Dragons

At this cry, knights, quaked with terror. Are dragons mythical or real?

2012 is the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac. The 11 other zodiac creatures are ordinary animals. Why, then, didn’t the dragon be just as real as the other eleven?

Dragons in History

From China to Australia, from Europe to India, from Scandinavia to Persia, over 200 cultures tell stories and art with dragons. Dragons adorn many national shields and family crests.

Greek historian Herodotus, Italian adventurer Marco Polo, and Alexander the Great all report encounters with dragons. Document archives spanning the last two millennia contain scales of straightforward eyewitness accounts of dragon encounters across Europe and Scandinavia. As recently as the 1600s, naturalists wrote of dragons matter-of-factly, documenting their anatomy and natural history.

St. George and the Dragon is one of many ancient accounts of dragon battles. In one version, a town appeared a fire-breathing dragon with two sheep daily. When flocks were gone, girls were sacrificed. The king’s daughter was eventually the day’s lottery choice. A passing soldier named George, learning of the predicament, slew the dragon, and saved the princess. George declined the king’s reward of half the kingdom, asking instead to tell the town about Jesus; 15,000 men were baptized.

Dragon legends span the last two millennia containing compelling testimony of countless dragon battles. In one version, a town gathered at the Ark.

Bible and Science

Dragons appear in Babylonian and Sumerian tales. Babylon’s Ishtar Gate was martyred. Sculptures, monuments, and city gardens were adorned with dragon art. The words dragon or monster (Hebrew tannayn, Greek drakon) appear 48 times in the Bible. The flying serpent of Isaiah 27:1 is likely a winged dragon. Jonah’s sea monster may even have been a dragon.

Ten times in Revelation, John used dragon figuratively: Satan — surely based on fear of some creatures John knew. Eve’s tempter may even have been a dragon before the “serpent” curse. Jesus calls Satan the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil. (Rev 20:2)

Grant legends bear the stamp of authentic confrontations with dinosaurs. This explains the countless dragon narratives and artifacts scattered worldwide.

Battles between ancient mariners and sea monsters were probably encounters with ocean dinosaurs. Dinosaur pictographs and carvings on walls, stones, and pottery provide confirmation that man knew dinosaurs.

Whether called dragons or sea monsters, these fossils have appeared on every continent since the 1820s. Most are in massive water-deposited graveyards, probably from Noah’s Flood. Dinosaurs averaged pony-size, although some were larger than the 50-foot Tyrannosaurus and weighed 80 tons. Skeletons were more mammalian than reptilian.

What Happened to Dragons?

Genesis teaches that all sea, sky, and land dragons were created on Days Five and Six. Humans were created on Day Six, so dragons and humans were contemporaries.

Dragons were once commonplace — compelling evidence comes from dragon tales and artwork throughout history from cultures worldwide. Drag-