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Fossilized Jews and Witnessing Dinosaurs at the Creation Museum: Public Remembering and Forgetting at a Young Earth Creationist “Memory Place”

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ABSTRACT The Creation Museum (Petersburg, KY) embraces dinosaurs and their bones as witnesses to the historicity of the biblical

creation narrative. While many have critiqued the institution’s presentation of the past, approaching this space as a memory place reveals previously unrecognized implications that its historical claims entail. In particular, expanding the place of dinosaurs within the Young Earth creationist memory of the past has compelled a parallel diminution in the representation of ancient and modern Jews in exhibits and related literature. In other words, having incorporated paleontology into its theological worldview, the Creation Museum is compelled to present Jews as quixotic fossils with no particular function in the divine plan for history. As the museum’s profile as a memory place for American evangelicals grows, this could undercut the theological foundations that have encouraged robust relations between that group and Jews over the past half-century.

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The creation museum is a creation apologetics ministry run by the ministry Answers in Genesis. They are frequently visited by families such as the Duggars and the Bates. Ken Ham, an Australian creationist and president of the ministry Answers in Genesis, came up with the idea for a creationism museum in 1982. He felt that it was important to have a place that puts what he believes is the biblical view of creation on display. The Creation Museum (Petersburg, KY) embraces dinosaurs and their bones as witnesses to the historicity of the biblical creation narrative. While many have critiqued the institution's presentation of the past, approaching this space as a memory place reveals previously unrecognized implications that its historical claims entail. In particular, expanding the place of dinosaurs within the Young Earth creationist memory of the past has compelled a parallel diminution in the representation of ancient and modern Jews in exhibits and related literature. In other words, having incorporated paleontology there are also fossilised reptile footprints, dinosaur poo and bones – and the occasional visit from a young T-Rex. The Great North Museum: Hancock Newcastle. Image: Colin Davison © Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. A full size T-Rex skeleton in Fossil Stories makes this museum great for dinosaur enthusiasts. Have a go at being a palaeontologist by re-building prehistoric creatures and explore hundreds of exciting fossil plants and animals. Oxford University Museum of Natural History Oxford. 'Oxford University Museum of Natural History' © Magnus D (CC BY 2.0). Marvel at the fossils on display, while cutting edge CGI brings the ancient creatures back to life. You can even watch Steve Etches cleaning and conserving his latest finds in the museum lab. Categories.