



Gospel Reset

salvation made
RELEVANT

KEN HAM

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Dedication

To my godly mother, who at the time of writing of this book celebrated her 90th birthday. Her boldness in sharing Christ with others, prayers, godly wisdom, uncompromising stand on God's Word, and dedication to her family have left a legacy in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that will continue to impact millions with the saving gospel message.

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Note from the Author

Billy Graham passed away February 21, 2018. Many news items reported on his death and paid tribute to this great evangelist. One headline¹ really stood out to me:

**There will never be another Billy
Graham, because the world that made
him possible is gone**

This was similar to what Fox News political commentator Tucker Carlson stated during his short tribute to Billy Graham on *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, February 21, 2018:

He basically just preached the Bible. In the America of the time that was enough.

1. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/will-never-another-billy-graham-world-made-possible-gone-195847056.html>.

People stopped him on the street to shake his hand. We live in a different country now, but Billy Graham never changed.

Yes, the world has changed, we do “live in a different country” now and another Billy Graham would not have the same response as the late great Billy Graham the evangelist had.

The gospel message hasn't changed, but the way in which it needs to be presented in a secularized culture does need to change. The way to present the gospel does need to be reset in the world we now live in.

Foreword

Bodie Hodge

The Western World — from North America to Europe to Australia — has changed. It's not like it was in the days of Billy Graham when thousands just stood and listened to the gospel (good news about Jesus) and responded. Evangelism in our culture today seems difficult and sometimes impossible. We preach Jesus and people don't seem to care. Why?

Allow me to explain, but first, permit me to preface it by discussing Latin America. I was on a trip to Peru speaking in churches and conferences and seeing some sites. At one point, one of our guides was leading a group of us biblical Christians to see a whale graveyard in the desert. It was long bus ride.

Our guide had related that he was raised Catholic, but in speaking with him he was heavily influenced by the religion of secular humanism. For example, he professed “millions of years” and evolution.

As we ventured out to the site with the whale fossils, our guide mentioned that these fossils were millions of years old. Our group kindly disagreed with him and said that we followed the Bible. We believed the majority of fossils, including the whale fossils in question, were a result of the Flood of Noah’s day.

He seemed intrigued and he asked us to clarify. We told him that the rock layers that the whales were in couldn’t be both millions of years old and at the same time buried in the Flood sediment. We further elaborated that the rock layers were either formed in the Flood or were laid down slowly over millions of years (with no major catastrophes as the secularists teach).

Our guide paused for a moment in thought. Then he said, “Hmmm. God can’t be wrong, so the idea of millions of years in the fossil record have to be wrong.” He was incredibly relieved to know that he didn’t have to believe in long ages and evolution anymore. It was like a switch just turned on for him and it all made sense. I was actually shocked and unprepared for his response. I turned to the gents with me,

who were fellow Christians who believe the Genesis account, and said, “Well, that was easy.”

I realized that he was raised to believe a global Flood in his Catholic education, but at the same time, he was taught millions of years and evolution. When this issue finally came to a head, he had enough of a foundation to realize that the Bible was true regarding the Flood.

Bring this back to our Western Culture. I don’t get responses like this. I get people who are so engrained with big bang, millions of years, and evolution, that those are “untouchable” in their worldview — sadly, this is even the case within many churches, Christian colleges, and seminaries, too.

But the problem is worse than you may think. I’ve told people about Jesus and I get responses like, “Jesus who?” I’ve told people that Jesus is the Son of God and I get responses like, “Which god are you talking about — Zeus, Thor, Allah, etc.?” I’ve pointed out that people are sinners and need to be saved from their sin and I’ve had people say, “What is sin?”

I realized that we are in a culture that has indeed changed. They no longer have the foundation information about God, His Word, and their need for salvation. Our culture, and even many within the Church, have such a minute understanding of

Scripture, particularly the early pages of Genesis, that they have little to no foundation to understand the message of Jesus. Unlike the foundation of our guide in Peru, many in our culture simply don't have *any* foundation to comprehend the message of Christ, ever since the Bible and Christianity have been kicked out of schools and replaced with the godless religion of secular humanism.

The sad part is that churches are largely doing business as usual, telling people about Jesus without the foundational knowledge for Christ. It isn't working like it used to in the West.

But God didn't leave us in the dark. A careful analysis of Scripture and early missions work by the Apostles Peter and Paul reveal the answer. Ken Ham dives into this subject brilliantly to teach churches and Christians how to evangelize and preach Christ in our culture today. This book is a necessity if you want to share the truth of God's Word and gospel of Jesus Christ in our changed Western world.

INTRODUCTION

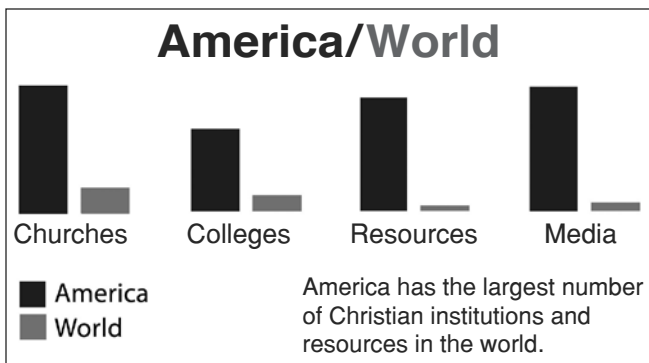
Something is happening to America — in fact, to the entire once-Christianized Western world. Whether you get your news from television or online, the information is the same. The United States is no longer the country she once was. It is shocking to compare the worldview of today's generation with the one embraced by older generations in the West.

America has the largest number of Christian churches, colleges, seminaries, resources, and media of any nation in the world. Yet, her values and predominant worldview demonstrate that America is becoming less Christian every day. Western culture is changing. In fact, Western civilization as a whole is becoming less Christian in its worldview, whether it's the United Kingdom, Europe, or Australia. We are seeing moral relativism spread throughout Western



**Becoming
less Christian
EVERY DAY**





culture like an infectious disease. There's even talk that an ideological civil war is being waged in America. And as moral relativism enjoys greater national acceptance, Christians and their worldview are treated with increasing intolerance.

The elimination of prayer and the Bible from state schools was only the beginning, as now Christians themselves are being targeted for the free exercise of their faith in the public sphere. Nativity scenes, Ten Commandments, and crosses have been systematically and progressively removed from public places.

Even terminology associated with Christian teaching is being changed or removed. For example, "Merry Christmas" changed to "Happy Holidays." In short, Christianity's influence is slowly being purged from America's national conscience.

Simultaneously, Christians are not having an impact on culture and those in it, choosing instead to remain content and safe within their own churches and Christian circles. We are not imparting the gospel in a way the next generation can grasp. Of course, the message of the gospel hasn't changed, but the way people *think* has changed dramatically. Therefore, we must speak the truth of Scripture in the language of culture.

What we're seeing is a "divide" in the West. First, I would like to explain and define this divide. Then I will relate it to preaching the gospel and how the Church can influence the culture through being salt and light. I see this as a critical moment in Church history, for if churches don't wake up, recognize this divide, and make the necessary "gospel reset," particularly regarding the Millennial generation, then we are going to lose the next generation and effectively destroy the Church's influence in our country.

There's no doubt there is a widening chasm between the older generation and the Millennials in America. The older generation, even those who aren't Christian, nevertheless have more of a Christianized worldview because of the significant past influence of Christianity. Today's younger generations do not have such a worldview because their thinking has

been secularized through education and culture. This, then, is the divide we're seeing. Understanding the difference between these worldviews is an essential first step to having an impact on this generation with the gospel.

In Acts 2, Peter preached to Jews, while in Acts 17, Paul preached to Greeks. Their approaches were different based upon the worldviews of their audiences. The Jews in Acts 2 believed, thought, and viewed their world from a Jewish perspective. They already knew and understood what the Bible teaches about creation, sin, and other topics. However, the Greeks in Acts 17 did not have a foundational knowledge of biblical teachings on creation, sin, or other matters.

America, as a culture (in fact, the entire Western world), used to be like "Jews" in this respect. But that's no longer the case. Our culture has declined, having become more like the "Greeks." Biblical illiteracy (i.e., having little or no knowledge about God and the Bible) is becoming the rule rather than the exception. Even so, most churches still teach kids in their Sunday schools as if we are still in this "Jewish" style culture, instead of the "Greek" culture we find ourselves in. And why don't more churches recognize this? Because the Church has actually contributed to this lack of understanding. More about this later.

Through this book, I trust your eyes will be opened to gain an understanding of why this great divide is happening in our Western countries. For Christians, the more we understand the nature of this divide in our nation, the better we can understand how to close the gap and respond to what's happening, hopefully before it's too late. And if we do, I believe it will open a door, enabling us to powerfully impact and influence this present-day "Greek" culture with the gospel.

MILLENNIAL “LINGO”

Did you know that Millennials speak a different language? (Millennials are considered those born between approximately 1982 and 2002.)

For example, generations ago, when one said the word *God* in the public schools (government schools), most kids and teachers thought of the Creator-God of the Bible. But today, if you say the word *God* in the public schools, most students and teachers would respond, “Which *god* are you referring to? The Muslim god? A Hindu god? The Buddhist concept of god? Or a New Age god?”

In previous generations, when you said in Sunday school, “Let’s read a Bible story,” most kids anticipated hearing something that happened in history from the Bible. (By the way, the word *story* is

taken from the Latin word *historia*¹ which commonly meant just that — *history*.)

However, when you say “Bible *story*” today, most kids (and adults) think “fiction” or “fairy tale.” That is because of this “divide” in generational thinking. Many do not see the Bible as authoritative, trustworthy, infallible, or inerrant, largely because they have been indoctrinated by secular culture and education. So, they simply dismiss Scripture as a “fairy tale.”

To further illustrate these generational differences, consider how the same words can have very different meanings, depending on who is listening.

When my wife and I first came over to America from my native country of Australia in 1987, I would tell people we came over as missionaries to a “pagan” culture. Of course, people would laugh because America had such dominant Christian influence, much more than Australia.

But, sadly, when we look at America today, this has become a reality. From a worldview perspective, America has become much more pagan. I thought it would be easy living in a country like America because we spoke the same language — English. At

1. *Merriam-Webster*, s.v. “Story,” under “Origin and Etymology of Story,” accessed January 4, 2018, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/story>.

least I didn't have to learn another language! But I was so wrong! I found Americans didn't speak English after all — at least not the same English I spoke. I speak Australian-English, while Americans speak American-English, which is a different (English) language altogether.

Yet even though you may speak the same basic language, it is still important that you define the meanings of certain words. Otherwise, you won't be able to communicate very well.

After moving to California, I had a problem with my car. So, I asked someone, "Hey, can you help me? My battery is flat."

"Your battery is what?" he replied.

"Flat," I said.

"Did you run over it?" he responded.

I said, "No, I left the lights on."

He then exclaimed, "Oh, you mean your battery is dead!"

"Dead?" I said. "It wasn't ever alive in the first place! How can the thing die if it wasn't alive!"

Another time I asked someone where I could find the nearest petrol station. They had no idea what I was talking about. I said, "I need to put the stuff in my car that makes it go."

"Oh, you need a gas station!" she replied.

“Gas?” I thought. “You don’t put gas in your car. You put liquid in there!”

So, Americans call “gas” what we call “petrol” in Australia.

But by far my most embarrassing experience occurred when I told someone on the telephone that I was “nursing our baby.” I couldn’t figure out why there was a long silence on the phone! After some research I found out that nursing a baby in America has a very different meaning to what it does in Australia. In Australia, nursing a baby means holding a baby, but in America, nursing a baby means breast-feeding a baby. How embarrassing to think that people in America thought I was telling them I was breast-feeding our baby!

It didn’t take me long to realize there was a lot I had to learn about American English.

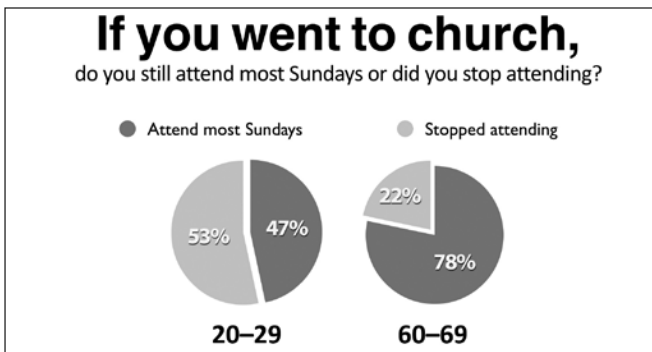
Here’s the point: I recognized, even coming from another English-speaking country, that if you don’t understand how words are used in a particular context, you will have a serious communication problem. The divide between the older generations and the younger generations in our Western world has an even greater communication problem than this. Just like with the word *God*, there are many words today that no longer mean what they used to.

If we fail to understand these sorts of changes, we won't understand this great divide that's occurring in our culture. Worse, we won't understand how to effectively communicate the gospel to the younger generations.

MILLENNIALS AND THE CHURCH

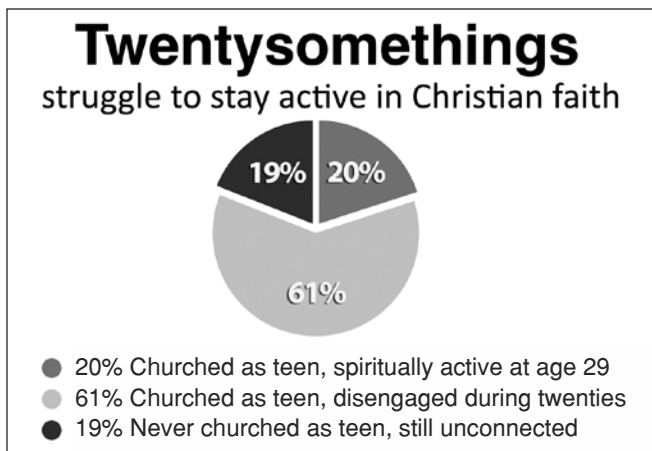
When we had America's Research Group conduct the research on the Ark project to find out how many people would visit a full-size Ark in 2016, the research indicated we would see 1.4 to 2.2 million visitors per year.

As part of this research project, we also had our researchers ask questions about the spiritual state of this nation. In this general population study, they asked, "If you attended church regularly as a child, do you still attend most Sundays or did you stop attending?" In research conducted in 2015, we found that 22% of people in their sixties who used to go to church have stopped attending. But with the Millennial generation, that number was over half (53%).



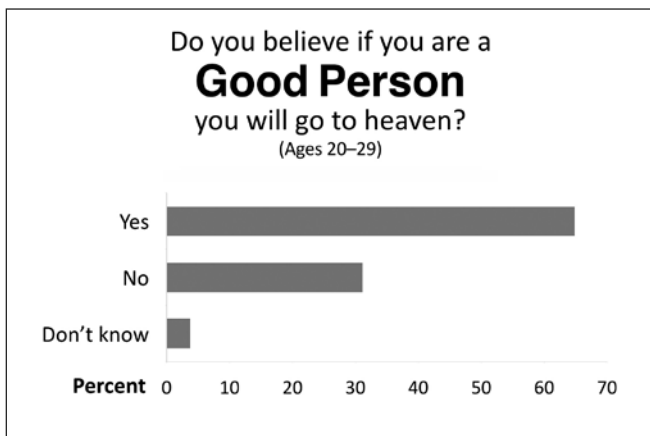
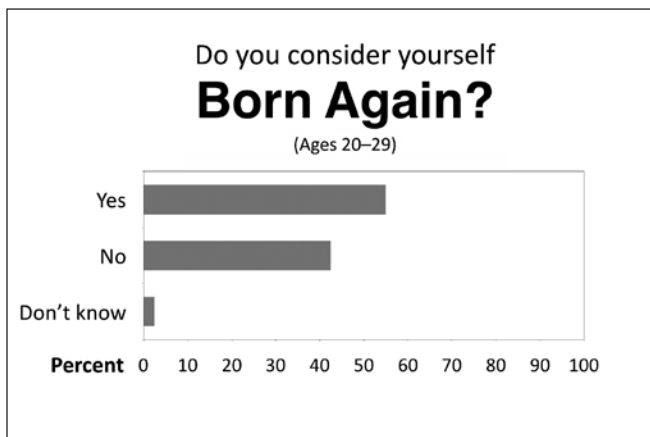
Answers in Genesis also contracted with America's Research Group to conduct focused research on these American Millennials who have now left the Church. Statistics revealed that two-thirds of young people are leaving the Church in America by the time they reach college age, and very few are returning. If that exodus trend continues, we'll end up like





England, where only about 4–5% of the total population are attending church. At the conclusion of this research, we wrote the book *Already Gone*, detailing the results and our observations.





In 2015, AiG also had America's Research Group conduct research on those Millennials who still regularly attend church in America. This was quite an extensive research project, and the results were published in a book called *Ready to Return*. The title doesn't mean these Millennials should be ready to return to church, since they already attend church, but rather that they



needed to return to the authority of God's Word.

Here is just a glimpse at some of the research results. When asked, "Do you consider yourself 'born again?'" — 40% of Millennials who attend church outright said "no."

"Do you believe if you're a good person you will get to heaven?" — 65% of these church-going

Millennials outright said “yes.” This means the 40% figure for those who say they are not “born again” is actually too low! Obviously, many don’t understand what being born again really means.

“Should gay couples be allowed to marry?” — 40% outright said “yes” and 10% said “don’t know,” which means that 50% of these Millennials who regularly attend church do not oppose gay “marriage.”

These statistics reveal that something tragic is happening to coming generations, and it’s having drastic consequences on the Church right now and her influence on culture.