

The Age of Accountability

By M. Rene Lauzier, 7-20-25

Excerpt from the book ***Courageous Love: Living with Clarity in an Age of Chaos***[®]
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Satan would love for you to believe three common deceptions or fallacies that he is very adept at applying in order to corrupt both individuals and societal systems. These fallacies are not just carried by spiritually immature Christians, but by society at-large. And when both society and the carnal Christians believe in weak Christian doctrine, because it is Satan's ongoing plan to water down the truth of God's Word, society as a whole gets infected and begins to redefine absolute truths to obscure the truth of God's Word.

Satan promotes various worldviews that convince society to believe that there is no God, and you are your own God. The elements of a worldview, which is how one views and interprets the world and how they interact with it, have to do with four things: origin, meaning, morality, and destiny. *Origin* has to do with answering the question *where did we come from?* *Meaning* has to do with answering the questions *why are we here* and *what does it mean to be human?* *Morality* has to do with answering the question *how do we relate to the world around us?* *Destiny* has to do with answering the eternal question of *what happens to us after this life?*

I recently read a book by two pastors (Josh & Sean McDowell) who use three questions to instill the idea of a biblical worldview among their Christian students learning theology. Origin is the same as I used in the preceding paragraph, but instead of meaning, morality, and destiny they use only three term and related questions focused on *origin*, *predicament*, and *resolution*¹. For *predicament*, the question is: What went wrong? And for *resolution*, the question is: How do we fix it? The nuance between the two sets of questions relates to the fact that the four that I was taught was in the context of theology proper when defining the elements that comprise a worldview. The questions that the McDowell's offer relate to a deeper dive specifically into the Christian life when applying a biblical worldview to the world that we live in. The differences in the framework relate to foundation versus application.

These differences help us understand that when a Christ follower's walk is based on a biblical worldview they will *see things through a lens that is informed by God's Word*. God teaches us lessons that can resolve any predicament we are faced with. How much of God's Word that is used in forming one's worldview can end up resulting in a biblical, semi-biblical, or non-biblical worldview. Believe it or not, only one in five Christians thinks Satan has anything to do with this world or Christianity in general². But *biblical* in front of the term *worldview* actually means based on the content and context of the Bible.

But a cursory understanding of Christianity and its foundation in the Bible can lead both believers and non-Christians to mistakenly see Christians as fanatics, shallow, uninformed, and/or hypercritical. For example, I'd argue that antisemitic leanings possessed by someone who says they are a Christian is evidence of someone who actually has a non-biblical worldview.

If people are easily overcome by corruptive influences, does it not make perfect sense that the systems people create that are overseen by people corrupted to various levels will also be prone to being corrupted? A key topic of my first book, *The Great American Backslide* (Lauzier, 2024) centered on understanding that both individuals and systems are being progressively corrupted by the dominion of darkness, because that is what both the Bible and human history demonstrate many times over (look at Genesis 18-19, Matthew 23, Romans 1, Revelation 18).

A person's worldview impacts their beliefs and what they bring into and take out of their religion. People and their beliefs are intertwined with the systems they create, whether righteous or unjust. With that, here is how three great fallacies (deceptions) that people sometimes believe about Christianity manifest themselves at the societal level:

The *Fallacy of Goodness*, stated at its broadest, societal level as the Fallacy of *Human Goodness*, comes with a false presumption that society can create good outcomes for all people by making a certain standard of living available to everyone. Human goodness is false societally because it has been proven to be false many times over. Because we are fallen humans, we often practice behaviors leading to oppression, class warfare, and societal destruction. Our human capacity for evil, which is spiritually motivated by the dominion of darkness, automatically takes us there without God's Spirit guiding us.

As far as living standards go in a society like the USA that is unconstrained as far as resources, we assume an individual is always willing to participate in and contribute to their own success and that is *not* always the case. Society is not inherently good because society is comprised of fallen people living in Satan's playground. For example, society equates the ending of human life through abortion as a good and necessary intervention for little to no reason, whether the rationalization is economic, social, or mere convenience. Satan helps us repackage our worldviews using terms like reproductive rights, which clearly point to the sheer depravity of what society considers good. This fallacy is somewhat related to . . .

The *Fallacy of Works* at the societal level suggests that any works associated with our values and system of beliefs are better than the works of others because our version of love, community, goodness and righteousness is based upon those moral foundations that we personally believe. Perfect example: The person involved in the rescue of cats feels just as righteous as the dog lover as does the abortion opponent. We cannot all believe that our distinct and varied worldviews of morality are true and that our view is most righteous

because it combats the evils of *(fill in the blank)* (capitalism; dictatorship; despotism; fascism; communism; socialism; progressivism; conservatism; the Republicans; the Democrats; all the other people with the small minds, etc.).

Sure, we should all seek to at least minimize potential negative social outcomes be it death, racism, disease, famine, oppression, or inequality. But loving others must also come with loving the truth and following a set of standards that we have not made up ourselves – and sometimes the standards take the form of biblical hard truths. Tough love is sometimes required or there is no love or legitimacy³. Righteousness is judged by God alone, and God says that righteous judgment can be seen from the spiritual fruit inherent in one's efforts but only when done with mercy, empathy, and grace. Only He knows from what true motive our personal works are being offered. A hard lesson learned regarding societal works and their worthlessness was Operation Warp Speed during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many lies that were hiding the true underlying schemes, motives and greedy intents. The imposter of unrighteous works was being cloaked in fake righteousness.

The *Fallacy of Control* is manifested societally in increasing governmental over-reaches into every aspect of the lives we live in America. During the Biden presidency, there were clear indications that socialism and Marxism were beginning to take hold in certain political circles. This manifested in the Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City with the candidacy of Zohran Mamdani. Mamdani has said he plans to address the cost of food by creating city-owned grocery stores that will pay no rent or property taxes, buy and sell at wholesale prices from centralized warehouses and partner with local vendors to keep prices down⁴. Suggesting it is in society's best interests to attempt to control the price of food in this manner in a society that has fully embraced capitalism for over 250 is betting on false promises that have already been proven many times over to be implacable lies associated with Marxism.

Human nature, which includes getting our needs and desires addressed with the least amount of personal effort possible, is beyond the possibility of predictable control. We always find a way to corrupt virtuosity, so we really should focus on what seems to consistently work – competition. In a pitiful, weak and arrogant attempt to be God, human beings have begun to chart the future course of the world toward a direction that also dishonors the sovereignty and goodness of God. We are acting as if God does not exist and His purposes are non-existent and/or ineffective, which requires us to take action to insert our own control in the place of God.

Whether individual or societal, the great fallacies of the baby Christians and the world we live in are one in the same and these are just three common examples that often overlap. Personal accountability from the perspective of someone with a biblical worldview is to be careful not to get caught by these lies and deceptions, which brings me to the key topic of this chapter - accountability.

My spin on accountability is much greater in scope than a discussion of mere personal accountability, but I will touch on that topic first. Ultimately, I want to present you my discourse on *The Age of Accountability* as a specific period of time that will one day be defined in world history. I don't know when it began, but I do know when it will end. First, let me discuss what it means individually, followed by a discussion from the societal perspective.

In Christianese, the age of accountability is a term related to when a person is to be held personally responsible for their own sinful behaviors and actions. They become accountable at that point in time because they know right from wrong – what is acceptable and unacceptable. Before the age of accountability, a person is not responsible for their actions because they have not yet figured out right from wrong or have been given no chance or ability to understand it. As put by gotquestions.com: *The concept of the “age of accountability” is that children are not held accountable by God for their sins until they reach a certain age and that, if a child dies before reaching the “age of accountability,” that child will, by the grace and mercy of God, be granted entrance to heaven*⁵.

Bear in mind everyone is sinful, accountable to God, and is ultimately condemned without coming to the knowledge of God, but when does that knowledge of God morph into a state of eternal accountability in a person? Jewish tradition suggests the age of accountability is when you turn thirteen years of age; however, the Bible gives no support to the age of thirteen being a set age of accountability⁶. The age at which a child can distinguish right from wrong and becomes capable of choosing Christ likely varies from child to child. Therefore, the chronological age of accountability probably also varies based on their personal human interactions, environmental upbringing, exposure to certain activities, and social understanding.

We do know that the acknowledgement of God's existence and sovereignty through our exposure to His creation is all that is required for God to hold us spiritually accountable as described in Romans 1. Once we have the required exposure to and knowledge of God's existence as he determines, it is God who will determine our age of accountability, not us or anyone else. Spiritual accountability always culminates in an end state involving either knowledge and repentance or knowledge and lack of repentance. Knowing right from wrong coupled with the knowledge of the existence of God makes us spiritually accountable as to our eternal destination (although an extreme Calvinist would argue otherwise).

The age of accountability for an individual is inferred in the Bible, but there is no particular set of conditions nor chronological marker. I argue there are two factors that determine the age of accountability. The first is, God is only the judge. As our own wills and desires interact with the Creator of the universe, God will determine if we know him or not. Secondly, once we know of his existence whether by introduction or creation, we can choose whether to repent and follow him or choose to ignore the knowledge of the truth.

As they say with certain product disclaimers, as far as the age of accountability, individual results may vary. Some people become accountable earlier than others. Now let me propose a *societal age of accountability*, but first a little background.

I propose there is an age of accountability and also an era of time that is part of the current church age we are now in that we can conveniently call *The Age of Accountability*. How is it possible to apply the concept of personal, biblical accountability to the world in general? More importantly, how would a proclaimed Age of Accountability fit within the eschatological plan of the Bible?

First, I believe the *era* or *age* of societal accountability starts with a societal condition that affirms the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy: *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables*⁷ . . . This period of time represents a clear turning away from God so that we can follow our own standards. And those new standards represent both the standards of morality given by the world as well as the compromised standards that the church chooses to believe, the latter being a critical telltale sign running rampant through the church now. Those are standards created by the prince of this age. The prince of the power of the air. We can check both of those boxes, the turning the way from God and his eternal standards, and the making of new standards so we look righteous by our own or society's standards.

We can also check the box of ever-increasing persecution of Christians by both men and Satan as Jesus described in John 15 (v. 18-25). But Christ refers to *the period of birth pains* as the beginning of the period of tribulation, which has a clear beginning that commences sometime after the church is called home in the rapture and after the great truce of peace with Israel is formulated by the Antichrist.

In Jeff Kinley's book *As It Was in the Days of Noah* (Kinley, 2022), he identifies distinct eras that are commonly understood by biblical scholars as eras or ages that define Christianity through the ages. These are *dispensation periods* in which God governs humanity according to the degree of revelation given to them. Kinley identifies them as follows⁸:

- The Dispensation of Innocence (Adam to the Fall)
- The Dispensation of Conscience (Fall to the Flood – 1,656 years)
- The Dispensation of Human Government (post-Flood to Abraham – 325 years)
- The Dispensation of Promise (Abraham to the Exodus – 430 years)
- The Dispensation of Law (Moses to Jesus – 1,500 years)
- The Dispensation of Grace (Jesus' ascension beginning the Church Age to the rapture – 2,000+ years)
- The Dispensation of the Kingdom (second coming to Great White Throne judgment – 1,000 years)

In Christendom, we are in the present era known as the *church age*, and in the dispensation period of the Dispensation of Grace. The church age began with the ascension of Christ into heaven from this earth as He was taken up in the clouds forty days after his resurrection. The church age will end when we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them (other believers) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord⁹. This is known as the rapture of the church.

While we all live during the Dispensation of Grace (known as the Church Age), believers eagerly wait upon the “Kingdom come.” When Christ’s Kingdom comes, we will begin the Dispensation of the Kingdom. But as the dispensation of God’s plan takes place, we would be wise to understand the signs of the shift from grace to judgment/justice. Christ will come in power, justice and judgment one day. But before that, and before *end times* begin, there will be a period of ever-increasing depravity that will occur during the present Church age. I suggest that between Grace and God’s Kingdom on earth is the Age of Accountability. I would place the following period of time as falling in between the Dispensation of Grace and the Dispensation of the Kingdom in Kinley’s list:

The Age of Accountability: the era of sifting; the knowledge of the truth in the Book of Revelation; the awareness of the full breadth and scope of *End Times* prophecy as perceived by the Body of Christ.

Although not biblically defined, the Age of Accountability from a societal perspective within the church body must end at the rapture of the church, which concludes the era known as the Church Age. Although *individual* accountability still extends beyond the event of the rapture since there will be tribulation saints, the church body is brought home before the wrath and the great wrath of the tribulation begins. If you are still alive and remain after the rapture and believe you were saved, Christ did not know you. The blindness that the culture offers and a hard heart is susceptible to may have obscured the signs of the times.

We all can clearly see it. It just doesn’t have a name, nor does it need one. But the fact is we are living in a biblically unnamed period of time leading up to the removal of the church through the rapture that will precede the 7-year tribulation. If you do not study the Bible, and if you have not kept up with the increasing end times focus of the church in general, you may not have noticed the great number of eschatological (end times) books being written now. These books are being produced by laypersons like me, by trusted pastors/authors, and famous authors/teachers/biblical scholars who have in common a love for the complete truth. Some even have very large national and international followings. These writings and other means of blowing the trumpet are all indications of the Age of Accountability, the era of warning and sifting that we now find ourselves in.

We should be able to hear the sound of the trumpet call within the church that warns us of the Age of Accountability – a time of spiritual growth that acknowledges the whole truth of God’s Word including the current sprint toward depravity signifying the run-up to the

beginning of end times prophecy. We are in the sifting period of living in a culture during times of chaos that precede the real birth pains. Right now, the birth pains period that signify the tribulation has not quite begun; however, the pregnancy that will deliver the beginning of end times is in the final trimester!

Although I am not arguing for a newly defined period of dispensation, we can leave that to the biblical scholars, there is always a substantial warm-up before the big game begins. We would be well-served as a society to apply the precepts and principles of the Bible by understanding how God has applied his system of justice to mankind's arrogance and disobedience in the past. We are using a biblical worldview when we rely on and apply those biblical principles and precepts to our current global culture. Here are some societal signs that likely foretell of another future course correction from God:

1. Attempting to assume the role of the sovereign God in the creation of life (i.e. designer babies, eugenics, genetic manipulation of God's sovereign human code so that we become God, and defining when human life begins and when it can lawfully be ended according to man instead of according to God),
2. Prideful and arrogant activities that represent thinly veiled attempts to be God (i.e. trekking deep into the second heaven and Musk's Occupy Mars objective; using machines via artificial intelligence (AI) instead of our God-given brains to analyze information and make moral decisions),
3. Redefining God's written Word and the morality that God has given us for a lesser morality of our own creation or an alternative reality through redefinition of absolute truths (i.e. redefining what represents a marriage or even what a man and woman are),
4. Creating false narratives, fake solutions, and systems based on lies to address problems that are very poor substitutes for the perfect systems that God has already created and provided us (i.e. providing chemicals that elicit a chromosomal level response that we redefine as something other than the gene therapy that it is), and
5. Pursuing the knowledge of good and evil (i.e. using machines via artificial intelligence (AI) instead of our God-given brains to analyze information, make moral decisions, and determine the direction of society because it is better than what God can do with human beings).

The recurring themes symptomatic of increasing depravity described in the above list have a common thread, that thread being a lack of faith in God, which is demonstrated by our desire to be God and in control of our own lives. In a word, disobedience. These behaviors all demonstrate a lack of knowing God, understanding God, appreciating God, and glorifying God for the very existence of this world and everything in it. These anti-God

activities come and go in waves, are expressed in various manifestations of evil, and are demonstrably present during times of great worldwide trial. But exactly when did the era of increasing difficulties and evils that Christ called the beginning of birth pains actually begin? After all, we have seen various periods of evil and the resulting destruction that ebb and flow as the level of depravity increases and our reliance on God decreases.

I surmise that behavioral modification arrives when God determines that in his inscrutable system of justice we as a society have gone too far toward attempting to either be Him, or as is more common, do His job. God is merciful indeed, but He also sees when we become so arrogant that we find it easy to do our own things, be our own gods, and seek to possess abilities that are forbidden by or only achievable by God himself. We repeat the desire to be God and build a tower to heaven.

As the church body becomes increasingly aware of the signs of the times indicating we have more trouble ahead of us, our teachings should flow against the current of the god of the age. Getting back to good, sound biblical teaching based on scripture alone instead of the culture is an excellent start. We need to study the playbook in every minute detail, even the hard truths, because the Enemy knows it inside and out. And when we are knowledgeable at that same level, we will be able to identify the plays that he uses. And when we are aware of and can anticipate the plays of deception and accusation, we can implement the counter-measures of the Holy Spirit. We do this by appropriating the power of the Spirit within every believer that guarantees our victory in Christ and brings us love, joy, and eternal peace here on earth.

¹ (McDowell, 2010, 2023), e-book version ISBN 978-0-7369-8703-5, pg. 46

² Austin Hamrick sermon on *The Ministry of Satan*, 7-20-25; Cornerstone Chapel, Leesburg, VA; reportedly sourced from Barna Group study

³ Hebrews 12:3-11 – The Discipline of God

⁴ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/06/25/zohran-mamdani-platform-policies-issues/84350898007/> - accessed 7-20-25

⁵ <https://www.gotquestions.org/age-of-accountability.html>

⁶ Ibid

⁷ 2 Timothy 4:3-4

⁸ (Kinley, 2022), ISBN 978-0-7369-8530-7, e-book version, pgs. 111-112

⁹ 1 Thessalonians 4:17