

## The World According to the Bible Special Topics Unit

Lesson

# 5

## All Creatures Great and Small

### STUDY TEXT:

Genesis 1:20-25; Genesis 7:1-4;  
Job 40:15-24; 41:1-34

### FAMILY THEME:

What Does the Bible Say About  
Dinosaurs?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

M Nehemiah 9:5-6  
T Ecclesiastes 3:11  
W Psalm 104:24-28  
T Isaiah 40:28  
F Jeremiah 51:15-16

### ESSENTIALS

- FWTE 3-12 (handout)
- FWTE 3-13 (handout)

### THE TARGET

- KNOW:** God created every creature, including the dinosaurs, according to its kind.
- THINK:** God created all creatures, both living and extinct, and is worthy of my worship.
- DO:** Worship the great God who created all creatures, including the great and powerful ones.

### CONNECT

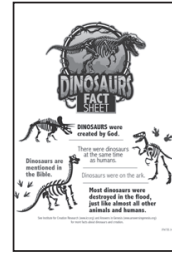
*Capture attention with one of these options.*

### Dyno-Mite!

How many of you were fascinated with dinosaurs? How many still are? The love of dinosaurs is especially strong among the young. Jurassic Park has not hurt that love. So were there dinosaurs, or is this fiction? Why were dinosaurs not prominent in Genesis? We don't know all the details, but we do have some answers. You may want to check out this video from Institute for Creation Research: [www.vimeo.com/70809103](http://www.vimeo.com/70809103). Transition to Learn by saying: *Today we will investigate more about when dinosaurs lived on earth.*

## Terrible Lizards

Evolutionists and Creationists both agree that there were dinosaurs. They differ on when the animals lived and the extent of their lives. With the evidence of a worldwide catastrophic flood and the dinosaurs in the fossil record, the Bible offers an explanation of the existence and the subsequent destruction of dinosaurs. Use FWTE 3-12, "Dinosaur Fact Sheet," as you start the lesson today. Transition to Learn: *We will look a little closer at the fascinating topic of dinosaurs this morning in our lesson.*



FWTE 3-12

## LEARN

The discussion of dinosaurs, especially within the context of historical Scripture, is part of an even larger debate. This debate involves the interpretation of Genesis, how we choose to process or interpret the various physical evidences that have been discovered and analyzed in the scientific fields, and the age of the earth.

### TEACHING TIP

When possible, point your learners to more information about the topic you are studying. This might include books, articles, websites, etc.

## God Created Every Creature, Including the Dinosaurs, According to Its Kind

Genesis 1:20-25

If the word used for "day" (*yôm*) in the creation account from Genesis 1-2 is intended to be interpreted as a literal 24-hour period, then the earth is much younger than modern theories suggest. If the word used for "day" is not intended to be interpreted as a literal 24-hour period, but instead an extensive period of time, then the earth would be much older. How one interprets the age of the earth will likely determine his or her belief about dinosaurs being mentioned (or not) in the Scriptures. Our view is that the context of Genesis 1-2 points to literal 24-hour days. (See lesson 2 in this unit).

According to the older earth paradigm, dinosaurs would have gone extinct millions of years prior to human beings ever walking the earth. Therefore, many who believe in the older earth interpretation would naturally agree that Scripture does not mention dinosaurs specifically due to the belief that no one could have seen a living dinosaur. However, if the creation account is read as a literal historical account, with 24-hour periods for each day of creation, then the belief that dinosaurs walked the earth with human beings is a consistent belief. Though the Scriptures do not use the actual word "dinosaur," there are some words and descriptions that seem to refer to dinosaurs.

Regardless of the age of the earth debate, the God of the universe intricately designed every creature according to its kind, including the dinosaurs. Genesis 1:20-25 is clear that God created categories and divisions of animals and commanded every creature to be fruitful and multiply, according to its kind. There could be variation within the various “kinds,” but only the type of variation allowed by the genetic information given to that kind by God. One kind would never bring forth a different kind. This meant that unlimited evolution was not possible from the moment of creation.

In verses 20-21, the Bible recorded that God created the sea creatures, great and small, and winged birds, all according to their kinds. He declared it good. In verses 24-25, the Bible described God’s creation of all of the land creatures, great and small, all according to their kinds, and once again, God declared it good. All of the land animals were created on day six, the same day that man was created. Again, old earth creationists (as well as evolutionists) propose that dinosaurs roamed the earth and died out millions of years before humanity. However, Genesis stated that land creatures, which would include the dinosaurs and man, were created on the same day. Therefore, if Genesis 1-2 is read literally, mankind and dinosaur walked the earth at the same time.

## D6 DOORPOST

Genesis 1-2 reveal that  
*God created the universe  
and everything in it.*

## EXPLORE

Implications of a biblical worldview regarding dinosaurs:

1. God created all birds and water dwelling creatures on day five and land animals on day six (Genesis 1:20-25).
2. God created everything by verbal command and pronounced it all very good (Genesis 1:31).
3. Death was the consequence of Adam’s sin, not a mechanism of evolution (Romans 5:12).

## APP<sub>LY</sub>

*How does this impact me?*

### **View the dinosaurs as part of God’s design and creation, along with all other creatures.**

- *Did you have dinosaur pajamas when you were younger? Do you still?*
- *Why are dinosaurs so fascinating for young children?*

Hang out with some young children and mention dinosaurs, and they all know what we are talking about. Dinosaurs have an almost phenomenal attraction to kids. But what is rarely mentioned in media or movies is that we Christians know that God created every creature, and this includes the dinosaurs. While evolutionists might claim exclusive rights to the idea because of the supposed time of their roaming the land millions of years ago, creationists acknowledge their existence, but just a few thousand years ago, not millions. Dinosaurs were part of creation, according to their kind, just like the rest of the animal kingdom.

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## **Most of the Dinosaurs (and Other Creatures) Were Destroyed by a Catastrophic Flood**

Genesis 7:1-4

The question is raised: If the dinosaurs existed alongside human beings at some point in history, then what happened to them? Human beings still exist, but dinosaurs do not. Did something catastrophic take place? These are valid questions and rightly deserve a proper response.

Our culture's mainstream belief about the beginning and the end of dinosaurs is exclusively grounded in evolutionary theory. According to data that is presented as factual from the Natural History Museum, dinosaurs are believed to have appeared in history during the Triassic Period, 250-265 million years ago, long before human beings supposedly evolved. It is suggested that their history is recorded in the fossil layers on earth, with more deposits of fossils being added year after year for millions of years. This theory states that during the Triassic Period the world was a single giant land mass or "supercontinent" called Pangaea. However, toward the end of the Triassic Period and entering into the Jurassic Period, there were a series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that contributed to the Pangaea breaking apart, causing mass extinction among many large land animals. Despite the massive amounts of death among land animals, the theory states that some dinosaurs survived and enabled the species to evolve more and increase in number.

According to the theory, more and more varieties of dinosaurs evolved and eventually ruled the earth during the Jurassic Period. However, it was during the third and final "pre-historic" period, the Cretaceous Period, that the land masses began to separate even more, looking more like the continents we understand them to be today. Sea levels supposedly rose and fell much more frequently during this period, creating large and small bodies of water that separated land masses. This supposedly resulted in more diverse evolution, allowing creatures like snakes to form, as well as the first flowering plants, etc. According to this theory, during the Cretaceous Period, the dinosaurs were completely wiped out.

The theory suggests a massive asteroid was the reason for their extinction about 65 million years ago. It supposedly caused more volcanic eruptions that would force large-scale climate changes. All dinosaurs were killed, except for the birds that we have today. Their descendants were evolved from dinosaurs.

As elaborate as all of that sounds, it is simply unfounded and is entirely hypothetical, based on inconsistently interpreted data from the fossil layers. If there were no human beings existing during this time, with no witnesses and no records to account for it, how can we declare with any level of certainty (supposedly hundreds of millions of years removed from these incidents) that the events transpired in these ways? There is, however, a completely reasonable explanation for the extinction of most dinosaurs, the extensive movement of the landmasses, major climate changes, and the many layers of fossil records. It was a catastrophic event as the evidence shows, that transpired rapidly as a result of the biblical Flood. Historic records and fossils align with a catastrophic flood such as the one described in Scripture. Creationists and evolutionists examine the same physical evidence, but come to drastically different interpretations and conclusions because of their worldviews.

Genesis 7:1-4 clearly states that God instructed Noah (a real person who existed alongside real dinosaurs) to load the ark with pairs of land creatures, and that He would send a deluge that would wipe out every other living creature from the face of the earth. All creatures that were not on the ark were destroyed. We have discovered scientifically that it does not take millions of years for fossilization to occur. It simply requires the right conditions. The necessary pressures, along with the burial of millions of plants, marine life, animals, and even people, are easily explained by a worldwide deluge exactly like the one described in the book of Genesis. This was not a simple thunderstorm; it was a cataclysmic flood that has never been matched. The Flood that is described in Genesis would result in volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, continental shifts, and the elimination of most creatures. Though most were destroyed during the flood, God commanded Noah to take pairs of each “kind” of land animals on the ark. It is more probable that the remaining dinosaurs eventually died out completely due to a combination of dramatic climate and environmental shifts of the post-Flood world, and that they were persistently hunted by human beings to the point of total extinction.

## EXPLORE

See websites such as [icr.org](http://icr.org), [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org), [creation.com](http://creation.com), and [creationmoments.com](http://creationmoments.com) for more information on biblical explanations for the Creation we see around us. Recommend these sites to your learners.

## **Realize that the biblical account of the flood fits the evidence we see in the fossil record.**

- *Have you ever encountered a fossil? (I don't mean your third-period English teacher.)*
- *What is the best explanation for the fossil record?*

If you had a catastrophic, worldwide flood as described in the Bible, you know what you would have? A fossil record. Other than the eight humans, and the two by twos (and seven of the clean animals), everything was destroyed in the flood. This is what history and the fossil record indicates. Instead of transitional fossils, there seems to be an unending supply of fossils that were killed quickly and covered in sediment. We have some pretty strong evidence for the biblical account of the flood in the fossil record.



### **Every Creature Proclaims the Power and the Glory of God**

Job 40:15-24, 41:1-34

The word “dinosaur” is not found in Scripture, nor will it be found in any other form of ancient documentation. The word wasn't coined until the mid-1800s. In the early 1800s, Dr. Gideon Mantell discovered some unusual bones and teeth in a rock quarry. He realized that what he found was quite unique and believed he had discovered an entirely new group of reptiles. By 1941 several different types of reptiles had been unearthed, and scientist Dr. Richard Owen coined the term “*dinosauria*,” which meant “terrible lizard.” (See [bit.ly/AiG-dinosaurs](http://bit.ly/AiG-dinosaurs).)

Even though the term is not used in the Bible, there are some references to creatures that seem to be descriptors of dinosaurs. After Job had experienced great suffering and loss, his friends came to visit him. After initially bringing comfort, Job's friends soon accused him, believing God would not allow such suffering for someone not guilty of sin. The book included various conversations between Job and his friends, as well as Job's expression of his anger and brokenness to God. Near the end of the book, the Lord spoke directly to Job through a storm. The Creator and Sustainer of all things offered a humbling reminder to Job of who was God and who was not. He used the examples of powerful creatures to teach Job humility. In Job 40:15, God referred to the behemoth as the mightiest of all creatures. God had created this creature just as He had created Job. God described this creature as having a tail like a cedar tree (verse 17)! Though some suggest that God is referencing a hippo or an elephant, neither of those animals has a tail like a cedar tree. Yet, there were dinosaurs that definitely had massive

tails that could be described like a thick tree. The Creator used the examples of the behemoth (Job 40) and the leviathan (Job 41), both great and powerful creatures, to describe how mighty He is. While scholars are divided on exactly what creatures are described in these passages, the descriptions could very well be of dinosaurs that were known by the people of Job's day.

## EXPLORE

Ever wonder why so many ancient civilizations have legends or stories of dragons and mighty creatures? See this video from the Institute of Creation Research: [bit.ly/ICR-dragons](http://bit.ly/ICR-dragons).

## APPLY

*How does this impact me?*

### **Worship the great God who created all creatures, including the great and powerful ones.**

- *What is your favorite kind of pet?*
- *Why do people respond so well to pets?*

People get a little crazy, maybe too crazy when it comes to their pets. The Christian sees all animals as a proclamation of the creative power and glory of God. The awe that we have at the biggest of animals like whales and elephants shows the power of God. The amazement we show at the beautiful colors of fish and birds proclaims the glory of Creator God. How awesome must the animals, big and small, have been before the fall! The One who made all of these creatures is worthy of our praise.

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## RESPOND

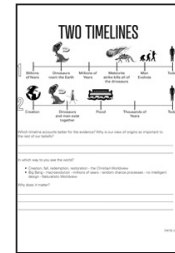
*What now?*

### **Jurassic Park?**

Where is Creation in *Jurassic Park*? Not only is the premise science fiction, but have you noticed that it serves as a platform to advance the theory of evolution? How can a Christian redeem the idea of dinosaurs not only for us but for our younger siblings and the young ones at church? How can you help someone younger than you to understand that our God, as Creator, designed and made dinosaurs?

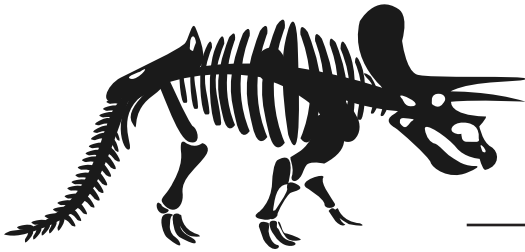
## Encounters With Evolution

The theory of evolution is all around you. In what ways have you encountered evolution concerning the dinosaurs, and how have you been able to work through those issues? Remember that all truth is God's truth. Our faith in a Creator God is not blind faith, but one that is based on the evidence of design. How have you been able to praise God for His creation lately? Where have you seen the evidence of design in your life recently? Pause and give Him thanks today for being our Creator. Use FWTE 3-13, "Two Timelines," to guide your discussion.



FWTE 3-13





**DINOSAURS** were  
created by God.

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There were dinosaurs  
at the same time  
as humans.

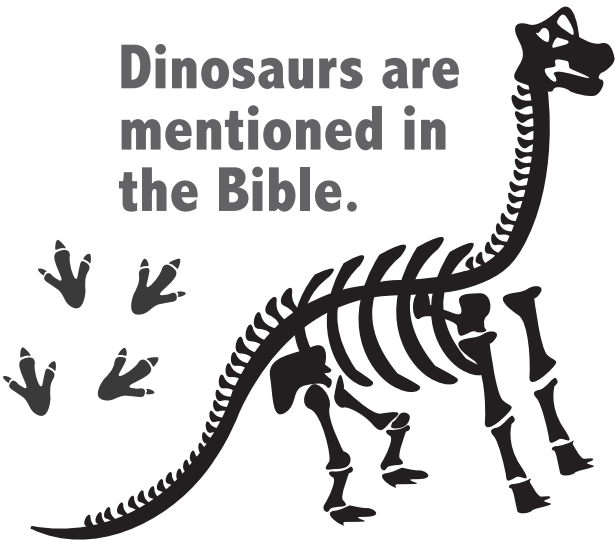
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**Dinosaurs are  
mentioned in  
the Bible.**

Dinosaurs were on the ark.

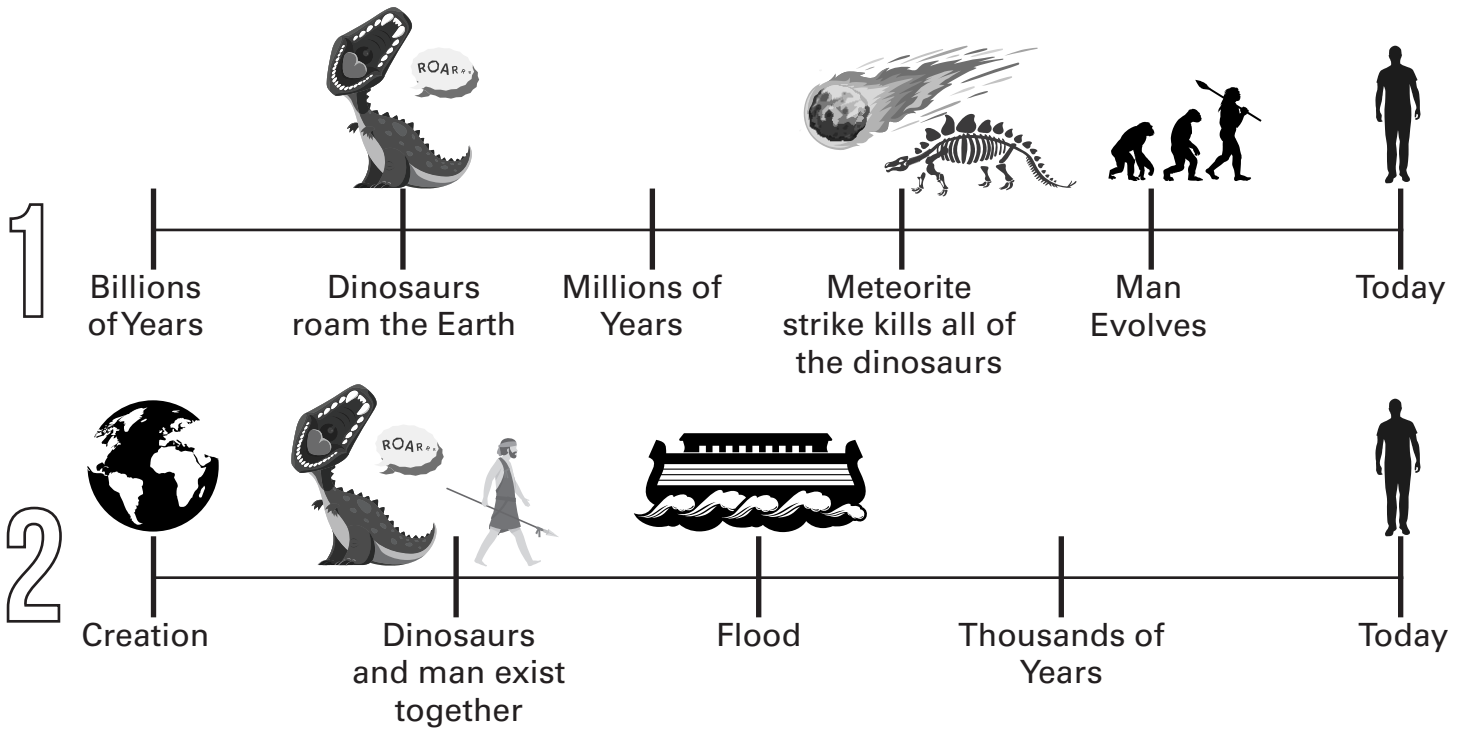
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**Most dinosaurs were  
destroyed in the flood,  
just like almost all other  
animals and humans.**

See Institute for Creation Research ([www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)) and Answers in Genesis ([www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org))  
for more facts about dinosaurs and creation.

# TWO TIMELINES



Which timeline accounts better for the evidence? Why is our view of origins so important to the rest of our beliefs?

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In which way to you see the world?

- Creation, fall, redemption, restoration - the Christian Worldview
- Big Bang - macroevolution - millions of years - random chance processes - no intelligent design - Naturalistic Worldview

Why does it matter?

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