

BASED ON

The
JESUS
BOOK

READING AND UNDERSTANDING
THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF

JANUARY
2026



The Bible is a Lens

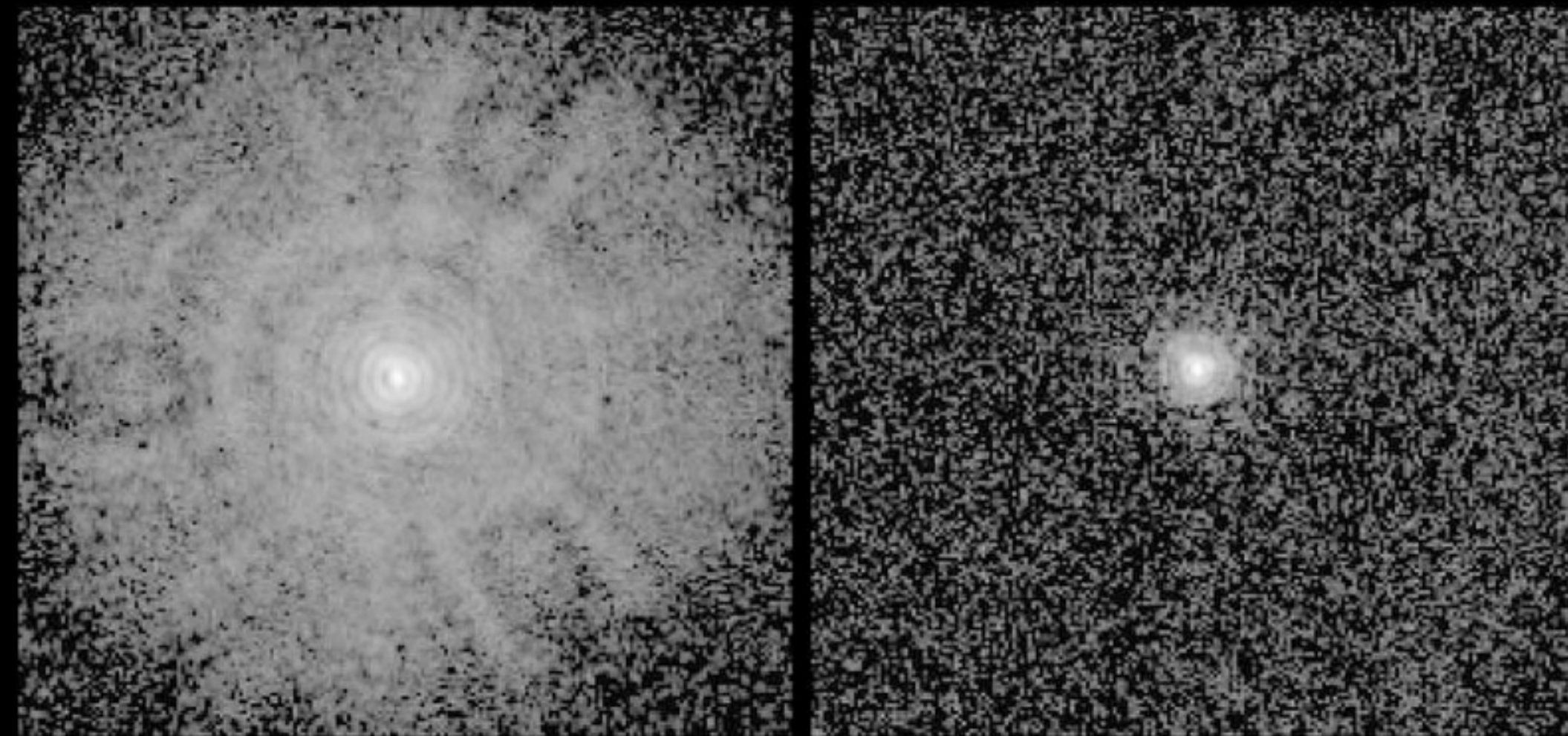
- The Bible is the lens through which we can see the world rightly.
- Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 10:3–6; and Colossians 2:6–10; 3:1–3
- A worldview is simply the way we see the world. It's the filter through which we understand what is true, right and good and what is untrue, wrong and evil.

The Bible is a Lens

- It affects how we process information and make decisions. Your worldview may be based on your theological beliefs, but it can also be affected by your life experiences, whether you realize it or not.
- Because we let our personal experiences, cultural divides, education, background, and so many things other than Scripture affect our worldview.

COSTAR: Corrective Optics Space Telescope Axial Replacement

HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE FAINT OBJECT CAMERA COMPARATIVE VIEWS OF A STAR



BEFORE COSTAR

AFTER COSTAR

The Bible is a Lens

- As Christians, we should seek to have a biblical worldview.
- Instead of letting all those other things about our personal lives shape the way we read the Bible, we should let the Bible shape the way we see the world.
- The Bible calls this “renewing our minds” (Romans 12:2) and “taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

The Bible is a Lens

- Paul implored us to offer our whole selves to God as living sacrifices.
- This includes our minds, our thought processes, our decision-making. If we really want to follow Jesus, we need to “think like Jesus so that we can live like Jesus” (p. 65).
- Paul implored us not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

The Bible is a Lens

- The predominant worldview in our culture is secular humanism, which rejects the supernatural.
- It believes truth is found only through human reason, logic and lived experience.
- Therefore, truth is relative; it can evolve and change with the culture and individual experience.

The Bible is a Lens

- In secular humanism, the purpose of life is self-fulfillment and personal happiness; since there is no afterlife, this life should be enjoyed in the moment.
- This philosophy is so ubiquitous that, even for Christians, the tenets of secular humanism can creep into our worldviews if we are not careful to take every thought captive to Christ.

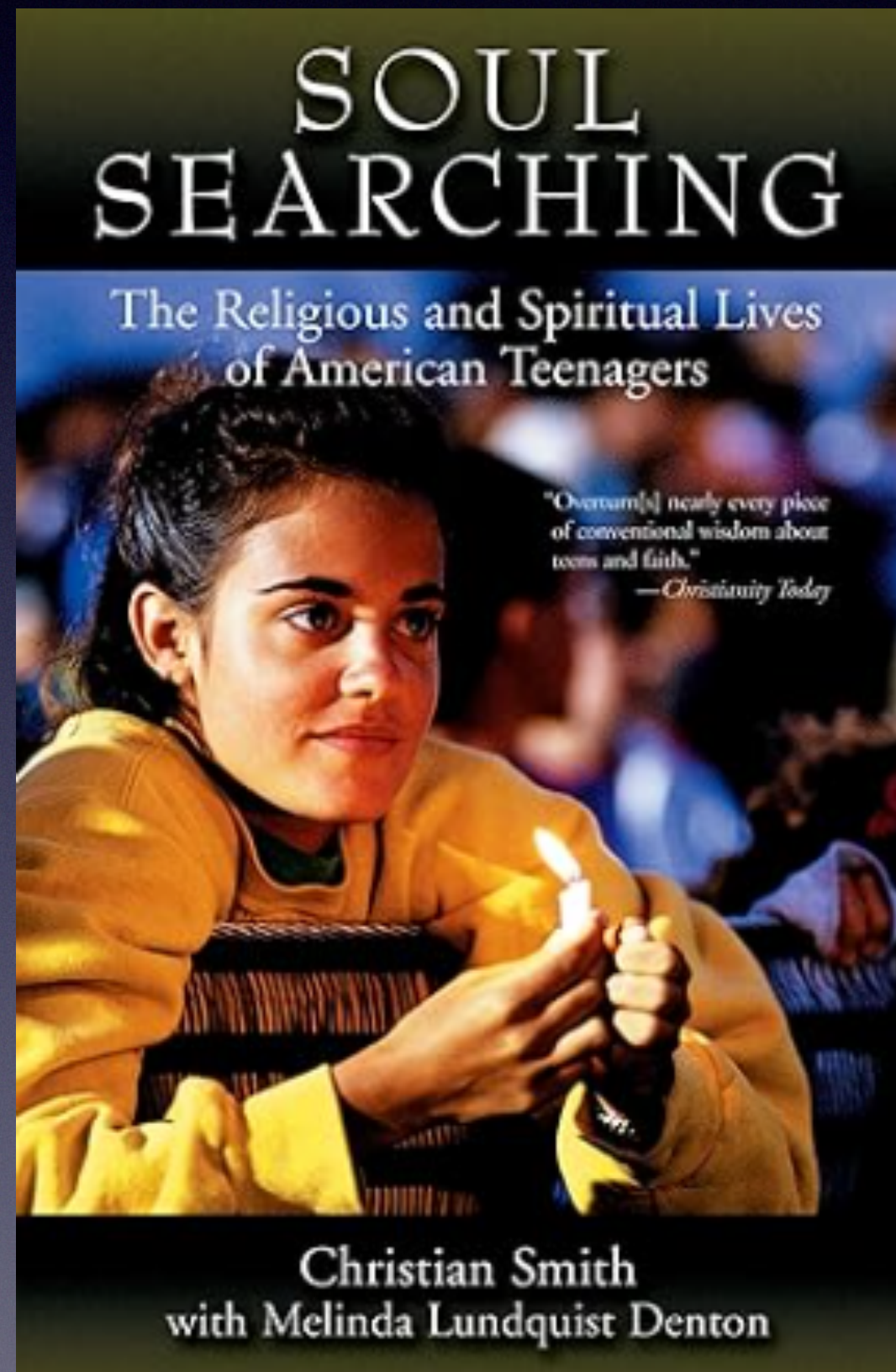
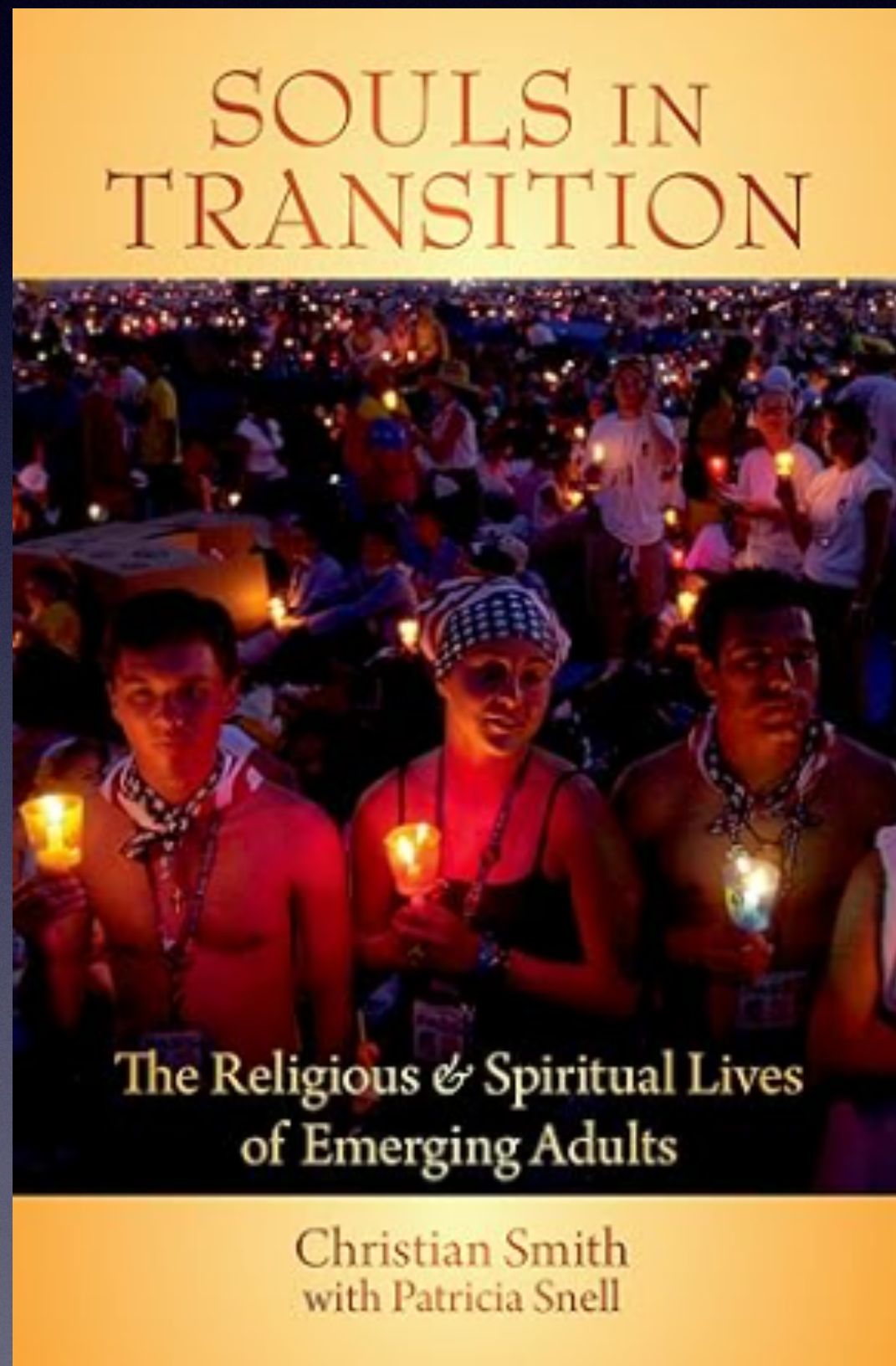
The Bible is a Lens

- Researchers have found this to be the case in many churches in America. Instead of the Gospel, many churches are teaching “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism,” a distortion of the Gospel mixed with secular humanism:
- Moralistic - God wants me to be good so I go to heaven, Therapeutic – religion is to make me feel, Deism – God is distant and uninvolved, a “divine butler” who shows up only when called.

The Bible is a Lens

- This thinking starts from the idea that we can be “good” people; the Bible teaches no one is good but God. It’s focused on moral behavior; the Bible teaches salvation by grace through faith alone.
- This worldview removes the need for Jesus as Savior and is focused on self-fulfillment rather than fulfillment in fellowship with God.

Resources



The Bible Gives Us Hope

- The Bible gives us hope and reassurance for eternity and today.
- John 6:66–69; Romans 15:3–5; and Ephesians 4:17–25; 5:15–20
- With a secular humanist worldview, there isn't much hope in this life. You do the best you can with the time you have on this earth and then you die.

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- There's no hope in an afterlife. There also isn't much hope in this life. If we weren't created by a loving God, if we all just appeared here at random, then what's the purpose?
- If there is no God, there is no plan for our lives. Everything just happens at random, so how can you find hope in your future in this life? How can you find meaning and purpose in suffering?

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- A biblical worldview gives us hope both in this life and in the future afterlife.
- God promises an eternal, glorious, imperishable inheritance in heaven for those who love Him (1 Peter 1:4), a perfected body in a perfect world where there is no mourning, crying, or pain (1 Corinthians 15:35–54; Revelation 21:1–4).

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- God uses it to grow us, mold us, and shape us to be more like Jesus (Romans 5:3–5).
- It shows us God has a plan and a purpose for our lives (Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 13:20–21).
- The Bible assures us that even if things seem a little crazy or out of control right now, He is working things out for our good in the end (Romans 8:28).

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- When we feel anxious, Scripture gives us peace (Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7).
- When we feel weak, Scripture gives us strength (Isaiah 40:31; 2 Corinthians 12:9).
- When we feel discouraged, Scripture gives us hope (Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 15:13).

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- When we feel sad, Scripture gives us comfort (Psalm 34:18; Revelation 21:4).
- When we feel afraid, Scripture gives us reassurance (Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 56:3).
- When we feel confused, Scripture gives us wisdom (Proverbs 3:5–6; James 1:5).

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- No matter what you are feeling, you can go to Scripture and find hope, reassurance, peace, wisdom and comfort – whatever you need to deal with the moment.
- Because Scripture is God's Word, and all those things come from God.
- The verses above tell us that God gives us supernatural peace and strength. We can have hope in His promises.

The Bible Gives Us Hope

- He comforts us. He is our refuge. All those passages point us to God. Scripture also encourages us to speak the truth of God's Word to one another to encourage one another and provoke one another to love and good works (Ephesians 4:25; 5:19; Hebrews 10:24).
- We can also speak God's Word to ourselves to encourage ourselves, especially if we have it memorized, storing it in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).

The Bible is Sustenance

- Studying Scripture daily gives us spiritual sustenance.
- Deuteronomy 8:1–3; Psalm 119:97–105; and Acts 17:10–12
- Scripture tell us to meditate on God's Word (Joshua 1:8) and study it diligently (Acts 17:11) because God's Word provides life giving nourishment (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The Bible is Sustenance

- Those who truly know Jesus have a hunger for God's Word the same way our bodies hunger for food.
- We need it every day to survive, and we also find joy in "eating" it.
- As Dr. Graham writes, "When you love the Lord, you will have an insatiable appetite to know what He says" (p. 96).

The Bible is Sustenance

- God's Word not only gives us eternal life through the Gospel of salvation, but it also sustains life in the here and now, day to day.
- “When you receive eternal life, this life must be nurtured and nourished. You have an inner person that needs care, for your soul needs spiritual clothing, bathing, exercise, and nourishment. ... We are refreshed and renewed and revived by reading God's Word” (p. 95).

The Bible is Sustenance

- We should be eating spiritual food, not just drinking “spiritual milk.” We are content with an infant’s understanding of Scripture rather than chewing on the spiritual meat (1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12–13).
- If we continue to just drink milk, we will be spiritual babies forever. If we want to grow up into spiritual maturity, we need to dig deeper.

The Bible is Sustenance

- We should make the time to study God's Word knowing the good it brings to our souls.
- As Dr. Graham writes, "The Word of God brings such joy to our lives, so study it regularly. And then store God's Word by absorbing it into your life, saturating your soul with the words of Scripture. Know it and then sow it by sharing the Word of God" (p. 96).

Application

Worldview Tests

- Correspondence Test - does the worldview correspond to reality?
- Consistency Test - does the belief system hold together in a logically consistent manner?
- Comprehensiveness Test - does the worldview explain the relevant data?

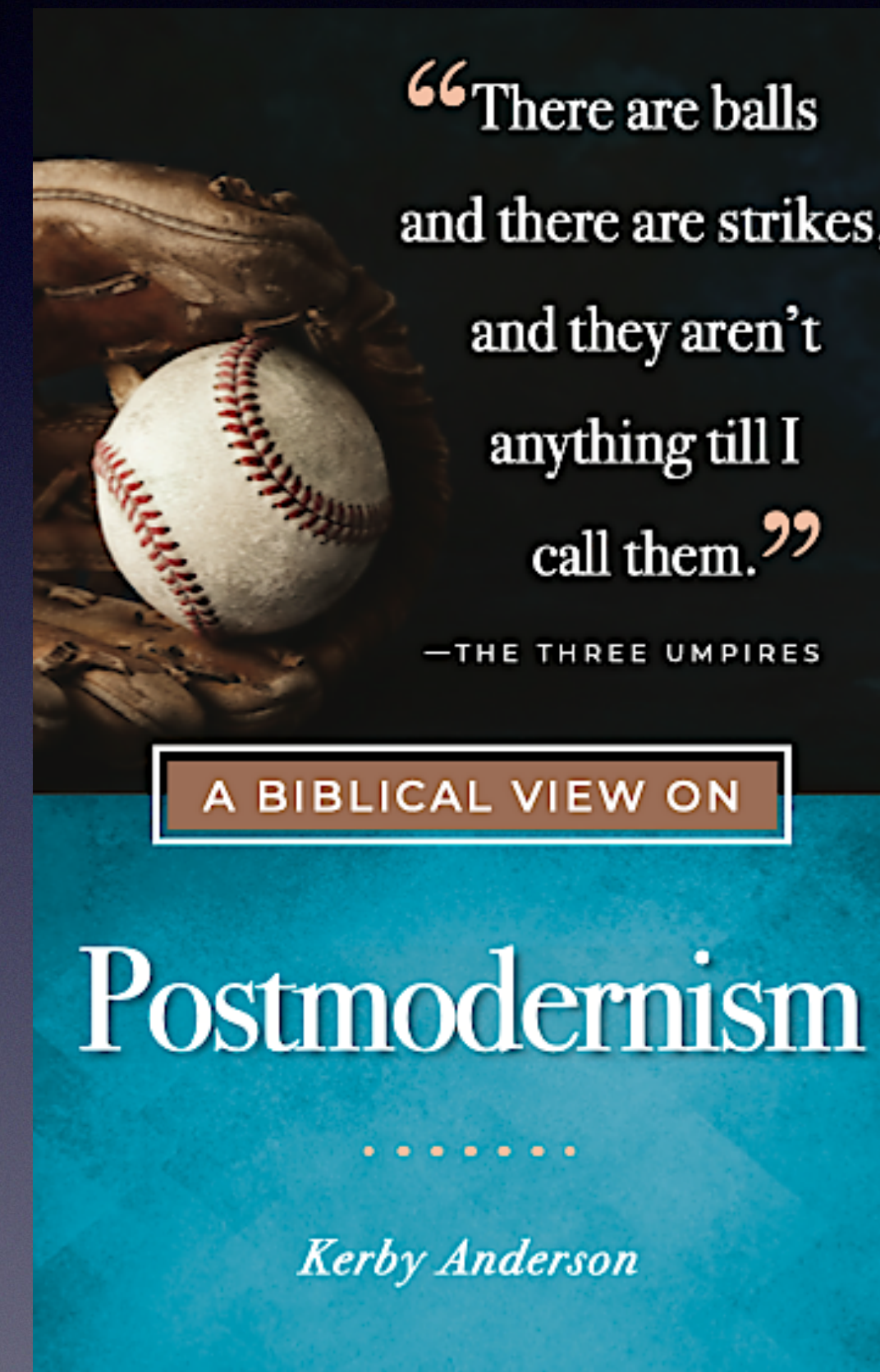
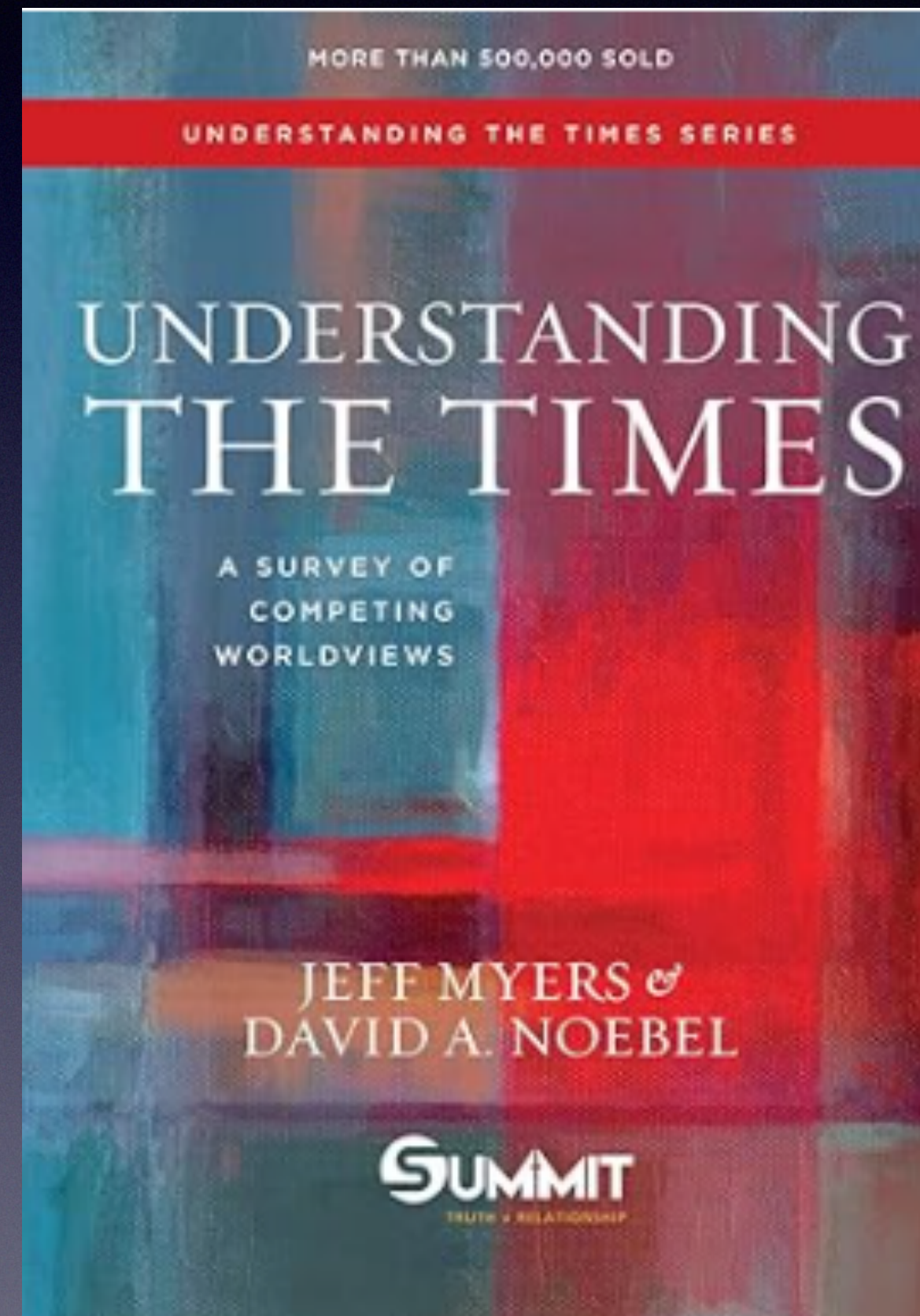
Worldview Tests

- How does a worldview answer these questions:
- Why is there something rather than nothing?
- How do you explain human nature?
- How do you determine what is right or wrong?
- What happens to a person at death?

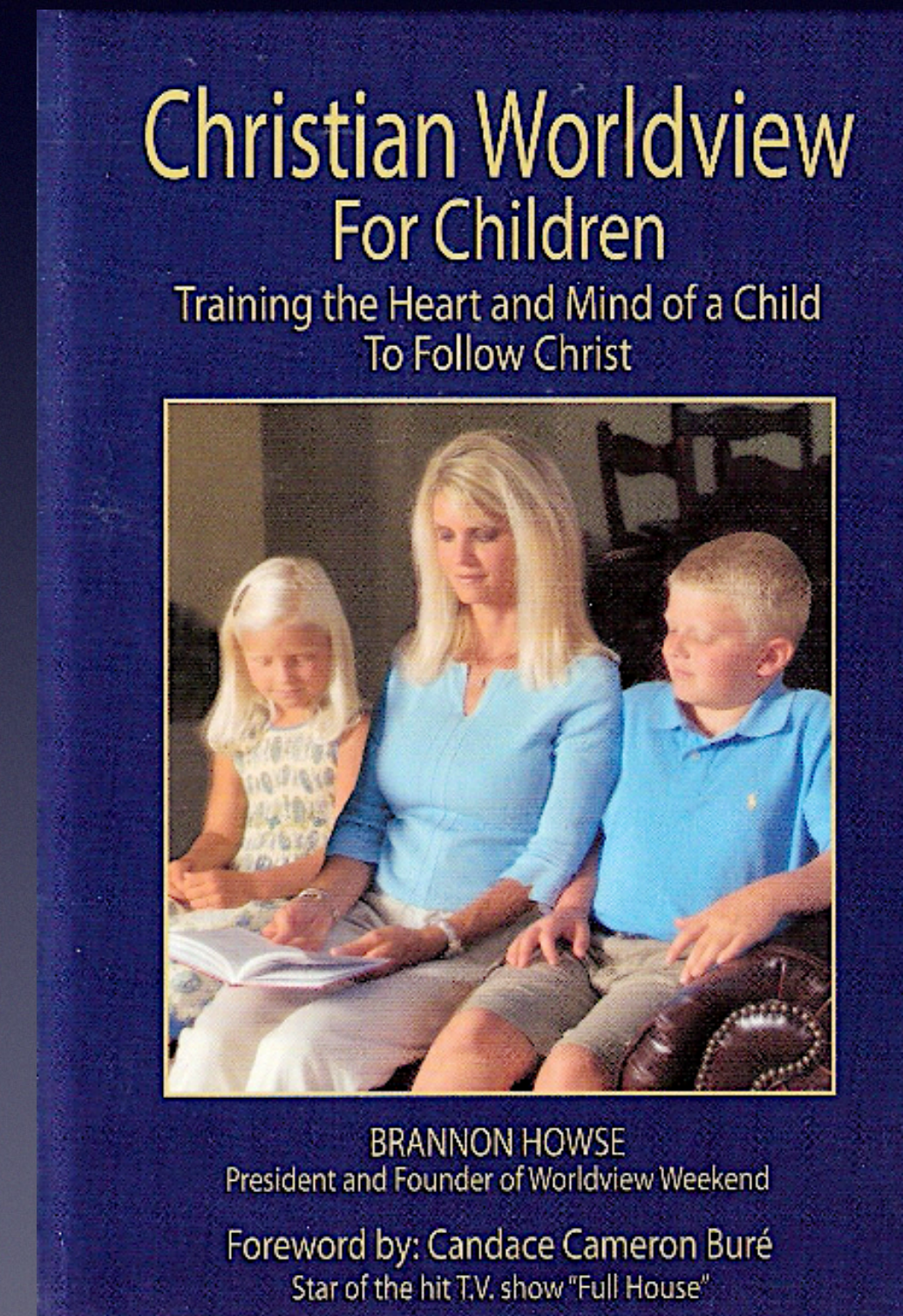
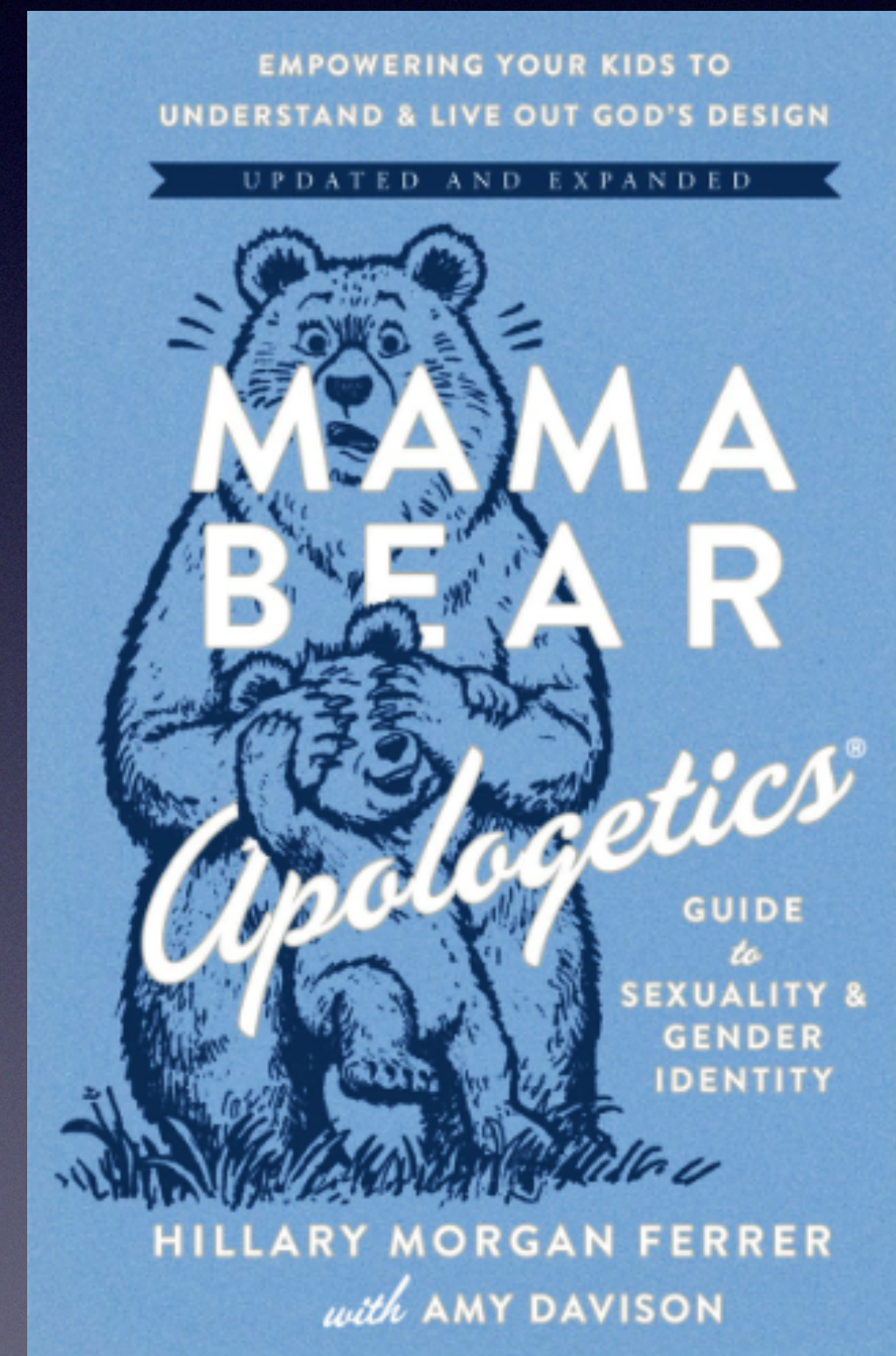
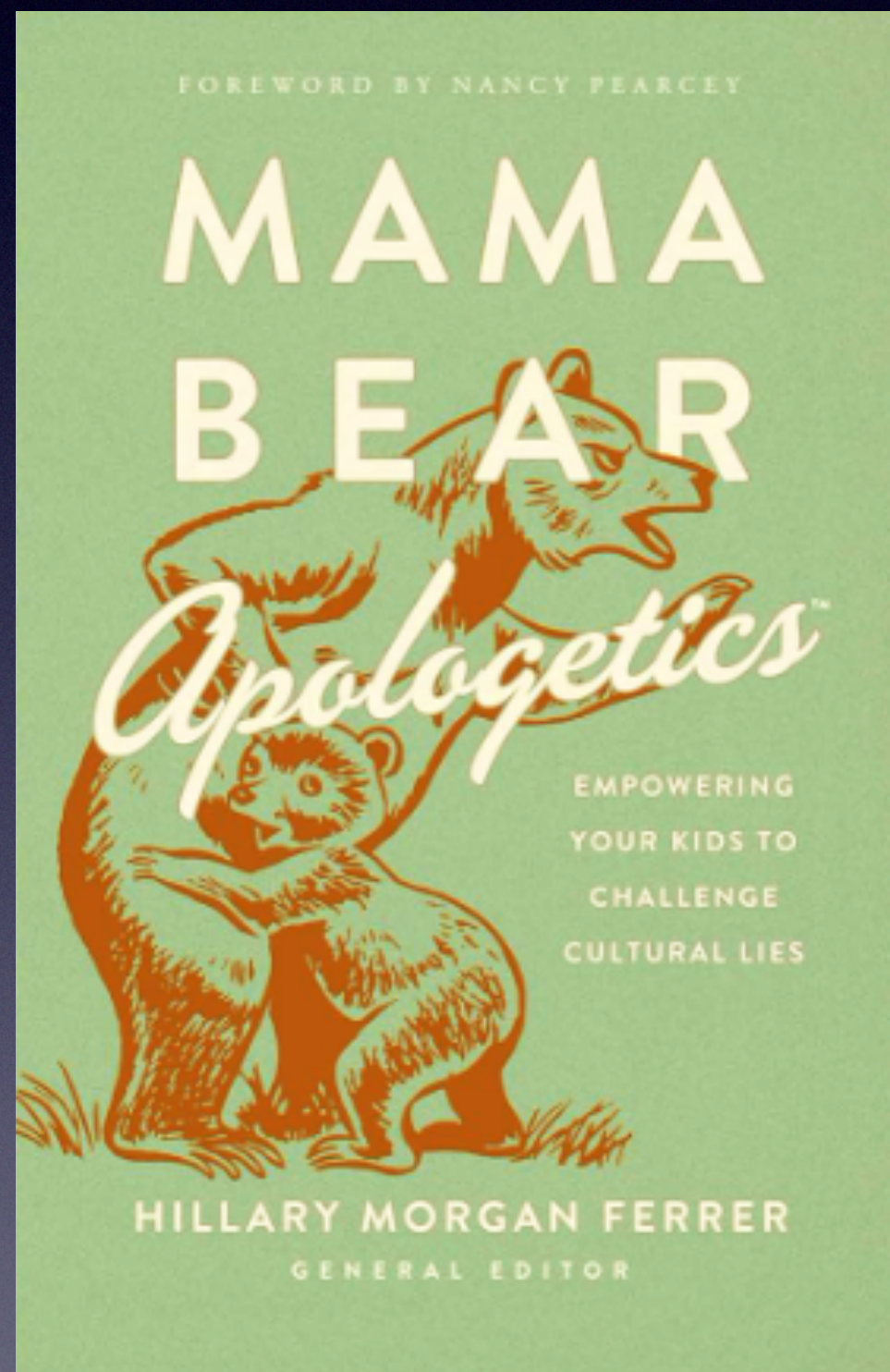
Worldview Tests

	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	SECULAR HUMANISM	MARXISM-Leninism	COSMIC HUMANISM	POST-MODERNISM
	Bible	Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah	Humanist Manifestos I, II, III	Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao	MacLaine, Spangler, Chopra, Walsch	Nietzsche, Foucault, Derrida, Rorty
THEOLOGY	Theism (Trinitarian)	Theism (Unitarian)	Atheism	Atheism	Pantheism	Atheism
PHILOSOPHY	Supernaturalism (Faith and Reason)	Supernaturalism (Faith and Reason)	Naturalism	Dialectical Materialism	Non-Naturalism	Anti-Realism
ETHICS	Moral Absolutes	Moral Absolutes	Moral Relativism	Proletariat Morality	Moral Relativism (Karma)	Cultural Relativism
BIOLOGY	Creationism	Creationism	Neo-Darwinian Evolution	Punctuated Evolution	Cosmic Evolution	Punctuated Evolution
PSYCHOLOGY	Mind/Body Dualism (Fallen)	Mind/Body Dualism (Un-fallen)	Monism (Self-Actualization)	Monism (Behaviorism)	Higher Consciousness	Socially-Constructed Selves
SOCIOLOGY	Traditional Family, Church, State	Polygamy, Mosque, Islamic State	Non-Traditional Family, Church, State	Classless Society	Non-Traditional Family, Church, State	Sexual Egalitarianism
LAW	Divine/Natural Law	Shari'ah Law	Positive Law	Proletariat Law	Self-Law	Critical Legal Studies
POLITICS	Justice, Freedom, Order	Islamic Theocracy (Global Islam)	Liberalism (Secular World Gov't)	Statism (Communist World Gov't)	Self-Government (New World Order)	Leftism
ECONOMICS	Stewardship of Property	Stewardship of Property	Interventionism	Scientific Socialism	Universal Enlightened Production	Interventionism
HISTORY	Creation, Fall, Redemption	Historical Determinism (Jihad)	Historical Evolution	Historical Materialism	Evolutionary Godhood	Historicism

Resources



Resources



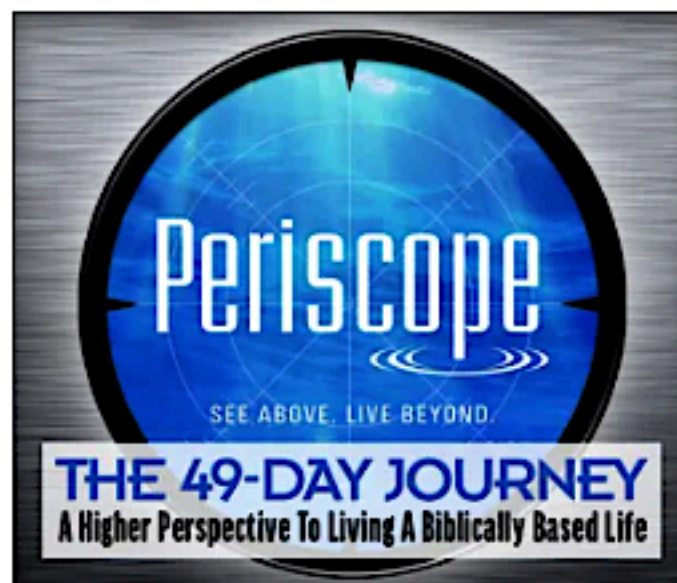
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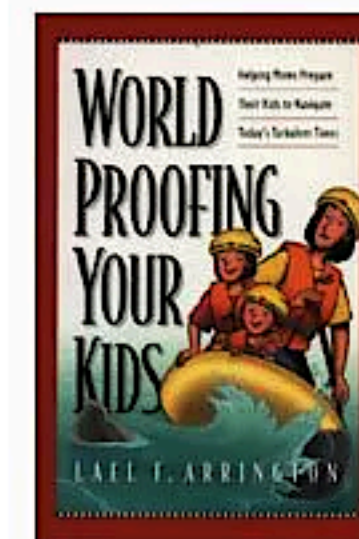
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Sue Bohlin, May 27, 2000

Lael Arrington has written a truly wonderful and exceptionally helpful book, *Worldproofing Your Kids*, {1} subtitled “Helping Moms Prepare Their Kids to Navigate Today’s Turbulent Times.” While she ostensibly wrote it for moms, any Christian parent who cares about helping his or her child develop a Christian worldview will enjoy it . . . and probably learn a thing or two (or three) in the process.

Lael has raised five questions that Christian parents would be wise to keep in mind, so we can relate them to what happens in our kids’ world and in the world at large. In teachable moments, we can help our kids to think through and then *own* their answers to these questions:



1. Who makes the rules?
2. How do we know what is true?
3. Where did we come from?
4. What are we supposed to be doing here?
5. Where are we going?

The first question truly is foundational, not just to the other questions but to a basic Christian worldview: Who makes the rules?