

= Ravi Zacharias =

Ravi Zacharias (born 26 March 1946) is an Indian @-@ born Canadian @-@ American Christian apologist . A defender of traditional evangelicalism , Zacharias is the author of numerous Christian books , including the Gold Medallion Book Award winner Can Man Live Without God ? in the category " theology and doctrine " and Christian bestsellers Light in the Shadow of Jihad and The Grand Weaver . He is the founder and chairman of the board of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries , host of the radio programs Let My People Think and Just Thinking , and has been a visiting scholar at Ridley Hall , where he studied moralist philosophers and literature of the Romantic era , and has had six honorary doctoral degrees , including a Doctor of Laws and a Doctor of Sacred Theology . Zacharias held the chair in Evangelism and Contemporary Thought at Alliance Theological Seminary from 1981 to 1984 . Evangelical Christian leader Chuck Colson referred to Zacharias as " the great apologist of our time . "

= = Early life = =

Zacharias was born in Madras , India . He claims descent from a woman of the Nambudiri Brahmin caste and a Christian man of the Boatman caste . His mother was from Madras while his father was from Kerala . He grew up in Delhi . According to Zacharias , before her marriage , Swiss German missionaries had spoken to his Brahmin ancestor about Christianity and she had converted and had been made an outcast by her Brahmin family and community . Zacharias grew up in a nominal Anglican household , and says that he was an atheist until the age of 17 when he tried to commit suicide by swallowing poison . While in the hospital , a local Christian worker brought him a Bible and told his mother to read to him from John 14 . Zacharias says that it was John 14 : 19 that touched him and meant to him as the defining paradigm : " Because I live , you also will live . " He said that he thought , " This may be my only hope : A new way of living . Life as defined by the Author of Life . " and that he committed his life to Christ praying , " Jesus if You are the one who gives life as it is meant to be , I want it . Please get me out of this hospital bed well , and I promise I will leave no stone unturned in my pursuit of truth . " In 1966 Zacharias emigrated with his family to Canada , earning his undergraduate degree from the Ontario Bible College in 1972 (now Tyndale University College & Seminary) and his M.Div. from Trinity International University .

= = Ministry = =

Zacharias was invited to spend the summer of 1971 in Vietnam , where he evangelized to the American soldiers , as well as to POWs and Viet Cong . After graduating from the Ontario Bible College , he began an itinerant ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada . In 1974 the C & MA sent him to Cambodia , where he preached only a short time before its fall to the Khmer Rouge . In 1977 , after graduating from Trinity , Zacharias was commissioned to preach worldwide .

In 1983 , Zacharias was invited to speak in Amsterdam at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association 's annual evangelists ' conference . It was here that he first noticed a lack of ministry in the area of Christian apologetics . After Amsterdam , Zacharias spent the summer evangelizing in India , where he continued to see the need for apologetics ministry , both to lead people to Christ and to train Christian leaders . In August 1984 Ravi Zacharias International Ministries was founded in Toronto , Canada to pursue his calling as a " classical evangelist in the arena of the intellectually resistant . " Today its headquarters is located in Atlanta , Georgia , and has offices in Canada , India , Singapore , the United Kingdom , the Middle East , Hong Kong , Romania , Turkey , Austria , Spain , and South Africa . He was later ordained by the Christian and Missionary Alliance and commissioned as an international evangelist .

In 1989 , shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall , Zacharias was invited to speak in Moscow . While there he spoke to students at the Lenin Military Academy as well as political leaders at the Center for Geopolitical Strategy . This was the first of many evangelism opportunities towards the political

world . Future events included an invitation to Bogota , Colombia in 1993 , where he spoke to the judiciary committee on the importance of having a solid moral foundation .

In 1990 he wrote his first book , A Shattered Visage : The Real Face of Atheism . In 1993 Zacharias was invited to speak at his first Veritas Forum at Harvard University , and later that year was one of the keynote speakers at Urbana . Zacharias continues to be a frequent guest at these forums , both giving lectures and answering students in question and answer sessions at academic institutions such as the University of Georgia , the University of Michigan , and Penn State .

Zacharias attracted media attention when in 2004 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints (LDS Church) opened its signature pulpit at the Salt Lake Tabernacle to him for a series of messages . Zacharias delivered a sermon on " Who Is the Truth ? Defending Jesus Christ as The Way , The Truth and The Life " to some 7 @,@ 000 lay @-@ persons and scholars from both LDS and Protestant camps in an initiatory move towards open dialogue between the camps .

Some evangelicals criticized Zacharias ' decision not to use this opportunity to directly address the " deep and foundational " differences between the historic Christian faith and that of the LDS church . He responded by asserting that Christians should not immediately condemn Mormonism 's theological differences but " graciously build one step at a time in communicating our faith with clarity and conviction " . He said this is just as effective as showing someone the faults of their faith . The speaking engagement was nearly sabotaged by a claim by event organizer Greg Johnson , president of Standing Together , that Zacharias had nothing to do with editing the book The Kingdom of the Cults and had only loaned his name to the latest edition . Johnson later apologized for his comment .

Zacharias is a frequent keynote lecturer within the evangelical community at events such as the Future of Truth conference in 2004 , the National Religious Broadcasters ' Convention and Exposition in 2005 , the National Conference on Christian Apologetics in 2006 . On successive nights in October 2007 , he addressed first the students and faculty of Virginia Tech , then the community of Blacksburg , Virginia , on the topic of evil and suffering in the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre . Zacharias has represented the evangelical community at occasions such as the National Day of Prayer in Washington , DC , the Annual Prayer Breakfast at the United Nations , and the African Union Prayer Breakfast in Maputo , Mozambique , and was named honorary chairman of the 2008 National Day of Prayer task force . He also plans to participate in the ecumenical Together 16 meetings in July 2016 , which Pope Francis will address .

Zacharias was interviewed in Focus on the Family 's Truth Project . In November 2009 , Zacharias signed an ecumenical statement known as the Manhattan Declaration which affirms the sanctity of human life , the dignity of marriage as a union of husband and wife , and the freedom of religion are foundational principles of justice and the common good .

In 2014 , Zacharias republished his book The Lamb and The Fuhrer , an imaginary conversation between Adolf Hitler , Jesus Christ and Dietrich Bonhoeffer , as a graphic novel . In 2016 , Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio appointed Zacharias to his anti @-@ abortion ? Dignity Of Life ? advisory panel .

= = Family = =

In May 1972 , Zacharias married Margaret " Margie " Reynolds , whom he met at his church 's youth group . They have three children : Sarah , Naomi , and Nathan .

= = Worldview = =

Zacharias states that a coherent worldview must be able to satisfactorily answer four questions : that of origin , meaning of life , morality and destiny . He says that while every major religion makes exclusive claims about truth , the Christian faith is unique in its ability to answer all four of these questions . He routinely speaks on the coherence of the Christian worldview , saying that Christianity is capable of withstanding the toughest philosophical attacks . Zacharias believes that the apologist must argue from three levels : the theoretical , to line up the logic of the argument ; the

arts , to illustrate ; and " kitchen table talk " , to conclude and apply . Zacharias ' style of apologetic focuses predominantly on Christianity 's answers to life 's great existential questions , with defense of God .

= = Works = =

A Shattered Visage : The Real Face of Atheism (1994 , 2004) ISBN 0 @-@ 8010 @-@ 6511 @-@ 9
Can Man Live Without God ? (1994 , 1996) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 3943 @-@ 7
Deliver Us From Evil (1996 , 1998) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 3950 @-@ X
Cries of the Heart (1998 , 2002) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 4387 @-@ 6
The Merchant and the Thief (1999) (Children ? s) ISBN 0 @-@ 7814 @-@ 3296 @-@ 0
The Broken Promise (2000) (Children 's) ISBN 0 @-@ 7814 @-@ 3451 @-@ 3
Jesus Among Other Gods (2000 , 2002) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 4327 @-@ 2
Jesus Among Other Gods (Youth Edition) (2000) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 4217 @-@ 9
The Lotus and the Cross : Jesus Talks with Buddha (2001) ISBN 1 @-@ 57673 @-@ 854 @-@ X

Sense and Sensuality : Jesus Talks with Oscar Wilde (2002) ISBN 1 @-@ 59052 @-@ 014 @-@ 9
Light in the Shadow of Jihad : The Struggle For Truth (2002) ISBN 1 @-@ 57673 @-@ 989 @-@ 9
Recapture the Wonder (2003) ISBN 1 @-@ 59145 @-@ 276 @-@ 7
Is Your Church Ready ? : Motivating Leaders to Live an Apologetic Life (2003) (Editor , with Norman Geisler) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 25061 @-@ 7
Who Made God ? And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith (2003) (General Editor , with Norman Geisler) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 24710 @-@ 1
The Kingdom of the Cults (2003) (Editor) ISBN 0 @-@ 7642 @-@ 2821 @-@ 8
I , Isaac Take Thee , Rebekah : Moving From Romance to Lasting Love (2004) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 0822 @-@ 1
The Prince and the Prophet : Jesus Talks With Mohammed (Copyright 2004 , to be released posthumously) ISBN 1 @-@ 59052 @-@ 319 @-@ 9
The Lamb and the Führer : Jesus Talks with Hitler (2005) ISBN 1 @-@ 59052 @-@ 394 @-@ 6
Walking From East to West : God in the Shadows (With R.S.B. Sawyer) (2006) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 25915 @-@ 0
The Grand Weaver : How God Shapes Us Through the Events of Our Lives (2007) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 26952 @-@ 0
Beyond Opinion : Living the Faith We Defend (2008) ISBN 0 @-@ 8499 @-@ 1968 @-@ 1
The End of Reason : A Response to the New Atheists (2008) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 28251 @-@ 9
Is There Not a Cause (2008) (National Day of Prayer Feature Book)
New Birth or Rebirth : Jesus Talks with Krishna (2008) ISBN 1 @-@ 59052 @-@ 725 @-@ 9
There is a Plan (2009) (excerpts from The Grand Weaver) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 31849 @-@ 1

Has Christianity Failed You ? (2010) ISBN 0 @-@ 310 @-@ 26955 @-@ 5
The Lotus and the Cross : Jesus Talks with Buddha (2010) ISBN 1 @-@ 60142 @-@ 318 @-@ 7
Why Jesus ? Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality (2012) ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 89296 @-@ 319 @-@ 5
The Lamb and the Fuhrer--Graphic Novel (2014) ISBN 978 @-@ 161328 @-@ 137 @-@ 6
Why Suffering ? Finding Meaning and Comfort When Life Doesn 't Make Sense (2014) ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 45554 @-@ 970 @-@ 2