

Dinosaurs, Genesis & the God Who Made It All

When Someone Says the Bible and Science Don't Add Up

During a Twitch stream, a viewer posed a straightforward challenge: “Why doesn’t the Bible talk about dinosaurs?” The conversation quickly went deeper. Their core argument was this:

“Genesis (literal reading) says humans and animals were created close together. Science says dinosaurs lived millions of years before humans. Even if dinosaurs are ‘included,’ the order and timing don’t match.”

This is one of the most common objections you’ll encounter in digital ministry. It’s honest, it’s fair, and it deserves a thoughtful, Scripture-centered response—not a hand-wave or a debate tactic. This document is designed to equip you to navigate this conversation with grace, theological depth, and a focus on pointing people toward the Creator rather than winning an argument about creation.

First: What the Bible Actually Says

Before addressing the timeline question, it’s worth establishing what Scripture clearly affirms about creation.

God made everything. Genesis 1:1 doesn’t leave room for ambiguity: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Every living thing that has ever existed; including dinosaurs, falls under His creative authority.

Colossians 1:16 (ESV) — *“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”*

He made every kind of creature. Genesis 1:24–25 describes God making “living creatures according to their kinds: livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth.” The Bible doesn’t catalog every species by name; it never mentions house cats, penguins, or blue whales either, but the scope is comprehensive.

The word “dinosaur” didn’t exist. The term wasn’t coined until 1842 by Richard Owen. Biblical authors had no reason to use a word that wouldn’t be invented for thousands of years. Some scholars point to Job 40:15–24 (Behemoth) and Job 41 (Leviathan) as descriptions of massive creatures that don’t neatly match any living animal, though this is debated.

The key takeaway: the Bible’s silence on a specific species name is not the same as denial. Scripture affirms God as Creator of all life without needing to list every creature in the fossil record.

The Real Question: Timing and Order

The viewer’s objection wasn’t really about whether dinosaurs existed, it was about timeline. If Genesis says humans and animals were created close together, and science says dinosaurs lived and died tens of millions of years before the first humans, how do we reconcile that?

This is an important and honest question and it’s worth knowing that Bible-believing, Christ-following, Scripture-affirming Christians have landed in different places on it. None of these views are a salvation issue. All of them hold to God as Creator and Scripture as authoritative.

View 1: Young Earth (Literal 24-Hour Days)

This view reads the “days” of Genesis 1 as literal 24-hour periods and holds that the earth is roughly 6,000–10,000 years old. Under this framework, dinosaurs and humans did coexist, and the fossil record is largely explained by the catastrophic effects of the global flood described in Genesis 6–8.

Strengths: Takes the Genesis text at face value. Maintains a straightforward reading of the creation narrative and genealogies.

Tension: Requires rejecting mainstream geological, paleontological, and radiometric dating consensus. Proponents acknowledge this and argue the scientific models themselves have flawed assumptions.

View 2: Old Earth / Day-Age

This view notes that the Hebrew word *yom* (“day”) is used elsewhere in Scripture to refer to long, indefinite periods of time, not just 24-hour cycles. Under this reading, the “days” of Genesis represent ages or epochs, and the broad sequence of creation in Genesis 1 aligns loosely with what science describes: light, water/sky separation, land and vegetation, sea creatures, land animals, and finally humans.

Psalms 90:4 (ESV) — *“For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.”*

2 Peter 3:8 (ESV) — *“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”*

Strengths: Honors the flexibility of the Hebrew text. Allows integration with scientific evidence for an old earth without abandoning Genesis as historical narrative.

Tension: The sequence in Genesis 1 doesn't perfectly match the scientific timeline in every detail (e.g., vegetation before the sun). Proponents argue the order is broadly correct and the differences reflect theological emphasis, not scientific error.

View 3: Framework / Literary

This view holds that Genesis 1 is structured as theological proclamation, not a chronological science report. The six days follow an intentional literary pattern: Days 1–3 describe God forming the formless (light, sky/water, land), and Days 4–6 describe God filling the empty (sun/moon/stars, birds/fish, animals/humans). It's a carefully crafted narrative answering who created and why, not how long it took.

Strengths: Respects the literary genre and ancient Near Eastern context of Genesis. Frees the text from needing to answer modern scientific questions it wasn't addressing. Focuses on the theological truths that are clearly the author's intent.

Tension: Some feel this approach diminishes the historicity of Genesis or opens the door to reading other historical passages as merely literary. Proponents distinguish between recognizing genre and denying truth.

Why This Isn't a Salvation Issue

It's critical to communicate that while Christians may hold different views on the age of the earth and the interpretation of Genesis 1, the essentials of the faith are not in dispute across any of these positions:

- God is the sovereign Creator of all things ([Genesis 1:1](#); [Colossians 1:16](#))
- Humans are uniquely made in the image of God ([Genesis 1:27](#))
- Creation is fallen through sin and in need of redemption ([Romans 8:20–22](#))
- Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#))
- Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching ([2 Timothy 3:16–17](#))

Christians can disagree on the “how long” of creation while fully agreeing on the “who” and “why.” If someone demands that your position on the age of the earth determines whether you're a “real” Christian, that's adding to the gospel.. and that's a problem.

What the Original Audience Heard

One of the most important things to understand about Genesis 1 is what it meant to the people who first received it. The Israelites leaving Egypt weren't asking, “How old is the earth?” They were surrounded by Egyptian and Mesopotamian creation myths where the world was formed from violence between rival gods, where humans were an afterthought created to be slaves, and where creation itself was chaotic and meaningless.

Genesis 1 is a radical counter-narrative:

- There is ONE God, not many—and He is not in conflict with anyone.
- Creation is intentional, ordered, and good—not the byproduct of divine warfare.
- Humans are not slaves of the gods—they are image-bearers of the Creator, made with dignity and purpose.
- The sun and moon are not gods to be worshipped—they are things God made on Day 4.

Reading Genesis 1 as if its primary purpose is to answer 21st-century geological questions misses what the text was doing for its original audience. That doesn't make it less true, it makes it more purposeful.

Creation Declares His Glory

Here's where the conversation gets beautiful. If someone is genuinely curious about dinosaurs, fossils, and the age of the earth, they're already doing something Scripture celebrates: they're looking at creation and marveling.

Psalm 19:1–2 (ESV) — *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”*

Romans 1:20 (ESV) — *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”*

The fossil record; including the staggering diversity of creatures that came before us, is not a threat to faith. It's a testimony to the creativity, power, and sovereignty of God. A God who designed a Tyrannosaurus Rex, a hummingbird, a deep-sea anglerfish, and YOU is a God of breathtaking imagination.

Science and Scripture are not at war. They're both pointing to the same Creator. Science tells us what and how. Scripture tells us who and why and the “who” changes everything.

How to Respond in Ministry

When this question comes up in your stream, Discord, or conversations, here are some practical guidelines:

1. Don't dismiss the question. If someone raises this honestly, they're thinking critically. That's a good thing. Saying “just have faith” or “stop trusting science” shuts down a conversation God might be using to draw them closer.

2. Acknowledge the tension. You don't have to pretend there's no interpretive complexity here. Faithful Christians have wrestled with Genesis 1 for centuries. Honesty builds trust.

3. Present the views fairly. You don't need to pick a winner in the moment. Show that there are multiple faithful, Scripture-honoring ways to read Genesis 1. Let the person explore.

4. Redirect to the main point. The Bible's purpose is not to be a geology textbook. It's the revelation of God's character, humanity's need, and the redemption offered through Jesus Christ. Keep the conversation anchored there.

5. Point to the Creator, not the debate. The most powerful thing you can say is something like: "The real question isn't the timeline, it's whether the God who made dinosaurs and you is worth knowing. He's made Himself known through Jesus."

A Word From Church History

This isn't a new conversation. Augustine of Hippo, writing in the 4th century, warned Christians against making confident scientific claims based on Scripture and then embarrassing the faith when those claims turned out to be wrong.

Paraphrasing Augustine (On the Literal Interpretation of Genesis): If a non-Christian hears a Christian making confident claims about science that are demonstrably wrong, and insisting the Bible taught them so, it brings Scripture into disrepute.. not because Scripture is wrong, but because the Christian has misunderstood what Scripture was teaching.

The takeaway: humility about what we don't know is not weakness, it's wisdom and it protects the credibility of the gospel message.

The Bottom Line

Dinosaurs are not a threat to the Bible. The fossil record is not the enemy of faith. The God who spoke the universe into existence, who designed creatures beyond our imagination, and who holds all of history in His hands is the same God who stepped into human history as Jesus Christ to rescue you.

Whether the earth is young or old, whether yom means a day or an age, whether Genesis 1 is sequential history or theological poetry, the identity and authority of the God it describes does not change. He is the Creator. He is sovereign. And He has made a way for you to know Him.

Colossians 1:17 (ESV) — *"And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

*This resource was born from a real conversation in digital ministry.
"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." — Proverbs 27:17*