

STUDY GUIDE

NOTES

Dinosaurs are among the most mysterious of creatures. Thought of as fierce, ferocious beasts, dinosaurs have been used by the secular world for many years to indoctrinate children into a belief that Earth is ‘millions of years’ old. How should Christians respond?

1. Does the Bible mention ‘dinosaurs’?
 - a. Genesis 1:20–22—God created animals that live in the water and those that fly in the air, including dinosaur-like creatures such as plesiosaurs and pteranodons.
 - b. Genesis 1:24–25—God created animals that live mainly on land, including dinosaurs (such as *Tyrannosaurus rex*) and humans.
 - c. The word ‘dinosaur’ (meaning ‘*terrible lizard*’) was invented in 1841 by Sir Richard Owen, so would not be found in older translations of the Bible. However, descriptions of what we call ‘dinosaurs’ or dinosaur-like creatures can be found throughout the Bible, e.g. ‘Behemoth’ (Job 40), ‘dragons’ (Isaiah 43:20, Jeremiah 14:6), sea dragons (Isaiah 27:1, Job 41, Psalm 74:13), or flying serpents (Isaiah 30:6).
2. Do other historical accounts mention ‘dinosaurs’?
 - a. St George slew a dragon.
 - b. Alexander the Great found ‘dragons.’
 - c. Flag of Wales depicts a dragon.
 - d. Anglo-Saxon Chronicles have records of encounters with creatures not like any today, but seem to describe what we now know as dinosaurs.
 - e. Most other cultures have similar stories.
3. Dinosaur history:
 - a. All animals (including dinosaurs) originally were vegetarian (Genesis 1:29–30).

C O N T I N U E D . . .

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- b. God punished Adam's sin by cursing the entire creation (Genesis 3:16,17; Romans 8:22), including dinosaurs. Death, disease (e.g. cancer, gout, etc.), violence and suffering were introduced into the world. These features are found in the fossil record, which therefore must have been formed *after* Adam's sin.
- c. Noah had two (seven of the clean) of every land-dwelling, air-breathing creature (including dinosaurs) on the Ark. Dinosaurs were about the size of a sheep on average, and the largest dinosaur egg yet found is the size of a football, so young adult dinosaurs would have easily fit on the Ark. Although there are hundreds of various names for dinosaurs, there are probably fewer than 50 *kinds* of dinosaurs. Those not on the Ark would have drowned, and many of them would have been fossilized.
- d. After the Flood, some people groups drew pictures of the great beasts or flying creatures that lived near them (e.g. Utah cave drawings, Black Dragon Canyon drawings).
- e. Most dinosaurs eventually died out because of loss of habitat, changes in climate, etc., but ultimately as a result of Adam's sin and the curse.

CONCLUSION

There is no mystery surrounding the dinosaurs when one uses the Bible to understand the true history of the world.

NOTES

Q U O T E S

Fran Barnes, recognized authority on rock art of the American South West, 'Messages on Stone,' *Creation* 19(2):23.

There is a petroglyph in National Bridges National Monument that bears striking resemblance to a sauropod dinosaur, with a long tail and neck, small head and all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain how dinosaurs could be used to explain all elements of salvation (e.g. sin, death, judgment, etc.)

2. Why is the topic of 'dinosaurs' so popular?

RESOURCES

Dinosaurs and the Bible
by Ken Ham

*The Great Dinosaur Mystery
Solved!*
by Ken Ham

D is for Dinosaur
by Ken Ham

*The Great Alaskan Dinosaur
Adventure*
by Buddy Davis

Dinosaurs of Eden
by Ken Ham