

Why Doesn't the Bible Mention Dinosaurs?

by Heath Rogers

I believe that they are mentioned in the Bible.

The modern study of dinosaurs dates back to 1822 in England. At that time, a Dr. Gideon Mantell and his wife had a hobby of collecting fossils. While visiting a patient, she happened upon a strange looking fossilized tooth. After showing it to some friends, it was identified as the tooth of a rhinoceros. Then it was shown to a friend who specialized in iguanas. He said that it looked like an iguana's tooth, only much larger.

By 1842, enough of these kinds of fossils had been discovered to convince scientists that a whole group of lizard-like reptiles had once lived. The name "dinosaur" was given to them (from the Greek words *deinos* and *sauros* – "terribly great lizard"). Therefore, the word "dinosaur" did not exist until 1842. By then, the King James Version of the Bible was already over 200 years old. The word "dinosaur" is not in our English Bible because the word did not exist until after the Bible had already been translated into English.

This explains why the *word* "dinosaur" isn't in the Bible, but that doesn't mean dinosaurs aren't mentioned. I believe we can read about them in different places, including the creation account.

"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."

"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" (Gen. 1:20-21, 24-25).

Included in these statements is every kind of animal. "Great sea creatures" would include the dinosaurs that lived in the sea. "Beasts" and "everything that creeps on the earth" would include the land dinosaurs. Although now extinct, dinosaurs were a part of God's original creation.

Behemoth. Our space is limited in this column, but we encourage you to read Job 40:15-24. What kind of creature is this Behemoth? Some have proposed that it is a hippopotamus or elephant, but neither animal has a tail like a cedar tree. We do not know the exact identity of this animal, but it certainly fits the description of the large, plant-eating dinosaurs.

Leviathan. Again, you are encouraged to read Job 41. What was the Leviathan? Some have suggested that this creature was an alligator. Not hardly! People make a living

wrestling alligators. The Leviathan could not be killed, caught or tamed. If one did battle with this animal, he would never forget the experience and would never do it again. An alligator does not fit the description, but we can't rule out a dinosaur.

We know that dinosaurs existed. However, we shouldn't begin to doubt the credibility of the Bible because it may appear to some to be silent about these extinct creatures. Did you know that there are several other animals that are not specifically mentioned in the Bible? Among them are sharks, jelly fish, kangaroos and even cats. Why not? Consider this: The Bible was meant to be an *account* of God's creation, not a *catalog* of God's creation.

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