremiah 51:34 (monster)
 Ezekiel 29: 3 (monster)

There are plenty of other verses where the meaning of dragon is applied. According to Dr Jason Lisle the word dragon is generically applied in other words such as jackals or even serpents or snakes.

Job 40: 15-19

“Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox. 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.”

Behemoth is Hebrew for beast or large animal. This beast appears to be a diplodocus dinosaur according to Dr Jason Lisle. The name diplodocus means double-beam, referring to the long muscles along its belly to support its very long neck and very long tail. He has a tail like a cedar tree – it's long and strong.



Diplodocus

Job 41: 1-34

This appears to be a plesiosaurus or at least some kind of marine reptile. In any case it's enormous creature.

Plesiosaurus



Isaiah 14:29

... And its offspring will be a flying fiery serpent

Isaiah 30: 6

....The viper and fiery flying serpent

This could be pterodactyl



Book of Daniel Chapter 14:23-27 (Deutero-canonical books)

14:23 Now in that place there was a great dragon, which the Babylonians revered.

14:24 The king said to Daniel, You cannot deny that this is a living god; so worship him.

14:25 Daniel said, I worship the Lord my God, for he is the living God.

14:26 But give me permission, O king, and I will kill the dragon without sword or club. The king said, I give you permission.

14:27 Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together and made cakes, which he fed to the dragon. The dragon ate them, and burst open. Then Daniel said, See what you have been worshiping!

What is this dragon? Is it possibly a dinosaur?

Daniel gave the dragon pitch, fat, and hair and mixed this together for the dragon to eat. Pitch is actually a highly viscous fluid (100 times greater viscous than water), while fat is high in salt and tasty to any animal really. The dragon ate it, couldn't digest the viscous pitch, and the dragon's digestive system exploded.

Dragon legends

There are hundreds of legends of dragon/dinosaur sightings; legends about killing dragons, sightings of both land and sea dragons, ancient paintings of dragons/dinosaurs and sculpture of dragons/dinosaurs.

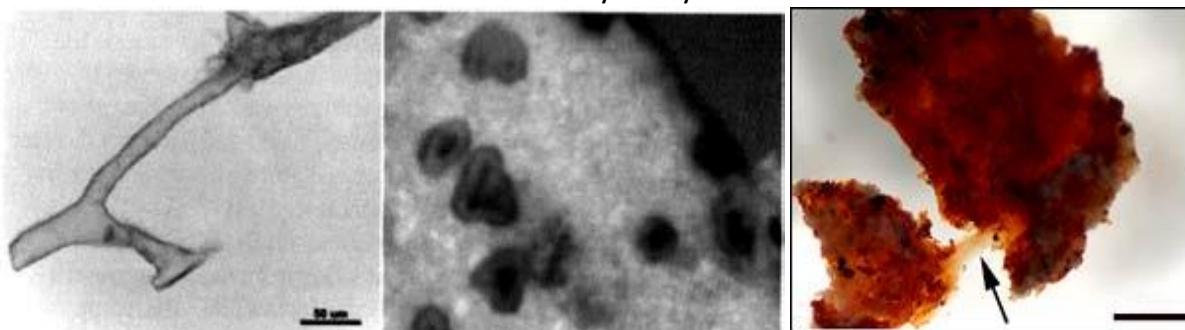
Probably the most famous dragon legend is St George killing the dragon and the town converting to Christianity. The dragon was destroying the livestock of the town and they were going to sacrifice a woman to appease the dragon. However St George came riding and killed it with a sword. This is why he is pictured on a horse slaying a dragon.

Also there are a number of people who claim to have seen dragons in recent times. Loch ness monster was a famous example. Plenty of other sightings, some have photographic evidence, others only have a verbal recount of their experience.

Additional evidence challenging evolution

- Many dinosaur fossils are not completely mineralised—in fact, dinosaur bones with blood cells, haemoglobin and soft tissue such as blood vessels have been found. This is enormously confronting for evolutionists, because how could such bones possibly be 65 million years old? As one of the researchers involved in the discovery of dinosaur blood cells, Dr Mary Schweitzer, said: 'If you take a blood sample, and you stick it on a shelf, you have nothing recognizable in about a week. So why would there be anything left in dinosaurs?' ⁸

Photos by Mary Schweitzer



T.rex bone yielded flexible, branching vessels (left), some of which contained red blood cells (right). How could they be millions of years old?

Why is there soft tissue and red blood cells left? I believe that dinosaurs have not been extinct for millions of years, and their remains were preserved quickly under catastrophic conditions a few thousand years ago or even more recently. This finding can never be explained by an evolutionist. It completely disproves that millions of years ago there was an 'age of dinosaurs', but they became extinct long before man appeared on this planet".

Unfortunately for the evolutionist he just can't seem to see it.

⁸ Yeoman, B., 2006. Schweitzer's Dangerous Discovery, *Discover* 27(4):37–41, 77.

Here is some interesting reading;

- <http://www.omniology.com/delknewmandino.htm>
- http://www.creationevidence.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=10
- <http://radaractive.blogspot.com/2009/12/dinosaurs-and-man-lived-togetherthe.html>
- <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/dinosaurs/dinoscoexist.html>
- <http://www.nessie.co.uk/>
- <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaur.html>

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