

In addition, there are three appendixes. Appendix A is a glossary of Egyptian words that appear in the OT, including the Hebrew word and biblical references, the Egyptian word with references, and related Egyptian synonyms. Appendix B is a list of Egyptian ruler names listed by kind. Appendix C is a list of the forty-two nomes of Upper and Lower Egypt and includes the hieroglyphs, transliteration, and common name of each nome as well as their respective capital cities.

THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: A CRITIQUE OF THE EVANGELICAL GOSPEL PRESENTATION IN NORTH AMERICA

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The Topic

This study focuses on the so-called “plan of salvation” or “gospel presentation” that evangelical Christians in the United States present to seekers who want to know how to be saved. There are currently three dominant presentations that are widely employed and emulated. The authors of each are well known: D. James Kennedy, Bill Bright, and Billy Graham.

The major portion of this study involves a two-stage critique of these dominant evangelical gospel presentations: first, from the perspective provided by communication theory and, second, by comparing the presentations of Kennedy, Bright, and Graham with conversion accounts from Luke-Acts. Essentially, I ask if the evangelical presentation is understood by Americans and if it is supported by conversion pericopes in Luke-Acts.

Conclusion

My research indicates that the dominant evangelical gospel presentation, developed in the 1960s, largely ignores the insights provided by communication theory in that it fails to adequately understand the contemporary American audience it attempts to reach. In short, it does not communicate with maximum effectiveness.

I also demonstrate that the conversion accounts in Luke-Acts present a way of salvation that is quite different from, and in some cases contradictory to, the evangelical plan of salvation in America. I then use these Lukan conversion accounts as a basis for suggesting how evangelicals might better present the way of salvation to North Americans today.