



Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims of Christ

Ravi Zacharias , Vince Vitale

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Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale defend the absolute claims of Christ against modern belief in the "secular gods" of atheism, scientism, relativism, and more.

The rise of these secular gods presents the most serious challenge to the absolute claims of Christ since the founding of Christianity itself. The Christian worldview has not only been devalued and dismissed by modern culture, but its believers are openly ridiculed as irrelevant. In JESUS AMONG SECULAR GODS, Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale challenge the popular "isms" of the day, skillfully pointing out the fallacies in their claims and presenting compelling evidence for revealed absolute truth as found in Jesus. This book is fresh, insightful, and important, and faces head on today's most urgent challenges to Christian faith. It will help seekers to explore the claims of Christ and will provide Christians with the knowledge to articulate why they believe that Jesus stands tall above all other gods.

Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims of Christ Details

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From Reader Review Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims of Christ for online ebook

Andrew Samir says

This a very good book combining deep insights, real life stories and good arguments. It provides a chance for a truth seeker to compare between different ideologies and worldviews as contrast is the mother of clarity. It also gives a Christian a good tool to understand his faith more in the light of the other answers provided. Being written by two competent authors, it has the advantage of different voices and experiences. I found the chapter on Pluralism and Hedonism particularly helpful. I would highly recommend considering one's stance regarding each idol in real life.

Cecil Lee says

An excellent book that will be a great help to both the honest sceptic seeking answers to life's "Big Questions", and to Christians seeking to reach out to their secular friends.

"This is the Christian ethic at work. I am given the freedom to choose, and I am loved even when I make the wrong choices. But I am graphically reminded in the mission and work of Jesus Christ that, though I can choose my behavior, I cannot transpose the consequences that are inextricably bound to a particular choice. The greatest reality is that even in my wrong choice, I am still loved by God who woos me back to Himself by making the most sacrificial gift of all—a Savior for my rebellious heart." - Jesus Among Secular Gods

Liz says

Jesus Among Secular Gods is timely, insightful, and accessible. Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale have proved yet again to be excellent communicators (and great story tellers!), articulate not only in their commendation of Christian faith but also in their reasoning; they "show their work" as it were- something which I personally appreciate as I try to weigh up ideas and arguments for myself. As Ravi notes in the first chapter, "Views and opinions are aplenty in our world of tweeting ...but civil discourse is rare." Happily, this volume aims at such discourse, resulting in respectful and honest engagement with the subject matter. Definitely a worthwhile read for the thoughtful soul seeking to press a finger to the pulse of trending '-isms' of our culture, and to understand why the figure of Jesus Christ stands unique among such 'gods'.

Brandon E says

Engaging rhetoric, sharp logic, and gripping illustrations are wrapped up to tell the story of the early 21st century's predominant ideologies. In Jesus Among Secular Gods, one will find unique insight into today's modern/postmodern/post-truth worldview while it is contrasted with the only one that predates it: Christianity. Those familiar with Ravi's typical style will be surprised by the strength of the language used, but ample argument is provided to defend the urgency.

I especially recommend this book to anyone who thinks a coherent distinction can be made between a “religious” and “non-religious” organization. Furthermore, the skeptic who wishes to deal with the best, as opposed to the popular, portrayals of Christianity will have to make an effort to find a better account.

It is difficult to find works that mix artful narrative and precise reasoning. I am thankful to Dr. Zacharias and Dr. Vitale for adding one more.

Marcus says

Ravi and Vince have brought a timely clarity in contrasting Christianity and other world views. For the critical thinker looking for solutions to a world reeling in confusion about truth, a post truth culture essentially, this book will most certainly impact your life. It is a bold response to a secular culture, to aggressive atheism, with many facts and insights that should help anyone gain a grasp of truth versus just ideas. Their position that no scientific claims to date disclaim God is very well supported. Relativism, humanism, and emotions over truth are also all directly addressed with priceless wisdom and experience from their world travels. This book will open eyes and hearts to truth! Thanks so much for the hard work and honest love behind this future top seller!

Sukai Chen says

Since graduating from college a few years ago, I've been looking for books that would help me develop cultural awareness, lead me in my spiritual path, yet still challenge me intellectually. (Trying to keep sharp!) This was perfect for that.

I'm a huge fan of the Ravi Zacharias & Vince Vitale collaboration, having read their book *Why Suffering* two years ago. Like their original collaboration, this was written so accessibly. I love the personal stories and illustrations used by both authors. It's quite relational, and the reader gets a legitimate sense of the warmth and genuine personalities of the authors.

Yet their insights are most valuable. In the chapter on “Scientism” for example, Dr. Vitale explains the fine-tuning argument as a reason for why God exists. Later at the conclusion of the chapter, he connects the philosophical argument with the personal, writing

“God not only designed the universe; he designed Alva [read the chapter for her story], and He named her, and He has plans for her life as carefully fine-tuned as His plan for the cosmos. And the same is true of each of us...May that signify to us that our lives began only because God chose us before the foundation of the world. Because of God, we can know we have a purpose. And if we let Him, God will fine-tune us for life—a life free of shame and guilt, a life full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

I just thought that was so cool. Not only did it help to learn the fine-tuning argument in the beginning of the chapter, but Vitale made it click* of how a God who fine-tunes the world could fine-tune the humans that he (or she?) created as well.

There are so many gems in this book. I really encourage you to read it, especially if you're in college or have just graduated. Dr Vitale and Dr Zacharias both address worldviews that I think are more prevalent in the university (and secular culture in general) than the other world religions. I think it's an absolute must for the college student. Most of my professors/peers/coworkers had/have a worldview defined by Atheism, Scientism, Humanism, Pluralism, Relativism, and Hedonism, and it's so fascinating to see these different perspectives examined in a gracious manner. The two authors are obvious Evangelical Christians, but I think that they write in such a way that is accessible and helpful to anyone. Check it out!

Mari Ovsepyan says

I've always thought that one of the biggest problems of our generation is that we seem to have lost the fine art of asking good questions. I remember when I first came to the US I was quite surprised to see the sentence "Jesus is the answer" on various bumper stickers, badges, etc. This is a powerful statement, but I think its power is real only if we know the questions to which Christ's life and teaching can provide answers. I appreciate that Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale open the first chapter of their new book with articulating the questions behind each of the worldviews they explore in this book: at the heart, as always, is man's search for meaning, purpose and truth. The latter was in every headline about a month ago when the Oxford Dictionary announced that 'post-truth' became the word of the year in 2016. 'Jesus Among Secular Gods' provides a powerful insight into why and how our culture got here and does it in such a winsome and respectful manner that this book will undoubtedly be a real treat to any lover of truth: both a believer and a skeptic.

Jonas Bergtun Stava says

The book was thought provoking and well written. The authors did a great job comparing Christianity with other world views. This is a book that makes you think and it is an interesting read with good stories which are weaved into the arguments the authors are making. The authors did a great job showing the weakness of the secular worldview which is manifested in atheist, relativism, humanism, hedonism, scientism and others. This is being contrasted with Christianity in a way that makes one appreciate the coherence of the Christian worldview and how Jesus Christ fills the vacuum that secularism leaves.

The authors are not only great scholars with immense knowledge within philosophy, worldview's and other topics, but are also frequently meeting real people who hold different positions which the book describes. This makes this book personal, real, and scholarly. I enjoyed reading this book a lot and would recommend anyone to get it.

Noemi Ortiz says

With reason and heart driving the book, Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale lay out the major and influential "partial" truths our culture has been enculturated with, yet ultimately found lacking: Atheism, Scientism, Pluralism, Humanism, Relativism and Hedonism.

Clearly written and imbued with poignant illustrations, heartfelt stories and rational support from the world's

leading Christian (and non-Christian) thinkers, this is a much-needed anchor and stake in this post-truth, post-Christian era.

God's truth stands: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Matthew 24:35). This is a beautiful, inspiring and thought-provoking book armed with truth and love—it seeks to show that ultimate meaning and purpose point to a God who loves us and seeks for us to know the Truth, which is God Himself.

Micah Ruelle says

Vince Vitale writes, "Perhaps the most common objection to this argument [of science and faith] is this: God is not a good explanation for the universe because we don't have a good explanation for God." Vitale, along with Ravi Zacharias, then delve into who they believe that God to be.

Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale have teamed up to revisit, refine, and modernize some of Zacharias's decades-long inquiry into the dialogue between Christianity and other, secular faiths (mainly, atheism, scientism, humanism, etc.). While the book's target audience is most likely geared towards Christians who wish to have a deeper understanding for the foundation of their faith, the book also provides many answers for atheists looking to engage with the Christian faith on an intellectual platform. At the heart of this book is premise that there are good, rational, and satisfying reasons to take Judeo-Christian God under serious consideration.

Kosta Milkov says

As a I loved the previous book by Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale on the problem of suffering (Why Suffering?), I am delighted but not surprised that that they have produced a second coauthored work which addresses the subject matter in a transparent, clear, eloquent and persuasive manner. I found it especially helpful in its fair but robust debunking of atheists' claims to have given definitive answers for the big questions including the disproof of God's existence (especially if one is writing against the Christian God!). The same can be said for "scientism" in the chapter with the same name, where the ideology that science can explain everything is addressed. ?It was exceptionally fun to read in that chapter about the multiverse theory (An example from the poker game is given, and not being familiar with it, I had to look and learned what a "royal flush" is; I hope I am not getting hooked!), and being masterfully led through the major issues with it. A book well written and well worth reading!

Brian Upsher says

Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale's new book 'Jesus among secular gods,' is written with great thought and in such a way that it does not dismiss the objections raised from atheistic and pluralistic philosophies but instead highlights the differences between the Christian worldview in comparison to a few other religious beliefs and especially that of the secular worldviews. Each chapter looks at an area of secular philosophy and explains why this philosophy ultimately fails to be lived out if there is no God to give the basis for human worth and meaning. I found the reasoning and arguments well structured and even though the two authors have different writing styles the text still flowed easily from chapter to chapter. As mentioned, they don't

only break down secular philosophies but also go through a rational thought process to reveal why not only belief in God but belief in the Christian God gives us the best explanations for understanding science, moral reasoning, meaning, and ultimately truth. This book is well worth a read for Christians who are maybe insecure about how to give answers for their faith especially when challenged by secular thinkers about their belief in God. I would also highly recommend this book to atheists and agnostics who are honestly interested to know what answers the Christian message has in comparison to their own line of thinking. To sum up, this is an excellently written book by two thoughtful authors that gives an in-depth comparison between differing worldviews but ultimately shows the hope that the Christian message offers in the person of Jesus Christ.

Andy Moore says

Great book to pick up after listening to a documentary about the rise of “post-truth” in our culture – “post-truth” being the Oxford Dictionaries’ Word of the Year for 2016. Seems we’ve lost the ability to talk about differences without tending towards either one extreme of fighting or the other, of denying that any disagreement is desirable – or even justifiable, as in “post-truth”. So credit to Zacharias and Vitale for producing a really respectful, yet cogent and insightful analysis of how the Christian message compares and contrasts with the other “isms” presented as answers to the basic questions of life in the West. Apt timing for sure: after scrolling through my Facebook and Twitter feeds on New Year’s Day, I couldn’t fail to notice the vitriolic sentiment towards much of what 2016 served up – Brexit bemoaned by my British friends and how the Presidential Election transpired closer to home. Occurs to me though, that 2017 will only be different to the extent that truth – and not “post-truth” – is what we go after. Would commend this book to anyone who just wants to investigate, be informed and take truth seriously again. It’s a step in the right direction to regain the lost art of thinking clearly without alienating friends or colleagues if and when our views differ. Really enjoyed the last chapter’s insight about what it means to be a “lover of truth” – accessible too – powered through the whole book in a day.

David Cottrill says

Ravi and Vince, once again, have showed their understanding of where the current winds of culture are blowing. With our Western Culture changing before our eyes, it is difficult to get a handle on the forces that are at work. I enjoyed their insights and analysis of these relevant issues and their candour in challenging our presuppositions on each. They are thoughtful and winsome in their arguments. They break down each issue so they are understandable and relevant. They leave the reader with a clear understanding how different worldviews answer each issue so they can make clear decisions regarding each view. Their answers are substantial, balanced and though provoking. I found their writing touched both my mind and my heart. A recommended read for those who are interested in the issues that shape and influence our culture.

David Hazell says

The authors use a mixture of personal stories and clearly explained philosophical argument, to provide an

engaging and accessible look at why secular beliefs (such as Pluralism, Relativism, and Humanism) fail to give a good account of our lives and the world we live in. The chapter on Scientism, for example, challenges the oft repeated claim that “Science has disproved God”, and demonstrates that far from disproving God, science points to God’s existence. In and through this they build a case for why Jesus provides intellectually and personally satisfying answers to the questions raised by secular beliefs.

This book is an enjoyable and thought provoking read. Well worth a read!
