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Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018) | Man's Changing Nature | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom features many dinosaurs, some getting the spotlight for the first time in the series. Throughout the *Jurassic Park* movies, **what dinosaurs were your favorites, and what were your favorite dinosaur scenes in this movie?** Even as scientists now insist many dinosaurs were actually feathered, **how do you see them, and are you glad the movie stuck with the "classic" appearance of dinosaurs?**

EQUIP

Near the film's beginning and end, the audience is told through mostly narration by fan-favorite character, Ian Malcolm, about the inevitability of change. As filmgoers of this series, we should be fairly acclimated to seeing man looking at natural circumstances and changing them. Whatever your Biblical view of dinosaurs may be, the fact they are not here now is irrefutable. Making them be here through science is central to the appeal and understanding of these films. *Fallen Kingdom* takes this a step further, even past the preceding *Jurassic World*. Dr. Henry Wu has furthered his tinkering and bred the Indo-Raptor, a truly terrifying amalgamation of the most ferocious prehistoric predators. There is no reason it should exist beyond the avarice of progress and man's pride. As Malcolm cautioned years ago in *Jurassic Park*, scientists were so busy thinking about what they could do, they never stopped to consider if they should.

Likewise, when we look at the state of society, we are in a never-ending sea of societal norms being overturned and outright abandoned. "Progressiveness" is overtaking the world right and left, and what has been established for centuries is being questioned and/or morphed into new bold directions. For the sake of keeping discussion civil, we won't be getting into the particulars of these issues. Still, man's need for change will be the heart of what we discuss.

Genesis 2:16-17 (NKJV) *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

2 Timothy 3:1-7 (NKJV) *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

LEVEL UP

In our verses in **Genesis**, we see the directive of our furthest descendants, Adam and Eve. Whether one sees the tree as literal or symbolic, the imperative remains clear: God established order, and man plotted another way. In his own mind, it was a better way, but it was a deviant way because it

defied God's order. All sin works this way: It is doing what God deems we shouldn't (sins of commission) and not doing what God deems we should (sins of omission). Even in Eden, that desire to change what was deemed to be God's order began there, upsetting God's ordered perfection that surrounded man. In light of this, the fluidity of culture shouldn't surprise us. Throughout the Old Testament and the New, we see mankind warring internally and societally against the directives of God, and guess what? The same happens today before our very eyes and within our own hearts.

In **2 Timothy**, we see a listing of sin; it is by no means comprehensive, but it should give all of us studying this a clearer understanding of much of the struggles we face. Some of these sins may be nothing against your own walk, while others are particularly devastating to you personally. Particularly dangerous today is what we read in **v.4-5**: "*lovers of pleasure...having a form of godliness but denying its power.*" This particular issue is rampant in so many forms. We game, listen, stream, date who we want, become who we want...label it however you will, but the status quo today is "you be you". Whatever pleases the individual is the right course of action culturally, and that lends us to look away from God's time-tested written standards and towards the ones we write ourselves. In this Internet age with information and rampant sin all just a few clicks away, our world seems to be, in many ways, even farther from God overall, and **v.6-7** seemed to foretell such things ages ago.

So, we have ventured far from God, all on our own; what will allow us to correct this? Well, man's nature to change things away from God must be corrected by changing our nature back to the will God has for our lives. We see this in **Ephesians 4**:

Ephesians 4:20-24 (NKJV) *"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

Is this easy? Absolutely not. It is difficult beyond words; but it is not beyond God's power working in our lives, when we allow His Word to lead.

MOD

We all have a tendency to want to change things to our liking. It's not always a bad thing, especially if what we desire is in line with God's Word. **What can you go about changing for the better in your life today?**

Culture moves at a speed that is hard to keep up with, but certain things in God's Word should not change. While being respectful to the views shared in the group, what are things that should not change, and if they do, what are potential consequences?

The idyllic Eden of a dinosaur refuge following the rescue effort proves false in the film, as do the words of many villainous characters in the film. We know we will never see perfection in this life, and many will let us down; still, **what are the things you long for in Christ, past all of the upsets and disappointments of this life?**

PRAY

As you endeavor to change your nature closer to the will of God and His Word, **what are some particular struggles the group can pray for at this time?**

In addition, **are there additional prayer needs the group can continue praying for beyond this meeting?** Let's pray.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Romans 7:14-20 (NKJV) *"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."*

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

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