

The Christian Worldview Transcript

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Guest: Ken Ham

Topic: Why the Next Generation of Christian Young People is Already Gone

DAVID WHEATON: Why The Next Generation of Christian Young People is Already Gone. That is the topic for hour one here on The Christian Worldview where the mission is to think biblically about all matters of life and faith so that we can then live accordingly. And to share the Good News that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Way, the Truth and the Life and that His Word is both relevant and our basis for living in this modern world. I am David Wheaton, the host of The Christian Worldview. Our official website is TheChristianWorldview.com.

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So glad you joined me this morning. 8 – 10 a.m. every Saturday live, The Christian Worldview airs on 165 stations across the country. Our website is TheChristianWorldview.com.

Why the Next Generation of Christian Young People is Already Gone. You have probably heard me talk about my book, *University of Destruction* on this program previously, which states that as many as 50% of Christian young people will say they have “lost their faith” after four years in college. A new book has come out entitled *Already Gone* by Ken Ham. Ken is the founder and President of Answers in Genesis and The Creation Museum; a major worldwide ministry. One of the most visited websites, answersingenesis.org of all Christian websites. He is the author of many books including the one we are going to speak about today with him. He is a radio host of the program called Answers with Ken Ham.

I spoke to him a couple days ago and here is my interview with Ken Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis.

DAVID: Ken Ham, thanks so much for coming on The Christian Worldview today.

KEN HAM: It is great to be here with you.

DAVID: I have really enjoyed reading your book *Already Gone*. We have it linked at TheChristianWorldview.com right now. I think the subtitle is very compelling and provocative; *Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it*. There is a picture on the cover of a young girl, not a high schooler, probably more of a middle schooler with a dead, sour look on her face like she is kind of bored to be there. One of the big statistics you have in your book, and the book is based on a lot of research done through America’s Research Group, is 2/3 of conservative evangelical teens will leave the church by the time they get into their 20s.

You compare this to the post-Christian generation in England right now. They had a great Christian heritage but it is post-Christian now. The churches are empty now, they are being sold and turned into other things. The provocative thing in the book is that this isn’t happening as they go of to college. I wrote a book, Ken, entitled *University of Destruction* about how students when they transition into college “lose their faith.” In your book *Already Gone* you say this is happening in their hearts. They may still be in church, but they are already gone much earlier in their middle school years and their high school year. Why is this?

KEN: The interesting thing is George Banner and others have found that 2/3 of their young people are leaving the church, so we wanted America’s Research Group to find out why and when. Nobody had ever done research like this before. It is one thing to say we are losing 2/3 of the next generation from the church, but why and when. The revealing thing, as you say, was the when.

A lot of people think it is in college when we are going to lose our kids. In actual fact, there are a number that are lost at college. But what we found out was this; in their hearts and minds that it wasn't in college we were losing these young people. It was starting way before college. In fact, 40% by the end of middle school and 45% by the end of high school and 11% in college. We were losing them way before college, which means that when they are young kids, they are starting to have those doubts and those questions. That is what we found out. One of the questions that Britt asked them was questioning the problem, yes questioning, having doubts in regard to the Bible, not being taught that they could answer the questions of the age and not being taught to defend the Christian faith.

We also have to add into this mix, an understanding that 90% of these kids from church homes actually go to public schools. So these kids are going to an education system that has thrown, God, the Bible and prayer out. They didn't throw religion out. They threw Christianity out and replaced it with the religion of Atheism or Naturalism and that is really what is happening now. They are going there and being taught about evolution and millions of years and the Bible is not true and it is just mythology.

They are going along to church and at Sunday school or Church they are hearing Bible stories, so to speak and doctrine and relationships and spiritual things. They go home, they watch TV, they hear millions of years, evolution, big bang. They go to museums and zoos and evolution, the big bang, the Bible is not true. They see the Bible being attacked on news programs and so on. We are not giving them answers at home. We are not teaching them that they can stand on the authority of the Word. Many parents have given up their responsibility and handed it over to the Church or the schools and we are losing them. We are losing them at a young age. Even in kindergarten they are being taught about evolution and millions of years and the Bible's authority is being undermined or taught about gay marriage or whatever it is. It is happening at a much younger age than what people realize.

DAVID: I think that is one of the most stark realities of your book, *Already Gone*, Ken Ham, is the fact that we think that it is when they are going off to college and so forth, but the cracks are appearing much, much earlier than that. It shows the importance of what churches and what parents need to do. We will get into that today as we talk more about this. You mentioned on page 38 of *Already Gone*, about the Sunday School Syndrome. I just want to read a couple paragraphs here, you said, "compared to the 39% who do not go to Sunday school, contrary to what many of you believe, research showed that students who regularly attend Sunday school are actually (and then you have a list of statistics here) more likely not to believe that all the accounts and stories in the Bible are true and accurate. They are more likely to doubt the Bible because it was written by men. They are more likely to doubt the Bible because it was not translated correctly. They are more likely to defend pre-marital sex."

In other words, the kids that are going to Sunday school are more likely to have an unbiblical worldview. How on earth can that be explained, Ken Ham?

KEN: Well, that was the shocking part of the research. The revealing part was that we are losing these kids at a much younger age than we realized. The shocking part was to find out that those that went to Sunday school regularly, that was 61% of them. We divide them into a number of different subgroups. One subgroup was those that went to Sunday school regularly versus those that didn't. No one expected this. The researcher who was doing this, when he was putting it all together was absolutely shocked when he realized what happened here. Those that went to Sunday school regularly were much worse off spiritually as you said; more likely to defend abortion, more likely to defend pre-marital sex, more likely to defend gay marriage and to be anti-church and so on.

You have to sit back and say, why is this? Another one of the statistics is this. Those that went to Sunday school regularly were more likely to have heard a church authority figure tell them that they could believe in millions and millions of years. In other words, they go to school and they are taught about millions and millions of years and evolution. They come to church and hear a church authority saying you can believe what you are taught at school, don't worry about that, Genesis doesn't matter, but trust in Jesus. They see that as hypocrisy. In fact, the big reason that these people left the church was hypocrisy. When Britt Beemer from

America's Research Group delved into what they meant by hypocrisy, it is basically saying that you believe the Bible when you don't. They saw these church authority figures saying that we believe the Bible but we really don't believe in Genesis, that doesn't matter anyways, but trust in Jesus.

I think there are two other issues that I bring up in the book. One is that many Sunday school teachers are volunteers. They aren't taught how to teach. They are not trained. Praise the Lord for volunteers, but they don't really know how to deal with children of this age. They haven't been taught how to answer the skeptical questions of this age. They basically just regurgitate what is in the curriculum, which is, I think, one of the big problems. Most of their Sunday school curricula teaches what I call Bible stories. You know, Jonah and the great fish, feeding of the 5000, Jesus on the Cross, Noah and the ark, Adam and Eve. Then you might say, don't you believe those and the answer is yes, but it is the way we teach them.

You see one of the problems is this. 90% of these kids go to public school where they are taught a history of millions of years, big bang, evolution, even and archaeological history that goes way back many thousands and thousands of years to the Egyptians and that sort of thing. It all contradicts the Bible's history. Then they come on to church and we teach these Bible stories. Yet, they are going to be asked questions like, how did Noah get all the animals on the ark? Accusations are going to be made. Noah couldn't fit the animals on the ark. Who made God and where did God come from? How do you know the Bible is true? There never was a flood? Where do all the races of people come from? Where did Cain get his wife? What about the dinosaurs? Those are the sorts of questions that we are all familiar with because they are asked today.

What we do in our Sunday schools, and the material teaches wonderful stories, but it doesn't teach them how to get ready for the real world, how to answer the skeptical questions, how to defend the Christian faith. We are not teaching apologetics. Not only that, the word story to them really means fairy tale. These kids come along and they hear their teacher say well we are going to have a story and that means fairy tale. At public school, they believe what they are being taught there is real history, real dinosaur bones, real stuff, the Grand Canyon and so on but at church you don't do real stuff. At church we do stories.

I believe that is a major problem and a major contributing factor to why these young people just look, as church is not real, school is, the Bible is really not true. It is hypocritical of them to tell me to trust in Jesus when they don't believe this bit. They tell me I can believe what I am taught at school. I don't have answers to these questions, maybe these skeptical questions are right and you can't trust the Bible and they walk away from the church.

DAVID: You are listening to Ken Ham this morning on The Christian Worldview radio program. He is the founder and President of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum which I visited a couple of summers ago. I really, really enjoyed that. It is a fantastic place that I would highly encourage you to take your family, just outside Cincinnati, Ohio. The website answersingenesis.org or creationmuseum.org.

Ken, you say on page 48 of your book, *Already Gone*, "churches need to totally re-evaluate the curricula they use including their Vacation Bible School programs. At the very least supplement at all age levels and all years with good apologetics curricula."

What I am hearing you say, Ken is that we can expect a lot more out of these very young people, not just young people, but very young people. They can begin to understand or they should be taught apologetics both at the church and at home. How do parents and people who are teaching at churches actually get the resources or get the ability to teach the type of apologetics that are necessary to sharpen the biblical worldview of these kids so the things they learn aren't just stories? So when they are faced with contrary, so-called evidence in the public school, how can they stand up to that?

DAVID: Back to live here on The Christian Worldview. You have been listening to an interview I conducted a few days ago with Ken Ham, the President and founder of Answers in Genesis. If you are like me when you heard him talk about the fact that we are losing our Christian kids at a much, much earlier age than we had previously thought. That what they are hearing in Sunday school and elementary school, as they get into those years, is so impactful in their life as to whether they are going to stay in the church and how committed a

Christian they were going to be, honestly I couldn't what the book said about, on page 38, they surveyed a thousand twenty-somethings who regularly attended church as children and teens and they asked the question, did you often attend Sunday school? 61% said yes, 39% said no.

Now the 61% were more likely to say, the ones who did attend Sunday school, were more likely to doubt the Bible because it was written by men. They were more likely not to believe all the accounts and stories in the Bible as true and accurate. They were more likely to doubt the Bible because it was not translated correctly. They were more likely to defend that abortion should continue to be legal, more likely to defend pre-marital sex than the unchurched ones.

How can that be? What is going wrong in the Sunday schools of our churches that produce twenty-somethings that discount it all more than their unchurched peers? We will come back and talk more with Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis after this first break of the day. This is The Christian Worldview with David Wheaton.

(break)

DAVID: We are talking about why the next generation of young people are already gone. I have been speaking with Ken Ham the President and founder of Answers in Genesis, an interview I did a few days ago. It is going to be a two-part interview. Part one this week and part two next week. It is going to be an extended, in-depth interview on what we need to do to make sure that not only our young people stay strong and in the church, but this is a bigger question for the overall church as well. Let's get back to that interview with Ken Ham.

DAVID: How do parents and people who are teaching in churches actually get the resources or get the ability to teach the type of apologetics that are necessary to sharpen the Biblical worldview of these kids so that the things they learn aren't just stories? And when they are faced with contrary, so-called evidence in the public school, how do they stand up to that?

KEN: I do feel for parents in that for many people they do feel ill equipped. Maybe they didn't study science in school and they feel like they are intimidated by PHD scientists. I think that is true for many pastors, too. They went to seminary and Bible College and feel a bit intimidated by scientists. They are not sure how to answer these questions. I was just at a very big church with a very respected pastor who said in front of the whole congregation after listening to me speak for the weekend. You have to forgive me for being ill equipped. I am not equipped as a pastor. I just ask for your forgiveness. He said I need to get equipped. I talked to him later and I said it is sort of understandable because we have had all these things thrown at us and things on the television, the public school and we haven't had organizations like Answers in Genesis until relatively recent times to be able to research these things to get us the answers. We certainly have had scripture and should have stood on scripture, but really today there is not excuse,

I want parents to understand, you don't have to be a PHD scientist to be able to give answers that involve basic principles. You really don't. There are some very simple answers to all these questions. I have had a six-year-old come up to me at a seminar and say, "Mr. Ham who made God?" There are simple answers to give even a six year old. For a teenager, you can give them a bit more detail and be a little bit more involved in science when you are giving your answer.

We need apologetics materials. 1Peter 3:15 says always be prepared to give an answer, or one translation says defend. The Greek word that is translated there is the apologia. The word apologia is the word form, which we get the word apologetics. It basically means to give an answer back; to give a logical reason; defense of the faith. So Answers in Genesis, for instance, we are producing apologetic material. In fact, you are finding more and more Christian organizations are recognizing we are missing apologetics. That is what this research shows. We are missing apologetics from our youth groups, Bible studies, Sunday school, from our general church teaching. I don't just mean creation apologetics. I mean general Bible apologetics.

What we are advocating is that we have to introduce into all of our classes in church and we need to start at home. Let's face it, education starts in the home. We need to introduce general Bible apologetics. Where did the Bible come from? How do we know it is true? Why those 66 books? Why not the other books? How do

we know it is the inspired Word of God? Where did God come from? We have to have some general Bible Christian apologetics and then specific creation apologetics for this age. Where did Cain get his wife? How did Noah get the animals on the ark? What about carbon-dating dinosaurs and so on?

In Answers in Genesis, we actually produce such curricula. In fact, we have just embarked on a project to do an entire apologetics, Biblically- authority based, gospel-oriented, Sunday school curriculum that will be for all ages available in 2011. In the meantime, we have lots of supplemental curricula for all ages, teens and adults, elementary and middle school. We do a VBS program that is apologetics in orientation. We have done two of them now. Our third one next year will be called Egypt File.

So those materials are becoming more and more available. There are other organizations out there too that are producing apologetic materials. We don't want to just do general apologetics. It has got to be specific creation apologetics, as well as as general Bible apologetics. That is what we need to be introducing. I encourage moms and dads and Christian leaders, look, there are lots of materials where you can read, simple things. You don't have to be a PHD in genetics to talk about natural selection. You don't have to have a doctorate from some seminary in theology to talk about theology to your kids. There are basic principals all of us can learn. So don't be intimidated by the scientists. Let's start doing this now at every age level.

DAVID: Ken, I totally agree with your point; you don't need to be a PHD. I think the problem is that maybe even more than intimidation, what frustrates me in some ways, on this program every week, we try and tell people about great resources and how they can grow in their faith. Download this and get this person's book and then you can't motivate people to do it. I think there is a problem there with just flat out apathy and laziness. When you realize something is important, you realize there is a sickness, you try and get well. So people have to realize how important this is. Let me just say something about Answers in Genesis. The amount of resources and the quality of resources and the focal point of the resources being on true, sound, Biblical apologetics, with a Gospel message, not just about defending the first verse of scripture, although that is very important. What you offer on answersingenesis.org is truly astounding. There is really no excuse nowadays for not being able to teach our kids. With the amount of apologetics form Answers in Genesis and elsewhere available, there is really no excuse. So if your kids go through and you wonder why they can't defend their faith and they go through middle school and high school and they are gone like your book talks about, it shouldn't be for lack of parents and lack of church leaders teaching them because there are plenty of resources available today.

Ken, I would like to hear about your own personal upbringing in Australia. Tell us what it was like growing up in the Ham household in Australia?

KEN: I had a father and mother who loved the Lord; who stood on the authority of the Word. I grew up in a country that would be considered a very pagan country. Australia, even though it has some unique animals and Australians by and large are very friendly people. We talk with proper English, of course. Australians are not Christians. About 1% would be considered born-again Christians. Probably less than 1% of 20 million people.

So I was brought up in a pagan culture where there weren't that many churches. I had a father, whose father died when he was 16. He said he read the words of his Heavenly Father over and over again. He loved the Word of God, but he was always one who when you believe something, if you are going to be a Christian, you need to defend the Christian faith. You need to stand up for your belief. In Australia, when you were a Christian, that did stand out. You had to be prepared to defend your faith because there were so many non-Christians. I grew up with a father who was all the time answering the liberal critics of the Bible. Trying to explain away the miracles.

I remember one church we went to. Some of the country towns we went to had one or two churches. The pastor would say well little boy to get his loaves and fishes everybody else did the same. My father would go up to him with all of us there with him and open up the Bible, thus said the Lord, have you not read it is written. That all had a great effect on me. I had a father who taught me a number of principles such as just because something seems to contradict the Bible, doesn't mean you then start to doubt the Bible or re-interpret the

Bible. First of all, go to the Bible, make sure what it is saying and check the context and everything and if you are really sure it is saying that, then you know that man knows nothing compared to what God knows. Just because you don't have the answer doesn't mean there is not one. You need to just wait and search for the answer and see if the Lord allows you to get that answer. We won't ever have all the answers.

Even just principles like that. Thinks like, when you have a study Bible or a commentary, I will never forget my father saying, looking at a study Bible, he said remember the notes are not inspired like the text and the text is actually the commentary on the notes. You know, lots of things like that, just to remind us to stand on the authority of the Word of God. Even though my father at that stage never used the word apologetics, as far as I can remember, he really had that bent in our household. He was always teaching us how to answer the liberal critics. How to answer the skeptical questions of the age. That had a great effect on me. Seeing my father do that gave us a real ability to know that we could trust God's Word and we should tell others that they can.

DAVID: You can see how big of an impact that had on your life and the lives of many others now through Answers in Genesis. The high view of God, the high view of scripture, the authority of the Word in your home is really just what we are talking about today. When we don't have that in the home and especially in the church as well, which is a sad place not to have it, then we have books like your coming out, *Already Gone*: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it.

Only 20% of Americans, in your book you say, believe in a literal six-day creation. Many Christians believe in a theistic evolution, which means that God was the creator but He did it over millions and millions of years. Why is the issue of the first verse in Genesis, In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth, and the Genesis account? Why is a literal six-day creation so important and how do you briefly defend that?

That will be the final question Ken Ham will answer in part one of our interview this week on *The Christian Worldview*. Then it is your turn. We will take your phone calls. The question is, what do you think is the reason so many will depart the church and the faith? Ken Ham has given his reasons.

(break)

DAVID: Ken Ham mentioned the word apologetics. I lot of people think that means, make an apology. We have to be apologetic about the faith and so forth and sort of ashamed of it. No, it doesn't mean that. Apologetics mean defending the doctrines of the faith. It means being able to articulate and communicate and defend what the Bible teaches as in, is the Bible the inspired Word of God? Are these the actual books that were written? Are there other books that are in the Bible? That is a core, very important one. Are the stories true? Are the miracles true? That is what Biblical apologetics does. Was Christ resurrected from the dead? Did dinosaurs live on the earth? All these different things. Creation. This is all about Biblical apologetics. It is not making an apology for the faith. Like, I compartmentalize my life and I live in the real world during the week and on the weekend it makes me feel better to think there is a God. No. It is about having fact and evidence that actually defends what the Bible actually says.

Again, we have one short segment with Ken Ham left and then we will take your phone calls for the remaining part of the show. This is why we split up the interview. We had an extended time with Ken Ham and we wanted to make sure that listeners had a time to call in and offer their feedback.

The question is what do you think is the reason so many young people will depart the church and the faith? Is it really that we are not teaching biblical apologetics to them in literally Sunday school and Vacation Bible school at the youngest years or are there other reasons beyond this?

That is the question, and also as you are going to hear in this last answer by Ken Ham, the second question for you is how do we as Christians and churches work to regain Biblical authority? He is going to talk about that in just a second. Back with Ken Ham. Four minutes left and then your phone calls.

DAVID: Why is the issue of the first verse in Genesis, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the Genesis account, why is the literal, six-day creation so important and how do you briefly defend that?

KEN: When I am asked that question, my real answer to that question, why does it matter what you believe about Genesis 1 – 11? Why does it matter if you take those literal six days? The bottom line comes down to the authority issue. Does it matter that we take God's Word as it is written? That is the bottom line. The way I like to explain it to help people really understand; there are also some issues we can look at. If you believe in millions of years, you have this fossil record millions of years before man. Fossil record has in it evidence of diseases like cancer and brain tumors. It has animals eating each other. It has thorns in it said to be millions of years before man. The Bible says thorns came after the curse. God said everything He made was very good. Then you have disease like brain tumors and cancer millions of years before man and God called that very good. All those inconsistencies and problems with those who believe in evolution and millions of years and try to add it to the Bible.

The bottom line is this. Why do we believe as Christians that Jesus Christ bodily rose from the dead? We don't have a movie re-run of it. We don't have a time machine and go back in history and see. We weren't there. The only reason we really know that Jesus rose from the dead is because we have the Scriptural account. We have those eyewitnesses. We have the record of history. We have the Word of God that we know we can trust. We take God's Word as written. If it is history, we take it as history. We know Jesus rose from the dead. We know He walked on water. We know if he swallowed a man. We know the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land. That is the point. How do we even know there was a virgin birth? Because we take the scriptures as written.

Now when we go to Genesis, what we find is, so many people in the church say, yes but Genesis doesn't mean what it says because of the million years. Because of evolution, we re-interpret the days, we re-interpret the flood. They are taking what secular scientists say and say but look, the secular scientists have proven millions of years. You have got to fit that into the Bible. The secular scientists say evolution is true. You have got to fit that into the Bible.

DAVID: That is not true. They haven't proven any of it and that is what is so astounding.

KEN: Well, they haven't. What Christians are really doing is taking outside ideas to the Bible, re-interpreting it and what they have done is unlock a door. The door they unlock was; you don't have to take this as written. It really started over in England in this era of history and it really started in the 1800s when we had much of the church leaders responding to the millions of years, re-interpreting the days of creation. When Darwin came along, re-interpreted the creation account.

If you look at England today, it is dead spiritually. What happened was, they unlocked that door in the church to say to the next generation, it doesn't matter about this part of the Bible, but keep trusting in Jesus, believe the resurrection, but you can believe what the secular scientists teach you at school. Then you can re-interpret Genesis accordingly. Eventually what happened was that door got pushed open further and further until finally they just walked away from the church? That is what is happening in England. That is what is happening in America.

If you think about it, secular scientists have never proven that a man can rise from the dead. Why don't we then re-interpret the resurrection? Secular scientists have never proven the virgin birth. Why not re-interpret the virgin birth? The point is, it is an issue of authority. That is the bottom line.

DAVID: It certainly is. What is going to be our authority? The Words of God or the mind of man. I know which way I am going to chose in that debate any day.

KEN: What we have lost from that culture is Biblical authority. That is what we have lost. This is the issue that I believe we need to understand. This is the issue for today, for this era of history. Understanding the times we live in, this is the issue that had really caused the loss of Biblical authority where the church compromised in regard to man's ideas fitting it into Genesis in particular. Subsequent generations see it as hypocrisy. You tell me to believe the resurrection, trust in Jesus, but you say this bit doesn't matter. You tell me I can believe what the secular scientists say about millions of years and evolution, but I am not to believe

what they say about man rising from the dead. It is all inconsistent. It is all hypocrisy. You are not taking God at His Word.

I am not saying that they are actually saying this in their mind, it is how it really affects them and then eventually they just walk away from the church.

DAVID: That is it for part one this week with our interview with Ken Ham. You will hear all of part two, next week on the program. It is a very provocative subject. He is talking about the fact that 2/3 of conservative evangelical teens or even before then, by the time they get into their twenties, they will have left the church. Two-thirds. In the beginning of *Already Gone*, his book, he shows pictures of all these great churches in England that have now been turned into restaurants and mosques and nightclubs and so forth. There is just no one going to church any more in England. It is just dead. He is saying that America is headed down that road. He gave his reasons for it. Now it is your turn.

The questions is, why do you think so many young people will depart the church in their twenties and will depart from the faith? Number two, how do we as Christians and churches work to regain a much stronger Biblical authority?

Let's go first to Bella Vista, Arkansas and Kurt. Welcome to The Christian Worldview. Kurt, you are on the air.

KURT: Good morning gentlemen. I hope it is as good of a day for you guys as it is here down here.

DAVID: It is.

KURT: Thank you for having me on. I think the reason why so many young people depart, and I have been working with my own two teenagers on that, is that they are confused. The thing about it is that the people that many of them choose to listen to either voluntarily or involuntarily are equally if not more so confused. Mr. Ham, you kept referring to the big bang theory. I had time to look up something on the Internet from the time when I called your show. Down here in Arkansas in December of 1991, there was a trial about whether schools could teach creationism. In a nutshell, there was a gentleman named Chandra Wickramasinghe who is a distinguished researcher, who has a whole alphabet after his name. Wickramasinghe worked with Sir Fred Hoyle who coined the Big Bang Theory. A little known fact is, they were called as expert witnesses. Apparently someone asked them to be able to calculate the odds of evolution. They just did calculations for how amino acids could be able to create one enzyme used in a protein. The odds that they came up with for these amino acids forming an enzyme were Ten to the 40 Thousandth power. That is astronomical.

DAVID: Incomprehensible is what it is.

KURT: That is before you do a cell. That is before you have the odds of creating how a human being could have evolved. They said it was mathematically impossible. They didn't even believe. Sir Fred Hoyle has departed us. I think Wickramasinghe is still alive. They didn't even believe in evolution, yet they coined the Big Bang Theory. They are equally confused because I think it was Wickramasinghe's testimony was that they came up with the theory of something called panspermia that some higher organism seeded life. That is as confused as the other. A lot of time when I confront people with this, they are amazed that something that was taught as fact, that the originators of that so-called fact were as confused when you look at it as they are.

DAVID: Kurt, it is a great point and I appreciate your call. It is exactly the case. At the end of the movie by Ben Stein, *Expelled*, the great atheist, the great proponent for the Big Bang Theory and evolution, Richard Dawkins, the one that all the college professors look up to as the really smart guy. He was asked, how do you think life did begin on earth. He said, well maybe it was seeded by alien life from another planet. Oh really, that is all you got! You go nothing.

We are taking about why the next generation of Christian young people is already gone. We have to turn this around. We will discuss this on the last segment of The Christian Worldview coming up next.

(break)

DAVID: We have asked the question, why do you think so many young people will depart the church and the faith?

Let's go first to Jackson, North Carolina and CJ. Welcome to The Christian Worldview. CJ what is your comment on this topic?

CJ: My comment is how can you leave, walk away from or abandon something you are a part of? My thought is that maybe these youths were never ever really, genuinely converted. Maybe they were never Christians to begin with in the first place. I see a lot of youth get fired up at youth meetings and things like this and ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, but I wonder if it ever really has been genuine for a lot of them. \

DAVID: That is a good point and I think it is a very valid point. As a matter of fact, I write about this in *University of Destruction*, chapter 4. This is a chapter very early on in my book because I think it is one of the two biggest contributing reasons why so many will say they have lost their faith, because they never had it to begin with. There is no question about that. Just making a profession of something doesn't mean you possess it. So many times as parents or churches we look at a five year old who says I believe in Jesus as being a true, saving faith. That is just not the case. Do they understand repentance? Do they understand what they are being saved from? I didn't when I did that when I was five years old. I truly didn't understand. I wasn't truly saved. I don't think I was saved until I was 24 until I came to understand my own sin and my need for repentance and what I would justly deserve if I didn't have God's grace imputed to me through Christ's righteousness. There is no way. Not to say that all childhood conversions aren't true, but where is the evidence. The fact that they leave the faith later, I don't believe that once you are truly saved, you can depart. That is my understanding of Biblical teaching. I think Ken Ham is saying, why are so many just leaving the church in their 20s and not coming back. Well it could be because they are not saved. But he is also saying because, they are seeing a discrepancy between the teaching of Biblical stories and nice things to believe in church and what they are teaching in school about evolution and so forth well that is true too. So they see the hypocrisy and disconnect there and think well, why should I believe that?

Let's go next to Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Brian. Welcome to The Christian Worldview Brian. What is your comment on why the next generation of Christians is already gone?

BRIAN: It is like your point you just said, Sunday school teaching stories and nice things. We were sitting around the breakfast table this morning and I didn't even know my son was listening to the broadcast, he is twelve, and I said Noah, why do you think children are leaving? He said ever since the first grade all we do is hear the same old stories over and over again. Why can't we explore parts of the Bible we haven't looked at yet? That is not an indictment so much of the Sunday school, as I am taking it as an indictment on myself. I need to bring him up stronger because I don't want to build a straw hut for him and when he goes out into the world, he needs a house built on the rock of Christ.

DAVID: That is such a great point. I personally believe we way under-expect, our expectations can be a lot higher, for what we can teach even the youngest children. We think it has to be so basic and so simple. They can take in a lot more than you think. They can dig into the Word. You can challenge their minds and give them evidence. Just teaching the same things over and over, the fluff, it is like eating cotton candy. It doesn't do anything for you. Expect a lot more. I wish we could somehow get that enacted with Sunday school teachers. In some way, according to Ken Ham, the most important people in the church are the Sunday school teachers. They are the ones who are teaching the next generation. The students are either going to be accepting or rejecting it when they meet the storms of life, based on the rock they built their house on at the youngest of ages.

Let's go next to Macon, Georgia and Kathy. Welcome to The Christina Worldview, Kathy. What is your comment on why the next generation of Christian young people is already gone?

KATHY: Thanks for having me. I think because, although we teach in Sunday school and church and Wednesday night Bible study, the family culture now is so different. There is no longer a mother and father in the home. There are the single parents. They are either living with a partner and so children don't see the work that they are teaching. They don't see the parents living it. I think another way to regain that is to emphasize to them how we even left the faith at one time, doing our own thing and how we crumbled in our own direction and how returning back to the Word and back to God's principle really get us back on track.

DAVID: Kathy, that is a great call. It is a great point. I don't think there ever is one little simple answer to this. Oh, we will just teach them apologetics earlier on. Well, first of all, you have to have Sunday school teachers who are on board and actually believe that the faith can be defended. I think there are a lot of people who don't believe that who are teaching Sunday school. That is why they teach the stories in Sunday school and they hear evolution in the school and they are not strong enough in their own faith. She is right. Basically you have to have the adults who are taking their faith seriously who can defend it themselves, who are strong in Biblical apologetics.

Once again, like Ken Ham said, you don't have to be a PHD. There are just a few basic things that you have to be able to defend that are defensible. The creation account, the inspiration of scripture, the authority of scripture. These things are so key. It has convicted me that we need to do more of this on the program. We have done shows like this on the Bible and the inspiration of scripture and inerrancy. We just need to do more. We need to keep on reminding ourselves over and over again, because we forget. Another caller said, maybe they are not truly saved. That can be true as well. We are teaching the same stories over and over. That is true as well. There has to be a wholesale change here from starting with ourselves, going to how we encourage our churches and then going down to there and expecting a lot more of our young people in the churches.

One more call today in Ottawa, Ohio. Rebecca, welcome to The Christian Worldview. What is your comment on why the next generation of Christian young people is already gone?

REBECCA: I agree with Ken Ham and all the other callers, but what I wanted to say was I was saved when I was 37. I already had four children. I had three after that, seven total. What I believe, because they are all strong Christians now who know the Word of God and believe the Word of God, even though some went through college and some did not. Some are in the business world. No matter where they are, they are solid on God's word because they were taught at home. Abraham was told that God chose him because he would teach his children. He taught Isaac and his grandchildren because he lived so long. He taught them what God had said. If we don't do that as parents, it is the churches responsibility, but it is primarily the parent's responsibility. I am a pastor's wife and we are involved in ministry where there is no or very little Sunday school. My goal is to teach children and to teach adults, Sunday school teachers, and that is what I have been doing.

DAVID: Rebecca, I appreciate your call. It is so true. As Ken Ham said, you heard about his background, this is what his father did. A high view of Biblical authority in the home makes a big difference in the child. We live in a changing and challenging world everyone but there is one thing you can count on, Jesus Christ and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever.

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