

servicing Presbyterian and Reformed churches. In general terms, the book expressed Dr. Enns opinion that modern critical study has established beyond all reasonable doubt that *the Bible contains mythological and legendary material* borrowed from various Ancient Near Eastern traditions and that it is *not* an inspired text.

So — let us pose a question here — if you were home schooling your children, would you want to use the “Bible-based” material that Peter Enns had written? Would you want a person like Ken Ham to at least give you a “heads-up” as to Dr. Enns theology? Would you say that the individual who *did* give you that heads-up was “unkind, not gracious, unprofessional, proud, unchristian, sinful and had a divisive spirit?” That’s what the organizers of the convention said.

[You can hear the audio portion of Ham’s comments about Enns, at this link <http://blogs.answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2011/03/25/listen-to-this/>]

The current agenda prevalent today is to *belittle* anyone who holds to the Bible as the absolute Word of truth? Those who *do* that, are now labeled as having a “divisive spirit” *because* they *stand up* for God’s Word and speak out against false teachers. What are we to do as Christians? Can we muddle along through daily occurrences with our heads in the sand — completely *missing* these victories had *every day* by the Devil? Are more and more Christians *trying* to stay “under the radar” for fear of causing someone to not “like” them and therefore earn a “divisive spirit” label? If so, Satan will be proud of them. If doing what Ken Ham did, earns *society’s* “divisive spirit” label — then perhaps we should all strive for such a label as that. There are more and more instances where attempts are made to label Christians who *defend* the truth as hate mongers and divisive. Since Truth can’t be attacked because *it* will stand on its own, the only choice left is to attack those who are bearers *of* that Truth.

Regardless of whether or not we might consider Ken Ham’s theology to be a bit “tilted,” we absolutely *must* be alert enough to *recognize* that there are those like Dr. Enns who are attempting to *completely* dismantle the credibility of the Bible — yet — Peter Enns spoke at the convention and Ken Ham did *not!* Did Satan score a victory?? He did if Christians attending that convention failed to *evaluate* everything they saw and heard there in relation to its effect on God’s Word. This incident should be a “heads-up” to *all* homeschoolers. If they weren’t on the alert before, they surely *should* be now! Was there an agenda at that convention? If there was, was it *hidden*? Was it hidden from everyone — or just from non-observant Christians trying to fly under the radar anyway — so as not to be labeled “mean-spirited” or “divisive”? Brethren, the Devil is *winning* battle after battle after battle and many of God’s people are completely *unaware* of the defeats! We are *soldiers!* Be observant. Pick up your “sword” (Eph. 6:17) and prepare to defend God’s Word.

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Hidden(?) Agendas

Modern day society’s agenda to completely dismantle the Holy Word of God is becoming more and more prevalent. That agenda is only “hidden” as much as we as Christians, *allow* it to be. What do we mean by that? When Christians *stay alert* to the things going on around them and *consistently evaluate* those things in relation to their *effect* on God’s Word, agendas *can* become quite clear. When however, Christians muddle along with very little if any interest in events occurring around them and only skim the surface of events happening every day, an agenda (if there is one) can be completely hidden from them — hidden until it’s far too late to take any action to correct a direction bent on dismantling the Word.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1 NASB)

Still a bit confused as to what we mean by all of this? To demonstrate the point more clearly, let us refer to a recent event that drew quite a bit of publicity (in a variety of ways) here in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area.

First, a bit of background information — On Thursday, March 31, the Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati was the sight of the first day of a gigantic homeschoolers convention. Literally *thousands* of parents and children poured into Cincinnati from all over this nation to attend the three day event.

It wasn’t however, without some controversy. The local media picked up on the fact that the organizers (Mary Jo and Brennan Dean) of the for-profit function had not only “dis-invited” but actually *banned* the *Answers In Genesis* founder Ken Ham (developer of the *Creation Museum* in Petersburg, Kentucky) from *all future* homeschoolers conventions they organized. The initial newspaper article stated —

“Dr. Ham’s spirit toward our convention was unkind,” their statement reads. ‘Dr. Ham’s spirit toward our attendees was not gracious. Dr. Ham’s spirit toward other speakers was unprofessional. In short, a proud, ungrateful and divisive spirit was projected from Dr. Ham.’” (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 31, 2011)

Hummm — quite a strong statement! What in the world would cause a man who put his heart and soul into developing an entire *museum* dedicated to the story of Genesis to react to this secular event in a “proud, ungrateful and divisive” way. He certainly *must* have acted very *un-Christian* to enlist such a strong statement from the organizers of this wonderful event! Why would he demonstrate *such* a mean spirit toward other speakers that it would manage to get him *banned* from

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all future conventions? What could he have *said* that was so very hateful?

Now, before we go on, let us make it clear that we surely do not agree with all of Dr. Hams's theology but this kind of publicity — so *very* negative — about him, made us a bit curious as to exactly what was going on at this huge homeschoolers convention.

That same newspaper article did include a *bit* more information about the rift. It also stated —

“The often passionate Creationist was expelled after he publicly criticized and blogged about a convention speaker and exhibitor and called out convention organizers for ‘compromising’ on Bible theology for allowing a speaker who doesn’t espouse a solely literal interpretation of the Bible’s Book of Genesis. Ham, like many Creationists, believes the earth was made by God in six days and is about 6,000 years old. Many other Christians, including some convention speakers, believe the planet may be much older. Ham said he believes he has a religious duty to warn homeschooling families.”

Warn them??? — warn them that another speaker thinks the earth is older than 6,000 years?? That’s what the article *says* he had to *warn* them about. *That* doesn’t seem like something that he would react *so strongly* to that it would get him *expelled* from the convention! Something just doesn’t add up here. There *must* be more to this story than the local media has reported. There is — but we’ll get back to that story later.

As Christians, we absolutely must *always* be alert to the way society in general — including newspapers, TV, radio, magazines, etc. — *phrases* sections of the stories on which they report. An alert eye will often reveal that there is a slant being presented that — knowingly or unknowingly — aims at dismantling the Bible as the absolute truth and the actual Word of God. There isn’t room here to list *numerous* examples but before we get back to the Ken Ham story, let’s look at another recent one.

In the March 1, 2011 issue of *Diligence*, we discussed the Updated New International Version of the Bible. On March 20, 2011 the local newspaper ran an article from the *Associated Press* concerning that Bible. One paragraph in that article read this way —

“Before the new translation even hit the stores, it drew opposition from the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, an organization that believes women should submit to their husbands in the home and only men can hold some leadership roles in the church.” (*Cincinnati Enquirer*; March 20, 2011)

The *way* in which this paragraph is written, clearly demonstrates an effort to dismantle a truth contained in the Scriptures. Did you see the implied slant? Read it again if you didn’t. If you *still* didn’t see it, the devil scored another small victory in society. Read *between* the lines. What’s it *really* saying? Isn’t it saying that it’s not the *Scriptures* that teach submission of women in the home and restrictions on leadership roles for women in the church? Isn’t it implying that this Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood has a *radical* belief concerning that subject? Isn’t it then also implying that the Updated NIV is probably acceptable *unless* one is somewhat radical in his or her belief? What if we read that article with absolutely *no* — or at least very little — knowledge of the Scriptures? Would

we be inclined to say “wow, that group must be crazy. Why would anyone be *that* radical?” We stated in the first paragraph of this article —

“When Christians *stay alert* to the things going on around them and *consistently evaluate* those things in relation to their effect on God’s Word, agendas can become quite clear.”

Is the point we are trying to make in this issue of *Diligence* becoming a bit more clear now? *Many* seemingly innocent articles, stories, statements, etc. have a “spin” put on them that is very subtly and very gradually dismantling the effect of God’s Word on the world in which we live. This is really nothing new. In Acts 19:23-41, a man named Demetrius was *actually* concerned about his loss of income but tried to spin a situation by saying “*the temple of the great goddess Artemis [will] be regarded as worthless...*” (vs. 27).

Now, speaking of lose of income — let’s go back to the Ken Ham/homeschoolers convention story. It might be important to note here that — first — some 2 million children are home schooled in this Nation. Secondly — the Home School Research Institute in Salem, Oregon estimates the average homeschool family spends \$400 to \$600 a year per student on materials and books with *some* estimates exceeding \$3,200 a year per student. That makes homeschooling at *least a billion dollar a year* industry and therefore quite an attractive business as well as a worth while venture for those who might have interests *other* than a solid *religious* training for children at the forefront of their intentions.

So let’s look a little deeper into exactly what it was that Ken Ham did to get him expelled from the conventions. *Was* he divisive, proud and unkind? Brennan Dean stated: “Ken has obviously felt led to publicly attack our conventions.... We believe that what Ken has said and done is unchristian and sinful.” Was it? Here’s the rest of the story. *You* decide if it was unchristian and sinful.

Dr. Ham was critical of a speaker at the convention named Peter Enns. Dr. Enns is a “senior fellow of biblical studies” with the *Biologos Foundation* and participates in homeschooler conventions to promote his “Bible based curriculum” for homeschoolers. We could fill many pages with quotes from Dr. Enns taken from blogs he has written on the *Biologos.org* website. However for the sake of space, we’ll just mention a few things he advocates concerning the Bible. Dr. Enns believes that the Genesis account of Adam and Eve is not to be taken literally but is instead a *completely symbolic* story representing Israel’s beginnings. In addition, his homeschool curriculum released through Peace Hill Press, states that the subject of sin should not be taught to children and blatantly teaches evolution of man as well as the Big Bang theory of creation. His writings also consistently cast doubt on the inerrancy and the authority of the Scriptures, as well as numerous other fundamental facts of the Bible. A book he wrote — *Inspiration and Incarnation* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2005) was *so* offensive that it eventually caused him to loose his position as a tenured Professor at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia — a seminary