**What about Dinosaurs?**

Introduction:

1. Read Genesis 1

 a. Day 1 – light

 b. Day 2 – Firmament

 c. Day 3 – Vegetation

 d. Day 4 –Sun, moon, stars

 e. Day 5 – Fishes and Birds

 f. Day 6 – Beasts of the field & man

2. From children’s books to block-buster movies, from toys to amusement parks - virtually everywhere we turn, we are met with images of dinosaurs. These fantastic beasts capture the imagination of all ages.

3. It is common to read in our daily newspapers of new fossil discoveries, and about how they affect our understanding of the origin and development of life.

4. Even dinosaur DNA has been discovered.

5. Numerous questions abound in regard to these creatures. Did God create them like all the other animals? Did they live before or during the time of man? What happened to them? How did they become extinct, etc. etc.

**I. Dinosaur Challenge**

 A. *Bible-believers often feel threatened by the talk of dinosaurs.*

 1. Some people think they must choose to believe either the Bible or in dinosaurs, but not both.

 2. Believers do not need to be intimidated or silenced by science.

 B. *Two reasons for the anxiety*

 1. The question over the age of the Earth

 a. Scientists who believe in evolution suggest that dinosaurs became extinct nearly 70 million years before humans arrived on the scene.

 b. If they are right then obviously the Bible is wrong about Earth’s history.

 2. Another reason is that dinosaurs are used to popularize the theory of evolution.

 a. The study of dinosaurs is the first exposure many ever receive to the theory of evolution

 b. Christians who lack information about geology and paleontology feel overwhelmed and intimidated by arguments presented from such fields of science.

 C. *The concern over dinosaurs is unnecessary. These creatures, when placed in a proper biblical perspective, are not a threat to the Christian’s Faith.*

 D. *I hope this will become obvious as we look at some of the more common questions raised about dinosaurs and The Bible.*

**II. Did Dinosaurs Really Exist?**

 A. *Some have decided to respond to the dinosaur challenge by arguing that dinosaurs never really existed.*

 1. They claim that these creatures are part of a big hoax designed to convince people of evolution.

 2. This belief cannot be maintained. The evidence is too great.

 3. Besides fossilized bones of dinosaurs, scientists also can now study remains of dinosaur eggs, imprints of their skin and footprints.

 4. There are clearly numerous traces that remain in this world today of these amazing animals. There is no way to deny that dinosaurs really did exist at one time in this world.

 B. *When God created the world, dinosaurs were one of his creations.*

 1. Genesis 1:20-25 - God made everything in the entire universe (Acts 17:24).

 2. Like Adam, the bodies of the first dinosaurs would have been formed out of the dust of the ground.

**IV. When Did Dinosaurs Live?**

 A. *This is probably the most controversial question regarding dinosaurs.*

 1. World/evolutionist view:

 a. Evolutionists advocate that dinosaurs evolved from some ancient reptile 200 million years ago, and then became extinct some 65-70 million years ago.

 b. Man allegedly evolved only 2 - 3 million years ago, and thus was separated from dinosaurs by approximately 65 million years. 2. Biblical view:

 a. Creationists, who accept Genesis 1-11 as an accurate historical record of God's creative activity, oppose such claims, and instead maintain that the

 dinosaurs were created by God within the six literal days of creation described in the Biblical account.

 b. Thus man and dinosaurs would have been created at essentially the same time, and lived together as contemporaries on the earth. c. Everything God created to inhabit the Earth, the sea, and the sky was made in one and the same week (Exodus 20:11). This would include of necessity both man and Dinosaurs, therefore they would of had to of existed at the same time once in history (IF WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE). Colossians 1:16 would definitely include the Dinosaurs.

B. *Evidence Favoring Co-existence of Dinosaurs and Man*

 1. *Fossil Evidence*

 a. Glen Rose, Texas dinosaur and human tracks

 1) Glen Rose – 60 miles southwest of Fort Worth

 2) Paluxy River bed – human foot prints in same strata as dinosaur prints

 b. Trails:

 1) Taylor Track – 14 human foot prints in right left pattern

 2) Mc Fall Track – 15 human foot prints

 3) Burdick Track – clearest; most important human foot print

 4) Mixed among these human prints are over 134 acknowledged dinosaur prints in the same rock strata

 c. Human foot prints

 1) Beside, in, across, acknowledged dinosaur prints

 2) Many human prints show “mud push up” – arguing against carving

 3) Seven human prints clearly show toes, heel, instep

 4) Quality of prints

 d. At Glen Rose have also found large cat track and a human hand print.

 e. Similar prints in other locations:

 1) Antelope Springs, Utah

 a) Meister Track

 b) Human prints in shoes along with trilobite fossil

 c) Trilobite supposedly on lowest level of geologic column – allegedly hundreds of millions of years before man.

 2) New Mexico – in rock supposedly 100 million years old – four human foot prints in right left sequence

 3) Turkmenistan – 3000 dinosaur prints mixed in four trails with bare human foot prints.

 2. *Archeological Evidence*

 a. Petroglyphs

 1) Blanding, Utah (National Bridges Monument) images made by Anastazi Indians feature snakes, warriors beside creatures very similar to brontosaurus.

 2) Colorado – triceratops

 3) Grand Canyon – halasauros

 b. Burial stones in Peru

 1) Dr. Javier Caberra – large collection of Inca burial stones with elaborate carvings

 2) Many contain unmistakable dinosaurs

 c. Acambro, Mexico

 1) Waldemar Julsrud – German scientist immigrated to Mexico in early `30s

 2) 37,000 ceramic figurines – many clearly dinosaurs; one of a man wrestling with dinosaur

 3) Thermal-luminescent dating and carbon 14 dating places the date of these ceramic figurines at approximately 2,500 years old.

 d. Marco Polo – described two creatures pulling the Chinese emperors chariot that seem very similar to triceratops. Ancient Chinese authors wrote of chariots being pulled by “dragons” whose description is similar to the kentrosaurus and stegosaurus. Even spoke of raising these creatures as beasts of burden.

 3. *How have main-stream scientists reacted to this evidence?*

 a. Understand the significance of finding human and dinosaur prints that prove to be contemporary.

 1) Ernst Mayr (Harvard) “Creationists have stated that human and dinosaurs were contemporaries in time…were this momentous statement true the names of its discoverers would thunder down the corridors of time as individuals who made one of the most outstanding discoveries of the 20 century.” (Gish-Mayr Debate)

 2) Nova PBS special (God, Darwin and Dinosaurs) spent two weeks at Glen Rose: “…dinosaur foot prints side by side with human…Finding these would counter evidence that humans evolved long after the dinosaurs became extinct and back up the claim that all species including man were created at one time.”

 b. Scientists dismiss evidence:

 1) May be looking at dinosaurs with human looking feet.

 2) Doug Finsley (Dallas Museum of National History) Aliens!

 3) “Don’t see.” – from 50 feet away!

 C. *Wouldn’t Dinosaurs Be Too Dangerous to Coexist With Man?*

 1. *In light of the number of dangerous creatures in the world, this is a strange argument*.

 a. The world is full of animals that pose a great danger to human beings and their safety.

 b. Even microscopic threats such as “germs” and “bacteria” are a special threat to man (in some ways more than large and dangerous animals.).

 2. Also, not all dinosaurs were carnivores; the largest ones appear to have been gentle plant-eaters.

 3. It is quite possible that more dinosaurs were killed by people than people by dinosaurs.

 4. The Tyrannosaurus rex is often pictured as a horrible killer, attacking every dinosaur in sight. But this may not be true at all*.*

 a. New research suggests that Tyrannosaurus would not be able to move very quickly.

 b. Most other dinosaurs could possibly have gotten away from him easily.

 c. Fossil evidence (which is all we have) indicates that Tyrannosaurus walked in a stopped-over position and probably waddled like a duck.

 d. Their teeth were not rooted very well and might have snapped off in a real battle.

 e. Their front legs seem far too weak for grabbing and killing large dinosaurs.

 f. In fact, they were too short to even reach his mouth.

 g. If some of the dinosaurs did eat meat, it is entirely possible that they were actually scavengers (like vultures), living off the bodies of large dead animals.

 h. The fossil stomach contents of a tyrannosaur have never yet been found. So the evidence is still missing for the real clues about all of this.

 D. *What about fossils?*

 1. If there is a fossil record and fossils take millions of years to form, then don’t the fossils argue for ancient dinosaurs living before man?

 2. It doesn’t take “millions” of years for something to turn into a fossil.

 a. When the conditions and the materials are right, a bone can become filled with minerals fairly quickly.

 b. This requires:

 1) Quick burial

 2) Water, in the right amounts

 3) Suitable minerals.

 c. Conditions during the Flood were ideal for “fossilizing” millions of animals and plants.

 d. Researchers have found that chicken bones and wood can be replaced with minerals in just 5 to 10 years. (It would take longer for larger bones, such as dinosaurs, but obviously no where near a million).

 3. Fossilized cowboys hat, boot and hammer.

**V. Does the Bible Talk About Dinosaurs?**

 A. *If dinosaurs were created in the creation week of Genesis 1, why don’t wed read about them in the Bible?*

 1. This is a reasonable question and yet there are a great number of animals that are never specifically mentioned by name in the Bible and yet we do not question their existence.

 2. Cats and Kangaroos are also never mentioned, yet we do not doubt that they were created during the creation week.

 3. The word "dinosaur" wasn't invented until 1841, while the Bible was translated much earlier. One would hardly expect to find a word in a book which preceded the word's invention by several centuries.

 4. The Bible is not a zoology textbook. Caution when drawing conclusion from scientific references in the Bible. Bible is not a science textbook. Not particularly concerned with science. Many poetic statements.

 B. *However, I do believe that dinosaurs (as well as all other animals) are referred to in the Scriptures* (Exodus 20:11)

 1. This verse is telling us that all types of animals that now exist and that ever have existed were created in the same week!

 2. If dinosaurs are real (which we believe they are) and if they lived on this Earth (which we believe they did) then God created them and created them during the Creation week!

 C. *It also seems possible that an animals that sounds very much like the dinosaur is under consideration in Job 40:15-24. This passage gives the best description of a dinosaur like animal*

 1. Must acknowledge that this passage is poetic and highly figurative. However, it speaks of a real animal known to Job and his friends. As best as He can God describes a creature, the Behemoth. Note that the Behemoth was as real as Job (v. 15).

 2. In this passage, God asked Job to think about the “behemoth” which He called “chief” (perhaps “largest”).

 3. The book of Job is very old, probably written around 2000 years before Jesus was born.

 4. Here God describes a great king of the land animals like some of the biggest dinosaurs

 5. The description of behemoth as found in The Word of God fits very well what we know today of the diplodocids and brachiosaurids (the largest land animals believed to have ever lived on the Earth).

 6. This animal was a gigantic plant-eater with great muscles and very strong bones.

 7. We are told that the diplodocus had leg bones so strong that he could have held three others on his back.

 8. This behemoth was not afraid, they did not need to be; they were huge. Their tails were so long and strong that God compared them to cedars - one of the largest and most spectacular trees of the ancient world

 9. Some have mistakenly guessed that the behemoth mentioned in the Bible might be an elephant or a hippopotamus. Yet, those animals certainly do not have tails like the thick, tall trunks of cedar trees!

 D. *In Job 41 God describes the “leviathan.”*

 1. It is described as the greatest creature in the sea.

 2. Unlike crocodiles or any fish, it was useless to try to catch a leviathan with hooks, harpoons or anything else.

 3. “Nothing on Earth is his equal - a creature without fear” (Job 41:33).

 4. What was leviathan? The large size, strong jaws, great teeth, fast swimming ability and it’s protected back and underside are all clues.

 5. It definite could have been a Kronosaurus or such like creature. The Kronosaurus is believed to be one of the greatest, most overwhelming animals ever to swim the seas.

 6. It was not a true dinosaur, but was reptile-like and had great, sharp teeth.

 7. It appears that these animals were still alive at the time of King David. Psalm 104:26 mentions leviathan in the same verse with ships.

 8. Bible repeatedly mentions dragons. Some 35 references in KJV. Secular writers contemporary to many of these writers also wrote of “dragons” whose descriptions resemble a variety of known dinosaurs.

**VI. Where Did the Dinosaurs Go?** (no less than 55 Therories

 A. *Many theories have been suggested to explain the extinction of the dinosaurs, but none fits all the available factors or is provable.*

 1. The idea most often suggested to explain the extinction of the dinosaurs centers around a sudden climatic change over the earth -- a change so drastic that the dinosaurs could no longer survive.

 2. Some scientists suggest that not all dinosaurs have in fact become extinct.

 a. German submarine captain (Georg Van Forstner – “On July 30, 1915, our U28 torpedoed the British steamer “Iberian” carrying a rich cargo in the North Atlantic. The steamer sank quickly, the bow sticking almost vertically into the air. When it had gone for about 25 seconds, there was a violent explosion. A little later pieces of wreckage, and among them a gigantic sea animal (writing and struggling wildly), shot out of the air to a height of 60’ to 100’. At that moment I had with me in the conning tower my officers of the watch, the chief engineer, the navigator, and the helmsman. Simultaneously we all drew one another’s attention to this wonder of the seas…we were unable to identify it. It was about 60 feet long, was like a crocodile in shape and had four limbs with powerful webbed feet and a long tail tapering to a point.”

 b. “Dinosaur” caught by fishermen

 c. Coelacanth

 1) In 1939 scientists off the coast of South Africa caught a fish thought to have been extinct for over 70 million years.

 2) 1953 caught a second one.

 3) Since then have learned that natives had been catching them for years and knew them by the name Kombessa.

 B. *Creationists generally believe that the dinosaurs' extinction may be tied, at least in part, to the global flood of Genesis 6-8.*

 1. There is compelling evidence to indicate that the pre-flood world was much different that than the post-flood world.

 2. The Bible tells of a great flood that covered the entire earth in the days of Noah.

 a. Gen. 6:12-13 purpose of flood

 b. Gen. 7:21-23 – description of result of flood

 3. What kind of damage, then, could be expected from a flood that covered every high mountain on the whole earth? So great was the destruction that every human being outside the ark died and with them, millions of animals and plants.

 4. Such a great event in history would leave it’s mark behind. One would expect to find a huge number of dead creatures buried by water in mud and sand (now fossilized or hardened to rock). This is exactly what scientists do find around the world.

 a. Thousand of dinosaur bones can be found where they were washed together by violent flood waters and buried under mud, sand and rock.

 b. The discovery of great beds of dinosaur bones is thought by Creation Scientists to provide evidence of the flood - extinction theory. Dr. Edwin Colbert, a leading expert on dinosaurs and an evolutionist, sites the following concerning a dinosaur find in New Mexico: "As the layer was exposed it revealed a most remarkable dinosaurian graveyard in which there were literally scores of skeletons one on top of another and interlaced with one another. It would appear that some catastrophe had overtaken these dinosaurs, so that they all died together and were buried together." Similar dinosaur graveyards have been found on every continent.

 5. Many creation scientists believe that the dinosaurs survived for a time after the flood, but because of the hostile conditions, eventually became extinct.

 6. While this does not fully explain the extinction of dinosaurs, it does provide us with a possible explanation that would prove consistent with what the Bible teaches.

Conclusion:

1. Bible-believers do not need to feel threatened by the subject of dinosaurs.

2. The remains of these great creatures should not pose a threat to the Christians Faith.

3. On the contrary, the more we learn about them, the more we should be impressed with the awesome power and wonderful wisdom of God.

4. Like all other creatures, dinosaurs show us many amazing examples of design.

5. If we feel awe in the presence of an elephant or giraffe, how much more should we marvel in the presence of dinosaur skeleton?

6. In 1986, the fossils of Seismosaurus - one of the largest dinosaurs ever discovered - were found in New Mexico. Paleontologists speculate that Seismosaurus may have been 120 feet long. How can we even think about such a creature and not be filled with awe at the majesty of the God who created such a colossal beast?