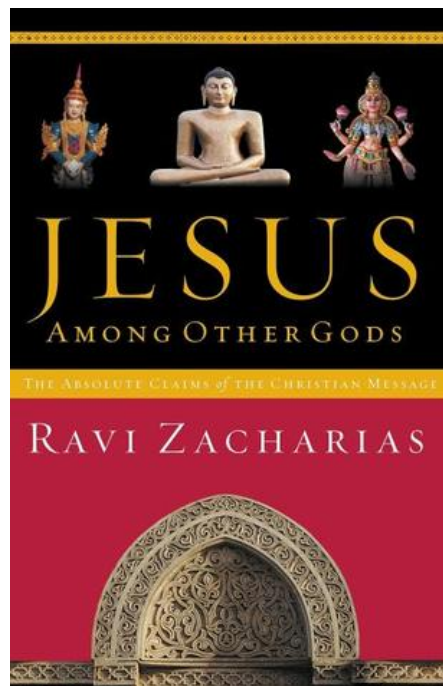




Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message

Ravi Zacharias

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Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message Ravi Zacharias

In his most important work to date, apologetics scholar and popular speaker Ravi Zacharias shows how the blueprint for life and death itself is found in a true understanding of Jesus. With a simple yet penetrating style, Zacharias uses rich illustrations to celebrate the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives. *Jesus Among Other Gods* contrasts the truth of Jesus with founders of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, strengthening believers and compelling them to share their faith with our post-modern world.

Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message Details

Date : Published February 6th 2002 by Thomas Nelson (first published January 1st 2000)

ISBN : 9780849943270

Author : Ravi Zacharias

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Christian, Religion, Christianity, Theology, Nonfiction, Faith

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Robin Patchen says

Have you ever heard it said that all religions are the same? Ravi Zacharias takes on that lie on and disproves it in this amazing book. Raised in India among Hindus, Zacharias has a unique perspective on the "other gods," which he pits against Jesus, the only Savior. You might not walk away from this book a Christian (though it's likely you might), but you'll definitely walk away knowing Jesus is unique among all the "other gods."

Jacob O'connor says

I've been a fan of Ravi Zacharias for years. He might be the most eloquent speaker I've ever heard. I didn't enjoy this book.

The problem was, it reads exactly like Zacharias speaks. The very things that make him a compelling speaker make him a frustrating author. Every chapter I became impatient for him to make his point. His arguments get lost in his stories and anecdotes such that its hard to say exactly why he commends Jesus over against the other gods. I feel he's relying on the "ring of truth" in the Gospel. That's okay. I just wish he'd put a little finer edge.

This book would be better read as a devotional than as an apologetic for comparative religion

c.c. ladia says

Beautifully said:

Napoleon expressed these thoughts while he was exiled on the rock of St. Helena. There, the conqueror of civilized Europe had time to reflect on the measure of his accomplishments. He called Count Montholon to his side and asked him, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" The count declined to respond. Napoleon countered:

Well then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him.... I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man: none else is like Him; Jesus Christ was more than man. . . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have died for me ... but to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them, I lighted up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts.... Christ alone has succeeded in so raising the mind of man toward the unseen, that it becomes insensible to the barriers of time and space. Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties,

becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him, experience that remarkable, supernatural love toward Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it, which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ. - Ravi Zacharias page 99

Tim Baumgartner says

The subtitle of "Jesus Among Other Gods" is "The Absolute Truth of the Christian Message." I have read the "regular" version (as opposed to this youth edition) and this was MUCH simpler to read. Maybe this is because I read this youth edition AFTER seminary and the regular one BEFORE. Hmmm. Anyways, Ravi's approach to discerning absolute truth is to address the often-told rumor that all religions are basically saying the same thing. In each of the 7 chapters of this book, the author compares the founders, scriptures, teachings, history, etc. of the Top 4 most populous religions of our world (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism). Zacharias writes with a savvy style that is both respectful and yet truthful. If you would like a great introductory book on the comparison of religions, look no further than this one! There are some truly extraordinary nuggets of truth throughout the book that can be used in instigating dialogue with those representing the religions previously mentioned.

Alexis Neal says

This is a difficult book to summarize. Well-known Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias ostensibly wrote this book to distinguish the claims of Christianity from those of other major world religions. At least, that's what you would expect based on the title. But the title isn't really accurate. Other religions are mentioned, albeit in passing, but Zacharias' treatment of other religions is cursory and selective at best, and his normally incisive reasoning seems muddy.

I've enjoyed hearing Zacharias speak, and have great respect for his intellect and his logical abilities. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, those abilities do not seem to be on display here. Zacharias seems to flit about up in the air without ever landing on any solid conclusions, and the conclusions he does reach don't seem to follow logically from the statements and arguments and observations that precede them--even the statements I *agree with* seem to hang out there unsupported. Indeed, if I didn't already agree with him, I doubt I would be persuaded.

I often found myself suspecting that he had perfectly sound reasons for particular conclusions, but that he wasn't, well, 'showing his work' for lack of a better phrase. Maybe I'm not clever enough to follow his argument, but I suspect I am not the only one, and I think the book could have been much better if he'd spelled things out more clearly.

I suppose this could be the result of differences between Eastern and Western thought processes and argument styles--I do find C.S. Lewis' down-to-earth clarity much more persuasive than Zacharias' untethered mental wandering--but the book seems to be written explicitly for Western readers, and I've never had any trouble following his reasoning in radio talks and lectures.

Ultimately, I have no idea what this book is about--other than 'Christianity'--or what point Zacharias is ultimately trying to make. This is my first exposure to him as a writer (as opposed to a speaker), so I remain

hopeful that this lackluster work is an aberration.

Kris says

Review to come.

Quotes:

“The purpose of this book is to lay out for you, the reader, why I firmly believe Jesus Christ to be who he claimed to be — the Son of the living God, the One who came to seek and to save a lost humanity. At a time in our cultural history when the West is looking more like the East and the East is covertly trying to emulate the West, this is much needed. Religions are making a revival, but often as a hybrid of western marketing technology and eastern technology — a devastating combination of seduction through media and mysticism. The first casualty in such a mix is truth, and, consequently, the person of God.”

“Jesus reversed the process. He told us that the only way we could understand who we are is to cast our gaze not on the equation that binds it all together, but on the relationship toward which we move in the sum total of our being. It is the assemblage of an object that gives it its purpose, not the reduction of it.”

Rebekah Choat says

We live in a time in which tolerance is counted the highest virtue: one is free to believe and practice any philosophy or religion he chooses, so long as he does not claim that it is right or true or better than any other. Popular sentiment would have us accept all belief systems as equally valid. The problem, of course, is that this premise cannot be upheld logically. If the tenets of one religion stand in direct opposition to the tenets of another, as they so often do, they obviously are not equally correct.

World-renowned apologist and author Ravi Zacharias examines this problem and addresses the question, "How does one communicate the message of Jesus Christ, in which truth and absoluteness are not only assumed, but also sustained?" Moreover, he does so with honor and respect toward all people, even while clearly contrasting the power of Jesus' words with the claims of other traditions.

Zacharias does a masterful job of expounding upon Christ's answers to man's basic questions, showing how they supersede the explanations offered by other faiths. A vital facet of this work is a depth of understanding of just what those other faiths do, in fact, teach. I took away from the book a challenge to become better informed as well as a commission to speak the absolute truth of Jesus in clear expression of His love.

Ellen Maze says

5-Stars

Ravi has such a way or conveying his ideas to you and this helps in a theology book. I agreed with his points, but more than that, he makes this book easy and even fun to read with his insight and poignant stories. I could read this over and over.

Brent McCulley says

A fantastic and refreshing read, that was as delightful as it was informative, *Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias is a boldly apologetic work that is an excellent resource for the seeker and the Christian alike.

With that being said, the cover and title is a bit misleading; for instance, one might expect to find a compare and contrast between world religions, or a systematic study of Jesus in light of other gods, etc. The reality is actually not so, as Ravi states, however, unequivocally his intent with the book in the preface, the misleading title and cover notwithstanding.

The book itself is totally apologetic, and is not systematic, or theological at all. This makes for Ravi's voice to truly shine. If anyone has ever heard Ravi speak, either in person or online, they know his style of oratory and delivery, and the tone of this book is written in true Zacharias diction. Included in his famous rhetoric are numerous references to delightful philosophers, theologians, and authors, such as Dostoevsky, Plantinga, Flew, Wesley, Hume, and more. Ravi is extremely well-read, and his intellect truly shines through his numerous pointed references, to capture the reader's emotion at just the right time.

The book itself is styled into seven different sections, the first one being Ravi's testimony. The latter three dealing with the problem of pain and suffering. Ravi deals with Jesus Christ, and the questions that revolve around Him; namely, who is He; where is He from; and more. Although the book certainly seemed a bit scattered and could have been more cohesive in theme, Ravi does a good job at threading his numerous thoughts together with a friendly pathos tone.

In short, this was a great book that I would certainly recommend to seekers and Christians, who want to get a feel for who Jesus is in light of our culture today.

Brent McCulley

Sharon sumanti says

"He is not dead, He is ALIVE in the best sense of term. The celebration has b e g u n....."

when Jesus speaks and says, " I am The Truth and The Life,"
He claims what no other did.

when He says, " My sheep listen to My voice,I know them and they follow Me. I give them ternal life, and they shall never perish, no one can snatch them out of My hand,"
He speaks as no other does.

Jesus did not only teach or expound His message,
He was identical with His message

He did not just proclaim the truth.
He said , " I Am The Truth "

He did not just show a way.
He said, " I Am The Way "

He did not just open up vistas.
He said , " I Am the door "

I Am the Good Shepherd
I Am The Ressurrection and The Life.

I Am The I AM.

Nick Kinsella says

I hate this word, but it's perfect for how I felt about this book:

"Meh"

Zacharias promises lofty theses he never delivers on in this book. I expected a comprehensive book that would take the time to examine the major religions point by point compared to Christianity, as Zacharias says he'll do in the first chapter. He never delivers. Instead, he seems to go off track a lot, and his arguments are pretty weak and appeal to emotion rather than logic. Zacharias is better than this.

He also has a lot of purple prose throughout the book. Zacharias is an excellent public speaker, but he seems to like to use flowery prose and bizarre word choice in his writing.

He does shine when expressing the uniqueness of Christ's claims, and for that I gave the book 3 stars. I would have liked him to go much more in-depth with the details of each major religion. I think the book is a good starting point, and Zacharias quotes many authors and theologians that I'll now seek out.

Tylor Lovins says

Jesus Among Other Gods is a book about an author's intellectual journey to get the last word in every conversation.

Philosophically, this book is a joke. If you are into the idea of time travel, except in reverse, then this is the book for you. Want to read a conversation between a philosopher from the Dark Ages who encounters religions from other countries? Read this book!

I won't ever spend this much time on a Zacharias book again.

Kells Next Read says

RTC

Joshua says

If you're a believer, this will probably strengthen your belief. If you'd like to believe, this will probably cement your belief. If you don't believe, this probably won't move you to belief.

Zacharias creates a world made of generalizations and East/West dualism and then shuts his eyes tight and runs around stepping on straw people. He's sincere, that's obvious, but he's too excited about his purpose and ends up writing a tiring and sporadic book.

I've never really understood the purpose of apologetics and the idea that a religion needs to be defended by a cadre of debaters seems repugnant and cheapens the appeal of any belief system...but that's just my own view.

Much of the book reminds me of student essays I've read where a student writes, "Studies show..." and then just creates a world which fits his or her intention.

Yari says

I have a lot of respect for Ravi Zacharias and his ministry. I've only listened to him speak and was eager to read one of his books. It didn't disappoint. I must point out, however, that the reader needs a bit of patience as Ravi lays out the foundation for his arguments. Context and viewpoints are key.

At the book's onset Ravi tells us his purpose: to lay out why he firmly believes as he does- that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. It was extremely encouraging and I've learned so much. Ravi Zachariah, my heartfelt appreciation goes out to you.
