

# FORETOLD

DISCOVERING WHO JESUS IS  
THROUGH THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Bible Fellowship

FALL 2018

# The Messiah Who Brings Peace

## Isaiah 26

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# Introduction

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- The sorrow of exile and judgment fades away in the proclamation of peace found in God alone.
- Jesus offers a complete peace that changes everything in our life. We find peace as we trust in God.
- We live at peace with others because we trust in God to make things right.
- Our sovereign God keeps us at peace because His promises never fail.

Jesus gives us peace as we  
trust in His grace and mercy

Isaiah 26:1-6

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# Grace and Mercy

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- We move from the declarations of the Messiah's advent (Isaiah 7:10–17; 9:1–7) straight to a declaration of praise, adoration, and exaltation of God's sovereign faithfulness.
- This passage represents a particular opportunity for us to hear the praise and spiritual vitality of those who look to God for all things.

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# Grace and Mercy

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- Isaiah opens this chapter with a call for not simply one small group or one city to declare faith in God alone, but throughout the entire land.
- The responsibility for praising God cannot rest with a select few “super saints.”
- Rather, all God’s people are beneficiaries of God’s goodness, drawing our hearts to praise the Lord because of His mercy and grace.

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# Grace and Mercy

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- Judah tried to hide in safety behind Jerusalem's walls.
- No political alliance, economic system, personal prestige, or physical strength can offer final protection. The walls Isaiah describes are specially designed for the faithful to keep out enemies and ensure safety.
- Peace comes through God alone. All of the military or infrastructural preparations for standing against a human siege are pointless unless God is on your side.

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# Grace and Mercy

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- The Hebrew word used here, *shalom*, represents so much more than simply political or social peace.
- This concept communicates a wholeness of being, when all that a person is rests in unity with God's will.
- Shalom encapsulates a deep, lasting harmony with God that pours over into peace with others and even with creation itself.

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# Grace and Mercy

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- The image of the rock in verse 4 communicates the concept of a huge, immovable rock cliff.
- The people are encouraged to trust not in a temporary or fleeting solution to worry and fear but a permanent, eternal remedy to their needs.
- As we look to God for peace, we receive a peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). The *shalom* offered by Isaiah can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus makes us peaceful as we trust in  
His sovereign plan for justice

Isaiah 26:7-15

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# Peaceful

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- Living in God's presence and experiencing God's peace changes the way we live our lives.
- Isaiah speaks of the steps and the path of the righteous as "level." The righteous live life as if moving along a reliable, well-worn path.
- Verse 7 points to a peace not simply in a person's approach to life ("steps") but peace in the midst of every season of life.

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# Peaceful

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- The Hebrew word for “wait” in verse 8 indicates an eager anticipation of what God will do.
- We are to live each day with a deep trust that God has a plan and His plans never fail.
- God moves to engage our hearts, bodies, and minds.
- Whether we are awake or lying in bed asleep, our soul longs after God.

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# Peaceful

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- Isaiah points out in verse 10 that the wicked reject God's righteous ways and miss out on beholding God's glory.
- The wicked assume there are no consequences for their actions because they cannot see God moving.
- They not only miss the positive peace of God's loving presence, they miss the warning signs that God will strike them in judgment (verse 11).

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# Peaceful

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- Faithless rulers have stood over Judah, yet they have died and passed on from this present life (verse 13).
- The wicked rulers who led the people into idolatry, stood in arrogant independence, have all died to face judgment before God himself.
- Here, the righteous remnant is humbled and now sees God's eternal kingship as the only source of peace.

Jesus keeps us at peace as we trust in  
His promises for this life and the next

Isaiah 26:16-21

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# Promises

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- Isaiah concludes this chapter with a development of the future hope for God's people.
- Living at peace does not simply change our perspective or practice in this life. Instead, God's peace encompasses all eternity.
- Verses 16–17 offer a compelling picture of the kind of dependence practiced by God's people.

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# Promises

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- In many ways, this reflects the human experience lived outside of God's good grace.
- Humanity labors long through life's paths. Yet, there is nothing that satisfies outside of God Himself.
- We often work very hard, with great sincerity to achieve peace in this life. We look to relationships, material goods, experiences, or countless other idols to give something only God provides: peace.

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# Promises

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- Isaiah declares a powerful promise to those who trust in God. Those who put faith in God alone will rise again. Death does not have the last day, God does.
- The angst and emptiness of verses 17–18 finds its fullest resolution in the Resurrection.
- While the restoration of national Judah would bring relief to God's people, the final source of peace is the promise of newness of life to living and dead.

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# Promises

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- Isaiah concludes this chapter with another reminder of the coming judgment on the wicked.
- In verses 20–21, Isaiah warns of coming judgment in language reminiscent of Noah and the Flood.
- The ark is a picture of God's preservation, the people are challenged to take refuge in God their rock and salvation.

# Ask Kerby

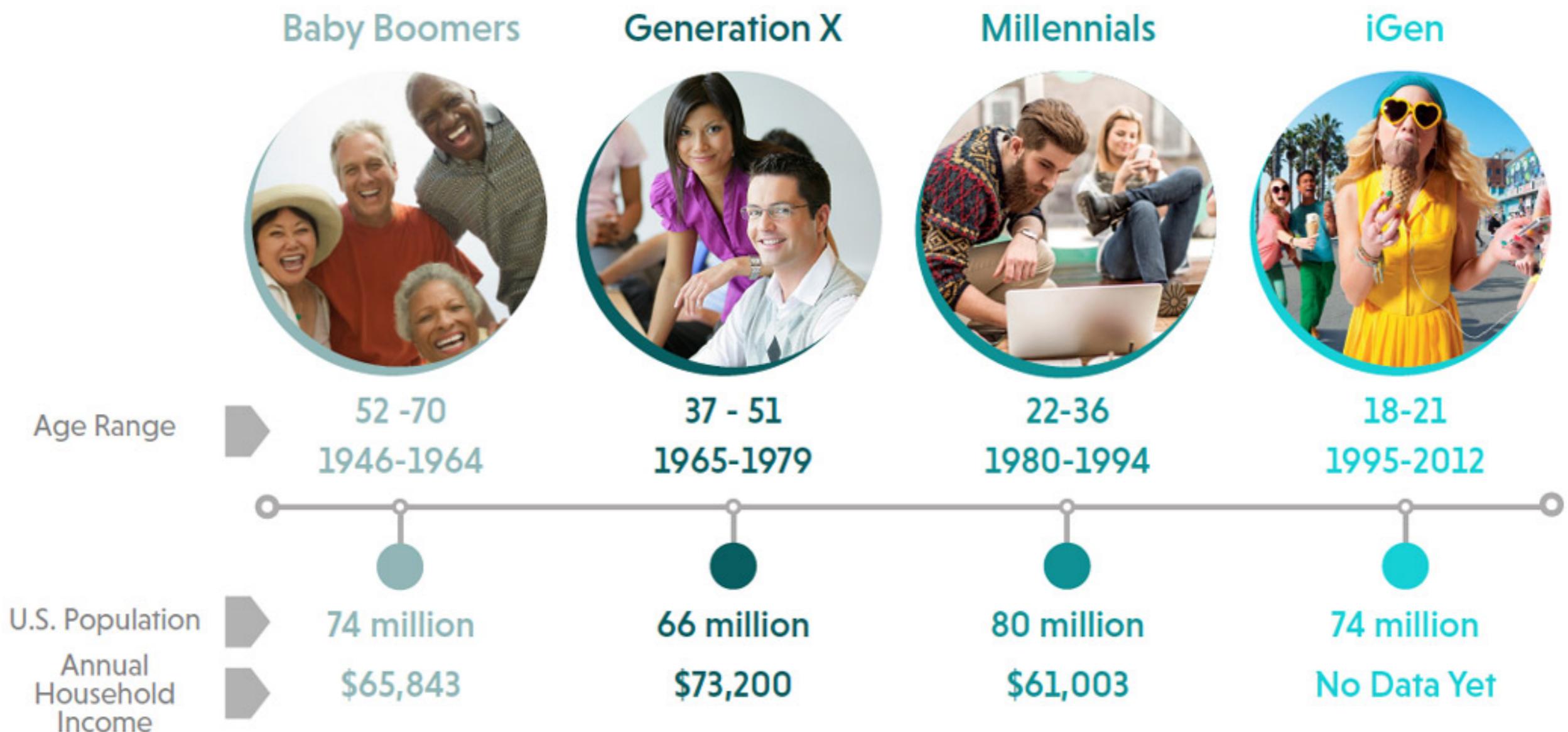


How do the generations following (millennial, iGen) differ from the current generations (baby boomer, baby buster)?

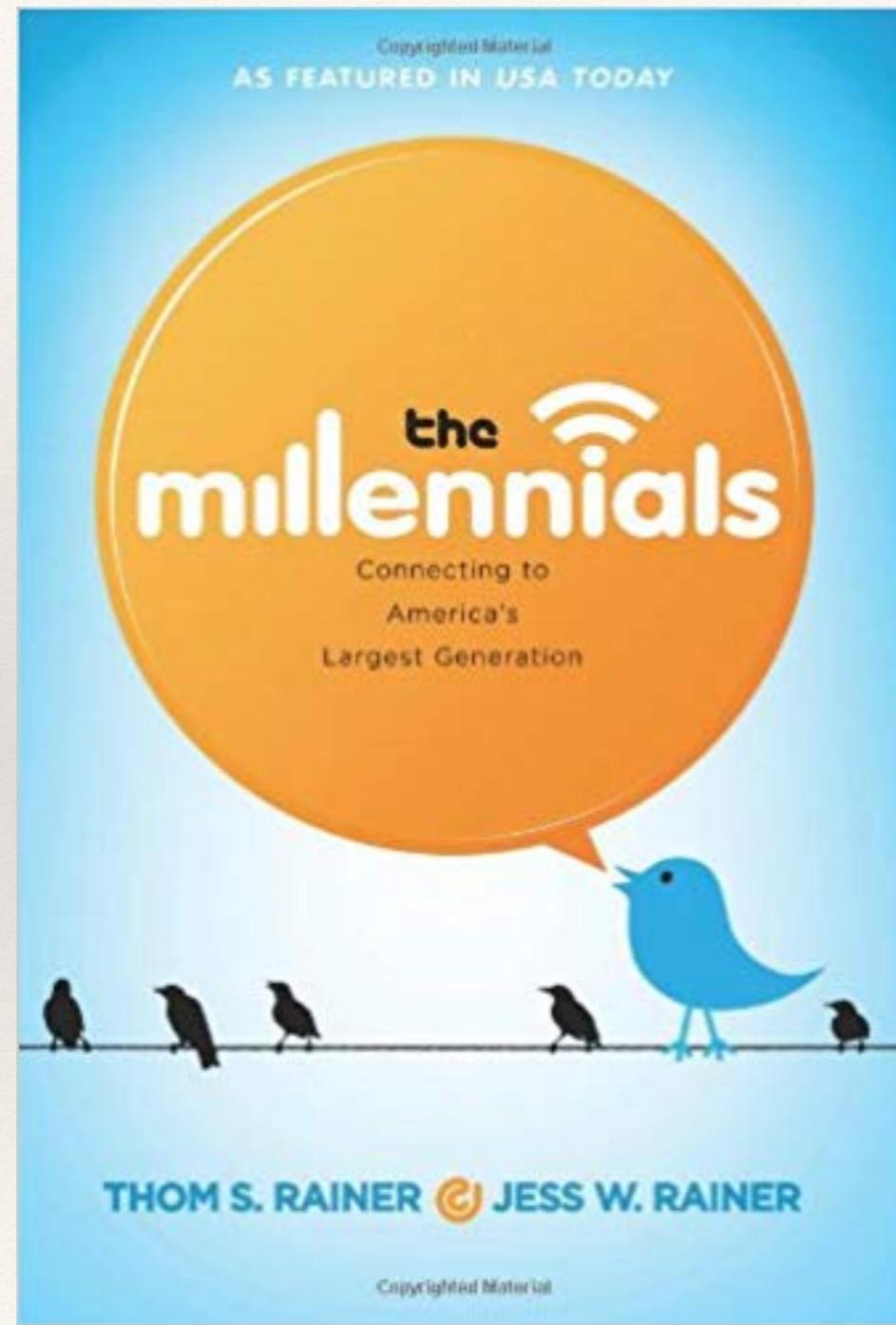
# Introduction



# Population - Income



# Millennial Generation



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# Millennial Generation

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- They very diverse (ethnically and socially).
- They are America's most educated generation.
- They are hopeful. Nearly all (96%) agreed with the statement: “I believe I can do something great.”
- They are relational. They want to communicate and connect, and often use social media to communicate.

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# Millennial Generation

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- They are technologically savvy. Most of them own a smartphone, and 40 percent have a tablet.
- Millennials do everything tech-related in higher percentages than all other generations.
- They are the most likely to use the internet and send or receive an email at least occasionally (90%).

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# Millennial Generation

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- They are marrying much later in life (5 years later)
- They are more likely to live together before marriage.
- A majority (60%) agreed with the statement: “I see nothing wrong with people of the same-gender getting married.”
- They are the least religious generation in history. Most don’t even think about religious matters at all.

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# Millennial Generation

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- Millennials are the most entrepreneurially-minded generation ever.
- In the US, only 13 percent of survey respondents said their career goal involves climbing the corporate ladder to become a CEO or president.
- By contrast, almost two-thirds (67%) of millennials said their goal involves starting their own business.

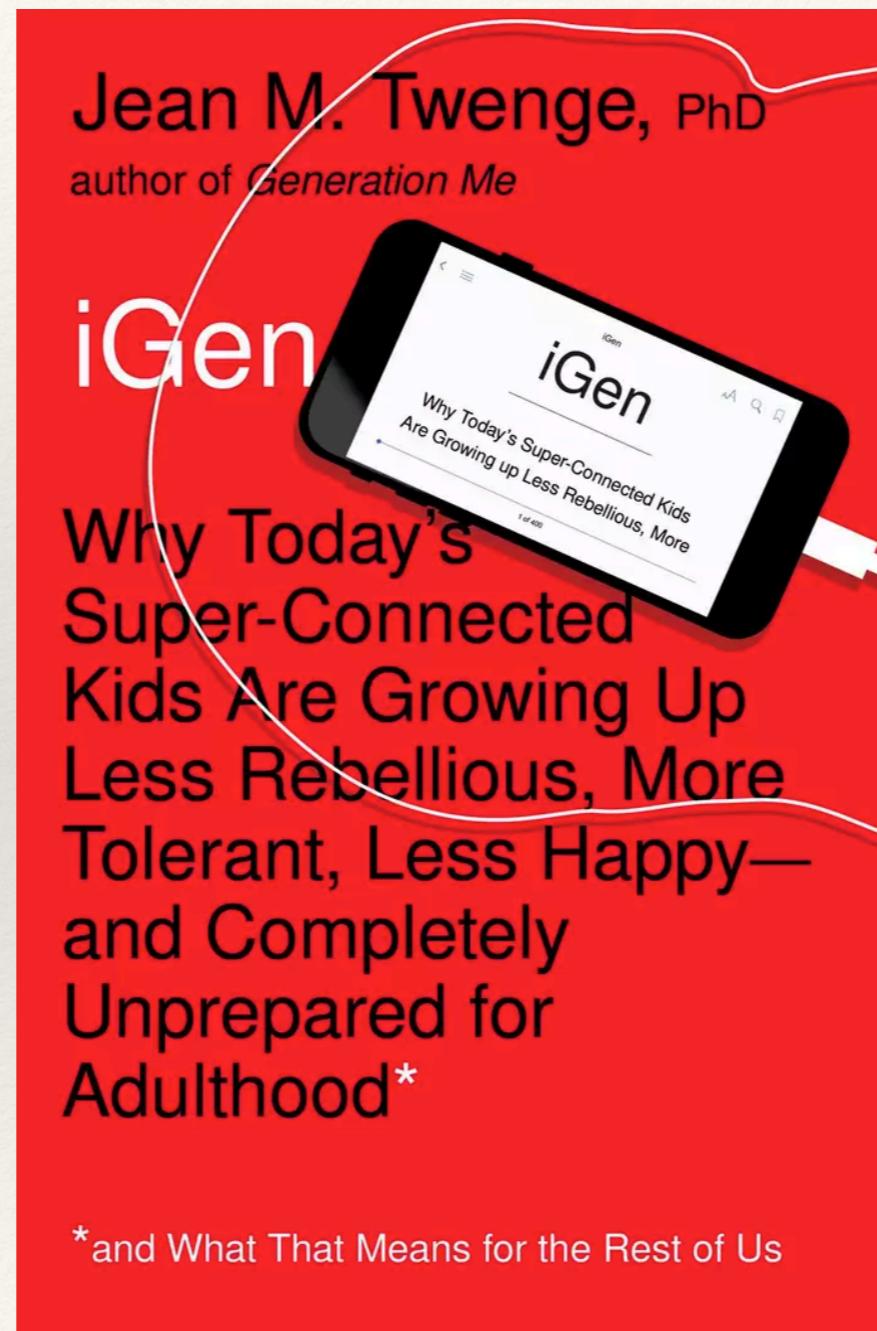
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# Millennial Generation

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- A third (34%) said no one can know what will happen when they die.
- Nearly three in ten (28%) picked either atheism, agnosticism, or no preference.
- Two-thirds (65%) rarely or never attend religious services.
- One-fourth (24%) are active in church. This means that some attend church who are seekers.

# iGen Generation



\*and What That Means for the Rest of Us

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# iGen Generation

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- They are more focused on work than the millennial generation.
- A higher percentage (55%) of them were willing to work overtime to get a job done.
- They are less entrepreneurial than millennials.
- That changed perception might have to do with the fact that they experienced the Great Recession a number of years ago.

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# iGen Generation

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- The iGen generation grew up more slowly as teens, and is taking longer to work, drive, and date than previous generations.
- Jean Twenge observes that, “Managers who learned to be cheerleaders for millennials will find they are more like therapists, life coaches, or parents for iGen’ers.”

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# iGen Generation

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- The iGen generation also seems very concerned with safety.
- They have turned out to be safe drivers.
- They are less likely to binge drink than the previous generations.
- They want “emotional safety” — meaning they want to be protected from offensive comments and conflict.

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# iGen Generation

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- “This generation socializes differently, using their phones instead of getting together in person.”
- When asked if it was important to make friends or have contact with lots of people, the percentage who agreed with that statement were at an all-time low.
- Some even have trouble with what we would consider to be basic social skills.

# Barna Survey



## *Gen Z and Morality: What Teens Believe (So Far)*

Research Releases in Millennials & Generations • October 9, 2018

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# Barna Survey

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- One-quarter of Gen Z (24%) strongly agrees that what is morally right and wrong changes over time based on society.
- The centrality of the self as moral arbiter is also higher among the younger generations — 21 percent of Gen Z and 23 percent of Millennials believe each individual is his or her own moral authority — though Gen X (18%) and Boomers (17%) aren't too far behind on this one.

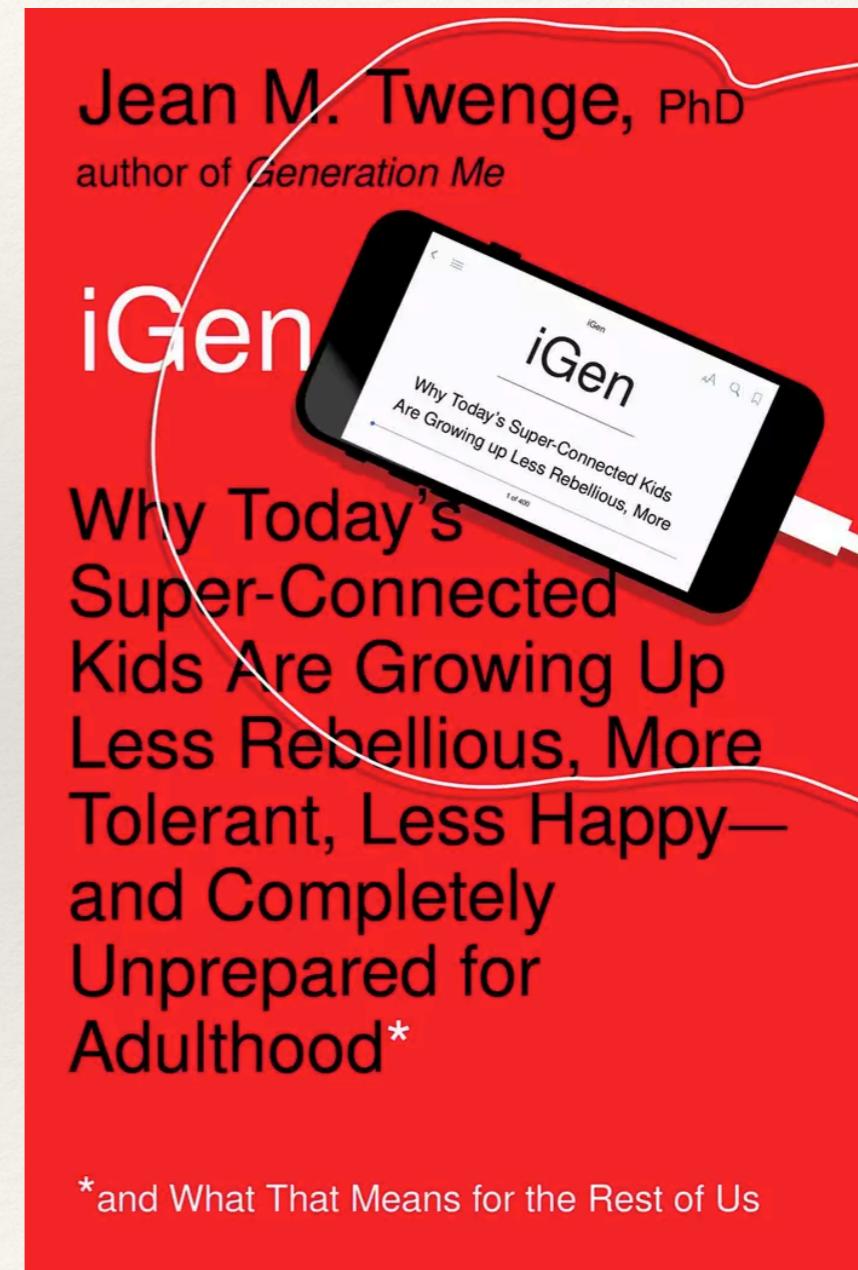
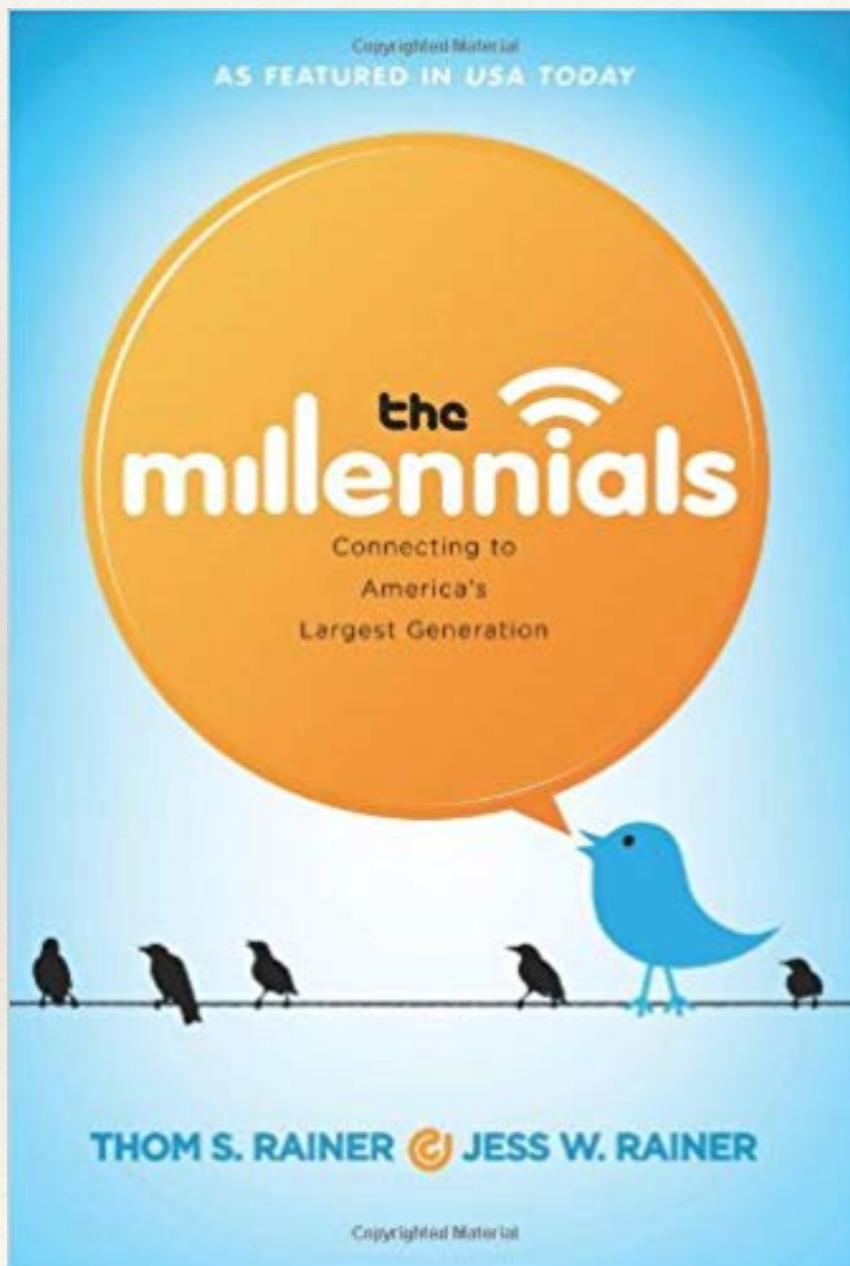
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# Barna Survey

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- About four in 10 Gen Z feel a strong conviction that marriage ought to be a lifelong commitment between a man and woman (38%, on par with Millennials at 37%).
- Only one-fifth (21%) believes sex before marriage is wrong — though they are mostly on par with other generations.
- They are least likely to take issue with same-sex sexual activity. Only one-fifth (20%) is strongly opposed to it.

# Resources



\*and What That Means for the Rest of Us