

Did Humans Exist with Dinosaurs?

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Whether it comes from children's television programs, National Geographic documentaries, high school biology textbooks, or even our sources of entertainment, we hear the same drumbeat repeated: the dinosaurs died out roughly sixty million years ago. As a result, the idea of human beings coexisting with dinosaurs sounds to many like a fictional fantasy—something from a Michael Crichton novel or the subject of a big-budget Hollywood blockbuster. Though, if one takes the time to look, the evidence might lead to a far different conclusion.

The Bible does not mention “dinosaurs” by name. That's because the word “dinosaur” is a relatively new word. British taxonomist and lecturer Richard Owen coined the term “dinosauria” in 1841, which he based on the Greek words for “terrible lizard.” Yet in the Book of Job God's Word describes two creatures that would probably be named as dinosaurs today: *Behemoth* and *Leviathan*. In Job 40, God introduces Job to *Behemoth*.

Take a look at Behemoth, which I made just as I made you. He eats grass like cattle. Would you look at the power of his hips and the strength of the muscles of his belly! He stiffens his tail like a cedar. The tendons of his thighs are tight. His bones are tubes of bronze. His skeleton is like bars of iron (Job 40:15-18).

Just listen to that description! *Behemoth* possesses a “tail like a cedar” and bones like “tubes of bronze” and “bars of iron.” It leaves one wondering just how large this animal is! The other creature God tells Job about is known as *Leviathan*:

Can you pull out Leviathan with a fishhook? Can you tie down his tongue with a rope?... I will tell about the parts of his body. I will describe his power and his beautiful design. Who can strip off his outer covering? Who can touch his double layer of armor? Who dares to open the doors to his mouth, which is surrounded with terrifying teeth? His back is like rows of shields, which are tightly joined together (Job 41:1, 12-15).

Only two animals come to mind that could possibly fit this description: the now-extinct “Supercroc,” an extremely large crocodile-like creature, and the plesiosaur, a large, carnivorous sea-dwelling dinosaur.

These descriptions, however, still leave us with the question: did these creatures co-exist with human beings? To find the answer, we go back to the week of

creation recorded in Genesis 1. The Bible tells us that God created all of birds of the air and the fish of the sea on the fifth day, and all the animals that live on land on the sixth day. This includes all wild animals, livestock and every sort of “creepy-crawly” thing that moves on the ground, each created by God according to their own kind (Gen 1:21-25). Included among the wild animals and “creepy-crawly” things would be all of the large reptiles, including what we know today as “dinosaurs.”

On the sixth day God also created the first human beings—in His image and likeness, male and female (Gen 1:26-27). According to Genesis, the creation of animals and human beings took place in a fairly quick succession, one right after the other. We have no indication of any lengthy time gap between God creating animals and God creating human beings. “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.” (Gen 1:31, EHV) So, based on the Genesis creation account, one can conclude that human beings dwelled on earth at the same time as the creatures we know today as dinosaurs.

There are roughly 50 pieces of ancient artwork from around the world—sculptures, paintings, carvings—depicting what only could be described as dinosaurs. Also, scientists have recently discovered fascinating evidence of preserved organic dinosaur tissue (bone marrow) that was not fossilized. Both discoveries support the biblical account of a six-day creation and challenge the predominant evolutionary assumptions of our time.

The drumbeat of our current culture goes on. Yet, we walk to the beat of a different drum: the drum of truth. The Lord who redeems us in the person of Christ is the God of truth (Ps 31:5). He will not lie to us. While human assumptions about the origin of this world and its creatures come and go, “the word of our God endures forever” (Is 40:8).

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