

Biblical Foundations

By Ed Stevens -- *Then and Now Podcast* -- Feb 9, 2014

Opening Remarks:

- A. Welcome back to another podcast from a full preterist perspective.
- B. Last time we took a break from our regular schedule to let all the sports fans enjoy the SuperBowl game. Hopefully that gave the rest of us some time to spend with our families and friends, and get caught up listening to some of the previous podcasts. It also gave me some time to work on my new book (Final Decade). :-)
- C. This time I want to share a recorded message from **Ken Ham** that I heard this past week. Ken is the founder and president of **Answers In Genesis**, which is a biblical creationist ministry. If you have never been to their website, you are missing a real treat. Just do a Google search for *Answers in Genesis*, and it will probably be the first thing that pops up in the search results. Their website has a huge amount of good conservative biblical information, debunking evolution and building a strong case for a young earth and a literal Genesis account of creation and the flood. You will want to spend a lot of time there looking at their articles and media resources.
- D. Before we listen to his excellent lesson, let's pray:

Sovereign Ruler over all the Nations, King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords: Your ways are so far above our ways that they are past finding out -- exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we can think or imagine. We pray not only for our nation and its rulers, but for all the nations of the world, that you would humble the wicked and raise up the righteous ones. We know that righteousness exalts a nation, and that sin is a disgrace to any people. Teach us through our studies here about how to be salt and light in this very dark and tasteless world. Equip us and embolden us to be your useful vessels to serve the truth to this nation and world that has backed so far away from You. Inspire the younger generation of Christians around the world to gird up their loins and dare to challenge the darkness with the light of your absolutely true and authoritative Word. Help them to take every thought captive to Your Holy Word. We pray in the Name of Your Son and our Savior Jesus. Amen.

Restore and Rebuild the Foundation

The following speech from Ken Ham is from his series on Foundations. Better than anyone else I have heard in recent times, he identifies exactly what has caused the decline in Christian culture, western civilization, and the Church over the past four decades. His analysis is timely and accurate, and surprisingly in sync with a preterist worldview. We'll listen to his speech first, and then discuss it. Here's Ken Ham:

[LISTEN TO THE "FOUNDATIONS" MESSAGE BY KEN HAM]

Ken Ham's speech: "Foundations: Relevance of Genesis"

Found here: <http://debatelive.org/test/>

We need to note right away that Ken Ham is approaching this issue from a futurist perspective, but thankfully he did not say much about eschatology in this speech. The most important part of his message about the crumbling foundations of western civilization is certainly valid, regardless of whether we are futurist or preterist. He clearly shows that there is a direct connection between the decline of Christianity and our compromise with evolution. And that is the point we need to focus on here.

Ken Ham pointed out that Evolution teaches that Adam and Eve were not the first two human beings on planet earth, and that there were other humans on earth before them, and that human and animal death and disease were already occurring before Adam and Eve came on the scene, so that Adam and Eve were already subject to death and disease before their Fall into sin. But this contradicts the Genesis account of creation. The Bible says that human death did not happen until after the Fall. Both the Bible and Evolution cannot be right. They paint two very different pictures of man's history on this planet. They cannot be harmonized. Yet today we have seminary professors, theologians, and preachers trying to force the Bible into allowing for millions of years of evolution before man came on the scene. They have compromised with Evolution.

The younger generation can see this irreconcilable difference between the two views. When they see their Christian teachers adding evolutionary ideas into the Bible, forcing the Bible to compromise with evolution, and reinterpreting the Bible so that it allows for millions of years, their faith in the *truthfulness* of Scripture, the *trustworthiness* of Scripture, and the *absolute authority* of Scripture is totally undermined and destroyed.

When we reinterpret the Genesis account to compromise with evolution, we are in net effect telling our children that God doesn't mean what he says here in Genesis, and that Genesis 1-11 is nothing more than a fairy tale which we can accept or reject without consequences. When they see us rejecting the Genesis account *as it is written*, they feel perfectly justified in rejecting the rest of the Bible *as it is written*. If we can reinterpret Genesis to mean *whatever we want it to mean*, then they are perfectly justified in reinterpreting any other parts of the Bible to mean *whatever they want it to mean*. If we have the right to treat Genesis that way, then they have the right to treat the rest of the Bible that way as well. Do you see the problem here?

Too many of us have compromised with evolution and told our children that it does not matter HOW God actually created the universe, and that the only important thing is for us to believe that He did it somehow or other. We do not believe the Bible tells us HOW he did it. We think He could have done it over millions of years using evolution, or any number of other possible ways. But Ken Ham showed the fallacy of that reasoning when he responded: "It is not what God COULD have done, but rather what God SAID He did! So if we told our children that what God said He did is not true, then we have destroyed their faith in the *truthfulness*, *trustworthiness* and *authority* of all of Scripture.

You see it does not matter what evolution says, if the Bible already tells us how God did it. Evolution and Genesis cannot both be right. They cannot be harmonized

without compromising the truth of Genesis. And our young people are smart enough to see that. So when we compromise with evolution, we are teaching our children that it does not matter what the Bible says in Genesis or anywhere else. No wonder our teenagers and young people are leaving Christianity by the millions! If the Bible cannot be trusted in Genesis, it cannot be trusted in the New Testament either. If the miracle of creation is not true, then the miracles of the virgin birth and the resurrection of Christ are not true either.

When the trustworthiness and absolute authority of the Bible is undermined, it destroys the whole foundation of western civilization and Christianity. All the morals and ethics and spiritual values and principles that western civilization is built on, are totally undermined when the trustworthiness and authority of the Bible is rejected.

And we see that very thing happening here in the preterist movement. The *Covenant Creationist View* is compromising with Evolution, and so is the *Collective Body View*. Both views are teaching that Adam and Eve were already subject to physical death BEFORE their Fall into sin. Both views reinterpret the meaning of death in order to exclude physical death from the consequences of the Fall. Physical death was certainly not the only kind of death that was included in the curse. Spiritual and eternal death were also a part of it. But physical death was included, and this becomes obvious when we read the Genesis account of the Serpent's temptation of Eve. It is very clear that Eve understood the death threat to at least include physical death. So, their compromise with Evolution is only weakening our faith in the Bible even more. **[Get my PDF article (*Fall of Adam*) for much more info on this.]**

In order to define what is good or bad, or right or wrong, we need an absolute standard that never changes, which is forever relevant and applicable to all generations of mankind. The Bible claims to be that *absolute standard*. Western civilization was built on that biblical standard of right and wrong. When we reject any part of that standard, we are rejecting the whole standard. It is no surprise that when this country took prayer and bible reading out of the schools and brought in sex education, condoms, abortion, and homosexuality, the American culture began to decline and disintegrate. No society or culture can survive the rejection of the foundational principles upon which it was built. America started out as a Christian nation that was founded on biblical absolutes. But the schools have erased that history from our textbooks. They do not want our children to know what this nation was originally founded on. They want to reshape it according to their own agenda and remove God and the Bible totally out of the picture.

The foundations of western civilization have been severely damaged by our neglect and compromise. We have virtually walked into the enemy's camp and surrendered without a fight. Our young people are abandoning the Church and Christianity by the tens of millions. Thousands of churches are dying and closing their doors every year. And the downward spiral is gaining momentum every day.

The way we treat Genesis now in this generation, is the way the next generation will treat the rest of the Bible. We cannot consistently reject one part of it and accept the

rest. It all stands or falls together. Christianity is totally founded on what is taught in Genesis 1-11. If we compromise in Genesis, we invalidate Christianity as well. We need to be consumed with restoring and maintaining the *truthfulness*, *trustworthiness*, and *absolute authority* of ALL of Scripture, including Genesis 1-11.

Conclusion

This is the danger that ALL Christians need to be aware of. The older generation has gone to sleep and refuses to wake up. We refuse to believe that Christianity is in any danger of being suppressed and persecuted here in America. But it is already happening in other parts of the western world where Christianity was once strong. And it will happen here as well, sooner than we think, unless we equip and inspire the next generation to challenge the forces of evil and drive them back into the darkness. We need to equip our young people with a consistent biblical worldview and a strong Christian apologetic that can take every thought captive to the Word of God. This is one of the reasons why we put up an exhibit booth every year at the Evangelical Theological Society conference. There are hundreds of young bright seminary and Christian college students there who need to be exposed to the *preterist worldview* and a *consistent biblical apologetic*.

Part of that equipping of the next generation needs to include a careful study of the book of Romans. Of all the books in our New Testament which teach godly principles of morals, ethics, spirituality, and a strong apologetic, the book of Romans is right up there at the top of the list. A lot of the principles upon which this nation was originally built, came from the book of Romans. This book builds our *faith*, sharpens our *apologetic*, and *emboldens* us to run into the darkness with the light of God's *infallible*, *trustworthy*, and *absolutely authoritative* Word.

Next time we will get back into the book of Romans, and point out some of those *foundational* principles that are so important to us. I pray God will use this study of Romans to *awaken* us, *equip* us, and *embolden* us to take every thought captive.

That will do it for this time. Thanks so much for listening.

For More Information

The video version of Ken Ham's Speech: *Foundations: Relevance of Genesis*

Found here: <http://debatelive.org/test/>

Order the Foundations Series Here:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/search/?q=Foundations+Relevance+of+Genesis&search=Go>

If you want answers about all your Creation vs. Evolution questions go here:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/get-answers>

Story of Ken Ham's Life (scroll down to the bottom of the webpage):

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/outreach/speakers/ken-ham/bio/>

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