



**SERIES Redeeming Love**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

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**TITLE: An Interview with Ken Ham pt. 1**

**Pastor Nat Crawford:**

Welcome to the Hard Questions, Real Answers Podcast. I'm your host, Pastor Nat, and we are here at NRB 2022. And I am excited because I have my special guest, Ken Hem. Ken, you are the CEO and founder of Answers in Genesis, the Ark Encounter, the Creation Museum. Also, you're an author, you're a speaker, you're an apologist like me and a bearded brother. So I am pleased to be with you. You doing well today?

**Ken Ham:**

I'm doing well. You know, when my hair was darker and my beard was darker and longer, people used to confuse me with Abraham Lincoln.

**NC:**

Not me? They didn't confuse you with me.

**KH:**

No, no. <Laughter>

**NC:**

That's the way God wants it. It keeps me humble. Well, you obviously are an expert on Genesis and creation, and you are a student of the Word. You keep bringing people back to the Bible, and I thank you for that. But here's my first question because I get it so often when I speak at universities or churches. People ask, how old is the Earth and how can you be sure?

**KH:**

Well, you know, the ministry is called Answers in Genesis, right? So it must have answers.

So how old is the earth? Here's how I'd answer it. Number one, the only way you would actually know was if someone was there when it came into being, who could tell us when that happened. Oh, by the way, we do have someone. That is God.

You know, from a perspective of us in the present trying to work out how old the earth is, I mean there are hundreds and hundreds of dating methods that you can actually use to try to age date things on the earth. Dating methods involve something that changes with time and you measure how fast that's happening. But then there are problems. You've got to know what was there to start with and you've got to know if the rates have always stayed the same and so on.

But without getting into a lot of technical details, did you know that of all the age dating methods you could use, 90% contradict billions of years. It's only a small percentage that actually give the billions of years. And the point is, all of them are based on fallible assumptions, and those assumptions can be shown to be, not necessarily valid.

And so one of the things that I would do as a Christian is to say, when you start from God's word, God tells us he created everything in six days. And it's a whole other topic of whether those days were ordinary days. And I would say, in the context of Genesis, yes, of course those were ordinary days. We can come back to that some other time.

And then He made Adam on day six. Adam and Eve told to be fruitful and multiply. And as you read through those genealogies in the Bible, the genealogies tell us that Adam had a son, Seth, at 130 years old. And then Seth at a certain age had a son. And you could go all the way down the line there. And then you know, we get to Noah and we get down to the time of Abraham, and then Christ, when He stepped into history to be the God Man, the babe in the manger 2,000 years ago and up to the present—you add up all those dates and you come to about 6,000 years. Not millions of years.

Now that sounds radical for today's world. But you know what? There's nothing in observational science that contradicts thousands of years. And besides which, a lot of Christians think they have to believe the millions of years and then add the millions of years into the Bible. But you know, the idea of millions of years, it came out of atheism. It came out of atheists ideas back in the 1800s who wanted to explain everything by natural processes. And so they had this belief that the fossil record—it couldn't have got there from the flood because, you know, they didn't believe the flood. They rejected the flood. So these layers were laid down over millions of years before man.

Well, a lot of Christian leaders started to take the millions of years and put in a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, put them into the days of creation, or say the flood was local or whatever. But when they do that, there's a problem. You know what's in the fossil record? Lots of examples: Well, obviously dead things, of course. Things and lots of examples of diseases like cancer and arthritis and all sorts of other diseases, abscesses, tumors, et cetera. But if all that existed before man—if you are adding that in as a Christian—then after God made man, He said everything He made was very good. That will mean God is calling cancer very good. And that's a problem. And that goes against certainly the character of God. And that means that those fossil layers couldn't have been laid down millions of years before man sinned.

So how would, how would I as a Christian explain those fossil layers? Well, the Bible tells us there was a global flood. If there really was a global flood, you'd expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers as water spread all over the earth. In other words, the fossil record is not the graveyard of millions of years. It's the graveyard of the flood warning us that God judges the wickedness of man. God provided an ark of salvation for Noah, which is a picture of Jesus. And as Noah and his family had to go through one door in the ark to be saved—because remember God told Noah to build one door, put one door on the side of the ark—that's a picture

Jesus. Enter the ark of salvation. It's a reminder for us. Jesus said, I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.

Now one of the things that I have seen all throughout Scripture is that God is a God who is holy and righteous and He has to judge wickedness and judge sin. But in judgment, He always brings salvation. So, back in the garden, when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, in judgment, God judged with death. But at the same time, He gave the message of salvation—Genesis 3:15, which is really just the promise of a Savior, Genesis 3:21 was the set-up of the sacrificial system—pointing to the Savior.

And then at the time of the flood, he judged the wickedness of man, but provides an ark of salvation. And then in the final judgment, when He comes to judge the earth, and there'll be a new heaven and new earth, and those who put their faith and trust in him will be saved for eternity in heaven to live with him. So think about it, judgment and salvation sort of hand-in-hand all the way through the Bible. Because God is a holy God, a righteous God, a God who has to judge as a holy God—sin—but he's a God of grace and mercy. He is a God who saves.

**NC:**

Amen. You know, one of the things people always ask me is, “is the Bible full of myths? It's outdated, it's contradictory.” I'm like, all you have to do is read the Bible for yourself and you will see that those things aren't true. You'll begin to see the whole picture. You just gave the entire Bible in like two minutes. I love it. I'm gonna steal that from you. But you did mention something that I think is highly debated today, both outside of Christian circles and inside, and that is the creation account. Six literal days, long days, gap theory, day age... How should we think about creation?

**KH:**

You know, I'm going to say something here that might sound a little radical for a lot of people, because I find a lot of the church today, and a lot of Christian leaders will say things like, “the most important thing is trust in Jesus.” And, “Genesis... That's an Answers in Genesis thing.” Then we have the age of the earth..., “that's their thing.” “It doesn't really matter,” they say, “you have got to be on about Jesus.” But here's the thing, the message of Jesus comes from this Book. God's Word. And if you can't trust God's Word in the beginning, how should you trust it anywhere else?

What I would say is the whole issue of the age of the earth, the millions of years of evolution and so on, that came out of, you know, the 1800s based on naturalism. That has been an incredible attack on the foundation of the authority of the Word. And a lot of people today are looking at all the issues and the culture and how bad they are and all the rest of it... and we have to deal with why it happened in the church and why is the church so lukewarm in many ways? And why is the church not impacting the culture? And why are we losing generations from the church? Because the church really gave up the first 11 chapters of the Bible. Because of the impact of evolution—millions of years—much of the church gave that up. We said it doesn't matter. But Genesis 1 to 11 is the foundation for everything, and the rest of the Bible for all of our doctrine.

See you think about it, right. With Jesus in Matthew 19, and again in Mark 10 He quotes this, but He was asked about marriage. And so what does he say? "Have you not read..." by the way, I love that statement, the authority of the word of God. "Have you not read he made them at the beginning, made the male and female..." By the way, two genders. Here's Jesus attesting to two genders. But He's quoting the text of Genesis 2, and said "...for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and they will be one flesh." That's Genesis 2:24. So Jesus is going back to the historical account in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 to give the foundation for marriage. Now, here's the point. Not just marriage. Every single biblical doctrine of theology directly or indirectly is founded in Genesis 1 to 11.

Think about it. If you want to talk about death, where's the origin of death? Genesis 1 to 11. Sin? Genesis 1 to 11. Why do you wear clothes? God gave clothes because of sin and setting up a sacrificial system. Genesis 1 to 11. Why did Jesus die on the cross? Genesis 1 to 11? Why is He called the last Adam? Genesis 1 to 11. Why have a seven-day week? Genesis 1 to 11. Why is marriage between a man, a woman? Genesis 1 to 11. Why are there two genders? Genesis 1 to 11. Why is abortion wrong? God says do not murder humans, and in Genesis one, we find they're made in the image of God. Why does man have to work? Genesis 1 to 11, Why do we have a dominion? Genesis 1 to 11. You know, we could go on.

Genesis 1 to 11 is the foundation for everything. And if the church has given up on Genesis 1 to 11 and just says, "trust in Jesus," You can understand why the younger generation is coming through... What do you believe about marriage? What do you do with gay marriage? What do you do with gender? What do you do with racism? What do you do with all these issues? Even to talk about the issue of race and racism you've got to start with Genesis 1 to 11, to understand we're all descendants of Adam and Eve all one race. See, without that foundational history, then who decides what you believe?

The problem is, generations of our kids have been brought up in a public education system where the foundation is man determines truth. They throw God out. They really have a worldview of atheistic naturalism. And they're coming to our churches. And a lot of our pastors have said, "that's okay. You can believe that. Don't worry about Genesis. We're just trusting in Jesus, Johnny." And I see the same today. I see a lot of churches and Christian leaders who were saying, "look at the mess our world's in. We've got to tell them about Jesus."

And you have generations today because they've grown up in a culture where no longer are they familiar with the Bible, they don't even understand what sin is. They don't understand who Jesus is. The Bible is a book of mythology. Science has supposedly, uh, disproved the Bible. So when you go out there and say, "trust in Jesus," they don't know what you're talking about. And if we don't start building our thinking on Genesis 1 to 11 and equipping them with answers to all the attacks on God's Word that are happening today, we are going to continue to lose.

**NC:**

I couldn't agree more. As a pastor, I've heard that so many times: Give them the Gospel and focus on that alone. And we do know that the foundation of Christianity is believing His death burial

and resurrection. But we do need to embrace the whole of Scripture and educate people. And we just need to keep bringing people back to the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

**KH:**

You know what I say to people? Yes, we need to teach the Gospel—we need to teach the whole Gospel.

**NC:**

That's exactly right.

**KH:**

And it starts in Genesis 1 to 11, so you understand the message.

**NC:**

Right. I couldn't agree more. Well, we are just getting into the heart of the topic. You brought up evolution, you talked about the church, and we're gonna talk about those in future episodes. So we're gonna have you back on. Ken, if people want to learn more about you and your ministry, where should they go?

**KH:**

Our main website is [AnswersinGenesis.org](http://AnswersinGenesis.org). But they can also Google the Ark Encounter, and our Creation Museum, our two leading Christian theme attractions in the world. We have many, many different websites. But you can find out about us that way.

**NC:**

All right. Be sure you check it out. And join us on our next episode with Ken Ham.