



August 16, 2009

The Creation Museum

Last week we made a trip to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum. The facility is located about nine miles west of Covington and is fairly easy to access from the highway. The museum has been open for a little over two years and I have known several individuals who have visited it. It has been interesting. More than one person has told me what they saw and then instructed me to let them know what I thought about the exhibits when I got a chance to go. One person recently thought that the emphasis on dinosaurs was overdone, especially with a “little dinosaur” going up the ramp to the ark in a scale model on display. I did not know what kind of place to expect as “Christian” groups have a tendency to do things a bit differently than secular institutions might. I will have to say the trip was very interesting and the facility is very impressive. The building is completely modern in every sense from construction to the technology of the structure. What was really impressive were the exhibits. Each of the presentations was done with the highest quality that a museum curator could hope for. The exhibits are well ordered, well presented and the case for divine creation well argued. Walt Disney artists and the Boonshoft museum in Dayton have nothing on the Creation Museum when it comes to the overall sophistication of the facility and the material presented. The interpretation of the book of Genesis, as well as the case they build for the coexistence of dinosaurs and humans, reveals a level of study and interpretation that is very well thought out. One of the films presented at the end of the tour is entitled *The Last Adam* and deals with the sacrifice of Christ and the coming judgment. That however is where the staff and director of the museum go awry with their interpretation of scripture. Several times in the museum the statement is made that they approach the same evidence that secular scientists do, but, since their beginning point is the presence and activity of a divine creator, the interpretation is different. David Eakin made a similar point years ago in his presentation of the evidences that scientists use to uphold the theory or evolu-

tion. Sadly that same idea falls short with the interpretation of the scriptures. Time is divided into seven periods ending with what they term the Consummation, a point at which God will send Christ to judge the world after which the Earth will be recreated and returned to Eden-like conditions. In the film, *The Last Adam*, a plan of salvation is presented which skillfully avoids mentioning baptism. That is ironic in that the film presents a dramatization of the baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by John and the Lord is fully immersed, not sprinkled or poured, but immersed, just as the word “baptize” implies. So why the absence of this in their presentation of the plan of salvation? Regarding the body of evidence for scriptural practice as the Bible, we must say that we have a different starting point, or at least a different attitude. The scriptures clearly teach the essentiality of baptism in the statements of Christ (**Matt 28.18-20, John 16.15-16**) and his implication of the same in the conversation with Nicodemus (**John 3.5**). The examples of conversion in the book of Acts, starting in chapter two onward, shows that all believers were baptized for the remission of their sins after which they were added to the Lord’s body, the church (**Acts 2.47**). We also find other references that emphasize this point as well such as **Rom 6.1-6, Gal 3.27, Eph 4.5** and **1 Pet 3.21**. With all that evidence how does anyone who understands the creation of the universe miss such an obvious point. I am reminded of Paul’s statement that the “god of this world” blinds the minds of humans so that they will not see the truth (**2 Cor 4.4**) and told the Thessalonians that this is because many will not receive the “*love of the truth*” (**2 Thess 2.10**). We can only hope that visitors to the Creation Museum will continue their search for truth and render true obedience in spite of the errant doctrine presented. As New Testament Christians we will continue to teach the whole counsel of God, but, I suppose many will be so impressed with the Noah’s ark construction site that they won’t give it another thought.

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