

**Zacharias, Ravi. *The Real Face of Atheism*. Revised and updated edition of *A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004.**

We recently finished reading this book in our men's small group. Overall, I think the impression of the group was positive. In classic Zacharias style, he stays on the "big picture" level in an attempt to encourage the reader that they might be able to understand an atheist better and interact with him if s/he tackles the broader questions and assumptions. They are: reason for being (origin), no ethics to espouse (morality), no reason for living (meaning), and no hope beyond the grave (destiny). If you approach the book expecting to get help in thinking through these issues, it is a great resource. One of the weaknesses is that Zacharias is dealing with the "vanilla" flavor of atheists, while there are many other varieties that are necessarily driven by one of those four issues. As a small group, we were hoping to get more specific help in talking with atheists about the gospel and this book doesn't contain that, except in one appendix. Personally, I enjoyed the book. It is loaded with quotes from great authors such as Chesterton, Lewis, Muggeridge and other great poets and literary writers. One of the bigger points that was cemented in my mind is the connection between the rise of evolution and atheism.

**Level:** Medium

**Theological Stance:** Christian and Missionary Alliance

**Rating:** 7

**Recommend?** Yes