

America's Bible Crisis Is Worse Than Most Christians Realize, Leaders Warn

As America approaches its 250th birthday, Christian leaders are warning that declining biblical literacy is accelerating the nation's moral and cultural decline.

During Israel365's "Open the Book: A National Conversation on Biblical Literacy" on June 14, speakers pointed to troubling research showing that while 66% of Americans identify as Christian, only 4% hold a biblical worldview.

"That foundation is cracking," Rabbi Pesach Wolicki said. "That foundation is under attack."

Wolicki added that many Americans own Bibles but lack a basic understanding of Scripture.

"They're holding a book that they no longer know," he said.

'We Lost the Balance'

Troy Miller, president and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters, said churches bear much of the responsibility for the decline.

He argued that many congregations shifted away from discipleship and deep Bible teaching in favor of seeker-sensitive models.

"We lost the balance," Miller said.

"Bible literacy or illiteracy is behind so many of the social ills we're seeing today."



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'Silence in the Pulpit'

Pastor Jim Garlow, founder of Well Versed, said biblical illiteracy has been compounded by pastors who avoid addressing cultural issues through Scripture.

"It never goes in neutral. It goes to something else," Garlow said.

Citing research showing many pastors believe the Bible speaks to modern moral issues but decline to address them publicly, Garlow added, "Therein lay the problem."

"There's been silence in the pulpit. It's catastrophic."

Support for Israel

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said declining support for Israel is one consequence of America's fading biblical knowledge.

The trend is "the fruition of seeds that were planted decades ago," Perkins said.

Referencing biblical accounts of Abraham, David and Jeremiah acquiring land in Israel, Perkins argued that Scripture provides a clear historical foundation for the Jewish connection to the land.

"If we understood our Bible as Christians," Perkins said, "we could not go along with what is being advocated by the UN and others."

Building the Next Generation

Pastor Stephen Martin shared how his church responded by

creating a yearlong Bible-reading initiative and a classical Christian school.

Recalling a lesson from a rabbi in Israel, Martin said, “Most nations build monuments. The Jewish people don’t do that. We build schools.”

“It’s the best thing we’ve ever done as a church,” he added.

As the summit concluded, Wolicki urged attendees to remain committed to Scripture.

“Keep the book open,” he said. “This is not the end of the conversation. It is the start of one.”

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man’s Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Glenn Beck: Some Christians Are Looking to Russia for Truth—and That is Dangerous

The question of whether people are born gay remains one of the most debated topics in both the church and culture.

During a recent conversation with podcaster Ruslan KD, former gay men and Christian leaders Reginald Robinson and Zaire

Willis offered a nuanced response rooted in their understanding of Scripture, human brokenness and the process of sanctification.

Robinson said the discussion must begin with humanity's fallen condition.

"I think many of us agree that we are all born into a sin nature," Robinson said. "When Adam fell, humanity fell. We all fell. And so we were born inheriting that sin nature."

He distinguished between what he called a "sin nature" and "sin expressions," describing homosexuality as one of many ways a fallen nature can manifest itself.

"Nobody gets to go to the sin market and choose what sin they're going to have," Robinson said.

While noting that Scripture does not explicitly state that someone can be born gay, Robinson said he believes some people may be born with a predisposition toward same-sex attraction.

"We've journeyed with over 100 men and we realize that though that may be a familiar story for many, it's not the story for all," he said. "There are some who were never abused. There are some who have families in their lives. There were some who were raised in church, raised to love God, they were trained up in the right way, but all of a sudden this expression came out of nowhere."



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At the same time, Robinson rejected the idea that such attractions reflect God's original design.

"What we're not saying is that this is God's divine design," he said. "We're not saying that God made you this way. We're

saying that this is due to the fallen nature.”

Willis said the church has often overlooked people whose experiences do not fit common explanations centered on trauma or family dysfunction.

“One of the disservices that we’ve done in this conversation is ignore the one who says, ‘I have never been abused. I don’t have trauma. Both my parents are in the household,’” Willis said.

However, he emphasized that the book’s central message is not about proving how someone became same-sex attracted.

“No matter how you believe you were born, we are all called to be born again,” Willis said.

Addressing the question of whether same-sex attraction always disappears after conversion, Willis said experiences vary. While some report immediate freedom, he said many believers experience transformation through a longer process of sanctification.

“It’s not that the temptation goes away. It’s not that the pull goes away. It’s that you now are able to say no to a thing that you couldn’t say no to before,” Willis said.

He added that the ultimate goal of the Christian life is not heterosexuality but obedience to Christ.

“The goal is not heterosexuality. The goal is not to have a wife and children. The goal is submission to Christ. The goal is holiness,” Robinson added.

For both men, the debate ultimately points beyond sexual identity and toward the transforming work of Jesus Christ.

“No matter how you believe you were born,” Willis said, “we are all called to be born again.”

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Nicki Minaj Opens Up to Bryce Crawford About Spiritual Warfare, Fame and the Dark Side of the Music Industry

Two Christians can sit in the same church, sing the same worship songs, hear the same sermons and read the same Bible.

One grows stronger year after year. The other remains trapped in the same cycles of frustration, fear and spiritual stagnation.

According to John and Lisa Bevere, the difference is not personality, talent, education or opportunity.

It is faith.

During a recent episode of their podcast, the Beveres argued that faith is the dividing line between believers who flourish and those who remain stuck. More importantly, they said faith is not about getting things from God. It is about partnering with Him to fulfill His purposes and destroy the works of the enemy.

“Faith is foundational,” Lisa Bevere said. “This is not something attached to a particular denomination. Faith is foundational. It is part of being a child of God.”

The Invisible Divide

Many Christians assume spiritual passion is what separates an on-fire believer from a lukewarm one.

The Beveres challenged that assumption.

Hebrews 11:6 declares that “without faith it is impossible to please God.” That means faith is not an optional addition to the Christian life. It is the foundation beneath it.

John Bevere described faith as more than positive thinking or religious optimism.

“Faith is rooted in the spoken word of God, not just something we decide to speak,” he said.

That distinction matters.

Faith, he explained, does not begin with human desire. It begins with God speaking. Abraham believed because God promised descendants as numerous as the stars. Blind Bartimaeus cried out because he believed Jesus was the Messiah. The woman with the issue of blood pressed through the crowd because she believed touching Christ would change everything.

Their faith was anchored in who God is and what He had revealed.



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Why the Enemy Isn't Threatened by Religious Activity

The Beveres repeatedly returned to one theme: the enemy is not intimidated by religious routine.

Faith is what threatens the kingdom of darkness.

Lisa Bevere pointed to 1 John 3:8, which says Jesus was manifested "to destroy the works of the evil one."

Faith connects believers to that mission.

"Faith in Him, not faith in self, not faith in speaking things multiple times and manifesting," Lisa Bevere said.

The couple warned against confusing biblical faith with modern manifestation teachings. While both emphasize speaking, John Bevere said the source is entirely different.

"Manifesting say, 'Hey, whatever you want, speak it,'" he said. "But I'm looking at Jesus and says, 'I don't say anything unless I hear my Father saying it.'"

Biblical faith, they argued, is not about creating a preferred future through repetition. It is about agreeing with God and acting on what He has spoken.

The People Who Refused to Stay Quiet

Some of the most powerful examples of faith in Scripture came from people who refused to let obstacles silence them.

Blind Bartimaeus continued shouting for Jesus even as the crowd told him to be quiet.

The woman with the issue of blood pushed through social

barriers and public shame to reach Him.

The Syrophenician woman refused to leave after being ignored and challenged.

Each received the same response.

“Your faith has made you well.”

Lisa Bevere said the lesson remains relevant today.

“We have a world telling you to be quiet. We have a world telling you faith doesn’t work. We have a world saying, ‘Do it in your own strength. Be your own God,’” she said.

“But he didn’t argue with the people. He continued to cry out to Jesus because he knew Jesus was the answer.”

The Difference Between Stuck and Flourishing

Every believer has been given a measure of faith, but that faith must be cultivated through God’s Word and exercised through obedience.

The issue is not whether God is willing to work.

The issue is whether believers will trust Him enough to act on what He says.

“Faith comes by reading the word of God,” Lisa Bevere said. “You’re not going to get faith by even—I mean, we want to stir you, but we want to stir you to get into the word of God and to listen to what the Spirit of God is highlighting.”

Two Christians may sit in the same church and hear the same message.

One leaves encouraged.

The other leaves transformed.

The difference is faith—faith that hears God’s voice, believes His promises and refuses to stay silent when everything else says to give up.

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10 Hidden Gems in Naaman’s Healing: Kelly K Unpacks the Deeper Lessons of 2 Kings 5

Steven Spielberg’s new film Disclosure Day opened at No. 1 at the box office, earning approximately \$44 million domestically and nearly \$93 million worldwide during its opening weekend.

The film centers on the release of hidden information regarding UFOs, extraterrestrials and decades of government secrecy. During promotion for the film, Spielberg framed the discussion in explicitly spiritual terms.

“What does this do to the fundamental beliefs that many of us have?” Spielberg asked.

He followed with another question.

“Is God our God only on this planet? Or is God a God for every system where there’s civilization, intelligent life, and even developing life?”

Those questions strike at the heart of a battle that began long before modern discussions of UFOs and disclosure.

The Bible reveals that the struggle over truth, authority, worship and the destiny of humanity began in Eden and continues today.

The Seed War Begins in Genesis

The foundation for understanding the modern disclosure movement begins in Genesis 3.

After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God pronounced judgment upon the serpent and declared:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

This passage contains the first prophecy of Jesus Christ and establishes what is often called the Seed War. Throughout Scripture, Satan attempts to corrupt God’s creation, destroy God’s covenant people and prevent the arrival of the promised Messiah.

The battle unfolds throughout the Old Testament and reaches its fulfillment in Jesus Christ’s victory at the cross (Col. 2:15).

The conflict does not end there. Scripture reveals that Satan continues to wage war against God’s purposes until his final judgment (Rev. 12:17; Rev. 20:10).



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Disclosure" on !

Genesis 6 and the Corruption of Humanity

One of the most controversial passages in Scripture appears in Genesis 6.

“There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown” (Gen. 6:4).

The New Testament provides additional insight into this event.

Jude describes angels “who did not keep within their own domain, but abandoned their proper dwelling” and were subsequently bound in chains awaiting judgment (Jude 6).

Peter refers to the same rebellion when he writes that God “did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness” (2 Peter 2:4).

Both Jude and Peter connect this angelic rebellion to the days of Noah (Jude 6-7; 2 Peter 2:4-5).

These passages reveal a supernatural corruption of humanity before the Flood. The fallen angels described by Jude and Peter correspond to the rebellion recorded in Genesis 6.

While the book of Enoch is not part of the biblical canon, Jude’s citation of Enoch (Jude 14-15) demonstrates that portions of its historical account reflected realities known to the early church. Jude and Peter affirm that a specific group of angels rebelled, crossed a boundary established by God and now remain imprisoned awaiting final judgment.

Let us not forget the words of Jesus either. He warns us in

Matthew 24:37:

As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Why specifically does the Messiah warn us about the Days of Noah? What was the source of the violence, rebellion, pride, immorality and warfare against the ways of God?

The short answer: The fallen angels and their offspring, the Nephilim. This is not a conspiracy theory or fiction; it is the Word of God warning us about the coming Great Deception that is known in our day and age as 'full disclosure.'

The Giants Continue After the Flood

Genesis 6 states that giants existed "in those days, and also afterward" (Gen. 6:4).

The Old Testament repeatedly records encounters with giant clans.

When Israel entered Canaan, they encountered the Anakim, Rephaim and other giant peoples (Num. 13:33; Deut. 2:10-11; Deut. 3:11).

The most famous giant was Goliath of Gath (1 Sam. 17:4).

After David killed Goliath, the conflict continued.

Scripture records additional battles against giants, including four descendants connected to Gath who were ultimately killed by David's mighty men (2 Sam. 21:15-22).

These encounters form part of the larger biblical narrative of spiritual warfare that stretches from Genesis to Revelation.

Disclosure and the Counterfeit End-Times Narrative

The modern disclosure movement presents a comprehensive explanation for humanity's origins, spiritual experiences and future destiny.

It promotes advanced non-human intelligences, hidden knowledge, cosmic evolution and consciousness ascension.

The narrative offers an alternative spiritual roadmap for humanity.

This message now permeates movies, television, streaming content, documentaries, books, podcasts, social media and government discussions surrounding unidentified aerial phenomena.

The cultural shift is not random.

It is preparing people to interpret supernatural events through an extraterrestrial framework.

The disclosure narrative provides explanations for miracles, angels, divine encounters, creation and the future that redirect attention away from biblical revelation.

The result is predictive programming for the end times.

A generation is being trained to expect supernatural intervention from advanced beings rather than from the God of Scripture.

The strategy mirrors Satan's activity throughout the Bible. In Eden, he questioned God's Word (Gen. 3:1). In the wilderness, he twisted Scripture while tempting Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). In the last days, he continues presenting counterfeit versions of God's truth.

The Strong Delusion

Paul warned that the rise of the Antichrist would be accompanied by unprecedented supernatural deception.

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:9).

Paul continued by warning that those who reject the truth will embrace “the lie” during a period of strong delusion (2 Thess. 2:10-11).

The final deception will involve genuine supernatural manifestations empowered by Satan.

Jesus issued similar warnings.

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matt. 24:24).

The last days will be marked by extraordinary deception, supernatural signs and widespread spiritual confusion.

The promise of ascension, a new consciousness. To be like God. The same empty promises that Satan used to bring sin into the world at the Garden of Eden.

Scripture repeatedly calls us to vigilance, discernment and faithfulness.

Put On the Whole Armor of God

Because the battle is spiritual, believers must be spiritually equipped.

Paul instructed Christians to “put on the whole armor of God” in order to stand against the schemes of the devil (Eph.

6:11).

He further explained that “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).

Our response to deception is not fear. It is discernment grounded in Scripture, prayer, faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

The Prophetic Clock Is Accelerating

The prophetic signs Jesus described continue appearing across the world.

Israel stands at the center of global events exactly as foretold by the prophets (Zech. 12:2-3).

Renewed attention to the red heifer and preparations for Temple service has intensified interest in biblical prophecy (Num. 19; Ezek. 40-48).

Wars and rumors of wars continue across multiple regions (Matt. 24:6).

Earthquakes occur with increasing frequency around the globe (Matt. 24:7).

Spiritual deception continues expanding throughout society (Matt. 24:11).

Paul’s warning about people departing from the faith unfolds before our eyes (1 Tim. 4:1).

The prophetic picture revealed in Scripture is coming into sharper focus with each passing day.

The discussion surrounding disclosure ultimately leads back to the same questions humanity has faced since Eden.

Who created mankind? Who defines truth? Who deserves worship?
Who determines humanity's future?

Scripture provides clear answers to each question.

Jesus Christ is the Creator (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16).

Jesus Christ is the Truth (John 14:6).

Jesus Christ is the King who will return to rule and reign
(Rev. 19:11-16).

As fascination with disclosure continues growing, believers
are called to remain anchored in God's Word, discerning the
times and looking toward the blessed hope of Christ's return
(Titus 2:13).

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord
comes as a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2).

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**Josh Howerton Calls James
Talarico's Claim About Jesus**

'Heresy'

Pastor Josh Howerton says one of the biggest theological battles today is not coming from outside the church, but from public figures who use biblical language while redefining what Scripture teaches.

In a recent video, the pastor of Lakepointe Church responded to comments from Texas state Rep. James Talarico, who said Jesus never asked people to worship Him.

Howerton rejected the claim and pointed to the book of Revelation, where Christ receives worship and is presented as the object of worship throughout eternity.

"This is not me being mean or exaggerating. He's an actual heretic," Howerton said. "Like a biblically defined false teacher and heretic."



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Howerton said Talarico's statement ignores passages in Revelation that depict Jesus, the Lamb of God, seated on the throne as countless believers bow before Him in worship.

The pastor said many people embrace an incomplete picture of Jesus that focuses on His earthly ministry while overlooking what Scripture says about His future reign. Revelation presents Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords who will rule His kingdom and judge the nations.

Howerton also criticized what he sees as a growing trend of politicians using Scripture to persuade Christians while promoting ideas that conflict with biblical teaching.

"This is the first guy I've ever seen whose, really his whole platform is using the Bible to convince Christians to support

godless things," he said.

The exchange highlights a broader issue facing believers: biblical literacy.

Howerton urged Christians to read the entirety of Scripture rather than relying on social media clips, political messaging or popular sound bites. He said a strong understanding of the Bible helps believers recognize false teaching and remain grounded in the truth of God's Word.

As debates over faith continue in the public square, Howerton said Christians must test every claim against Scripture and remain anchored to the full biblical picture of Jesus Christ.

Most of us know the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet.

The lesson is usually framed around humility. Jesus, the Son of God, took the position of a servant and instructed His followers to do the same.

Rich Wilkerson Jr. recently pointed to something deeper in John 13. Before Jesus ever picked up the towel, Scripture records that He knew exactly who He was.

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power and that He had come from God and was returning to God," John writes.

That detail sits at the center of the story.

Jesus did not move toward the lowest place in the room because He was unsure of Himself. He moved toward it because His identity was completely settled.

"You don't serve because you're weak," Wilkerson said. "You serve because you're meek. Meekness is bridled strength. It's strength under control."

The foot washing was not an act of weakness. It was an act of confidence.

Many of us spend years trying to become significant through service. We serve faithfully, sacrifice generously and pour ourselves into others, yet we often hope those efforts will answer questions about our value and purpose. Jesus served from the opposite direction. His identity was already secure before He ever reached for the towel.

That distinction changes the entire story.

Security Makes Humility Possible

The modern world often treats humility as thinking less of ourselves. The biblical picture is different.

Jesus knew the Father had placed all things under His authority. He knew where He came from. He knew where He was going. Because His identity was secure, He had nothing to prove and no status to protect.

“He knew who he was,” Wilkerson said. “He knew that God had put all power underneath Him. So what did He do? He stripped His garment. He got down low and He started washing disciples’ feet.”

Security produced humility.

The opposite is often true in our own lives. Insecurity can produce self-protection, comparison and a constant need for recognition. When we are unsure of who we are, we spend enormous amounts of energy trying to convince ourselves and others that we matter.

The more secure we become in Christ, the less energy we spend defending our reputation, protecting our position or demanding appreciation from those around us.

Jesus demonstrated that principle in dramatic fashion.

The disciples gathered around that table were not a collection of perfect followers. Peter would deny Him. Thomas would doubt Him. Judas would betray Him.

Yet Jesus washed every set of feet.

“He washed Peter’s feet, future denier. He washed Thomas’ feet, future doubter. He washes Judas’ feet, active betrayer,” Wilkerson said.

The condition of the disciples did not determine Christ’s willingness to serve. His identity did.

“Security always produces humility,” Wilkerson said.

That truth speaks directly to many of the disappointments we experience in ministry and in life. People fail us. Relationships fracture. Expectations go unmet. Yet Jesus shows us that our willingness to love and serve cannot be built upon the behavior of others. It must be rooted in who we are in Him.



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Why So Many of Us Feel Exhausted

John 13 also reveals a struggle many believers still face today.

When Jesus approached Peter, Peter resisted. The disciple who was willing to follow Jesus struggled to receive from Him.

That tension remains common throughout the church.

Many of us know how to volunteer, lead, organize, give and carry responsibility. We know how to pour ourselves out for others. We know how to stay busy. What we often struggle to do

is receive from Christ.

Wilkerson challenged the common understanding of burnout.

“Burnout is not about working too hard,” he said. “Burnout is an inability to let Jesus serve you.”

The statement cuts against much of modern church culture. Activity is often celebrated while intimacy is neglected. Productivity becomes the measure of spiritual health while time spent receiving from God slowly disappears from our schedules.

Yet Jesus washed the disciples’ feet before He told them to wash one another’s.

The order matters.

“You can’t give what you don’t have,” Wilkerson said.

The Christian life was never designed to run on borrowed strength. Ministry flows best when we regularly return to the feet of Jesus and allow Him to refresh what daily life, leadership and responsibility have worn down.

Obey Now, Understand Later

At the center of the passage is a statement that applies far beyond the foot washing itself.

“You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

Wilkerson described those words as the pattern of the Christian life.

“Obey now, understand later. Trust now, clarity later.”

Most of us would prefer the reverse. We want answers before obedience and explanations before surrender. We want certainty

before taking a step forward.

Scripture repeatedly presents a different path.

The disciples would not fully understand the basin and towel until they saw the cross. They would not fully understand the cross until they saw the empty tomb. What appeared confusing in the moment became clear only after they walked through it.

The same pattern still unfolds in our lives today. Many of God's purposes become visible only after seasons of obedience, sacrifice and trust. We often discover what God was doing only after we have followed Him through uncertainty.

The story of John 13 ultimately asks us a question deeper than whether we are willing to serve.

It asks whether we are secure enough in Christ to serve without needing anything in return.

Jesus could wash Judas' feet because He already knew who He was.

The closer we come to that same confidence, the more freely we can love, serve and endure whatever sits across the table from us.

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