

DIVIDED

CULTURES IN CHAOS

NATION

& A CONFLICTED CHURCH

KEN HAM



These are perilous times for the Church. For years, we have been struggling under the weight of bold lies that are tearing at the fabric of our families, our churches and our nation. Ken Ham understands this and knows that the only antidote to a bold lie is bold truth. In *Divided Nation*, Mr. Ham outlines the issues with biblical clarity and calls Christians back to a place of Biblical authority. Every committed Christian needs a copy of this timely book!

Heidi St. John

Author, Speaker, Host of "Off the Bench" with Heidi St. John and Founder of MomStrongInternational.com

Every day it seems our American culture descends further away from the blessing and protection we once enjoyed. Many in the Church, pastors and congregants alike, are unsure how to address the anti-God ideas sweeping politics, education, family, entertainment, social media, and every other sphere of society. This book exposes a root of the problem and offers a strong, biblical solution.

Kirk Cameron

Actor & producer

We are living in a divided nation in which, as Christians, we must have undivided unity — striving together for the faith of the gospel. In this insightful book, my good friend

Ken Ham faithfully and boldly raises his voice as a clarion call to bring us a timely message in a turbulent time.

Ray Comfort

CEO and Founder of Living Waters

In *Divided Nation*, Ken Ham gives clear authoritative answers to the overwhelming problems we are facing in our nation. Ken seeks to speak into the issues and educate us with the absolute truth of God's Word.

Dr. Johnny Hunt

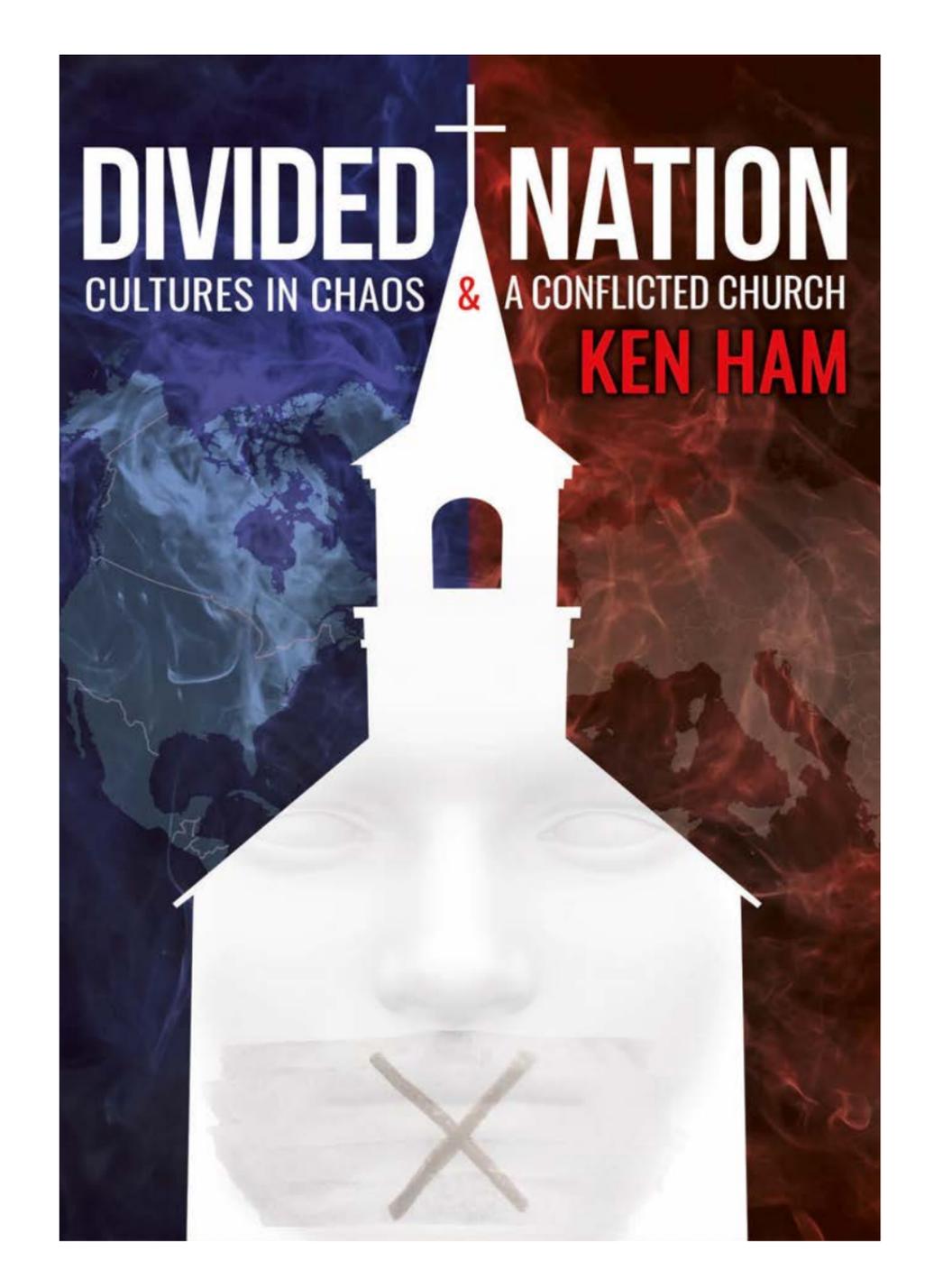
Senior VP of Evangelism & Leadership NAMB, Former President of the SBC, and Pastor Emeritus FBC Woodstock

I cannot think of a more timely book for the current predicament that we find ourselves in — both as a nation, and as the Church. From the first chapter to the last, Ken Ham masterfully diagnosis the crippling problems that are plaguing both America and the Body of Christ. And more importantly, he gives clear, biblical marching orders for those who are called to be “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth.” But what makes this book extraordinarily powerful is that the author does more than preach the riveting message found in its pages, he lives it — loud and clear. Prepare to be shaken, awakened, and inspired to do the same.

Emeal (“E.Z.”) Zwayne

President, Living Waters

DIVIDED NATION



CULTURES IN CHAOS & A CONFLICTED CHURCH

KEN HAM

First printing: June 2021

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Master Books®, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638
Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-1-68344-283-7

ISBN: 978-1-61458-778-1

Library of Congress Number: 2021937297

Cover by Diana Bogardus

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.

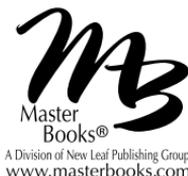
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■ INTRODUCTION

I have a burden to help the church equip God's people to defend the Christian faith, proclaim the gospel with boldness in a way people will listen to and understand, and raise up godly generations who will continue a godly legacy generation after generation.

Many people in the church today are perplexed at what is happening to the culture and in the church with the exodus of the younger generations. Christians in the West are increasingly looked on as the enemy, and persecution is increasing.

In this book I attempt to explain what has happened to the church and culture and examine what we as God's people can do about the situation.

This book really represents what we call the "relevance talk" that I give to God's people. Throughout

the book are illustrations I use in such a talk. I am making all these illustrations and more available as PDFs, Keynote, or PowerPoint slides for people to use them. I encourage pastors, other Christian leaders, or anyone with a heart for reaching people with the truth of God's Word and the gospel to use these slides and teach the content of this book to as many as possible.

The illustrations are available for free at this link: answersingenesis.org/go/nation.

I pray the message of this book will be spread far and wide and will help bring a needed new reformation and revival in our nation.

Also, I want to thank Answers in Genesis staff members:

Avery Foley for her editing skills.

Maria Suter and Cameron Suter for using their artistic talents in producing the illustrations.

— Ken Ham

A DIVIDED

NATION



America is a divided nation. Then again, what's happening in America is also happening throughout the Western world. The culture is becoming more secularized and anti-Christian. Church attendance has already dropped significantly. But what has happened to the church? Why have the younger generations been leaving? Why is the Christian message not impacting the culture like it used to?

An Exodus from the Church

Now, don't misunderstand me. God's Word states, *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matthew 16:18). There are some great Christian leaders, pastors, and others who stand boldly and courageously for the authority of the Word of God. But, sadly, they are a minority. One of

the most-asked questions I receive through email and letters and from visitors to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum attractions is something like this: “Do you know a church in our area that takes the same stand on biblical authority as you do at Answers in Genesis?”

From an institutional (local) church perspective, there has been a problem in much of the church in America and the rest of the Western world. For many, many years now, we’ve seen an exodus of young people from the church. I’ve been talking on this ever since the ’70s. In fact, I gave my first talk on creation apologetics in 1975 in Australia. During the early ’80s I visited America, giving talks across the nation in churches and Christian institutions. One of the things I was saying back then went something like this:

If the church doesn't raise up generations to believe God's Word starting in Genesis and understand Genesis 1 to 11 as literal history and the foundation for all of our doctrine, for our whole worldview, for the rest of the Bible, for the gospel, and for everything. . . .

And if the church doesn't equip generations with answers to the secular attacks on God's Word, and specifically Genesis, that they are

getting through the education system and the media. . . .

And if the church doesn't stop compromising God's Word in Genesis, with evolution and/or millions of years as so many (including many church leaders and academics) in our churches sadly do. . . .

Then we will lose the coming generations, and we'll lose the culture.

And that's exactly what's happening right before our very eyes.

It Only Takes One Generation

It only takes one generation to lose a culture. We're seeing a once very "Christianized" America on the brink of catastrophic change from a Christian world-view perspective. The younger generations (particularly Generation Y [millennials] and Generation Z) are growing up in a very different culture than the culture my generation (baby boomers) and older generations grew up in. The change in the culture is devastating and catastrophic from a Christian perspective.

Christians need to be aware of what's happening and how to deal with this. But much of the church is not giving the teaching to understand why the culture is at the place it is and how to deal with it.

In this book I am going to detail five areas where I believe many parents and church leaders have failed to teach people to equip them for the fallen world in which we live.

I believe there has been an overall neglect of and failure to teach:

1. There is no neutral position.
2. There is no non-religious position.
3. There are ultimately only two religions — two foundations for our worldview.
4. General Bible and creation apologetics.
5. How to think foundationally to develop a truly Christian worldview.

Further on, I will explain each of these in detail to help us understand what sort of teaching needs to be included in the church and in parenting in order to raise up godly generations.

In 2009 I co-authored the book *Already Gone*. It's still as relevant today as it was then. We contracted with America's Research Group, and they surveyed young people, particularly millennials, who used to go to church but no longer go to church. Research had shown that two-thirds of young people were leaving the church by college age, with very few returning, and we wanted to find out why they left the church.

When these young people were asked, “Why did you leave church?” the answers really came down to issues like this:

How can you believe in a loving God with all the death and suffering in the world?

What about science and the Bible?

Can you really trust the Bible in a scientific age?

What about evolution and millions of years?

Now over 90% of kids from church homes in the USA have been sent to the public education system, and we have to be honest about it. What’s happened is that system has progressively changed to become more and more atheistic. By and large, public school educators have thrown out God, the Bible, Christian prayer, and Genesis and creation. As a result, many now claim they threw religion out. But that’s not true. They threw Christianity out and replaced it with a different religion.

THERE IS NO NEUTRALITY



My first point is:

1. There is no neutral position.

This is a problem in the church today. There's been a failure within much of the church to teach generations to understand that there is no neutrality — no neutral position.

Let's look at what God's Word clearly teaches us.

- One is either for Christ or against Him. One either gathers or scatters: *Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters* (Matthew 12:30).
- One either walks in light or darkness: *...For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light* (Ephesians 5:8).

- One is either on the broad way or narrow way: *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few* (Matthew 7:13–14).
- One either builds their house on the rock or the sand: *Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. . . . And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand* (Matthew 7:24–26).
- One not for God is hostile to God: *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot* (Romans 8:7).
- One who is not righteous is unrighteous and suppresses truth: *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them* (Romans 1:17–19).

There are many more passages that deal with this topic, but Scripture makes it clear there is no neutral position. Man is not neutral because the Bible says *for all have sinned*

(Romans 3:23) and that *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?* (Jeremiah 17:9).

Public Education Is Not Neutral

So educators and legislators who removed any Christian teaching, the Bible, or prayer from public schools did not make a neutral decision. And if the education system is not for Christ, it is against Him. As we will better understand later, the public education system, by and large, is now an atheistic system, as everything is explained in terms of natural processes (naturalism). Naturalism (no supernatural is involved) is atheism. This is a system of belief based on the idea that man by himself can determine truth. And because the system is not for Christ, it is against Him.

Generations of kids (over 90% of those from church homes) have attended the secular education system. Many Christian leaders, even in conservative churches, have encouraged the kids to go to that system where now they're being trained in an atheistic worldview with the foundation that man determines truth. The justification is often given that children are to be salt and witness in that system. But as I state in my book *Will They Stand*, they can't be salt until they have salt in themselves (Mark 9:50), and if the salt is contaminated, it is good for nothing (Matthew 5:13). Most children and young people have not been equipped in their homes and church to have the right foundation for a truly Christian worldview,

to know what they believe and why, and taught apologetics to be able to defend the Christian faith against secular attacks. Most succumb to the increasing atheistic indoctrination (e.g., in naturalistic evolution/millions of years) and begin to doubt the Bible, particularly when it comes to Genesis. This opens the door for them to be brainwashed into accepting moral relativism as they're indoctrinated to conform to the world's acceptance of LGBTQ+, abortion, critical race theory, and so on.

Then they're coming back to their homes, churches, Sunday schools, and youth groups with many questions about the Bible that have resulted in doubt and disbelief in regard to what the Bible teaches. You will recognize the questions because they are the same basic questions we hear from people all around the world today. Questions such as:

Don't we live in a scientific age?

Hasn't science disproved the Bible?

How do you know the Bible is true?

What evidence is there for God?

If there is a God, who made God?

You believe in Adam and Eve? Well, where did Cain get his wife?

How did the races come about if there were only two people to start with?

Where's the evidence of Noah's Flood?

Don't fossil layers prove millions of years in evolution?

*We know man evolved from apelike creatures, so how could the story of Adam and Eve be true?
How can you believe in a loving God with all the death and suffering we see in the world?
Didn't dinosaurs live millions of years ago and evolve into birds?
How could Noah fit all the animals on the Ark?
Hasn't science proved evolution is true?
Isn't the Bible an outdated book of mythology?
Don't Muslims and Christians believe in the same God?
What's wrong with gay "marriage" if two people love each other?*

And there are many more questions just like these.

Now what happens in a majority of instances — in homes, churches, Christian and Bible colleges, seminaries, etc. — is students are given an answer like this: “Don't worry about Genesis or many of those other questions. You can believe in evolution and millions of years. You can believe what you've been taught in school. Just trust in Jesus, Johnny.”

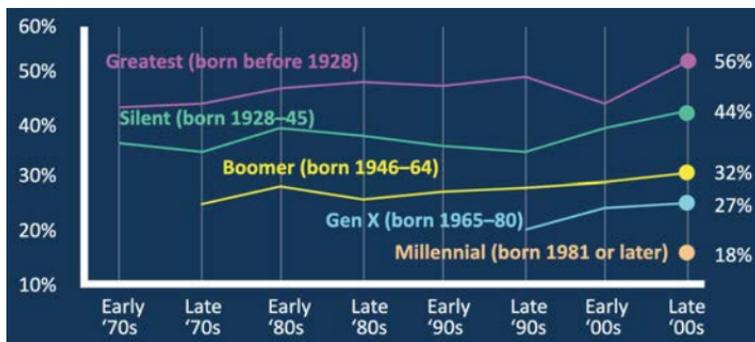
Many atheists (and others) who grew up in church homes have testified that they asked their pastors or Sunday school teachers questions because of what they learned at school, but they didn't get answers and so they rejected the Christian faith. They start to realize that if the first part of the Bible is not true, how can the rest be true? Doubt leads to unbelief, and they leave the church.

What our research published in 2009 (in *Already Gone*) showed us can be summarized like this: Generations weren't taught apologetics; they weren't taught how to defend their faith; and they weren't taught a truly Christian worldview to know what they believe and why. Many were told they could add evolution and millions of years to the Bible and reinterpret Genesis. To them, this meant the Bible really can't be trusted.

What Does the Data Say?

Let's look at research data published in regard to church attendance for the past few generations. Researchers divide people into generations according to when they were born. Consider the research from the Pew Research Center (a secular research organization) in 2010:

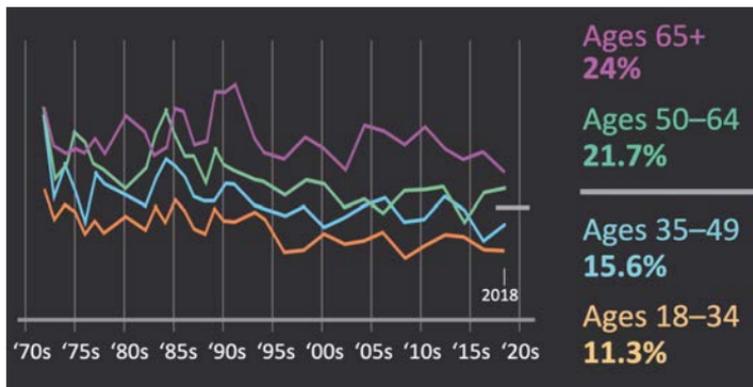
Attendance at Religious Services by Generation; Percent saying they attend several times a week, every week, or nearly every week.¹



We observe that church attendance in America has dropped from 56% with the Greatest Generation to 18% for millennials. Now look at more recent research from the GSS Data Explorer website concerning USA church attendance. Although the groups don't mesh exactly with the Pew Research Center, this research shows what the more recent trends are as we begin to include some of Generation Z in the image below.

Generation Z is the name given to the generation after the millennials (or Gen Y). They are those born (different groups have slightly different ranges) between 1996 and 2015. The youngest generation (born after 2015) is called Generation Alpha.

Attendance at Religious Services by Generation; Percent saying they attend every week.²



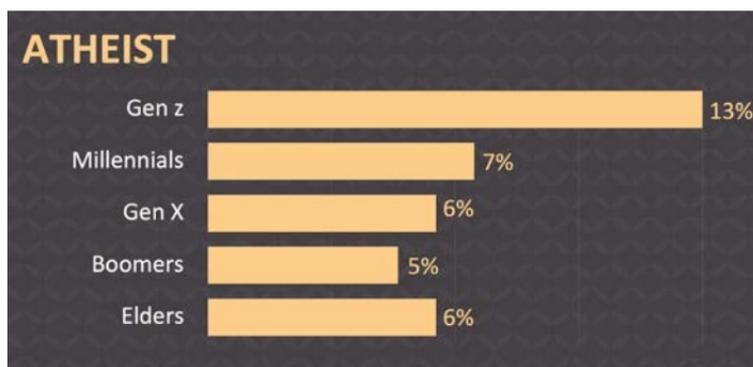
Enter Generation Z: Born between 1999 and 2015, they are the first truly “post-Christian” generation.³

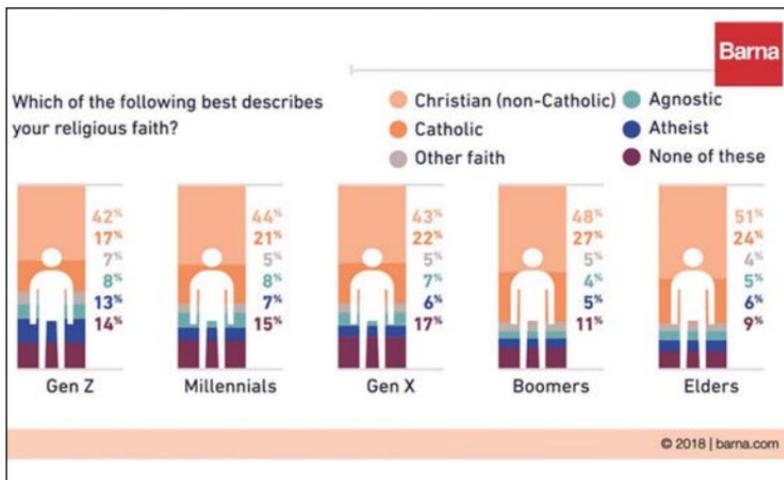
In 2018, George Barna said his research on Gen Z shows that they are the first truly post-Christian generation. He found they were twice as likely to be atheist as any previous generation.

Those who are atheists think they are being neutral, having no religion. But as discussed, this is simply not true. They’ve been brainwashed into believing that the position they hold is supposedly proven by science. We have to do a lot of work with this group in teaching them how to think logically and to understand the true nature of science and its limitations when it comes to the origins issue.

U.S. Religious Identity 2018⁴

Which of the following best describes your religious faith?



U.S. Religious Identity 2018⁵

What Should We Do?

Parents: Carefully and prayerfully consider who is influencing your children. Public education is not neutral. Even Christian education can do more harm than good if those teaching, and the curricula used, aren't rooted in the truth of God's Word. For additional information on education and how to choose which education option is best for your family, read my book *Will They Stand*.

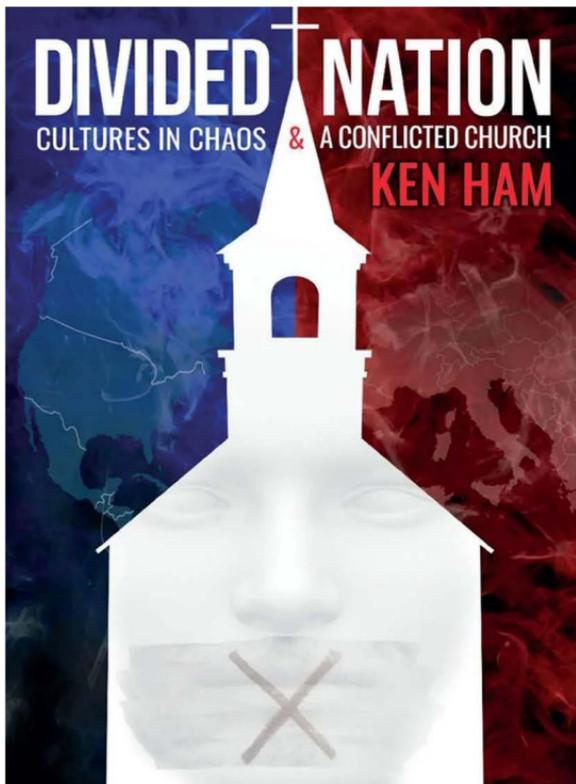
Pastors and parents: Fill your church or home library with solid apologetics resources for all ages and levels. Beware of Christian resources that do not uphold the authority of God's Word but teach compromise positions like

theistic evolution. These resources are dangerous, leading people away from trust in God's Word to starting with man's word instead.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Pew Research Center, "Religion Among the Millennials," A Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life Report, February 2010, 7.
- 2 Smith, Tom W., Davern, Michael, Freese, Jeremy, and Morgan, Stephen, General Social Surveys, 1972–2018 [machine-readable data file] /Principal Investigator, Smith, Tom W.; Co-Principal Investigators, Michael Davern, Jeremy Freese, and Stephen Morgan Sponsored by National Science Foundation. — NORC ed. — Chicago: NORC, 2018: NORC at the University of Chicago [producer and distributor]. Data accessed from the GSS Data Explorer website at gssdataexplorer.norc.org. Accessed January 7, 2021.
- 3 "Atheism Doubles Among Generation Z," Barna, January 24, 2018, <https://www.barna.com/research/atheism-doubles-among-generation-z/>.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid. U.S. teens ages 13–18, n=1,490, Nov. 4–16. 2016. U.S. adults 19 and older, n=1,517, Nov. 4–16, 2016.

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