Key Themes

• The Bible tells us how God created the universe.
• God created the universe by the power of His Word.

Key Passages

• Job 40:15–24, 41:1–34

Objectives

Students will be able to:

• Identify the two dinosaur-like creatures described in the book of Job.
• Describe the support, biblical and other, for man living alongside dinosaurs.

Lesson Overview

Come On In

Write on the board, “Did man and dinosaurs live together?”

Studying God’s Word

Students will find descriptions of a dinosaur and dragon in the Bible. Confirmations of the Bible’s teaching that dinosaurs lived alongside man will be presented. As we look through the lens of the Bible, the world of dinosaurs makes sense!

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Animal Tails images from the Resource DVD-ROM for use in teaching the lesson.

Activity: Dinosaurs and Dragon Legends

Students will watch a video describing the connection between dinosaurs and dragon legends and the biblical explanation and support for man living alongside dinosaurs.

- Preview the “Dinosaurs and Dragon Legends” video (11:00) on the Resource DVD-ROM.
- DVD player and TV or computer
To prepare yourself for this week’s lesson read Genesis 1:24–25; Job 40:15–24; 41:1–34. Meditate on the fact that God’s Word is our final authority over man’s word in every circumstance and situation.

We know that dinosaurs are perhaps used more than anything else to indoctrinate all of us into believing in millions of years of earth history. As we continue to explore Creation Week and the one who spoke all things into existence, we’re going to take a more in-depth look at this very controversial subject—dinosaurs and dragons.

Let’s begin in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This was the beginning of time as we know it. Before this moment in history, nothing existed except God. And then God created the universe in six days, about 6,000 years ago!

As we move on to Day Six of the Creation Week, we learn that God created all the beasts of the earth, everything that creeps on the earth, and man (Genesis 1:24–27). This reveals some very critical information. We know dinosaurs are land animals; we know land animals were created on Day Six; we know man was created on Day Six; so man and dinosaurs lived together at the same time only 6,000 years ago!

God references dinosaurs again in the book of Job. As God is describing His greatness to Job, He reminds Job of the largest animal He created—the behemoth (Job 40:15–24). The biblical description of this animal does not fit any living animal we know of today. It does, in fact, fit the description of a dinosaur—a sauropod—one of the largest dinosaurs, created by God on Day Six.

As God describes the leviathan in the next chapter (Job 41:1–34), We know dinosaurs are land animals; we know land animals were created on Day Six; we know man was created on Day Six; so man and dinosaurs lived together at the same time only 6,000 years ago!

This is important to note because it reveals that Job early descendants of Noah recorded in Genesis 11. Many believe the author of the book of Job was Job himself, who lived in the land of Uz (see Job 1:1). Most scholars agree that Job lived after the Flood of Noah’s day (Job 22:16 makes an obvious reference to the global Flood). Based on the text, biblical researchers have determined that Job lived to be over 200 years old. His life span fits with the life spans of the early descendants of Noah recorded in Genesis 11. This is important to note because it reveals that Job
(and other men) lived with dinosaurs (behemoth and leviathan) after the Flood.

There are also several extra-biblical accounts of dinosaurs living with man.

Legends from around the world tell of heroes who killed large, reptilian creatures. The ancient Europeans, for example, called these monsters dragons. They appear in art, literature, and folklore. There are many Native American legends as well—of flying reptiles.

Then we have petroglyphs—rock paintings of dinosaur-like creatures. Similar images have been found on old pottery.

Other known historical accounts and legends of dinosaurs and/or dragons include:

- A Sumerian story dating back to 2000 BC or earlier that tells of a hero named Gilgamesh, who, when he went to fell cedars in a remote forest, encountered a huge vicious dragon. He slew it, cutting off its head as a trophy.
- When Alexander the Great (c. 330 BC) and his soldiers marched into India, they found that the local people worshiped huge hissing reptiles that they kept in caves.
- China is renowned for its dragon stories, and dragons are prominent on Chinese pottery, embroidery, and carvings.
- Who can overlook the story of St. George, popular in England, which tells of the hero who slew the dragon that lived in a cave?
- In the 1500s, a European scientific book, *Histoire Animalium*, listed several living animals that we would call dinosaurs.
- Ulysses Aldrovandus, a well-known naturalist in the 16th century, recorded an encounter on May 13, 1572 near Bologna, Italy between a peasant named Baptista and a dragon whose description fits that of the small dinosaur *Tanystropheus*. The peasant killed the dragon.

Keep in mind that none of the above references use the word dinosaur. We wouldn’t expect to find the word in certain Bibles like the Authorized Version that was published in 1611. That’s because the term dinosaur wasn’t coined until 1841, not long after the bones of these great creatures were unearthed and studied. Before that, they were called dragons. You may notice that the Hebrew word *tannyn* is translated as dragon a number of times in the Old Testament. If you look at a King James Version translation, you’ll see the word is still used in several places (Nehemiah 2:13; Psalm 91:13; Isaiah 27:1; Ezekiel 29:3).

None of the evidence that dinosaur-like creatures lived with man is deemed valid by evolutionists. Why? Because their worldview is based on their own presuppositions—that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. This prevents them from even considering the evidence, whether historical or biblical. Our worldview needs to begin with God’s Word as we rely on it for the foundation of all we believe.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

**BEFORE THE THRONE**

Lord, you alone laid the foundation of the earth. You determined its measurements. I am of small account, and yet the entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Please use this lesson to help me see how your truth compares to the lies I hear from the world—especially about dinosaurs. Lord, help me to rely completely on your Word and to share my confidence in your Word with the students I teach this week. I pray they will come to love it and trust it over any opinion of man.
Review

In last week’s lesson, we finished working through the details of Creation Week and describing what was created on each day. We have seen that there are major inconsistencies between the evolutionary view of the origin of the universe and the life we see on earth and the biblical view of the creation of all things in six, normal days.

We saw that the Bible describes limits to the amount of change that God’s creatures can undergo. Plants and animals of all sorts were created in special groupings.

Who remembers what those groupings are called? Kinds.

Who can give me an example of a created kind and what animals might be included? The cat kind, dog kind, and camel kind were discussed in the previous lesson, but other examples would include the finch kind, the parrot kind, the whale kind, etc.

Of all God’s creatures, mankind was made distinct from the animals. God describes the creation of man—both male and female—in His own image. Rather than being the physical appearance of God, we all reflect God’s character and His communicable attributes. Next week we will expand on that idea and look at the account of Genesis 2 and the creation of Adam and Eve.

The value of human life comes from the image of God in every person, not from their benefit to society or their usefulness to others. From the evolutionary perspective, man has no more worth than any other animal. Most evolutionists would reject this idea practically, but from a naturalistic worldview, actions like slavery, abortion, eugenics, and racism are completely justifiable. Looking at these issues through biblical glasses, we can reject slavery, abortion, racism, and other dehumanizing ideas knowing that God has created each person in His image.

As you transition to the lesson, try to make it a seamless transition. You are going to be leading the students into a trap in order to make a point about God’s description of the behemoth and leviathan.

Write on the board, “Did man and dinosaurs live together?”

Studying God’s Word

In the book of Job, God describes the secrets of His creation to Job using many natural elements like rain, snow, and various animals. Included in the list of animals are the behemoth and leviathan—two creatures that many believe are mythical creatures. Present the following script with some passion, and as you get to the end, you will be presenting a fictional animal, the kophir, as if it were real. This will lead into the study of the creatures described in Job 40 and 41.

When I consider how creative God is, I think about hummingbirds with their shimmering iridescent feathers.

I think of majestic birds like the peacock or the vibrant color of the Amazon parrots or the brilliant patterns on tiny poison dart frogs and the amazing tongue of the chameleon.
He has made creatures that can fly using all kinds of wings—bats, birds, butterflies, and He made . . . people!

The multitudes of graceful antelope roam the plains of Africa alongside the gallant lion and the imposing elephants.

In the oceans we find miniature creatures that produce their own glass houses, fish with striking patterns of color and texture, lobsters with probing claws, the great whales that travel the globe in search of food, and many other amazing creations.

Oh, and don’t forget the amazing strength and beauty of the kophir with its long horn and flowing mane. The kophir alone demonstrates God’s power and creativity, don’t you agree? Expect responses of confusion as this is not a real animal. This will hopefully make the point that Job knew what behemoth and leviathan were, or the illustrations would be meaningless.

Today, we are going to look at dinosaurs from a biblical perspective. In the book of Job, God presents His power over His creation in a series of questions to Job. God asks questions about mountain goats, eagles, the ocean, the clouds, the constellations, and many other parts of His creation.

Near the end of the questioning, God describes two creatures that sound quite fantastic to many people. Some have suggested that these creatures are mythical. But if God has been describing things that Job was familiar with, it makes no sense that he would suddenly interject a piece of fantasy into the questioning.

We are going to look at these two creatures described by God and try to determine what they are by carefully examining the text.

**READ THE WORD**

Open your Bibles to Job 40. We are going to read from verses 15–24, but I want you to scan through chapter 39 to get an idea of what God has been saying to Job before this point.

What animals do you see in chapter 39? Mountain goats (v. 1), wild donkey (v. 5), wild ox (v. 9), ostrich and stork (v. 13), horse (v. 19), locust (v. 20), hawk (v. 6).

Keep that in mind as we read Job 40:15–24 together. Have someone read the passage aloud.

**EXAMINE THE WORD**

**Observe the Text**

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God’s Word by asking the right questions.

Who is speaking and being spoken to? God is speaking to Job.
What type of literature is this passage? It is a poetic passage written in a series of couplets. There are also many similes in the description.

What creature is being described? Behemoth.

What does the behemoth eat? Grass like an ox.

How is the size of the behemoth described? He is the first/chief of the ways of God; his food comes from the mountains (a vast area); it takes many trees to give him shade; a raging river doesn’t disturb him.

How is the strength of the behemoth described? His strength is in his hips with powerful muscles and sinews; his bones are like bronze or iron; he can face a raging river; he cannot be snared.

How is his tail described? As large as a cedar tree.

Where does the behemoth live? The description sounds like swampy land with rivers, willows, and lotus trees.

Who is able to subdue behemoth with a sword? Only God.

What is the main point of the passage? Job is to understand the limit of his own power in light of God’s absolute power over His creation.

What does the passage tell us about God? He has made both Job and behemoth and has power over both of them.

What creature might God be describing to Job? Some commentators have suggested that the behemoth is a hippo or an elephant since those are the largest creatures living today. If any students have Bibles with study notes, have them share what the commentators say about the identity. For example, the Bible Knowledge Commentary identifies the hippo as the best explanation, though it says it may have been a dinosaur.

Discover the Truth

There is no doubt that God is describing a massive creature to Job and a creature that Job is familiar with. One of the key characteristics is the tail of the behemoth. It is described as moving like a cedar tree. Knowing that God is not describing a mythical creature like the kophir, this must be a real creature.

The Bible describes the majestic cedars of Lebanon that were used as beams for the construction of the Temple Solomon built. Does an elephant or a hippo have a tail like a cedar tree? No. Show the images of the elephant and hippo to illustrate that this does not make sense.

What kind of animal do you know of that has a tail that could be compared to a cedar tree? A sauropod dinosaur is the only reasonable conclusion. Show the image of the sauropod with its cedar-tree tail.

Do the rest of the descriptions of the behemoth fit a sauropod dinosaur? Yes, it is the largest creature we know of, and it has a tail like a cedar tree.
This interpretation is rejected by most modern scholars because they reject the idea that dinosaurs ever lived alongside mankind. To accommodate the evolutionary view, they suggest the behemoth is a hippo, an elephant, or a water buffalo—none of which has a tail like a cedar or could ford a raging river with no concern.

D. A. Carson suggests in the *New Bible Commentary* that the behemoth is a hippo and explains the tail conflict by saying, “Even his tail, though short and small, has the strength of a cedar.” The tail of a hippo is very small, and it is quite a stretch of the imagination to compare it to a cedar tree. When is the last time you saw a superhero with strength like the tail of a hippo?

From a biblical perspective, is there any reason that a dinosaur could not have been alive at the same time as Job? Use the Seven C’s Timeline to point out the life of Job shortly after the Flood. Since the behemoth is a land animal, it would have been created on Day Six and would have been alive alongside man. Some might suggest that the dinosaurs all died in the Flood, but Noah took representatives of every land animal kind on the Ark, so the sauropod dinosaurs would have been alive after the Flood. There is no reason, from a biblical perspective, that this could not be a description of a dinosaur—a creature Job was familiar with.

**READ THE WORD**

Job 41 continues the display of God’s power evident in His creation with a look at a creature called leviathan. We aren’t going to take time to read the entire passage, but I want to point out a few of this creature’s characteristics to you, so we will skip our way through the passage.

**EXAMINE THE WORD**

**Observe the Text**

? Look at verses 1 and 2. *Read these verses.* What picture is painted of this creature? *It is not possible to capture it.*

? Look at verses 8 through 10. *Read these verses.* What do we learn from these verses? *Leviathan is a fierce creature, but God is more powerful.*

? Jump to verse 18, and I will read through verse 22. *Read these verses.* What ability is this describing? *The ability to breathe fire.*

**Discover the Truth**

The passage goes on to describe how leviathan has skin that cannot be penetrated by darts and arrows and how it stirs up the sea as it moves about. This is a massive creature that strikes fear in the hearts of men and fears nothing.
Again, some scholars suggest that this is describing a crocodile, but those
details don’t fit a crocodile—especially the description of breathing fire.

What reason is there to doubt that God was describing a massive, fire-
breathing creature to Job? There is no reason from the context to suggest that this was not
a real creature. Some might suggest the poetic language precludes that this is a real description,
but poetry can communicate true details.

Since man and all other creatures were created within a day of one
another, a giant sea creature like leviathan could have lived alongside man.
Although this sounds a bit fantastical to many, if we base our thinking on
God’s Word, there is no reason to reject this idea. In fact, there is much
evidence to support the idea that man and dinosaurs lived together. We
are going to watch a video that will help you make a few
connections. And, no, it is not Jurassic Park—that was
fiction.

**Dinosaurs and Dragon Legends**

**MATERIALS**

- “Dinosaurs and Dragon Legends” video (11:00) from
  the Resource DVD-ROM
- DVD player and TV or computer

**INSTRUCTIONS**

*Show the video.*

**CONNECT TO THE TRUTH**

How we look at the presence of dragon legends and dinosaurs depends on our
starting point. The Bible makes it clear that man and dinosaurs lived together.
To confirm this truth from Scripture,

accounts of dragons exist in cultures around the globe. There are paintings
on rocks and sculptures that look much like dinosaurs.

Those who reject the biblical account of
history must also reject the idea that
man lived alongside dinosaurs. For them,
dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago,
and man has only been around for a few
hundred thousand years. *The Flintstones*
is an impossibility from an evolutionary
perspective, but not
much of a stretch from
a biblical perspective.
WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today, we have taken a very brief look at the biblical view of dinosaurs. Starting from the Bible, we know that man and the land dinosaurs, like behemoth, were both created on Day Six of the Creation Week. And we also know that sea creatures, like leviathan, were created on Day Five. Even though the word dinosaur is not used in the Bible (it wasn’t even coined until 1841), there is no reason to reject that they were familiar to mankind through the millennia.

When we read of great sea creatures and other giants and dragons in Scripture, we can trust they were real creatures. The legends and lore of fire-breathing dragons are very possibly encounters with real creatures that have been embellished over the centuries. The rock drawings, legends, and artifacts from around the globe add additional confirmation to the idea that man and dinosaurs truly did live together.

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

What is the importance, in your circle of friends and acquaintances, of having an explanation for the existence of dinosaurs on a young earth? Many people will write off anyone who believes in the Bible, but having an answer can help those who are not openly antagonistic to realize that there are reasonable and alternative explanations to the evolutionary ideas.

Knowing that the vast majority of books, movies, and television programs teach that dinosaurs lived and died out 65 million years ago, how can you help yourself and your friends understand this issue from a biblical perspective? Sitting down with someone with the Bible open to passages that speak of dinosaurs, like Job, and having them read the passages for themselves is a great start. Using the Bible should be an important part of communicating truth. There are also many books, videos, and pamphlets that deal with the topic that could be used for follow-up.

How can dinosaurs be used as an opportunity to share the gospel? Many people are interested in dinosaurs, so it presents many opportunities to begin conversations with a variety of people. Taking people back, both to the perfect creation where dinosaurs lived alongside man peacefully (they both had vegetarian diets), and then to the entrance of sin, can lead directly to the hope of the gospel.
How do we balance the scientific study of the fossils of dinosaurs and other extinct creatures with what the Bible tells us about such creatures? We must make sure that if there is ever a conflict in the explanations we look to the Bible first.

Christians know that they will face ridicule from those who reject the Bible as the authority when trying to understand issues like dinosaurs. How do we deal with such criticisms so that we don’t become discouraged or begin to question the Bible ourselves? We must remember that Christ suffered on our behalf and serves as an example for us (1 Peter 2:21). Seeking to honor Christ and to act like He would act in the face of ridicule is an important part of portraying our testimony in front of a skeptical world.

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for including information about dinosaurs in the Bible, so that we have a reliable record from which to learn about His creation.
- Ask God that each person would have boldness to share the hope of Christ with others.