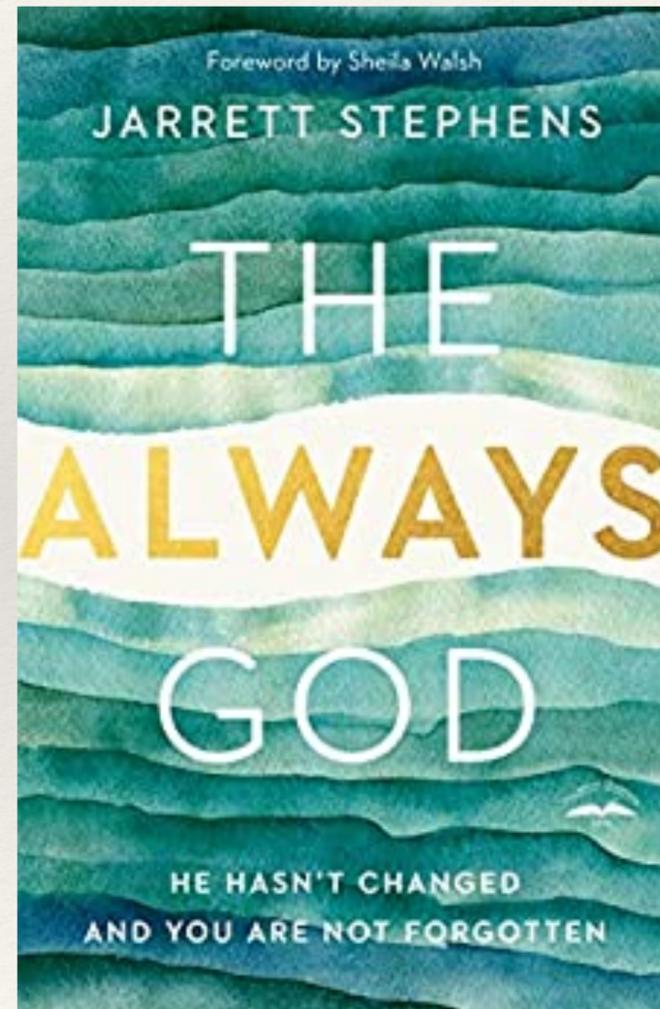


The Always God



1. Always Seeing

- Does God really see me? If so, why does it feel like he doesn't?
- Anthropomorphism - ascribing human characteristics to God
- Psalm 33:13-15 - "The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees **all** the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on **all** the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them **all** and observes **all** their deeds."
- Proverbs 15:3 - "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

2. Always Hearing

- Does God really hear me? If so, what about all my unanswered prayers?
- Isaiah 59:1-2 - “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”
- Metaphor: caller ID, blocked call (sin), dropped calls (unbelief)
- Hezekiah prayed to the Lord and trusted God no matter what God decided.

3. Always Speaking

- Does God really speak? I'm listening so if he's speaking, I don't get it.
- Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4)
- God speaks through His creation (Psalm 19:1-2), through our conscience (Romans 2:14-16), through circumstances, through prayer and the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17), through the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-14), through wise counsel (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 24:6)
- What about the silence of God?

4. Pursuing the Lost

- Why isn't God pursuing this person I love who is far from him?
- Lost but pursued
- The hound of heaven - Francis Thompson
- The prodigal son - father ran to him and kissed him
- Seek and save
- Who is your one?
- John 20:21 - "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

5. Restoring the Broken

- Can God truly restore my life? Sometimes I think I'm just too broken.
- The Touch of the Master's Hand - Myra Brooks Welch
- Jeremiah 18:1-6 - God sent Jeremiah to a potter's house for a lesson
- Caught in the act (John 8:4-11)
- F is for failure (Luke 22:61-61 and John 21:3-17)

6. Calming the Anxious

- I worry all the time. I need God to calm my anxiety. How do I get the peace he promises?
- Philippians 4:7 - give Christ your mind and let his peace calm you.
- Philippians 4:6-7 - pray for God's peace in your life.
- Max Lucado - "No one can pray and worry at the same time."
- Isaiah 40:31 - "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

7. Encouraging the Fearful

- My fears are overwhelming me. How do I keep moving forward in the face of my fears?
- Facing fear - David, Daniel, Peter, Stephen, Paul, John
- God is with us (Immanuel - Matthew 1:23)
- God is in us (John 14:16-17)

8. Comforting the Lonely

- I feel so alone. If God is with me, I just can't feel it. Can he do something about my loneliness?
- Imago Dei - we were made for relationship
- Good company - Bible filled with real people with real problems
- Biblical community is the horizontal dimension of how God comforts us in our loneliness.

9. Helping the Angry

- It's probably a sin, but get angry. How can God help me with my anger?
- The anger incubator - term coined by UC Irvine psychology professor
- Ecclesiastes 7:9 - "Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools."
- Ephesians 4:26 - "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger."
- Hurt, injustice, fear, frustration

10. Forgiving the Guilt

- Can God forgive me for anything? If so, then why do I feel so guilty?
- We were not originally designed to feel shame (Genesis 2:25).
- Guilt paradigm: guilt is violating the law, shame is the painful emotion.
- Holy Spirit brings conviction into our lives.
- Choose gospel over guilt, choose confession over concealment, choose facts over feelings.

11. Trust in God

- Can I really trust God? If I do, what if he doesn't come through for me?
- God as Father
- God as Shepherd
- We as Sheep:
 - Sheep are easily distracted
 - Sheep are easily deceived
 - Sheep are easily distressed

12. Hope in God

- I want to put my hope in God. But what if he disappoints me?
- Dick and Marvel DeWitt - 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- Hope has a rope
- The power of a pause
- Not our home

Foreword by Sheila Walsh

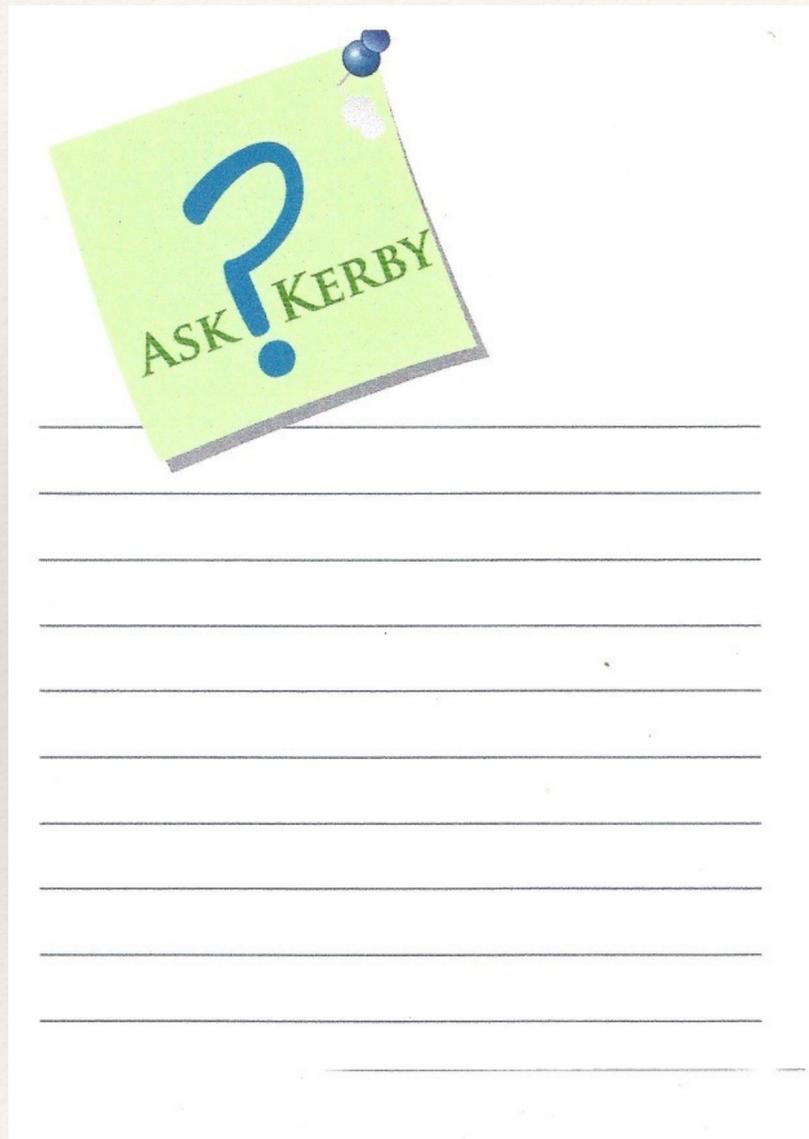
JARRETT STEPHENS

THE
ALWAYS
GOD

HE HASN'T CHANGED
AND YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



Ask Kerby



What is happening in Afghanistan?

Who are the Taliban?

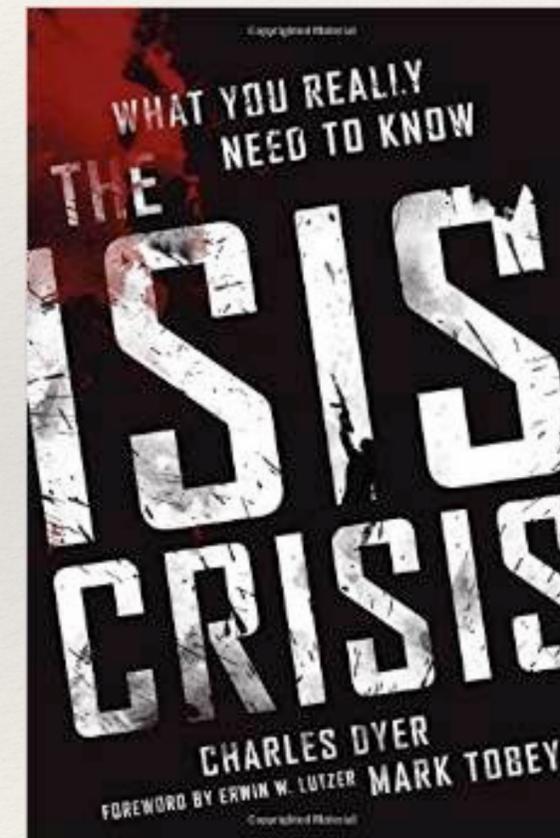
What do they believe?

How can we pray?



Taliban - Al Qaeda - ISIS

- In the *ISIS Crisis*, the authors connect five dots.:
 - Dot One: The Mujahideen
 - Dot Two: The Taliban
 - Dot Three: al Qaeda
 - Dot Four: al Qaeda in Iraq
 - Dot Five: ISIS



Taliban - Al Qaeda - ISIS

- Dot One - Mujahideen fought against Russia and were supported by the United States. One of the leaders was Osama bin Laden.
- Dot Two - Taliban filled the vacuum created when Soviet domination ended. They were students of a radical form of Islam taught in Pakistan.
- Mohammed Omar seized power and allowed Osama bin Laden back into the country to build al Qaeda.

Taliban - Al Qaeda - ISIS

- Dot Three - al Qaeda (the base) carried out various attacks (Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Tanzania) and 9/11.
- Dot Four - al Qaeda became a franchise operation. The leader in Iraq was Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.
- Dot Five - ISIS filled the power vacuum when al-Zarqawi was killed. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became the head of the Islamic State of Iraq.
- The future Taliban leader is Abdul Ghani Baradar (fought alongside Mohammed Omar, spent time in prison in Pakistan).

Taliban

- The Taliban (Pashto for “students”) are a Sunni Islamist group that studied and grew in power first in Pakistan before coming to Afghanistan.
- They enforce a puritanical version of Islam similar to Wahhabism (found in fundamentalist Muslim groups in Saudi Arabia).
- They follow a tradition known as Deobandi theology (named for a city in India) that excludes all traditions and studies not related to the Qur’an.
- They enforce a strict religious legalism in order to return to the “purity” of complete obedience to the edicts in the Qur’an.

Taliban

- The Taliban seized the capital city of Kabul and plan a ceremony to rename the country as the “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.”
- When they ruled before, they banned television, music, and the cinema. Women must wear burqas. They disapproved of girls going to school.
- Taliban leaders ordered religious leaders to provide them with a list of girls over age 15 and widows under age 45 for “marriage” to Taliban fighters.
- They are going door-to-door in order to find and kill people who served in the government under former President Hamid Karzai.

*Dr. Jim
Denison*

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THE DAILY ARTICLE

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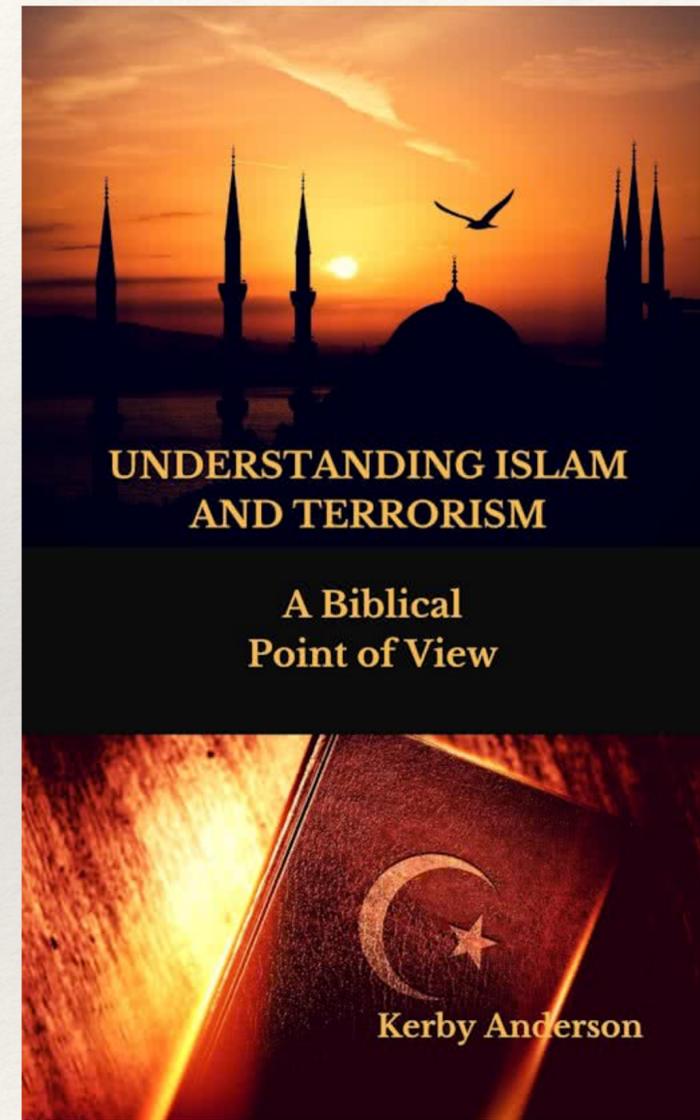
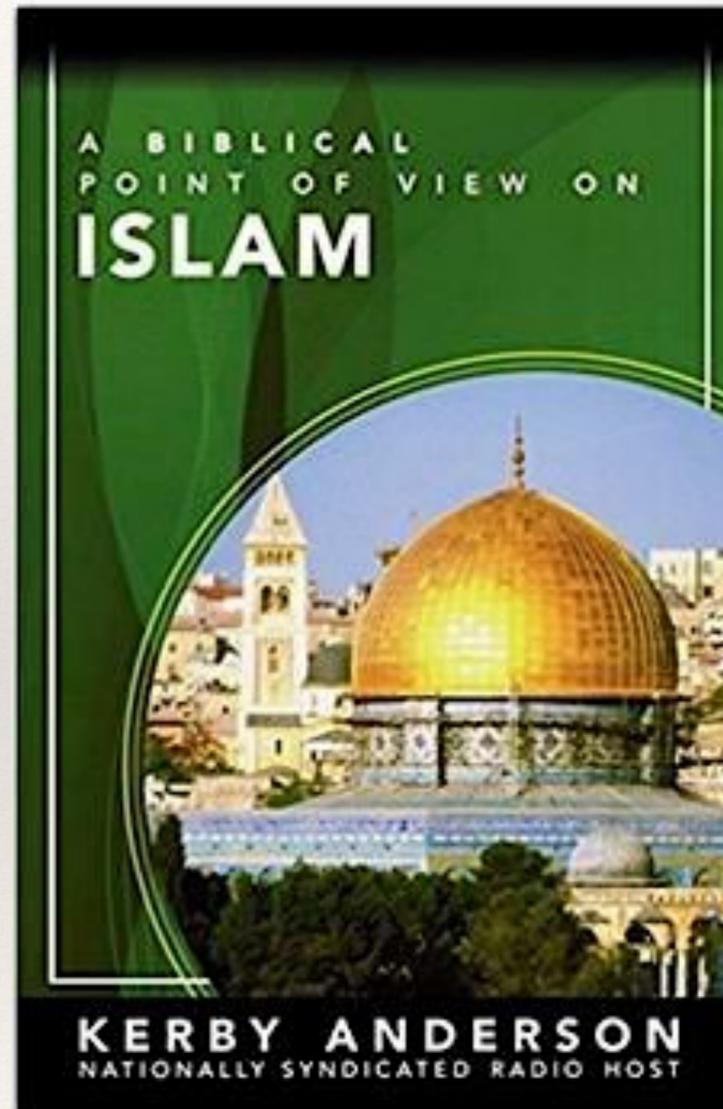
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10 Reflections on the Afghan Disaster





Books



Booklets

