Joustra and Wilkinson's "How to survive the Apocalypse; Zombies, cylon, faith and politics at the end of the world" (Book Review)

Cynthia Hammell

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Joustra and Wilkinson examine what recent popular culture says about our modern/postmodern society and politics. One reason the authors give for writing about this topic is, “Both of us teach college students and know keenly the ways that their imaginations and ours have been molded by the shows and movies we watch and the conversations we have with others about them.” (p. 7) They delve into the fields of philosophy, political science and sociology, as well as religion for their analysis. Since many of these stories include apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic and dystopian elements, the authors provide some historical context for these terms.

The authors offer compelling insights on the themes of shows from *Battlestar Galactica*, and *The Walking Dead*, to *Mad Men*. They also discuss the movie *Her*, and *The Hunger Games* franchise. They point out that our society seems to be increasingly fragmented and people are looking for truth or “authenticity,” and identity, as they have lost their faith in institutions. People also have more choices than ever. According to Joustra and Wilkinson, “Making good choices for our survival in our secular, pluralistic society is complex. There is no silver bullet” (p. 150). How should we then live? The authors point to the example of Daniel, who was used by God to influence Babylonian society.

This work may be difficult for an undergraduate audience to digest all at once, without providing more context. Joustra and Wilkinson recommend reading Charles Taylor’s books *The Malaise of Modernity* and *A Secular Age*, as well as *How [Not] to be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor*, by James K.A. Smith as additional sources (p. 4).

**Reviewer**

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In an increasingly activity-centered culture, our youth enjoy the privilege and possibility of participating in several extracurricular pursuits, such as sporting or musical interests. Oftentimes these activities establish summer camps at schools of higher learning where young people spend days involved in not only improving