

The Vision — Ken Ham

Cost Priceless

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

Although my interest in Genesis and creation/evolution began when I was younger, my specific interest in the Flood and the Ark of Noah was intensified as a young adult in 1974. That’s when I read *The Genesis Flood* by Morris and Whitcomb. I discovered that the global Flood was an integral event in regard to the topic of origins. That catastrophe explains most of the fossil record as well as the genetic bottleneck for humans and all the kinds of land-dwelling, air-breathing animals. In fact, every person alive today is a descendent of Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and so the Flood was certainly a major event in human history.

At times over the years people have asked me, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful to find Noah’s Ark?” Then people would suggest that it would be great to build Noah’s Ark. So the idea of a reconstruction of the Ark has been bandied about for years in various discussions.

Then at some stage of the planning of a Creation Museum (in the early 2000s in the USA) and raising money for it, we began to talk about future projects. The subject of building an Ark came up again, with the idea that it could be built across from the Creation Museum. We actually acquired a two-acre piece of property on the other side of the lake at the museum site. And then we purchased an additional 20 acres behind the Creation Museum that we thought would be suitable for building an Ark and for parking. However, a detailed national survey conducted by America’s Research Group predicted that up to two million people a year would be visiting the Ark. So we

looked elsewhere and eventually obtained 800 acres on Interstate 75 at exit 154 Williamstown, Kentucky (south of Cincinnati) for the Ark Encounter project (about 40 miles from the museum).

At the Creation Museum, which opened in 2007, we have a spectacular Noah’s Ark exhibit. It represents only 1 percent of the Ark’s volume. The massive exhibit has become a very popular one for our museum visitors. A lot of people have commented about how much they liked that Ark exhibit; some have said that it is their favorite display at the museum. Many visitors have also commented how great it would be to experience the entire Ark structure.

In 2004, the leadership team at Answers in Genesis put together a strategic plan, with the help of an outside consultant. One of items we listed in the plan as a future goal was to build a life-sized Noah’s Ark. This plan was presented to the AiG board in 2005, and that year, the board agreed to make the Ark the number one priority after the Creation Museum was opened.

Building a Team

When we were in the early stages of building the Creation Museum, a man living in Japan, Patrick March, reached out to us. He explained he had worked for the Universal Studios theme park and other attractions around the world. He was a Christian and biblical creationist who wanted to use his talents for the Lord in designing exhibits for the future Creation Museum. We hired him, and Patrick brought another level of expertise and professionalism to

the design and construction of the exhibits—ideas that we never envisioned. He took the script I had written for the teachings we wanted to present in the museum, and Patrick and a talented design team he assembled turned the script into a phenomenal world-class museum that we see today. Even many evolutionists who have toured the museum have stated that the Creation Museum is the best-looking, most high-tech museum they have seen. When the secular media ask me how we were able to assemble such a talented, qualified design team, my standard response has been: “Just as God brought the land animals to Noah for the Ark, so God brought these people to us.” There’s no doubt that it was only the hand of God that could have put together the entire gifted staff, and others outside the ministry, to make the Creation Museum, and soon the Ark Encounter, what we see today.

People often ask me if the Creation Museum turned out to be what I first envisioned. The answer: “absolutely not!” Yes, certainly the message of the 7 C’s of history and having a walk through history were a part of the original vision for the museum. But God brought Patrick (and the others in his team) to take the exhibits and the impact to a whole new level, beyond anything we could ever have imagined. Patrick has a very special place in this ministry. And even though he is a very humble guy, Patrick and those alongside him, took the Creation Museum to a level that is better than what a visitor will experience in just about any museum or themed attraction in the secular world.

Because of all that expertise the Lord brought to us, plus a broad base of donors, the AiG board had the confidence to move ahead and start building the Ark. Just as with the Creation Museum, the Ark project has greatly exceeded



Moving Dirt

\$3,000,000 Ark Site
\$6,000,000 Parking Lot

2014					2015							2016										
Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.



Excavation begins on the Ark site August 2014.



The view at the end of the first day of excavation.



Large Caterpillar scrapers like this one can haul up to 50 yards of dirt at a time.



After a month on the job, excavation was making great progress.



Bow



The bow or “sail” on the Ark is a rigid wooden structure rather than a traditional sail that can be moved for propulsion purposes. Rather than calling it a “sail,” it would be more accurate to call it a stem-post projection or a bow fin.

A bow fin would have served as an obstruction to the wind, pushing the bow away from the wind and into the waves, preventing the Ark from capsizing. In tandem with the bow fin, a “stern projection” would have reduced the swaying of the Ark’s stern, thus preventing it from being pushed side-on by the wind. So these additional structures on the top of the Ark were designed to provide stability. When completed, the bow will reach 104 feet off the ground.