

## BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: SUMMER READING

### Required Books

Please read these books in the order assigned.

❖ **Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*** [ ISBN-13: 978-0307278777 ]

- *From the Afterword by the author:* “Humanity has had a long fascination with blood sacrifice. In fact, it has been by no means uncommon for a child to be born into this world only to be patiently and lovingly reared by religious maniacs, who believe that the best way to keep the sun on its course or to ensure a rich harvest is to lead him by tender hand into a field or to a mountaintop and bury, butcher, or burn him alive as offering to an invisible God. The notion that Jesus Christ died for our sins and that his death constitutes a successful propitiation of a ‘loving’ God is a direct and undisguised inheritance of the superstitious bloodletting that has plagued bewildered people throughout history. . .”
- Available on Amazon.com for approx. \$11
- Also available in e-book & audio book formats

❖ **Ravi Zacharias, *The End of Reason*** [ ISBN-13: 978-0310282518 ]

- When you pray, are you talking to a God who exists? Or is God nothing more than your “imaginary friend,” like a playmate contrived by a lonely and imaginative child? When author Sam Harris attacked Christianity in *Letter to a Christian Nation*, reviewers called the book “marvelous” and a generation of readers---hundreds of thousands of them---were drawn to his message. Deeply troubled, Dr. Ravi Zacharias knew that he had to respond. In *The End of Reason*, Zacharias underscores the dependability of the Bible along with his belief in the power and goodness of God. He confidently refutes Harris’s claims that God is nothing more than a figment of one’s imagination and that Christians regularly practice intolerance and hatred around the globe. If you found Sam Harris’s *Letter to a Christian Nation* compelling, this book is exactly what you need. Dr. Zacharias lays out a powerful, passionate, irrefutably sound set of arguments for Christian thought which exposes “the utter bankruptcy of this worldview.” The clarity and hope in these pages reach out to readers who know and follow God as well as to those who reject God.
- Available on Amazon.com for approx. \$14
- Also available in e-book & audio book formats

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### **OPTIONAL:** (extra credit)

❖ **C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*** [ ISBN-13: 978-0060652920 ]

- In 1943 Great Britain, when hope and the moral fabric of society were threatened by the relentless inhumanity of global war, an Oxford don was invited to give a series of radio lectures addressing the central issues of Christianity. Over half a century after the original lectures, the topic retains its urgency. Expanded into book form, *Mere Christianity* never flinches as it sets out a rational basis for Christianity and builds an edifice of compassionate morality atop this foundation. As Mr. Lewis clearly demonstrates, Christianity is not a religion of flitting angels and blind faith, but of free will, an innate sense of justice and the grace of God.
- Available on Amazon.com for approx. \$10
- Also available in e-book & audio book formats

**BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW**  
**LETTER TO A CHRISTIAN NATION**  
**Summer Reading Assessment Form**

- FILL OUT USING YOUR LAPTOP, BUT TURN IN AS A PAPER COPY -

Your Name:

Date when you began reading this book:

Date when you finished reading this book:

Please write *a five sentence synopsis paragraph* for this book.

Below, please write *at least TEN "Aha!" quotes from the book* – After each quote, include page numbers (p. #) and write 1-2 paragraphs briefly explaining how that quote sparked your attention or interest.

Reflection Questions: *please answer thoroughly*

1. What does Harris mean by “**Christian Nation**”? Do you agree with his use of this term? Why?
2. In your opinion, how effective would *Letter to a Christian Nation* be on a Christian who had not ever thought about what he/she believed and why he/she believed it? How could Harris have been even more impactful?
3. How did reading *Letter to a Christian Nation* impact your thinking, your emotions, and/or your Christian faith?

**BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW**  
**THE END OF REASON**  
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Reflection Questions: *please answer thoroughly*

1. What does Zacharias mean that reason has “**Ended**”? Do you agree with his usage of this term? Why?
2. In your opinion, how well did Zacharias answer Harris’ *Letter to a Christian Nation*? What could Zacharias have done better, or how could he have strengthened his argument?
3. How did reading *The End of Reason* impact your thinking, your emotions, and/or your Christian faith?

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW  
**MERE CHRISTIANITY**

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Reflection Questions: *please answer thoroughly*

1. What does Lewis mean by “**mere**” in *Mere Christianity*? Do you agree with his use of this term? Why?
2. In your opinion, how effective would Lewis’ overall case for Christianity be on contemporary non-Christians?
3. Please explain C.S. Lewis’ Moral Argument from *Mere Christianity*.
4. How did reading *Mere Christianity* impact your thinking and/or your Christian faith?