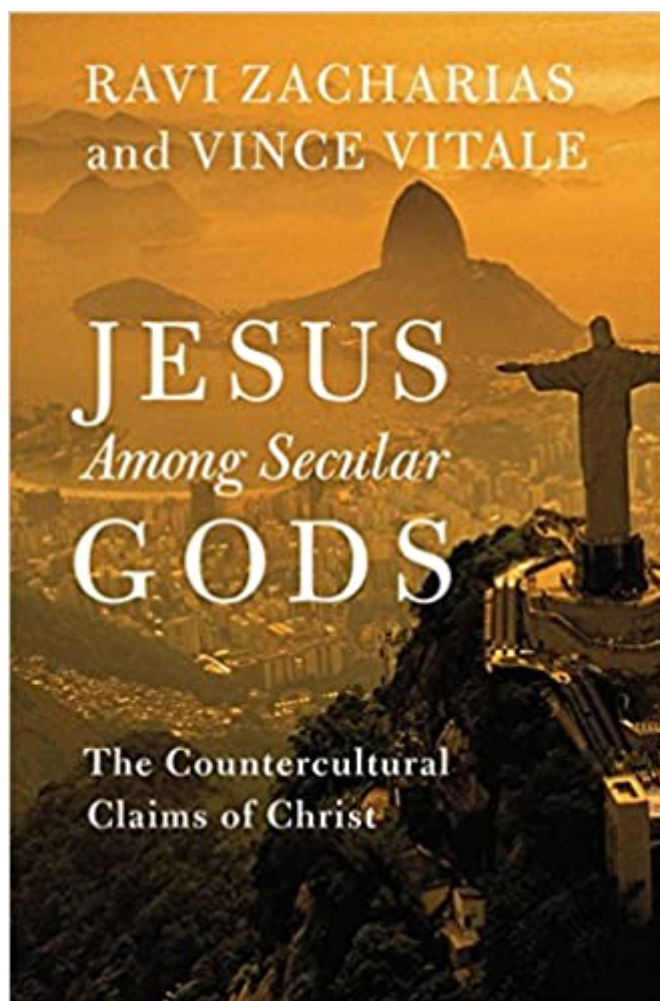


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# Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims Of Christ



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale take a big topic--"The Secular"--and break it into digestable parts. They provide analysis and critique of the various "isms" of our culture in ways that are respectful, readable, and compelling. Though it is based on great learning and extensive research, every chapter is nonetheless highly accessible. It will serve many audiences very well. â •Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City

RAVI ZACHARIAS is the Founder and President of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, with additional offices in Canada, Hong Kong, India, Singapore,

the United Kingdom, Austria, South Africa, Spain, and Turkey. Dr. Zacharias and his wife, Margie, have three grown children. He is the author of many books, including *Can Man Live Without God* and *Why Jesus?* DR. VINCE VITALE is Director of the Zacharias Institute. He was educated at Princeton University and the University of Oxford, and later taught philosophy of religion as a faculty member at both universities. During his undergraduate studies at Princeton, Dr. Vitale took an unexpected journey that led him to God. Later, while at Oxford, he developed a new response to the problem of evil. This response--termed the Non-Identity Defense--is discussed in his and Ravi Zacharias's previous book, *Why Suffering?* He is married to Jo, who also works for RZIM

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!

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.

The perfect blend of intellectual rigour, thought-provoking insight, entertaining reading and personal challenge. Zacharias and Vitale come together to provide a masterful volume that systematically dismantles the pillars of secularism while setting down the absolute claims of Christ clearly and powerfully. They are clinical yet passionate, rigorous yet engaging, winsome yet penetrating. Their work comprehensively spotlights the weaknesses and contradictions endemic to much of anti-theistic thinking, while acknowledging the validity and importance of many of the questions that such worldviews seek to address. Perfectly pitched for the thinking reader of all faiths and no faith, *Jesus Among Secular Gods* is a must-read for anyone honestly searching for answers to life's biggest questions and is willing to follow the evidence where it leads. "Max Jeganathan

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.

Dr.'s Vitale and Zacharias are as always, on point in their discussion of secularism, multiculturalism, and their deadly impact on society. A Godless society is what the masses have been sold, and they reap what they have planted, as this book brilliantly illustrates.

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